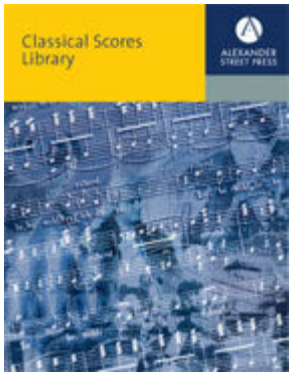
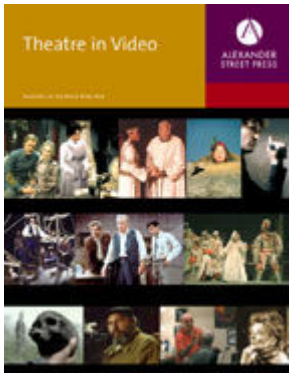
Context
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Number 9, October 2008

Licensing Agreement Brings Flood of New Digital Resources



Dalhousie University Libraries is just one of 67 Canadian university libraries to benefit from a new national licensing agreement which will bring researchers desktop access to a huge body of national and international resources in the social sciences and humanities.

The agreement was announced officially on June 3, 2008 by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), a consortium of universities "dedicated to expanding digital content in support of the academic research enterprise in Canada." It was brought about as a result of a joint $47 million investment by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and participating universities in the CRKN, and is part of the ongoing Digital Content Infrastructure for the Human and Social Sciences (DCI) Project.



Many of the materials licensed under the new agreement were not previously accessible to Canadians, or were offered with limited access in print version only. Some of the most exciting examples are the *Classical Scores Library* (a complement to the *Classical Music Library* to which we currently have access), a collection of more than 8,000 of the most important classical music scores, manuscripts, and previously unpublished materials; eight collections of rare primary sources *(see Page 2)* including original manuscripts, pamphlets, books, paintings, maps and images offering full interactive functionality; and the *Canadian Publishers Collection* of approximately 8,100 multi-disciplinary English and French

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electronic book titles from 44 Canadian publishers from Anvil Press to XYZ Éditeur, including the major Canadian university presses. Most of the latter resources are being offered in online e-book form for the first time.

Theatre aficionados will be thrilled to learn that we have also acquired *Theatre in Video*, a database which provides in streaming video format more than 250 of the world's most important plays, original productions recorded while being performed for a live theatre audience. *Theatre in Video* also contains over 100 video documentaries, live television broadcasts of New York productions from the 50s, contemporary revivals of classic works and experimental performances from the 60s and 70s, as well as many other performances. The publisher's website states: "For the first time, students, instructors, and researchers can bookmark specific scenes, monologues, and staging examples and then include those online links in their papers and course reserves. Class assignments and published papers will take on a whole new dimension."

The new agreement also covers electronic journals in "an award-winning multi-publisher package" which combines *Periodicals Archive Online* (unprecedented access to backfiles from 1802 to 1995 in thirty-seven key subject areas) and the *ALPSP Learned Journals Collection* from the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, a unique collection of 696 journal titles by 52 publishers from 31 countries worldwide.

These are just a few highlights of the thousands of new items the Dalhousie Libraries have acquired, which are accessible via Novanet and our website. We encourage Dal students and faculty to explore and use these new resources to enhance their research, and we sincerely hope you enjoy them!

PRIMARY SOURCE COLLECTIONS

- China: Trade, Politics and Culture 1793-1980
- Defining Gender, 1450-1910
- Eighteenth Century Journals I
- Eighteenth Century Journals II
- Empire Online
- Mass Observation Online
- Medieval Travel Writing
- Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice, 1490-2007

New Service for Faculty: Online Instruction Request Form

Dal faculty can now fill out an online form to request library instruction sessions for their classes. Choose a "Popular Combo," or hand-select the sessions you'd like us to teach from the "a la carte" menu. You can also mix and match to customize your own "combo," and we've even included a 15 minute Killam Library tour. We ask that you request a session at least two weeks in advance.

