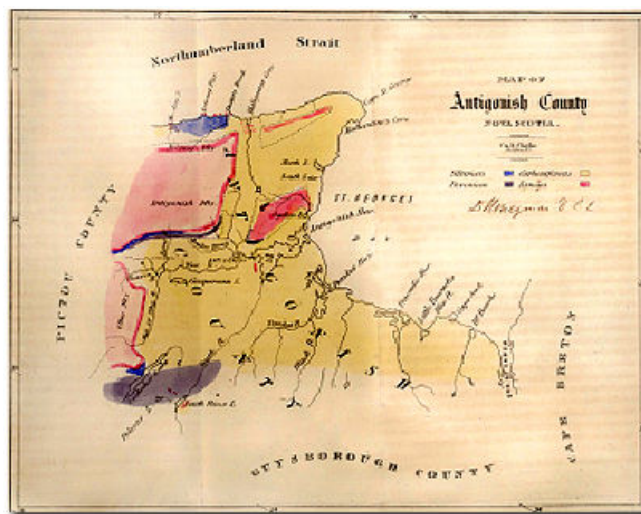


Context

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Number 8, February 2008



Map of Antigonish County. From: D. Honeyman, *Geology of Antigonish County*, N.S. 1866. NSIS Vol.1

Virtually Yours DalSpace and Digital Initiatives

What becomes a legend most, in the 21st century? Digitization!

In 2006 a Digital Initiatives Group (DIG) was formed at the Dalhousie Libraries, with Michael Moosberger, University Archivist, as its Chair. The Group's mandate—driven by the Libraries' strategic initiative "to be the information gateway for the Dalhousie University community"—is to identify and facilitate digitization opportunities both at the Libraries and throughout the Dalhousie community. To support future digitization projects, a scanning centre was established at the Dalhousie Libraries, with a state-of-the-art "planetary" book scanner (the camera is mounted overhead), a tabloid-size flatbed scanner, and special book restorer software which allows for and automatically corrects the curvature of pages at the spine, and also provides "finger removal" tools, which erase images of your fingers if you need to manually hold down the item being scanned. Funding for the scanning centre was provided by UCIS and the Dalhousie Libraries.

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The Dalhousie Libraries are also spearheading the creation of an institutional repository for the university. Called DalSpace and modelled on the open source platform DSpace, this repository is designed for the retention and showcasing of the intellectual legacy of Dalhousie University. DalSpace (dspace.dal.ca/dspace/) captures digital content in any format—text, video, audio, and datasets—makes it available on the Web, and indexes and preserves it. DalSpace thus provides a way to manage research materials and publications in a professionally maintained repository, while giving them greater visibility and accessibility over time. Still under construction, the prototype of DalSpace currently houses digital content provided by several units on campus, including the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, the Sir James Dunn Law Library, and the Faculty of Management, as well as the Libraries.

The DIG has been actively involved in a number of digitization projects, many of which have been carried out specifically to populate DalSpace in order to highlight the value of an institutional repository for the university. To date the DIG has recommended and received funding for the scanning and uploading of the first two volumes of the Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science (1863-1870), which was completed earlier this fall. Other digital initiatives that received DIG funding and which are nearing completion are the scanning and mounting in DalSpace of the minutes of the Dalhousie Senate (1864-1979) and Board of Governors (1820-1945), and selected publications from Dalhousie's Institute of Public Affairs. It is anticipated that by the end of March 2008, all Senate and BOG minutes will be scanned and accessible through DalSpace. Other content currently accessible in DalSpace includes architectural images, reports from the now defunct Law Commission of Canada, past exams from the Dalhousie School of Law, and School of Information Management faculty research and publications. These collections of material can be either searched or browsed by "Communities and Collections," author, title, subject or date. DalSpace also offers users the option to subscribe to



Justice Within: Indigenous Legal Traditions.
Discussion paper, Law Commission of Canada,
2006

email updates and to create their own customizable "My DSpace" profile.

