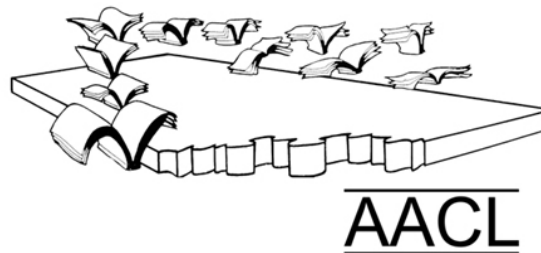


ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS



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Editor – Sona Kothari

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone,

As the Fall Term is almost over, it is gratifying to reflect on the work we are doing as an Association. My spirit was buoyed at our last meeting by the effective lobbying we are doing with the eCampus Alberta position paper. Several people have worked on it and most of the AACL members have sent comments throughout the process. Our proactive work here will pay off as eCampus grows.

We are also talking about statistics again in order to make them more useful to our institutions. The analysis of use, trends and new markers of our success is becoming ever more important for our continued growth and strategic positioning within our organizations. Our work at the AACL level will help gain support within our institutions for new initiatives, staff and partnerships. The copyright issue is also one that is moving into its second generation and clearly we need to understand its implications on our collections and how they are used.

We have been most fortunate to have Margaret Law as our Post Secondary Libraries Coordinator from TAL. This position, and Margaret's vibrant and committed role within it,

has added to our clarity of purpose as Margaret has visited all our libraries and has synthesized our issues so well. We wish her well as she returns to the University of Alberta, and we can take comfort in knowing that she will continue to be an advocate for AACL.

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous New Year. See you all in SAIT on April 15, 2004.

Alice McNair
Chair, AACL



**Minutes of the
Alberta Association of College Librarians
Fall 2003 Meeting
Held at NAIT
Thursday, November 13, 2003**

PRESENT

Carolyn Alho	Nazarene UC
Harriet Arnold	NAIT
Susan Brayford	SAIT
Bob Bruce	Northern Lakes
Anne Carr-Wiggin	NEOS
Karen Hering	GMC
Norene James	NorQuest
Joanne Kemp	GMC

Helga Kinnaird	NAIT
Sona Kothari	RDC
David Larsen	Keyano
Margaret Law	TAL
Patrick Lawless	Banff Centre
Lilian Li	MHC
Anita Luck	Fairview
Colleen Mares	RDC
Debbie McGugan	GMC
Alice McNair	RDC
Robin Minion	Olds College
Dan Mirau	Concordia UC
Janet Monteith	St. Mary's
Carol Nicks	CUC
Geoff Owens	MRC
Barbara Palmer	Portage
Yvonne Rezek	GMC
Nora Robinson	SAIT
Margaret Russell	NorQuest
Alice Swabey	RDC
Jennifer Thomas	GPRC
Joyce Van Scheik	CUC
Keith Walker	MHC
Dave Weber	SAIT
Meagan Weber	MRC
Wayne Wicks	Prairie Bible

- a) Chair's Report (Alice McNair)
Alice reported that the next focus for the Association will be on advocacy issues. She acknowledged Keith Walker for receiving the 2003 Outstanding College Librarian Award at the Canadian Library Association conference. Keith thanked Alice and said he was thrilled to receive the recognition.
- b) Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Keith Walker)
Proposed 2003-04 budget was distributed and discussed. The Executive has decided not to continue sponsoring the reception for the Partners in Education program at the University of Alberta since the \$500 cost was too much. It was recommended that AAACL apply for CACUL workshop grants for future workshops. Motions were made to ensure that the budget reports are in order:

i) MOVED that the bylaws be changed so that the year-end for the Association will be March 31 rather than the current December 31 in order to match the requirements of the government for the Societies Act.
Moved: K.Walker
Seconded: N.Robinson
CARRIED

ii) MOVED that Lilian Li and Sheila Drummond be appointed as AAACL auditors for the years 2002 and 2003.
Moved: K.Walker
Seconded: N. Robinson
CARRIED

iii) MOVED that Lilian Li and Sheila Drummond be appointed as AAACL auditors for the year 2003-04.
Moved: K.Walker
Seconded: N. Robinson
CARRIED