Find the form on our website at:
www.library.dal.ca/Services/InfoLit/InstructionRequestForm/

GIS Centre Gets New Digs, New Analyst

Raymond Jahncke

The GIS Centre, previously situated in the Killam Learning Commons, has moved to new quarters. The Centre is now located in offices at the back of the McNab Reading Room on the second floor of the Killam Library. Just look for the big banner over the door! (The Dalhousie Writing and Math Centres are now in the old GIS Centre location in the LC).

The Centre is also pleased to welcome **Raymond Jahncke** as its new GIS Analyst. Originally from Nova Scotia, Raymond has returned from working at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for the past seven years. Prior to that Raymond worked for marine geology and engineering consultants in the Halifax area. He has an Advanced Diploma in GIS from the Centre of Geographic Sciences and an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from Lakehead University.

Student Assistants: What Would We Do Without Them?

Kimberly Johnson and Hilary Skov-Nielsen in the Scanning Room, Killam Library

One of the little-known facets of the Libraries is the invaluable work done by our student interns/assistants. Every year, the Dalhousie Libraries hire students, whether for the summer or as part-time employees during the school year, to do everything from shifts on the reference desk to working on special projects. Here we highlight just a few of the students who are currently with us or who worked at the Libraries over the summer. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank to ALL of our student assistants for your hard work and enthusiasm!

SEXTON DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY

Regan Gunningham and **Creighton Barrett** (School of Information Management interns) do regular shifts on the Reference Desk, create online tutorials, create and update database guides, and work on content for LibGuides, the subject guides on the Libraries website. As if that weren't enough, Regan and Creighton have also been involved in weeding and selection projects for library collections, and have been helping Sarah Jane Dooley, Reference & Research Services Librarian, with a workshop series to update staff on new tools, etc., as well as facilitating one of the sessions.

Last spring Creighton won the Atlantic Provinces Library Association "Student to IFLA" contest. The contest covers the cost of registration at the IFLA conference in Quebec City in August. Congratulations, Creighton!

KELLOGG HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Sarah Ziolkowska and **Kathleen Gadd** (SIM interns) work daily shifts on the Kellogg Reference Desk and help out at the Circulation Desk as well. They've both been busy updating LibGuides and creating new ones, making multimedia tutorials on using library resources and conducting research, and updating old tutorials. In addition, Sarah works mornings in Document Delivery and has been involved in re-organizing government documents to free up space for a writing center. Kathleen has been helping with the assessment of donations to the Kellogg to see what they can use and what they might sell, donate, or recycle; re-arranging the Reference collection; checking print journals against electronic holdings; and digitizing a 1925 report by the Halifax Health Commission on the Halifax Explosion. [Note: This is now available at *www.library.dal.ca/Kellogg/HalifaxExplosionReport/*]

KILLAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Hilary Skov-Nielsen (student assistant) and **Kimberly Johnson** (SIM intern) are working on digitization projects for Dalhousie University Archives & Special Collections. Hilary is scanning the papers of James Dinwiddie, Scottish scientist and lecturer, dating from 1767 to 1815. Kim is working on the ongoing project of digitizing the Nova Scotia Institute of Science publications, currently in its second phase on volumes 3 to 8.

Bea Houston (SIM intern) is working with Fran Nowakowski, Information Literacy Coordinator, to create podcasts for the Libraries' website. These include Libcasts, a series of brief, downloadable instructional videos (including one about our Document Delivery services), and a podcast tour of the Killam Library with "de-tours" to special areas like the Learning Commons and the Map Collection. Bea is also responsible for creating the Information Literacy newsletter.

Did You Know…?
Libcasts, Podcasts & Blogs

We're making the Dalhousie Libraries website more interactive every day. Did you know that you can now watch a series of "Libcasts" to learn how to use key library resources? Or that we have a self-guided podcast tour of the Killam Library? And what about *esearch@dal*, our must-have blog on new resources? Read more…

Libcasts: What You Want to Learn, When and Where You Want It
www.library.dal.ca/How/Libcasts/

Libcasts are brief instructional videos that you can access from a browser or download to your ipod or portable player. They cover many different topics relating to research and are generally less than 2 minutes long. Topics include searching Novanet, finding articles, using the Document Delivery services, and a handy "Faculty Guide to Using Turnitin with Blackboard." The introductory "Overview of Library Resources" is available in Arabic, French, Mandarin, Spanish and Urdu as well as English!

