

NEWSLETTER

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aaclserv@ACD.MHC.AB.CA

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Editor - Joyce Van Scheik

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We had a great turnout with over forty people attending our Fall AACL meeting – perhaps the fine cuisine at NAIT’s dining room had something to do with it?

We covered lots of agenda items, including our new 2002-2004 strategies that were approved with discussion and additional ideas. These strategies will be included in this newsletter. The executive will be contacting people to see if they would like to work on specific strategies.

Get ready for the 30th Birthday Party of AACL! Our next meeting, the Spring AACL meeting, will be held at SAIT on April 3, 2003. AACL came to be in the spring of 1973 so the theme of our meeting will be “**Who were we in '73**”. A look at our past will help us shape our future and have a little fun. Your executive is busy planning ideas for the quintessential 70’s party. Some highlights may be a picture identification process (bring a picture of yourself in 1973 and if you weren’t born yet, well, be creative!), thirty-year statistical review, and other interesting topics which will be revealed throughout the winter. We would like to invite our ex-AACL colleagues as well. Stay tuned!

It was very interesting to hear Margaret Law, the coordinator of the Post

Secondary Libraries for TAL, speak about what she has learned from travelling around our province and talking to the staff members in our libraries. We have so many things to celebrate, such as new library buildings, new services, and new partnerships, and so much to learn from one another that I know many of us are looking forward to working together for the sustained future of AACL and TAL.

Have a wonderful winter and I hope to see you at our 30th Birthday Party and Spring Meeting on April 3, 2003 in SAIT’s new library.

Alice McNair



**Minutes
of the Alberta Association of College
Librarians
Fall 2002 Meeting
held at Northern Alberta Institute of
Technology [NAIT]
Thursday, November 21, 2002**

Present:

Carolyn Alho
Harriet Arnold
Susan Brayford
Bob Bruce
Miycko Callaghan

Nazarene UC
NAIT
SAIT
Northern Lks
Concordia

James Carter	Portage
Stephen Green-Dowden	Keyano
Karen Henry	GMCC
Karen Hildebrandt	Concordia
Wayne Hofman	NAIT
Norene James	Norquest
Helga Kinnard	NAIT
Sona Kothari	RDC
David Larsen	Keyano
Margaret Law	TAL
Patrick Lawless	Banff Centre
Nicolle Lemay	Lakeland
Debbie McGugan	GMC
Alice McNair	RDC (Chair)
Janet Monteith	St Mary's
Joan Morrison	GMC
Geoff Owens	MRC
Barbara Palmer	Portage
Marc Roesner	GMC
Christine Sammon	ACAD
Sehn Suppiah	Taylor
Linda Scott	NorQuest
Barbara Smith	Olds
Jennifer Thomas	GPRC
Lynette Toews-Neufeldt	Concordia
Joyce Van Scheik	CUC
Keith Walker	MHC
Pat Waterton	NAIT
Anne Marie Watson	RDC
Dave Weber	SAIT
Meagan Weber	MRC
Wayne Wicks	PBI
Katherine Wiebe	RDC

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Introduction

3. Approval of Agenda with additions

MOVED: Patrick Lawless
SECONDED: Linda Scott
CARRIED

4. Approval of the Minutes of the AACL Spring 2002 Meeting

MOVED: Keith Walker

SECONDED: Debbie McGugan
CARRIED

5. Chair Report

(Alice McNair)

- CLA Letter of Support for Depository Libraries
- card to Pat Lloyd's family from AAACL
- goals and strategies report has been drafted in rough form
- thanks to Keith Walker for all of his support
- aim in next six months to contact all librarians re 30-year Anniversary and services we are offering

6. Secretary Treasurer Report

(James Carter)

- Jim pointed out that current balance of \$638 is lowest in six years
- Jim requested that memberships formally be from 1st September to 31st August
- invoices for 2002-2003 were distributed
- there were two requests for funding: \$500 to sponsor a 2003 ALC session and \$150 to sponsor a Library School session

MOTION: Moved that AAACL sponsor these requests when annual fees are paid.