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order
Alice McNair, AAACL Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked NAIT and Fairview College for co-hosting the fall meeting; round table introductions.
- 2. Approval of Agenda
Agenda with the addition of item #9, next meeting date.
Moved: J.Thomas
Seconded: N.Robinson
CARRIED
- 3. Approval of Minutes of AAACL Spring 2003 meeting approved.
Moved: J.Kemp
Seconded: K.Hering
CARRIED
- 4. Executive reports

- iv) MOVED that the budget for the year 2003-04 be approved as presented.
 Moved: K.Walker
 Seconded: N. Robinson
 CARRIED
- Helga is stepping down from her position on the TAL group. Nora agreed to serve on the new SALA group to represent AACL. Helga is thanked for her involvement.
- c) Director-at-Large Report (Nora Robinson)
 Nora attended the annual meeting of the Community and Technical College Libraries section at the CLA conference to present the Alberta report and to see Keith receive his Award from CTCL. Revised Standards for College Libraries is the main initiative of the national group and they plan to present the final document at the Association of Canadian Community Colleges conference and the CLA conference. The next deadline for submissions for the Letter of the LAA is December 1. Nora thanked Diane Clark for her work as the Association's Webmaster.
- c) Newsletter
 Sonja Kothari asked for submissions by November 30.
- d) Workshop
 Geoff Owens reported that Linda Scott is relocating to Mount Royal College and has retired from the Committee. Norene James volunteered to join the committee. Linda is thanked for her work. Any suggestions for future workshops should be submitted to Geoff.
- e) Library Association of Alberta
 Karen Hering reported on activities from LAA including upcoming workshops, public relations, letters of support, and that the website and newsletter are being redesigned. Karen is investigating methods to be more involved as currently Anne Carr-Wiggins reports on AACL's behalf.
5. Working Groups and Committee Reports
- a) Knowledge Network
 Susan Brayford presented the report. After 5 years the funding is ending and the future will require strategic planning, including a proposal for a new committee to replace the Knowledge Network Steering Committee which will be discussed further at a meeting of the academic library directors in early January. The report will be included in the next issue of the AACL newsletter. Susan thanked all the members who have served on the Committee.
- f) TAL Directors Meeting
 Keith Walker gave a summary of the topics for the November 14 meeting and encouraged a member to volunteer to serve on the TAL Governance Standing Committee [thanks to Barbara Palmer for doing so].
- b) Advocacy
 Helga Kinnaird's report will also be included in the newsletter. Alice mentioned that TAL is proposing to restructure the group and focus on TAL advocacy issues. A new umbrella group, the Strategic Alliance for Library Advocacy is being formed.
- g) Statistics
 Susan Brayford lead a discussion on the annual statistics which resulted in the suggestion that members document the questions and suggestions they have as they complete this year's stats report and after these are collected a subcommittee will be formed to examine the recommendations. Tom Skinner has distributed the forms

along with a 5-year comparison so that if the numbers are strange, the people completing the report can double check. These figures are used by many for budget presentations so the comparisons need to be accurate. Susan is working with the TAL e-Resources Committee to determine an easy way to report usage figures on the electronic resources. Tom and Susan are thanked for their work with compiling the statistics.

paper that their subcommittee had developed for AACL on library connections to the provincial e-Campus Alberta initiative.

They are drafting two documents: a background paper and a brief that will include recommendations to the Alberta Online Learning Association. Comments will be posted to the listserv and members are encouraged to participate. This helps to fulfill two of the Association's goals as members work together to develop online tutorials and on collection development.

6. Current issues

a) Anita Luck and Helga Kinnaird reported on the cooperative planning discussions that are taking place this year while Fairview is joining NAIT. They feel confident about the future of library services and the value of relationship building within AACL has been a definite advantage. The partnership will be in effect as of July 1, 2004. Alice mentioned that discussions are still underway regarding the relationship between Augustana University College and the University of Alberta.