The DIG has also provided access to its technological resources for other digitization projects over the past year, including scanning the entire 1878 Hopkins' City of Halifax Atlas for use by Faculty of Architecture students. The scanning centre has also been utilized to scan old photos of the Sexton campus held by the University Archives and the Sexton Library Special Collections, for the Faculty of Engineering's 100th anniversary celebrations October 4th - 6th 2007. Two large printed displays were created using the scanned images, one called "Snapshots of History" and the other a timeline of the 100 year history of the school.

The Digital Initiatives Group is actively working with Dalhousie faculties and departments to identify new opportunities. A call for proposals for future digitization projects to be considered by the DIG went out early in the fall and seven new proposals were presented for possible funding in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Among the proposals that are being recommended to the University Librarian for funding are: the creation of a digital collection focusing on women's diaries held in the University Archives & Special Collections; the digitization of the Dalhousie general calendars from 1865 to 1950; phase 2 of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science project; the digitization of the Sexton Libraries' Andrew Cobb Postcard collection; the digitization of the etchings and sketches of the Bay of Fundy in 1881 by American engraver Stephen Parrish; the creation of a digital collection highlighting the Dalhousie Libraries' Kipling Collection's variant issues of Kipling most famous and important poem "If"; and the scanning of *The Halifax Disaster*, Archibald MacMechan's detailed and powerful account of the Halifax explosion written in 1917 for the Halifax Disaster Record Office.

With the development of these and other potential digitization initiatives in the coming years, one thing is certain: the Dalhousie Libraries can be relied upon to maintain the best equipment available for technical support, and they are firmly committed to the ongoing preservation of all DalSpace content for the Dalhousie community.

Dal Space

Humanities and Social Sciences Research Gets Major Boost

In February 2007 the Canadian Foundation For Innovation (CFI) announced a landmark \$25 million investment in two new projects: the *Digital Content Infrastructure* project, led by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) at the University of Ottawa, and the *Synergies* project spearheaded by Simon Fraser University and the Université de Montreal. The funds were awarded under the CFI's National Platforms Fund, a new program designed to provide Canadian researchers and students with innovative infrastructure and resources to facilitate scholarship in a rapidly evolving scholarly communications environment. The Dalhousie Libraries are participating in both of these initiatives.

The primary objective of *Synergies* is the transformation of scholarly publishing in the humanities and social sciences from a print to digital environment. *Synergies* will create a decentralized national platform for Canadian social sciences and humanities research communication. The project is designed to eventually encompass a wide range of formats, including published articles, pre-publication papers, data sets, presentations, and electronic monographs. By participating in the CFI *Synergies* project, the Dalhousie University Libraries and Electronic Text Centre can offer access to Open Journal Systems software that enables small non-commercial journal publishers to manage and produce their publications in a totally online environment, and at a reasonable cost. The Atlantic node of this initiative is based at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. In collaboration with them and several other universities in the Atlantic region, it is hoped Dalhousie can use this opportunity to facilitate the growth of electronic publishing on campus and put it on a firm footing for the future.

The Digital Content Infrastructure (DCI) project, billed as one of the most significant contributions to humanities and social sciences research in the last 40 years, will enable Canadian researchers and graduate students to draw upon a wealth of digital journals, databases and other scholarly content. Currently 67 universities across Canada, including Dalhousie, are participating in the DCI project. In the spring of 2007 CRKN set up a website where participating institutions each submitted a wish list of digital products for which they hoped to obtain funding. The list was whittled down to 49 items based on how often they had been requested and how highly they were ranked. By April 2008 universities should have access to whichever products have been successfully negotiated with vendors by CRKN. Among the 10 items submitted by Dalhousie Collections Librarian Ian Colford were *Archive of Americana*, *Classical Scores Library*, *Theatre in Video* and *Gale Literary Databases*. All but two of our wish list items made it to CRKN's final list!