MOVED: Barbara Smith

SECONDED: Christine Sammon

CARRIED

ACTION: James Carter

7. Director at Large Report

(Keith Walker)

- CLA website for Newsletter for CTCL
- LAA Newsletter reports with a more substantial

- contact with Diane at NAIT re website and Directory
- CTCL nominated for award, but did not win; Keith attended meeting in Halifax
- there are CTCL awards for innovation and one for Librarian
- Keith suggested we nominate Doug Poff for the Librarians award and resubmit AACL in the Innovation category

MOVED: Barbara Smith

SECONDED: Christine Sammon

CARRIED

8. AACL Workshop

(Linda Scott)

- expense of speakers
- Susan Brayford suggested Mark Jordan re OPAC and E-journals, databases being integrated, having local emphasis and putting it into local practice
- Christine would like "Planning perfect library" topic, given the new libraries that have been built
- advocacy seems to be a major interest/topic

TAL Advocacy

(Helga; Alice passed on news)

Resource sharing

(Sona)

- new server will be up in January 2003
- creating loan profiles for all member libraries

Susan Brayford re AACL Stats

Survey

- EXCEL, definitions or manual stats sheet; please submit as soon as possible
- problems with definitions of electronic database titles

AAQ

(Debbie gave report)

- funding to end at end of 2002 but additional \$15,000 will carry through to end of June 2003
-

- Steering Committee (Chair: Margaret Law) set up at Netspeed to come up with recommendations re sustainability
- Yvonne steps down at end of December and we will share Director with APLEN; KN will cover 1/3 of costs
- presentation at Digital Reference Conference: report is available

TAL Executive

(Ross Thrasher is rep: but Geoff gave report)

- KN has no budget for 2003; budget notes need to be read before TAL meeting
- CARL Copyright statement
- Nomination Committee
- business plan

Knowledge Network Steering Committee

(Keith)

- Dave and Debbie on committee and Susan has served in the past
- late spring will have an E-Learning symposium (May in Edmonton; Thursday pm – Friday)
- resource sharing vision
- Margaret Law has visited most sites
- ARIEL update ordered but still in works
- INNOVATION survey
- TAL Online has enhancements (Debbie on committee)
- Final Report for KN will be produced
- equal partnership with colleges and universities
- Alberta Learning is paying OnLine Reference for K-12 students and is having public meetings re future electronic resources. "Doing our homework" (Booklet has Dec. 6 deadline.)

Newsletter Report

(Joyce)

- May and November deadlines

9. Business Plan

- Alice read through and asked for executive to target individuals.

10. New Business

- a. Nomination of Doug Poff for CACUL Innovative Award
 - consensus was that he is open (liaison between colleges and universities) and achieves results (ARIEL and TAL on-line)
 - letter of support
- b. Thematic round table on list serve; we will post it well in advance
- c. Next meeting is our 30th Anniversary: suggested we have a 1970's theme for next Spring 2003 meeting.

11. **TAL is on April 4th**; therefore, our meeting will be April 3rd 2003 at SAIT.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



BITS 'N' PIECES:

AACL GOALS – 2002 - 2004

1. Provide a forum where Alberta college and technical institute library personnel can meet to discuss common issues, share ideas, and network.

Strategies:

- seed the listserv with current issues, topics, etc.
- submit articles to newsletter
 - i. collect written reports from meetings
 - ii. request articles from workshops

2. Provide opportunities to share resources.

Strategies:

- participate in an ILL agreement
 - i. avoid charging AAAL libraries for ILLs
 - ii. use RSS (Resource Sharing Software) for ILL transactions
- investigate joint licensing
 - iii. participate in TAL (The Alberta Library) initiatives
- develop statistics
 - iv. complete a 30 year comparison
 - v. use statistical models endorsed by ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) & CLA (Canadian Library Association)
- promote participation in TAL
 - vi. insure that all AAAL members not in TAL are aware of TAL's benefits, etc. insure AAAL member representation on the following committees;
 - vii. Advocacy, TAL Exec, RSS, TALonline
 - viii. encourage an AAAL member to run for the Chair of TAL
 - ix. attend Netspeed
 - x. include regular TAL column in AAAL newsletter
 - xi. what can we do to promote TAL?