A new subcommittee is being formed to look at specific operational details. Jennifer and Yvonne will continue to serve on the committee; Meagan Weber volunteered; any other volunteers are asked to contact Jennifer.

8. Bob Bruce was acknowledged for his upcoming retirement. Bob will be moving to British Columbia after being at Northern Lakes College for the past 28 years.

9. Next Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2004 at SAIT.

b) Margaret Law led a discussion regarding the observations she has made while traveling to the colleges over the past 18 months. Specifically the discussion related to the collections of fiction in the colleges. Margaret will summarize the discussion on the listserv.

10. Lunch was held in the NAIT dining room where Alice paid tribute to Doug Poff from the University of Alberta. AACL had nominated Doug for the Miles Blackwell Award. Doug responded with a very nice tribute to AACL and college librarians.

c) Patrick Lawless reported that the second forum on copyright issues will be held in the spring at the University of Alberta and invited members to attend or join the listserv: abccopyright@athabascau.ca
There are a number of copyright issues that will be affecting college libraries.

11. The workshop session consisted of a final report from Margaret Law, the Coordinator of Post-secondary Libraries at The Alberta Library and a tour of NAIT facilities provided by Harriet Arnold.



7. Joanne Kemp, Jennifer Thomas, and Yvonne Rezek reported on the discussion



Doug Poff and Alice McNair

AACL invited Doug to the fall meeting to thank him for his work on behalf of the college libraries.



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The first part of the Fall workshop was a presentation from Margaret Law and her recently completed role as Post-Secondary Coordinator for Libraries at The Alberta Library. There will be a final report summarizing her “grand tour” of Alberta Colleges that will be posted on the TAL website by the end of the year. There will also be a handout copy distributed at the Directors’ meeting January 9th 2004.

Margaret spoke of a number of developments and issues related to College libraries in Alberta including the Knowledge Network Steering Committee’s recommended formation of an Academic Library Standing Committee to take action on grants, advocacy, planning for services and programs for the academic community in Alberta. As well, RSS is probably going to be abandoned, depending on the final presentation by the vendor (Dynix) for a proposed upgrade. Currently Mount Royal College and Lethbridge Community College are using RSS.

The second half of the workshop dealt with some of NAIT’s recent changes and upgrades through a tour of the Learning Commons,

Project Factory and Information Commons. Thanks to Helga and Harriet from NAIT for organizing the tour on short notice.

With her move to Mount Royal College, Linda Scott is no longer on the Workshop Committee. Norene James of Norquest College will replace Linda.

Don’t hesitate to contact either Norene at norene.james@norquest.ab.ca or Geoff Owens at gowens@mtroyal.ca with your workshop ideas.

*Submitted by
Geoff Owens*



Janice Hayes and Keith Walker

Keith was awarded the CTCL Award for Outstanding College Librarian at the ALA/CLA conference in Toronto in June 2003. Janice Hayes, representing the Bibliocentre, the organization that sponsors the award, presented Keith with his citation.



Keith Walker and Madeline LeFavre

Madeline LeFavre, CLA President, was at the CTCL presentation to Keith. Madeline is a former director of the Mount Royal College Library, Calgary.



Janice Hayes, Keith Walker, Marie DeYoung

Marie was the CTCL chairperson and participated in the presentation.



NEWS @your library™

Augustana Library

On November 24-25, approximately 50 librarians from Western Canada and a handful of faculty from Augustana gathered at Augustana to learn about Assessment in Information Literacy.



The presenter was Debra Gilchrist from Pierce College in Washington. The event was very well received. Watch for announcements for the 4th Annual Information Literacy Workshop to be held at Augustana in the fall of 2004!