GIS Centre Wins ESRI Award



ESRI President Alex Miller with James Boxall.
Photo credit: Daniel Abriel

Congratulations to Dalhousie University's GIS Centre (James Boxall, Director and Curator) upon receiving an Award of Excellence from ESRI Canada Ltd. This is an annual award for excellence in the industry and, in Dalhousie's case, for being "a model to the country for the implementation of GIS within an academic environment." The award was presented on November 1 at ESRI Canada's annual ESRI Regional User Conference in Dartmouth. In addition, ESRI Canada Ltd. has provided Dalhousie with a \$2,000 cash scholarship, which comes with another \$10,000 worth of software and online courses.

Dalhousie's GIS Centre, located in the Killam Learning Commons, is now one of the largest and most successful in Canada. The Centre provides campus-wide support for Geographic Information Systems research and teaching. To find out more about the GIS Centre, visit their website at www.library.dal.ca/MAGIC/GIS/, or drop in and have a chat with their staff in the library!

Amazing 40th Birthday Gift for Kellogg Library

The W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library celebrated 40 years of success with a birthday party on November 30, attended by a host of health professionals, library staff and librarians old and new. There were speeches, balloons and a huge cake, but what many attendees didn't know is that the Kellogg had also just received the birthday gift of a lifetime: a major bequest from Dr. Norman Barrie Coward (1905-1997), one of Halifax's first specialists in pediatric medicine. The \$6 million bequest is to be divided between the IWK Health Centre and the Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

A Dalhousie Medical School alumnus, Dr. Coward joined Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine in 1934 as a lecturer and clinical instructor in the Department of Pediatrics. In 1958 he was appointed Head of the Department, and in 1963 became Pediatrician-in-Chief at the Children's Hospital (now the IWK Health Centre). Dalhousie and the IWK have a long tradition of working collaboratively and Dr. Coward's legacy highlights the ongoing success of this synergistic relationship. His generous and thoughtful bequest will support IWK research for the benefit of children and their families in the Maritimes and beyond, as well as learning resources for medical students and health professionals at the Kellogg Library.

The W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library opened in 1967 with the official opening of the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building ("In anticipation of the future, the Library is equipped to handle Telex and a computer station," reads Doreen Fraser's 1967 article).^{*} Continuing and greatly expanding on the traditions of its predecessor the Dalhousie Medical-Dental Library, the Kellogg has established regional loan services for health practitioners across the Maritime Provinces and has taken a leadership role with local hospital libraries. It continues to serve the teaching and research needs of students, faculty and staff at Dalhousie University.

^{*}*APLA Bulletin Feb. & May 1967*

Roch Carrier Tours the Killam



L. to r: Oriel MacLennan, Roch Carrier, Joyline Makani, Jane Duffy

The Killam Library had just 45 minutes on November 1 to strut its stuff for Roch Carrier, who was at Dalhousie to deliver the Governor General's Lecture of the Royal Society of Canada, the final stop on his cross-Canada tour.

Dr. Carrier was escorted through the library, visiting the Learning Commons, getting a live demo of LibGuides, having a whirlwind tour of the book stacks, and ending in Archives & Special Collections with a glimpse of some of our unique materials. The soft-spoken Dr. Carrier was charming and amiable throughout the whole experience, and it was both an honour and a pleasure to meet the celebrated author of "The Hockey Sweater"! ^{*}

^{*}*The Hockey Sweater and Other Stories* is Sheila Fischman's translation of Carrier's original collection *Les enfants du bonhomme dans la lune*, published in 1979. Both books are held in the Killam Library.

Don Domanski Poetry Reading



7:30 p.m., March 13, 2008
Special Collections Reading Room
5th floor, Killam Library

*all my thoughts are a divination with yarrow-sticks
 and a mere filament of flame a single mouse hair
 burning*

deep in a canyon

—from *All Our Wonder Unavenged*

“The poems themselves really don’t know anything about this,” Don Domanski said after winning the 2007 Governor General’s Literary Award for Poetry for his latest book of poems, *All Our Wonder Unavenged* (Brick Books). This is not Domanski’s first brush with the Governor General’s award: he was also shortlisted for his poetry collections *Wolf-Ladder* (1991) and *Stations of the Left Hand* (1994). But awards are not what he writes for—“You don’t sustain yourself that way as a poet.”

Born and raised in Cape Breton, Domanski now lives in Halifax. *All Our Wonder Unavenged* is his eighth book of poetry. Published and reviewed internationally, including in *The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse*, Domanski’s work has been translated into Czechoslovakian, Portuguese, and Spanish. He describes *All Our Wonder Unavenged* as looking at nature, cosmology and the place of humanity in it, and poetry itself as “an act of nature”. He believes growing up in Cape Breton, where he spent a great deal of time playing by himself outdoors and was immersed in the Celtic culture, had a profound impact on his approach to writing and his use of language. His poetry is imbued with a deep spirituality and a close connection to the natural world.

Domanski will read from his poems in the Special Collections Reading Room on the fifth floor of the Killam Library. This event is sponsored by the Canadian Literary Collections Project. All are welcome!

Out there

User-Created Content

Think Wikipedia. Think YouTube. Think Second Life. Web 2.0 technologies—tagging and folksonomic tools, social bookmarking, and sites that make it easy to contribute ideas and content—are placing the power of creation and distribution into the hands of everyone with access to the Internet. User-created content is all around us, from blogs and photostreams to wikibooks and “citizen journalism,” contributions of opinions and images to news sites. How can the new “digital democracy” be integrated into the university learning experience? Some examples below...

ETEC 540 - Text Technologies (UBC)

weblogs.elearning.ubc.ca/textologies/links.html

The masters-level course *Text Technologies: The Changing Spaces of Reading and Writing* uses a course blog that includes this list of resources, collaboratively built with social bookmarking tools.

PennTags

tags.library.upenn.edu

PennTags allows the University of Pennsylvania community to identify and organize web resources, journal articles, and online catalog content.

Zotero

www.zotero.org

Developed by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, Zotero is a free, open source research tool that enables scholars to gather, annotate, organize, and share references via a web browser, and also provides export in standard citation formats.

Adapted from: www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/CSD4781.pdf

focus on...

Oh, the changes she has seen!

Karen Chandler began working at the Killam Library in 1981—she is one of several library staff who were “pinned” by President Traves this past June for 25 years of service to the university. Karen’s first responsibilities included typing up book cards for book pockets and labeling envelopes of photocopied articles for items placed on Reserve, then actually pulling Reserve materials from the stacks and making appropriate tools available to users for retrieving them. Since then she has graduated to ordering new serial publications, setting up prediction patterns for the arrival of serial issues, assisting with migration of Acquisition/Serials data through various system upgrades, etc. Once the Head of Reserve/ Assistant Head of Circulation, Karen is now the Head of the Serials Unit for the Killam Library. And she’s handled all of these challenges with her customary aplomb.

Karen’s current job involves not only overseeing the acquisition of hundreds of new periodicals both online and in print, but also supervising staff and student assistants and doing a lot of budget preparation/predictions and invoicing functions. Committee responsibilities also keep her busy, and help her “see the bigger picture” —Karen served as Co-Chair of the Novanet Acquisitions/Serials Committee and on the Committee of Chairs, and is now an active member of the Novanet Acquisitions/Serials Functional Contact Committee.



Karen Chandler
Head of Serials, Killam Library

Drudgery, you say? On the contrary! Karen beams with enthusiasm as she says, “I love coming to work every morning—it’s so exciting these days!” Ordering more and more serial publications in electronic format adds a new element of interest to the process of managing serial orders and presents new challenges. She is thrilled with the Learning Commons and with the directions in which the Libraries are moving as they embrace new technologies and services. Despite what she calls the “culture shock” of having to get used to “never finishing anything” (serial titles change continually, for example, and subscriptions need to be renewed regularly), she’s pleased that there’s never time to ponder how to fill her day. Her only regret is that she no longer gets to spend as much time as she would like working with the faculty and other library users in person.

How does Karen unwind in her free time? As everyone who knows her can attest, she’s an avid birdwatcher (chickadees are her favorites), gardener and all-around nature lover. She’s even made peace with Wilbur, the wild rabbit who makes free with the vegetables and plants in her garden!