3. Provide a voice from college & technical libraries to others.

Strategies:

- a. write articles in the CTCL (College and Technical

-
- Institute Libraries of Canada)
Communiqué, Letter of the
LAA, Felicitor
 - i. write one article a year
 - b. investigate the possibility of a web address that is easy to remember
4. Advocate the role of college and technical libraries and librarians at a local and larger library community level.

Strategies:

- a. work with LISA (School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta), SAIT & GMC (Library Technician programs) to speak to students about college and institute library work
 - i. attend one LISA, GMC or SAIT function in 2002/03
 - b. work with TAL, LAA (Library Association of Alberta), AALT (Association of Alberta Library Technicians) and CLA regarding advocacy initiatives
 - c. encourage AACL members to put on a session at LAA
 - d. sponsor &/or introduce a session at LAA
 - e. create an advocacy tool kit for College & Institute Libraries
 - i. discuss advocacy issues at meetings
 - ii. (what else could we do?)
5. Have as many library staff members attend the bi-annual meetings as possible.

Strategies:

- a. create an up-to-date list of library staff

- i. directors will submit a list of employees to the Secretary/Treasurer every September
 - b. encourage all members to attend meetings
 - c. celebrate new libraries' buildings, programs, renovations, etc.
 - i. encourage TAL to leave the Edmonton/Calgary meeting schedule for special 'celebrations'
6. Organize, promote, and support professional development activities.

Strategies:

- a. host workshops on relevant issues identified by the Workshop Committee with direction from the membership.

THE ALBERTA LIBRARY (TAL) BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

EDMONTON, NOVEMBER 22, 2002

The TAL Board holds its regular meetings twice a year. Here are a few highlights of the 2002 Fall Meeting last Friday:

Draft TAL Business Plan 2003-2006 - -

This follows from the Preferred Futures exercise facilitated by Pat Cavill last winter and the special board meeting in June at which we identified several priorities for TAL in the next four years. The draft business plan was developed by a sub-group of executive members working from the flipcharts and other documents from these meetings. The plan outlines six core businesses for TAL – resource sharing, professional development, content enhancement, innovation, infrastructure,

and advocacy. The draft plan also includes a goal statement for each of these six core businesses and a set of strategies by which the goals may be achieved. In discussion, a number of modifications were suggested. The executive will incorporate these into the final phase of the plan, which will also include Action Plans and Performance Measures for each of the strategies. This will be presented at the Spring 2003 board meeting.

Draft 2003 TAL Budget – TAL operates on a calendar year basis and therefore the budget for next year must be established at the Fall board meeting. 2003 will be a challenging year for TAL unless new sources of revenue are found. Knowledge Network funds will be exhausted by June, 2003 and to date we have no assurance of operating funds from the government next year, beyond the \$50,000 operating grant already committed by Alberta Community Development. Under these circumstances, in order to maintain the current level of services and to balance the budget in 2003, TAL is obliged to transfer substantial amounts from the APLEN and Knowledge Network budgets into the operating budget and to dip into the special projects fund and the interest fund. These may not be popular decisions but the alternatives are to drastically scale back the operation and/or to raise membership fees (which we could not do until 2004 in any event). As Treasurer, I presented this budget and it was approved. The TAL executive is continuing its efforts to secure additional government funding.

Other items on the agenda included:

A motion for TAL to endorse the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) statement of principles for the management of copyright in the digital environment – passed.

A call for volunteers for the Nominating/Elections Committee (election

of officers will be held at the AGM next April) – three people volunteered.