Debra Gilchrist and Nancy Goebel

*Submitted by
Nancy Goebel*



Canadian University College

Our small library has been a beehive of activity this fall. It started with staff training for the new NEOS libraries' system, SIRSI Unicorn. September saw us conducting a record number of library literacy sessions. A required psychology research course, team taught by librarians and psychology instructors, was launched and has continued to meet weekly in the library. September also saw us with two additional databases: xreferplus offering simultaneous searching of 135 dictionaries and encyclopedias and SerialsSolutions A-Z which lists all print and electronic journals accessible at our library by

title or by subject. These, along with the DataStream features of the new NEOS Catalogue, have generated a lot of favorable comments!

On the down side, a fine mist of white powder has rained down over the library, settling over everything. It seems the painters thought the long weekend in November would be a good time to spray the ceiling with some sort of instant drying paint. Even though the stacks were covered in plastic, the books attracted the white stuff like magnets.

So three guesses what we'll be doing over the Christmas break! And if my hair color looks a tad lighter, it's not just old age!

*Submitted by
Joyce Van Scheik*



Fairview College Library

This is a very busy and exciting time for the Fairview College Library. We are in the midst of transition activities with NAIT. Preliminary discussions have begun with a mutual exchange of information. As the transition plans become solidified and approved, more detailed information will be exchanged. After this process is complete, decisions on the structure and operation of library services for all the Fairview College Campuses will be finalized.

The library staff members have survived the move to SIRSI and are gradually getting accustomed to the new screens. Some of the features are an improvement over DRA and some seem to be a step backwards, however it is difficult to judge at this stage. Staff members need more time before feeling completely comfortable with the new system.

The Library is the place to be for students this semester. We are very busy. The computer stations are always full and demand for the other services has also increased. External

patrons have always been welcome to use the computer stations but some decisions on restricting access during certain times of the day and on certain days have to be made in order to accommodate increased demand by students. The new quiet study room is being discovered and is a welcome addition to our suite of services. Students are taking advantage of the ability to bring their own laptops to the study room and hooking into the college network.

"Neos", the library cat, is wildly popular with the students. Many of his adoring fans come to visit everyday. The Harley Motorcycle students were not impressed with his name and have renamed him "Harley". This certainly hasn't caused an identity crisis since he very readily answers to both names.

As in the past, we're preparing for our annual Christmas Tea and Silent Auction on Dec. 4. The library staff donates all the goodies for the tea and all students, staff and former library employees are invited to attend, normally between 250 and 300 people join with the library staff to wish each other a happy holiday season. The silent auction begins in the middle of Nov. and concludes at the end of the tea. Often bidding is fierce for a few choice items. The proceeds of the auction go to the Library Endowment, which was set-up to support the purchase of electronic information databases.

The next year in the life of the Fairview College Library should prove to be an adventure and as with all adventures we look forward to it with anticipation, excitement and maybe even a bit of apprehension. But our past experiences in being able to adjust to a variety of changes in a timely and positive fashion, will give us a foundation on which to build. We are confident that this foundation will enable us to provide the best of library services to our students and staff.

*Submitted by
Anita Luck*



Grant MacEwan LRC

Grant MacEwan College was the first college to offer online courses in the new eLearn Alberta provincial consortium of online education. The first courses launched were in the area of Arts & Cultural Management. MacEwan is scheduled to offer 31 courses through eLearn Alberta in January 2004.

The LRC introduced the MacEwan card in August. It incorporates the official GMC photo identification into a multifunctional campus card utilizing “smart chip” technology. The card will support student, staff and faculty access to LRC services, photocopying, and printing in the LRC.

The LRC’s Learning Skills Centre changed its name to Writing and Learning Services in July. A new model of service was introduced which emphasizes in-depth assistance to students with writing and learning difficulties. Students who are referred to the service by an instructor are eligible for a one on one appointment with a Writing & Learning Specialist. The emphasis in the previous model was a drop in service where students could receive brief assistance with writing and learning challenges. Over 10,000 students used the drop-in service last year and the LRC and as a result of budget reductions the LRC could no longer sustain the drop in service.

The Instructional Media and Design Department of the College began reporting to the Director of the LRC in July. IMD provides faculty with assistance in the development and design of instruction materials for online and classroom delivery.

The LRC hired Jessica Knoch to complete a degree readiness project. Jessica has been examining library standards and accreditation documentation in order to determine what steps the LRC needs to undertake to be ready should funding become available to the College to offer baccalaureate degrees. It is likely that Grant MacEwan will be offering a

Bachelor of Arts degree by Fall 2005 should funding become available from Alberta Learning.

Joan Morrison who has been a term reference librarian at City Centre campus since 2001 has moved on to a full-time continuing position at Norquest College. We have advertised for her replacement and hope to fill the position by January. Claudia Rodning joined the LRC in September as a part-time casual reference librarian at City Centre campus. Claudia had previously held a part-time reference librarian position at Concordia University College.

*Submitted by
Debbie McGugan*



Keyano College

Keyano College celebrated the opening of our new Syncrude Technology Centre in September. The beautiful new wing includes 4 computer teaching labs, 7 classrooms, an Environmental Technology lab, 38 instructor offices and the 40 station Information Commons. The Library proposal to staff the Commons was accepted by the budget committee last spring, and our helpdesk service began this October with the hiring of our Information Commons Reference Assistant: Marie-McLean Dearaway holds a Commercial Computing Diploma (and a Master’s degree in Education). Our helpdesk provides application software support and research assistance 8:30 am to 5:00 pm M-F (Sept – May). I received numerous requests for further information about how we are staffing the Commons, and I forwarded packages to those with interest.

The Information Commons is physically located down the hall and around the corner from the Library, and has drawn away some students who may ordinarily visit the Library to work on the computers. We have been pleasantly surprised, however, with the number of students who still prefer the Library atmosphere. Also, by bringing the Commons

in under the Library umbrella, we are still able to refer students to the Library collection, and collect statistics. With this, I anticipate an overall increase in the number of questions handled by Library staff when we compile the statistics next year. Depending on the budget, we may be able to staff the Commons for additional hours with student assistants. For those hours when Marie is not at the desk, the Commons remains open as an open lab. Pictures of the Commons and the new building may be viewed at:
<http://www.lr.nait.ab.ca/aac/libraries/keyano.swf>

June 1st, 2003, Keyano's Suncor Educational Technology Centre (SETC) was brought under the umbrella of Library and Media Services. SETC (with 4 staff members) is responsible for videoconferencing, WebCT course development, video editing/digitization, faculty mentoring, and faculty instruction on the use of new/existing technologies. The departments now managed by the Director include Library, Media Services, Reprographics, and SETC.

*Submitted by
David Larsen*



Medicine Hat College

On October 9 the Grand Opening of the new "Library and Multi-purpose Building" was held with the Minister of Learning, Minister of Infrastructure, and other dignitaries in attendance and taking part. The Library received extra attention as it was rededicated in honour of Vera Bracken, a 94-year-old retired teacher who is known for sharing her love of reading.

In our submission to the spring issue of the Newsletter Sheila Drummond reported that we were anxious to move. And we were. The move began on May 1 and by May 5 we had finished the move of over 120,000 items! Vera Bracken herself moved the very first book, her autobiography, when she was present to cut

the ribbon during an open house for the staff and students in late April, before anything had been moved in. On May 5 Joanne Mokry's 4-year-old daughter Emma officially brought in the very last book; we felt that it was symbolic to have a future student involved...and Emma was very cute (so was Vera!). The move went amazingly well, thanks to the tremendous effort of all of the library staff who got in and worked like mad – and had a great time while doing so (we even have photos of the staff laughing as they pulled the heavy carts full of books). We managed to do the move without any interruption to library services: we kept the old library in operation through the move and used walkie-talkies ("Over and out big boss" was a favorite when talking to Keith!) to recall items that had already made the move.

The new facility has received rave reviews ranging from "world class facility" to "I feel like I am in Toronto" and "it looks like a university"!! The goal that we had was to make the library the happening place on campus and we have certainly achieved that as it is always full of students. In response we have increased the library hours (not enough for those who want 24/7 service) and added even more computers and study areas than originally planned for. Faculty members have now started to expect more resources – we have become a victim of our own success in many ways but that's great. Please check the AACL website or the MHC website for photos of our new place and please know that you are always welcome to visit.

The popularity of the design of the new building is a testament to the involvement of Joanne Mokry who was our Information and Technology Librarian. Unfortunately Joanne didn't get to share in the glow of the praise that we have received as at the end of July she moved with her family to Lloydminster. Joanne is a teacher-librarian in two junior high schools there.

In late September we welcomed Lilian Li who moved from Toronto to join us – and to join her husband who is a scientist at the research station near Medicine Hat. Lilian has been impressed with how busy the library is and how well the library staff work together as a team. We are pleased to have her with us.

*Submitted by
Keith Walker*



Mount Royal College

Staffing News

This fall MRC has a new President, David Marshall (formerly President of Nipissing University) and a new Vice-President, Administrative Services, Richard Roberts (from University of Calgary). In the Library, Geoff Owens has been appointed to a new tenure-track faculty librarian position and Meagan Weber's term-certain position has been renewed. Carol Sinanan has returned from her four-for-five leave to a new assignment as Instruction Librarian. Kathryn Oldham has replaced Corry Miko as Administrative Assistant. Natalie O'Toole is our new Data Information Specialist, succeeding Femina Pira. Joan Taylor is substituting for Information Assistant Maureen Bedard on a half-time basis during Maureen's Support Staff Presidency, and Judy Dibus is back-filling Joan's duties on the Circ/Reserve desk.

Branch Library Closes

MRC's Languages Institute, which offers several levels of ESL programming to about 500 students, has migrated from the City Centre Campus to the newly-opened Business building on the main campus at Lincoln Park. As a result, the City Centre Library was closed on June 30. The CCC Library collections and staff members Pam Bannister and Tamarea Bauer have been transferred to the Main Library, where we have set up a user-friendly ESL Zone with new shelving, tables and chairs.

College Budget

Preliminary estimates indicate that MRC is facing another big budget challenge in 2004-2005, even though substantial tuition increases are projected. However, the new President has indicated that increased support for the Library is a key priority for the future, as the institution seeks approval for degree-granting status. The Library received a supplementary allocation of \$100K this fall for collection development in support of the MRC-Athabasca joint B.A. majors (English, History, Psychology). This funding has also enabled the Library to hire a new cataloguing technician, Jane Roberts.

Acting Library Director

As previously announced, I will be away on leave next semester (January to April 2004). Linda Scott has been appointed as MRC Library's Acting Director during my absence.

*Submitted by
Ross Thrasher*



NAIT Library

- McNally Library has created new high quality brochures and posters describing services and policies. The design mirrors NAIT's corporate image and includes a new Library logo.
- McNally Library received 41 laptops that are available for short-term loan to NAIT staff for their use in presentations, special projects, and self-directed learning. As a new service, the Library now offers portable data projectors for loan to staff.
- New carpet and tile, fresh paint, refurbished dividers, and different locations for Practice Place, copiers and work areas have made the Project Factory a more pleasant environment for students. In addition, students now have more convenient access to staff assistance as a

result of the consolidation of 2 service points into one new area.

- At an Internet Librarian International Conference in March, Diane Clark presented the paper, "Crossing the Continental Divide: Assessment Tools, Cultural Diversity in Instructional Design and Managing Projects at Distance." The presentation was based on experiences gained through working on the Southern Cone Project managed by NAIT's International Education unit. In addition, Diane gave a presentation on information literacy instruction at the recent Netspeed Conference in Edmonton.
- A Centre for Teaching and Learning section has been set up in McNally Library to provide instructors with convenient access to books and videos on topics of interest. The Library is working closely with the Centre for Teaching and Learning in many ways, including presenting a lunch hour workshop on doing research for term papers, geared for NAIT staff that are working towards university degrees.

*Submitted by
Helga Kinnaird*



NorQuest College

Two new librarians joined NorQuest this fall – Margaret Russell started as the Coordinator on October 1, and Joan Morrison is the new Instructional Librarian. Together with Norene James, part-time Librarian, they will coordinate information programs for more than 3,000 students. A number of new initiatives are underway, including an Aboriginal Policing and Security program.

NorQuest, the largest provider of English language training in the Edmonton area, also started a new career assistance program for immigrants with post-secondary credentials in their country of origin. Margaret has been

using her Toastmasters skills to work with a class of immigrant engineers.

NorQuest hosted the closing ceremonies for Read-in Alberta (Edmonton area) in October.

Finally, NorQuest recently received a contract from the National Literacy Secretariat and Human Resources Canada to develop a computer-assisted reading course for deaf students. The book and CD will include 15 stories combining text and an American Sign Language (ASL) illustration. NorQuest teaches special educational programs for 600-800 students annually whose barriers include blindness, deafness, physical impairments, and learning disabilities such as dyslexia.

*Submitted by
Margaret Russell*



St. Mary's College

In early November St. Mary's College Library heard from AccessCopyright that our College had tied for first place in the R-E-S-P-E-C-T Copyright promotion that took place on campuses across Canada at the beginning of the Fall term. Our prize is \$250 and a write-up in their post-secondary communiqué

St. Mary's College Library took the lead on our campus in promoting the R-E-S-P-E-C-T Copyright initiative during our New Student Orientation in September. Library staff, Bookstore staff, and our Learning Centre resource faculty donned the R-E-S-P-E-C-T t-shirts, as did the President of our College, Dr. Terry Downey. The picture of our R-E-S-P-E-C-T team was taken in front of the entrance to the St. Mary's College Library.



Team members from left to right are: Cindy Wiebe, Library Cataloguer; Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Professor of English; Bernie Constantine, Bookstore Manager; Joyce Hildebrand, Coordinator, Learning Centre; Dr. Terry Downey, President, St. Mary's College; Janet Monteith, College Librarian; Colleen Rowe, Library Technician.

Penny Paul was unable to be in the picture as she was minding the Bookstore while this picture was taken.

Dr. Downey liked his T-shirt so much that he was seen flipping hamburgers in his at the Orientation Wrap-Up BBQ. In the next photo Dr. Terry Downey is serving up a hamburger to first-year St. Mary's College student, Laura Gonzalez.



Terry Downey and Laura Gonzalez

We had a lot of fun participating in this promotion; it enhanced our team spirit and gained the College some recognition. For more information about St. Mary's College, go to our website at <http://www.stmc.ab.ca/>

*Submitted by
Janet Monteith*



Red Deer College

Last year Red Deer College redefined its mission and values. In order to align the library with the institution, the library staff has been working in teams to redefine our vision, mission, and values. It began with a full-day workshop and brain-storming session in the spring. Then various committees were struck to continue the work of further refining the message. The committee working on our vision and mission statement was able to complete its work and unveil a new vision, "To be the best college library in Canada," and a new mission: "Through innovation and collaboration our library provides resources and support for educational excellence, discovery, and lifelong learning to Red Deer College and the wider community." The values committee is still at work.

Another staff project has been a major job reclassification process. All library job descriptions, excluding those of the librarians (who are faculty), were examined and rewritten, in consultation with the staff. A College committee reviewed the descriptions, and the result was a grid increase for every staff person – from one to five steps on the grid. We were pleased to have College-wide recognition of the value and complexity of the jobs performed by the library staff.

The library has been working on leadership planning. We have set aside time each month to discuss leadership issues and to work through a "curriculum" designed to enhance our leadership skills.

The largest project over the past six months has been the migration, along with all of NEOS, to the SIRSI integrated library system. The “go live” date was in late June, giving NEOS libraries all summer to become familiar with the new software. While there are still tweaks and adjustments being made, overall this has been a positive move for our staff and our customers.

Our library continues to build on the success of the first year in our new building. We’ve continued with our “Creative W/Rites” series, featuring Red Deer College authors reading from their works. We have also continued to feature student art throughout the library on a rotating basis. Our “Philosophy Café” series attracts participants each month who discuss such topics as “Sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll: how much freedom is enough,” “Ethics, revolution, and dilemmas of rescue,” and “Why do we need art?”. Other events have included a weekend writing workshop, and readings by visiting Canadian authors Steven Ross Smith, J. Jill Robinson, Rick Ranson, and Geoffrey Bromhead. We were also fortunate to participate in an Alberta Foundation for the Arts Travelling Exhibit, “Terrain of the domestic,” works by Bill Laing.

*Submitted by
Anne Marie Watson*



SAIT Library

1,000,000. That’s the number of people who have passed through our security gates since August 2001 when we moved to the new Heart Building in the centre of the SAIT campus. To celebrate our millionth visitor, we awarded a gift certificate to the SAIT Bookstore to Margot Bloxom, a second year student in the Environmental Technology program. We got coverage in the Weal, our student newspaper and in News@SAIT, the official campus newsletter that is circulated electronically to staff and external contacts.

Visits to the Library have been increasing every month since the Library moved to its new space. 68,261 people came through the Library gates in October 2003. When asked why library use is increasing, Library Manager Susan Brayford commented, “Students love our location beside the atrium and our drop-in computers. Students return to the Library because the staff are friendly and knowledgeable about finding information.”



Our 1,000,000th visitor enters SAIT Library

Our busy summer was dominated by the upgrading of our SIRSI system software. This was the first upgrade that we have undertaken in nearly 10 years. Once the upgrade was installed, library staff spent a lot of time “re-learning” and figuring out how the new version works.

We have started to split our video collection into 2 parts: one for lending for home use and one for in library/in classroom use. The ease of booking in the new version of SIRSI has also meant that we have moved that function to our front Information Desk. We will be actively purchasing videos for the home use collection. We are currently undertaking an evaluation of our 16mm film collection with the hope of decommissioning most of it by spring. We are also examining the possibility of including DVDs in the collection.

In March 2003, we did a random survey of SAIT students about the library services. One

of the strongest suggestions made in the survey was to open the Library on Sundays. In response to the survey, we asked for, and received, funding for a part time position to offer this service. In September, for the first time in over a decade, the Library began offering Sunday service, from 11 am to 5 pm. Elaine Peters joined our other 2 part time staff, Kristian McInnis and Kathleen James, to provide the Sunday service.

Students also suggested that we provide more computer workstations. We applied to the SAIT Olympic Legacy fund and received a grant for 20 computer workstations. These were installed in our classroom over the summer and are now available on a drop-in basis when the classroom is not booked for instruction.

Library staff are involved in two knowledge management projects: the Learning Objects Repository Proof of Concept project and the Faculty Resource Centre which is part of the SAIT intranet, mysait.ca. The Library research service was written up in News@SAIT, with a glowing recommendation from Gord Nixon, our Vice President, Academic Services.

In January 2004, we will be hosting 2 displays of student work. The students in the Architectural Drafting programs create 3-D building models and will be putting them on display in the Library starting January 12. On January 29, the work of our photojournalism students will be hung for public display. We had a similar display of the photojournalism student work last year and it was very popular. Both displays will be up through February.

The SAIT Open House for prospective students is in early February. We expect staff and students from the current Architectural Drafting and Photojournalism programs will bring visitors to the Library to see the displays as happened last year.

*Submitted by
Nora Robinson*



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librarian chic

(ly.BRAYR.ee.un sheek) *n.*

A fashion style that uses elements of, or is inspired by, the styles stereotypically attributed to librarians.

from *Word Spy*

<http://www.wordspy.com/words/librarianchic.asp>