Killam Library Podcast Tour
www.library.dal.ca/Killam/TourPodCast/

No time to take one of our fall orientation library tours? Download these MP3 files and let us we walk you through the Killam Library floor by floor at your convenience! Or, listen at your desk and explore later. You can take the entire tour of the Killam, or take the "DeTours"—detailed descriptions of highlighted areas such as the Learning Commons and the Map Collection. There is about 10 minutes of audio, and walking the whole tour should take you about 20 minutes.

esearch@dal: New Electronic Resources Blog
http://esearchatdal.blogspot.com/

Did you know that as a Dal faculty, student or staff member you can now download the full text of all theses and dissertations from 1996 on from ProQuest's *Dissertations and Theses* database? Or that the Libraries always have databases on trial that you can try out and comment on? Subscribe to *esearch@dal* and keep up to date with our latest acquisitions and services!

Gwyn Pace Receives APLA Merit Award

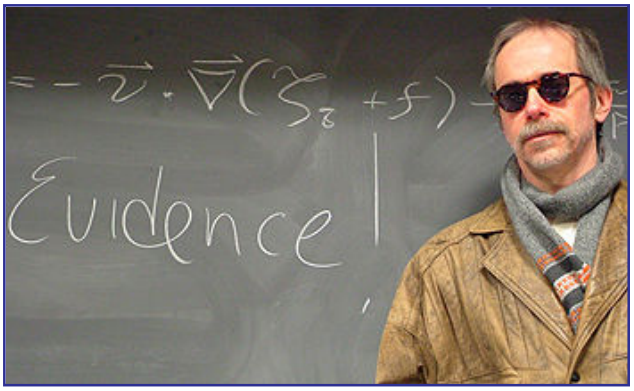
On May 10, 2008 Gwyn Pace, Document Delivery/Circulation Librarian, was honoured with the 2008 Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Merit Award. Presented at the Merit Award Banquet during APLA's Annual Conference, the award honours an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library services in the Atlantic Provinces.

Gwyn Pace started at the Dalhousie Libraries in 1983 as a Reference Librarian and Subject Specialist for History, and began working with Interlibrary Loan (the old name for Document Delivery) at the Killam Library in 1985. She now chairs the Atlantic Scholarly Information Network Document Delivery Group (ASIN DDG), an initiative of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL). The ASIN DDG was formed in December 1999 with 3 CAUL institutions and 5 libraries, including the Killam Library, using the Relais International document delivery management system. There are now 14 CAUL institutions and 19 libraries using this system, including all four of the Dalhousie Libraries.

It is through the efforts of Gwyn and the Document Delivery staff that the Dalhousie Libraries are able to provide faculty and students with a first rate document delivery service.

Gwyn Pace *(far left, 2nd row)* with the members of the ASIN Document Delivery Group

Librarian Launches His Own "Collection"



On a chilly evening in April Ian Colford, Assistant Librarian Collections, read excerpts from his debut short story collection *Evidence* to a packed audience at the Killam Library. *Evidence*, which was published by Porcupine's Quill Press in March 2008, is a series of "linked stories" narrated by Kostandin Bitri, a wanderer who has been uprooted by war from an unnamed eastern European country. Ian says, "My favourite books have always been those that persuade the reader to turn the page, not because of a plot-driven story line, but because the world the author has created is so odd and so compelling — that is, familiar while at the same time utterly outside our experience." He has certainly achieved this brilliantly in *Evidence*.

Evidence has already been well received in two excellent reviews, one in the "Books" section of the *Globe & Mail* (July 19/08), where Jim Bartley calls it "a rich, shadowed, mind-tweaking puzzle of a book"; and in *The Star* (July 13/08), which describes *Evidence* as "something of an exotic work of Canadian fiction, presenting history and geography in expressionistic, psychological terms."