Reports from committees, task forces, and project teams – APLEN, Knowledge Network, Governance, Membership, Advocacy, Sustainability, and Executive Director's report. Copies available in my office.

The next TAL Board meeting, including the AGM, will be held in Calgary on April 4, 2003.

Ross Thrasher

ASK A QUESTION VIRTUAL REFERENCE SERVICE UPDATE

A meeting to discuss the future of post-secondary library participation in the Ask A Question virtual reference service was held at the Netspeed Conference in Calgary on October 25, 2002. Representatives from almost all participating libraries attended. Although the last round of funding from the TAL Emerging Projects grants ends December 31, 2002, the Knowledge Network Steering Committee has provided bridge funding to June 30, 2003. This will cover the costs of AAQ administration on a cost-sharing basis with APLEN and provides enough time for the participating libraries to address long-term sustainability issues.

An AAQ Steering Committee was struck and charged with developing and recommending a sustainability funding model, looking into the issue of long-term governance and increasing the number of post-secondary libraries participating in the service. A funding formula will be available no later than March 31, 2003. The

committee consists of Margaret Law (chair), Harriet Arnold (NAIT), Linda Scott

(NorQuest), Yvonne Rezek (Grant MacEwan College), Nicolle Lemay (Lakeland College), Judy Head (University of Lethbridge). The first meeting was held after AACL's fall meeting at NAIT on November 21.

The 4th annual Virtual Reference Desk Conference was held in Chicago on November 10-12. Yvonne Rezek, the AAQ administrator, and Alex Polkovsky, the AAQ programmer, attended, as did many others from the virtual reference community in Canada. Yvonne and Alex presented and demonstrated a session about Ask A Question, Collaborative Reference Software: A Managed Solution, which was fairly well attended and very well received. Since virtual reference is the focus of this conference, all sessions included related information on staff training, standards, evaluation and assessment, information literacy in the virtual reference encounter, integration of virtual reference services, open source software development, systems management, chat, planning and more. Information about the annual conference, with conference proceedings posted as they become available, is located at <http://www.vrd.org/conferences/VRD2002/index.shtml>.

AAQ was sorry to lose Lethbridge Community College in early November, a participating library since August 2001. The service looks forward to welcoming LCC back at any time.

Yvonne Rezek



MERRY - GO - ROUND

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

As chair of the NEOS Acquisitions Standards Committee, Carol was invited to become part of the SIRSI implementation team for acquisitions/serials/financials. Since May, she has been busy working with this team, meeting almost every week. The team has drafted migration specifications and worked through SIRSI policies and user profiles. The team also has a mandate to define SIRSI reports so that current reporting practices are maintained. Training procedures are being developed and tested.

As soon as the production database is in place, testing will begin. Training will begin in early February and continue into April.

Joyce Van Scheik

GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE

As always, the LRCs are involved in a flurry of change. Grant MacEwan College is beginning to consider the possibility of offering degree completion opportunities in the event that the Ministry of Learning institutes legislative changes to permit us to become a degree granting institution. The college has established a degree granting committee and Debbie McGugan will represent the LRC on this committee.

Two new displays have been added to the City Centre LRC. The College Book Wall of Fame displays the book covers and photographs of the authors who were selected for the College Book Project. This yearly project began in 1997 and focuses on recognizing current Canadian fiction. Each year the College Book Committee volunteers dedicate hours of their time to select a work that will excite the imagination of our college's students. This year Eden Robinson, author of *Monkey Beach*, visited our campuses to read, answer questions, and watch students' creative performances inspired by her award-winning novel.

MacEwan LRC is also housing a new display recognizing the scholarly writing of our faculty. The Grant MacEwan College Faculty Association and the Faculty Development Committee developed this second new display. Unveiled on November 12th, the display features monographs, articles, CD ROMs, and artwork produced by our college faculty. This display will be an evolving celebration of our faculty's academic pursuits.

Four new Instructional Technology Centres, also called 'Sandboxes' are being planned for the MacEwan Campuses. A Sandbox is an area set aside for faculty and staff to investigate use of technology in teaching and learning. A Sandbox also houses cutting-edge technology and technical support. John McGrath of the LRC has been involved in the development of the centres at South Campus and Centre for the Arts. Faculty will have a workspace to collaborate on online and web-enabled content and where they can receive instruction on how to incorporate technology into their course content.

After a summer of hard work Karen Hering, John McGrath, and the Web Design Committee launched the first version of our redesigned LRC homepage in late July. The final version is expected to have more links to electronic resources. Students can expect to find program specific "one stop shopping" web pages that guide them to a range of excellent assessed resources. The web page can be viewed at <http://www.lrc.macewan.ca>

Last but not least, Grant MacEwan was pleased to act as host location for the NEOS Mini-Conference November 4th. The conference was attended by 120+, the largest NEOS conference to date. The majority of the conference sessions focused on SIRSI, with single sessions on Virtual Reference, Remote Patron Identification and UN/EU Depository Collections.

Joan Morrison

LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

A major driver of activity has been the switch to a problem-based nursing curriculum. We've been working closely with Judy Droessler, Health Sciences Liaison Librarian, University of Lethbridge, and nursing faculty both at our campus and U of L. Serial holdings have been de-duplicated at the two institutions. We also set up unique buying profiles to ensure students will have access to all sixty-six of the Peg Allen (McMaster) list of highest ranked journal titles for Nursing. In-house serial circulation statistics will be analyzed. ProQuest's CINAHL Full Text was purchased as a consortium with U of L and Mt. Royal as partners. We've used the Brandon Hill recommendations on authoritative book sources as our buying guide. A team cross-institutional approach was used to introduce students to the facilities, get students registered with dual status, including photo id and orientation. Using learning objectives from faculty, the librarians planned orientation sessions that utilized the <http://tilt.lib.utsystem.edu/> web-based Texas Information Literacy Tutorial that we tied-into WebCT quizzes, and analyses of where students were not understanding the concepts. We also had in-library scavenger hunts and quizzes that we marked, handed back, and went over with students.

The need to provide access to databases remotely prompted us to purchase EZProxy to get around our firewall problem for Peregrine (the Voyager server).

In July the library was approached by the institution to take on the staffing model for

the new instructional building which opened for the September semester. We did have experience from the Learning Commons in the library, but tried a couple of new initiatives, such as a blended staffing model with emphasis on interchangeability. At the

same time the library was coming up with a staffing model, Computer Services was reorganizing. The college has a five-year contract with Campus Works to put together an RFP and implement still to be purchased integrated software for all major functions of the college. One of the consultants is the new administrative leader for Computer Services and she started working to deploy staff in new ways. The library now oversees computer technicians who troubleshoot any classroom problems that interfere with instruction evenings and weekends. We also hire and monitor a roster of CIT and Multimedia students who work in the two Commons and run the "help desk" for the whole college after 4:30 every day and weekends. Reference staff take shifts in the Information Commons (which is a separate building from the library) as do Circulation staff where there is access to Voyager software. The new building ushered in a new way of offering instruction.

While it still happens in classrooms, facilitation in the commons is not by segregated practise areas but rather students can sit wherever they like and faculty roam around the Commons "available". Computer testing in such an open situation is still being worked out.

The nursing curricular change also propelled us into offering the photo id service for the whole college. Previously it was offered by the Maintenance office but their limited hours (M-F 8-4:30, no weekends) made it impossible for us to be as flexible as the university in offering the photo id service to nursing students. This new service, plus the two Commons under our belt, all the orientation sessions for nursing students, and the help desk responsibility delegated from Computer Services, have seen our circulations surge

by 50%. ILLs are also up. We got a \$2,000 subsidy to defray student ILL costs. That, combined with students being able to use RSS to request an ILL, have really spurred the service upward.

As Knowledge Network subsidy through TAL disappears and prices escalate, we've had to make more difficult decisions. This fall we dropped ProQuest Career and Technical and DMTI geospatial database. We've also asked the Environmental Science instructors about two we weren't sure of. We also intercepted an order for microfilm and will use the dollars we don't spend on those to re-establish ProQuest Career and Technical.

The Dean of Students position was eliminated last fiscal year so the Executive and Board asked our opinion on a flattened model that saw the library reporting to the Learning Support and Enrolment Manager. A big initiative for our cluster within the organization is retention of students. The library's ranks are swelled by the new cohort of employees reporting to Fiona Dyer, Information Services Librarian, who supervises the two Commons.

The Industry Canada computers, work station, connection, and support are all operational now. We're hoping to get an eyeball camera so our distant students can email their image back home.

Quite a few of our support staff have applied to attend the Voyager User Group Annual Meeting in Des Plaines, Illinois. We're hoping to send a contingent, including Fiona, because we find the material covered and the contacts we make so useful.

Kathy Lea

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

The new library/classroom building gets closer to completion every day and it is exciting to see the developments. We are looking forward to moving to our new facilities in the spring of the new year; there is a 50/50 draw in progress to guess the actual date of the "certificate of ownership"

so those of us in charge of the actual move are betting on the end of April!

In the meantime we live in our current crowded space and are already referring to the place as the “old library”. Another increase in enrolment has meant another record year for use of the library with all public services areas showing significant increases in popularity – including the circulation stats. It is nice to be able to respond to students’ complaints about the lack of space with a positive answer: “just wait until next year”!

The library staff has been lucky to receive support from the college to attend a number of conferences this year. Three staff members attended the LAA conference in Jasper in April. In June three of us from MHC joined Susan Brayford from SAIT when we traveled around the Maritimes prior to attending the CLA conference in Halifax. We had a fun time and enjoyed being able to see a bit of that beautiful part of the country. In the fall we sent four people to attend the Netspeed conference in Calgary and in November, Joanne Mokry, along with two faculty members, presented a session at the League for Innovation conference in Long Beach, California. This was a report on their study of students’ perceptions of the Internet versus library research. Keith Walker has also traveled a lot around the province to attend various library, technology, and distance learning meetings.

In the summer we bade farewell to Lorraine McLaren, who had been our interlibrary loans technician for the past fourteen years and a well-loved member of the staff. Just before she retired, Lorraine was recognized by the college when she received the Service Achievement Award. In July, Jason MacDonald joined the team when he moved here from Nova Scotia. He likes to point out that, since he arrived, the interlibrary loan activity is at the highest levels ever!

We wish you all the best.

Keith Walker

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

Staff changes:

We have two new librarians this year: Anca Medesan and Meagan Weber. Carol Sinanan is away on her four-for-five leave in 2002-3. Data Technician, Bruce Thorpe, has been replaced by Femina Pira.

College Expansion:

A new Arts Building containing classrooms, student labs, and faculty offices has opened this fall, as well as an expanded West Wing athletics and recreation facility. The student population is expected to increase by about 10% to 7700 FLE in 2002-3 and by another 10% next year when the new Bissett School of Business building, currently under construction, is completed. Increased student numbers are already causing overcrowded conditions in the MRC Library, which was renovated (but not expanded) a year ago.

Partnership:

MRC Library is embarking on a fee-for-service agreement with City University, a private institution based in Bellevue, Washington, to provide physical delivery of materials and other library services to the CityU students taking classes in Alberta.

Ross Thrasher

NORQUEST COLLEGE

We have been busy with the implementation of the acquisitions module of the Endeavor Library System. It appears to be working well so far but there is a steep learning curve for our acquisitions technician and our systems technician too! We are beginning to see the integration of

the technical services procedures that the acquisitions module allows; it is a smoother process from ordering to seeing the book on the shelf, which is great for both staff and students. We have also been working on our library web page (<http://library.norquest.ca>), activating the "New Books" link, and starting to use the "Guides" link to store online tutorials for instructional classes.

We experienced some staffing cutbacks in the spring, due to overall college downsizing. This is an issue becoming critical in the library with staff spread very thin, taking on more and more tasks with less and less time. The new faculty collective agreement, however, was ratified and the restrictive, separate librarian pay scale was dissolved in favor of full faculty status for librarians! All faculty members are now on the same pay grid, which has significant impact for librarians and educational counselors in the college.

It has been an incredibly busy fall, which of course is the case with all post-secondary libraries. For us, however, there was an actual increase in the number of instructional classes for this time of year. We were also busy this fall providing on-site instruction to most of our regional campuses and consortia sites in northern and central Alberta. It has meant a heavy workload for the librarians, but leads to a higher profile for the library and is confirmation that our services are essential and valuable. Have a fabulous Christmas season!

Norene James

OLDS COLLEGE

At Olds College Library we've experienced a very busy fall with a record number of students accessing the library in September and October. Our gate count shows an increase of 34% over this time period last year. While it's exciting to have such an increase in activity, it's also a bit overwhelming, and our staff is pleased to

see the numbers settle down a bit in November.

We have a new staff member, Peggy McKenzie, who joined our team in July. Peggy is working half time in circulation/reference, job-sharing with Jill Hadley, who had requested a change to part time. Peggy worked previously at Fairview College, and has been a welcome addition to our staff.

The Alberta Agriculture Farm Business Branch in Olds closed its library this summer and donated its collection of video tapes and Agdex material to our library. Much of the material duplicated what is already in our collection but the duplicate items we were able to make available to our students and staff and the new material was added to our collection. We have also been contacted by the Western Heritage Centre about taking some of the documents and periodicals that had been a part of that special library collection.

Further enhancing our collection has been our recent acceptance as a full depository library for the Natural Resources Canada map program. We now receive all their print maps and charts as they are produced, plus we are licensed for the use of their Digital Topographic Database. With a growing number of land and G.I.S. courses being offered on campus, this has been an important contract for our library.

This fall we have been working to establish closer ties with the Olds Municipal Library. I was invited to take part in the municipal library's strategic planning and board development seminar in June, and since that time have been meeting on a regular basis with their librarian. We are working on setting up staff orientations to better educate our staffs about our respective collections, and to build a better working relationship between our two libraries.

And, you can now see our most famous staff member, Samantha our library cat, in full color on the Library Cats of the World

(yes, there really is such a website) at www.ironfrog.com/catsmap.html

Barb Smith

PORTAGE COLLEGE

Barbara Palmer recently joined the staff of the Portage College Library as Public Service Librarian, as Kim Adams has taken a post in Ontario. Barbara comes to us from the University of Alberta where she provided reference service and bibliographic instruction.

James Carter

RED DEER COLLEGE

Things are finally settling down a little at Red Deer College Library. We survived the move into our new library and the staff all became even more intimately acquainted with the collection as we hauled it from the old building to the new (it's enough work to almost make one want to stay in the old facility forever!).

We opened our doors to the students on September 3 and held our Grand Opening Week during Library Week, Oct. 21st - 26th. We held events and activities every day for students, staff, and the community, and the response was excellent. We had everything from live music, teas, and theatre students performing skits, to college staff offering seminars on topics such as the history of Rock and Roll and dealing with stress. The highlight of the week was the official Grand Opening ceremony with our special guest, The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Hole. Her Honour was piped in and spoke warmly about the importance of libraries before unveiling the Donor Wall.

We've hosted several large events in the library in the last two months, including the "Chamber of Commerce Business After

Hours" event, which brought about two hundred local business people into the library for the evening. The space was also used this year for the college's annual "Report to the Community Breakfast", with about one hundred community members in attendance. Most recently, the Student Awards Night took place in the library. Again, we had over two hundred attendees come out to celebrate the achievements of our students. Through it all we have protected quiet areas for students to study in.

The library has become the place to be and we're thrilled about it. Our gate count is way up from last year, as are Circulation and Information statistics. Our computers are in constant use and the soft lounge seating is filled with students at all times of the day and night, studying, reading, and relaxing with friends. The coffee shop right outside the library doors is a big hit, too, with both students and staff. The library is full of student art, and we're building great displays featuring unique aspects of the college, such as fabulous hats from the Costume Cutting Program, and books by RDC authors.

We are delighted to host "Friday W/Rites @ your library" -- every month it's a different reading and discussion of writings by professional Red Deer writers. As well, one Thursday each month we host "The Philosophers' Café," a stimulating and entertaining discussion of puzzling or complex philosophical problems.

In short, we're busy, we're having a great time, and the library is full of productive activity. The students love it and so do we. Stop by to say hello and take a tour the next time you're in Red Deer.

Leslie Greentree

SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The SAIT Library is well into the second year of operation in the new Heart Building. We definitely enjoy the many wonderful new features like our electronic classroom, but we continue facing the many challenges that came with us from the old library, such as antiquated photocopiers.

In April-May, 2002, we surveyed students and staff to get feedback on library services and facilities. We also held a focus group with ten instructors. The 147 students and 97 staff who responded identified the following as key issues: hours of opening (Sunday hours requested), the need for more current books in all program areas, the need for more computer workstations, and the need for more small group study rooms. In general, they indicated that they found library staff friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable. The staff indicated that they valued interlibrary loans, video loans, newspaper and magazine access, research assistance, and library instruction. Susan Brayford, SAIT Library Manager, was interviewed about the results for our student newspaper and also reported directly to SAIT staff through our campus electronic Business Notices. We will be attempting to implement changes as funding becomes available.

In September, we hired two part-time library technicians to cover our evening and weekend hours. Previously, library staff had worked the evenings and weekends on a rotating schedule. This change ensures that core library staff is available at the library's busiest times and are also regularly available for consultation, research services, instructional services. We welcome Kristian McInnis and Kathleen James, both graduates of the SAIT Library and Information Technology program, to our staff.

In response to numerous complaints about noise, garbage, and food odors, we are implementing new policies. We will be asking students to turn off their cell phones

in the library and to respect the "Quiet" signs found on the lower level of the library. We are going to adapt the University of Lethbridge's "Safe Snacks" campaign (with their permission) to promote the "no food in the library" policy. Their campaign included a humorous quiz (with prizes), posters, and other signage.

The SAIT Library will be hosting a display of our photojournalism student work in January. We have invited all the photojournalism students to submit a selection of their work. Susan Brayford and the photojournalism instructors will pick the "best" of the work. The library will arrange to have the photographs mounted and put on display. We are inviting the students, their families and instructors to an opening night reception.

We are currently undertaking a review of our hardcopy periodical and standing orders collections. Lists have been sent to all our program liaison contacts, asking them to comment and make suggestions for cancellations. We have indicated on the lists which titles are available electronically through our databases such as ProQuest and CBCA.

Marquis Bureau, our dean, resigned in August to take on a distance education project in the Maldives. We are now reporting, on an interim basis, to the dean, Centre for Academic Learner Services. The CALS department is responsible for teaching the technical communications, math, and physics courses to all academic departments as well as delivering the English Language Foundations program. CALS offers campus-wide learner support services including learning skills, wellness services, and campus recreation and athletics. We look forward to working closely with our new dean and department.

In November we began using the Interac system. Students (and staff) can now pay their fines and for lost books and buy laminating and binding supplies using their debit cards, Visas, and MasterCard. We

all received training in the use of the system
– now we know what store clerks have to do
when we are out there Christmas shopping!

SAIT will be hosting the spring AAAL
meeting on April 3, 2003. We look forward
to seeing everyone.

*Nora Robinson, Dave Weber, and Susan
Brayford*