Ian's work has appeared in *The Antigonish Review, Event, The Fiddlehead, The Dalhousie Review, Grain, Canadian Fiction Magazine, The Journey Prize Anthology*, and other periodicals and collections. His writing has won awards and been shortlisted for the Journey Prize. Travels to Greece, Portugal, Turkey and Italy have laid a foundation upon which much of his recent fiction is constructed. Ian is currently working on a novel set in South America during a period of political instability. The Dalhousie Libraries congratulate Ian on his success, and look forward to displaying his next publication on our shelves!

Learning Commons News

The Dalhousie Learning Commons is delighted to welcome **Mick Bottom** as its new Technical Lead. Mick began working at Dalhousie in May 2008 as a work term student in the Networks and Systems Department, and has been the LC Technical Lead since July 28. With Mick at the helm, a number of technological upgrades are planned for the main Killam Learning Commons this fall. The current computers are being replaced with new PCs that are far superior to what we have now, and a number of new iMACs will also be available for use. Completing the upgrade will be widescreen LCD monitors and some new scanners.

Mick has a message for our LC users: "All this new technology combined with my great team of Student Navigators will make the Learning Commons a fantastic place to be. I am keen to hear any suggestions about how to improve the Learning Commons and the services it offers. Feel free to pop in and see me or you can email me by clicking the Suggestion Box link on the workstation desktop."

Suggest a Purchase

The Dalhousie Libraries website now offers a brand new service: *Suggest a Purchase*, an online form you can fill out and submit with recommendations for new book, journal or other acquisitions. You will be emailed if we acquire your recommended item.

This service is available for the Kellogg and Killam Libraries only (to date). We welcome your suggestions!

focus on...

Marc Comeau

Sysems Manager, Dalhousie University Libraries

Who knows what systems managers do? To most people, "Systems" itself is something of a black box. Luckily Marc Comeau is only too happy to talk, articulately and thoughtfully, about his work. "I like to describe what I do as 'interpreting,'" he says. "Interpreting wants into needs, technical language into common language—and vice versa."

Marc has been head of Library Information Technology Support (LITS) since November 2007, having previously worked as webmaster for the Faculty of Computer Science. Responsible for overseeing systems requirements at all four Dalhousie Libraries, he quickly became adept at handling what he calls "challenges that require creative solutions," juggling internal, Public Services and organizational priorities.

Marc's responsibilities include coordinating the day to day work with the LITS team (John Mifflen, David Mifflen, Leigh Smith and Michelle Francis), as well as "a lot of planning and report writing." He also works closely with Technical Services, getting a perspective on the library side of things—"I find the conversations involving Technical Services very constructive," he claims. So what are the LITS folks actually doing these days? In the Public Services area DalSpace is a major current project, involving planning for future development, discussing technical and policy issues, and dealing with potential pitfalls. The Libraries website is another complex initiative being overseen by the LITS team, who are developing "a broad spectrum of tools" for it, such as an improved Reserve system for Circulation.

One of Marc's primary concerns, he says, is his "responsibility to Systems and to the Libraries as an organizational unit." Right now this includes working with UCIS on the campus-wide Evergreen project, which will see all Learning Commons and other public use computers being leased on a 3-year basis. The LITS team will soon be setting up utility servers for the Libraries, machines that will securely house logs, development versions of our website, proxy service and so on for testing purposes.

And what do Systems Managers do in their off time? "I start projects at home," says Marc with a grin, describing himself as "mad scientist lite." "Right now I have a half-built robot that drives around the rug without bumping into anything, and I'm also completing a template for a guitar." Has he ever actually finished a project? There's a long pause, and then he says "Well, I realigned my bandsaw..." Luckily for the Libraries Marc does all his tinkering at home—he takes his real work very seriously and is full of ideas for the future.

The ComeauBot-in-progress

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds