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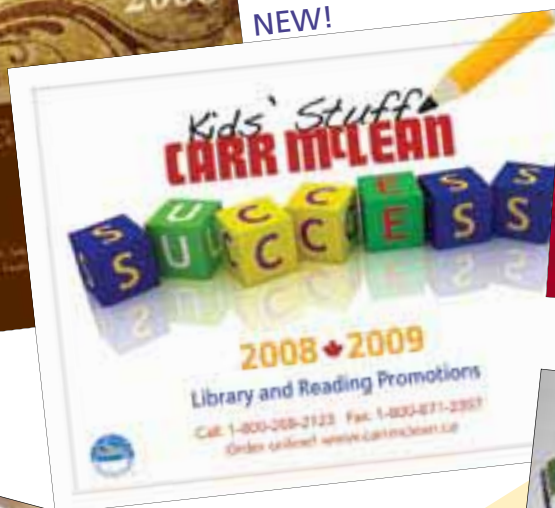
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On the Cover: Shelagh Paterson and Larry Moore. Photo: Andrew J. Ryther

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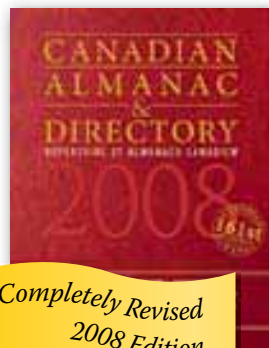
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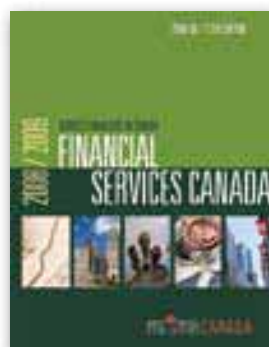
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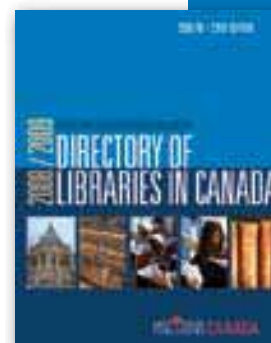


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Ontario Snapshot

LIBRARY NEWS, PROGRAMS AND RECOGNITION

Introducing Shelagh Paterson, OLA Executive Director

Greetings OLA! It is such a pleasure to join such a diverse and dynamic association! At time of writing this I have been on the job for one week. Sam Coghlan's 2008 presidential theme for OLA of "Learning Organizations" is particularly relevant for my new career journey. I anticipate an exciting year of learning about you and your issues and ideas. Don't hesitate to call or e-mail.

Here is a snapshot of my background:

After graduating from the University of Western Ontario's Master of Library and Information Science Program in 1997 I joined the CNIB library. My work there was varied and broad, including extensive experience in accessible library services for people with disabilities, digital collections, event planning, advocacy, government relations, outreach programs, and library sales. In my most recent role as Director, Advocacy, Sales and Marketing, I had begun a series of projects with the Canadian publishing community and Canadian Heritage to bring more profile to digital audiobooks.

Working for a national organization provided the chance to meet with people working for school, academic, public, and special libraries, and to learn about both unique service models and common issues that cross all sectors.



I can testify that volunteering for your association really is a career enhancer! Thanks to the superb recruiting skills of Larry Moore and a number of dedicated OLA volunteers (you know who you are) I have also been an OLA volunteer for the past decade. This experience along with serving on the Canadian Library Association council has provided some insight into the many challenges and opportunities we all encounter; copyright, the book rate, the crisis in school libraries, digital libraries, privacy... the list goes on. I look forward to the learning process and to help advance the good work we all do.

— *Shelagh Paterson*



From Burlington's Library Lady

Library Lady here, reporting that Burlington Public Library is now on the Web 2.0 map. From December to February our staff flickered, facebooked, blogged, library thinged, wikied and had a taste of something *delicio.us*.

Inspired by Stephen Abram's list of 43 Things and a similar program at the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, the training team—in the persona of the Library Lady—developed a self-directed training blog, giving staff a taste of some of the tools used by our customers and applicable in the workplace. Participation was mandatory for information services staff, while all other regular staff was invited to participate (with an MP3 incentive.)

So far, 83% of staff have taken up the challenge. And better yet, our current success rate tells us more than 85% of participating staff will complete the training! Woo!
— *Valerie Wettlaufer, Training & Information Services, Burlington Public Library*

Books by the Bay

Last summer, Callander's Books By The Bay Festival was a wonderful celebration of Canadian authors and their work. Over three days, large crowds headed north to enjoy a variety of Canadian authors such as Margaret Atwood, Lynn Johnston, and Barbara Reid.

In 2008, from July 18-20, Callander's fourth annual Books By The Bay Northern Festival is the place to be for book lovers. The weekend starts on Friday night with short readings by five local authors. It continues on Saturday with a special session for children, as well as a chance for adult readers to meet and hear many celebrated Canadian authors such as Linwood Barclay, Karen Connelly, Frank Glew, and Ian McCulloch. The weekend finishes up Sunday with a scenic cruise on Lake Nipissing.

For information, call the Callander Public Library (705-752-2544) or Gulliver's Quality Books & Toys in North Bay (705-474-7335).
www.booksbythebay.ca



ABOVE - Record tickets sales, celebrations of Canadian authors and beautiful sunny days were shared by the many participant's who attended the 2007 Books by the Bay festival!
RIGHT - Celebrated Canadian Author Margaret Atwood takes a moment to visit and sign books with festival participants as Festival Co-Chair Suzanne Brooks stands by.



Arnprior's Super Reader Days

The Arnprior Public Library has introduced a whole new level of reading incentive rewards.

The TD Summer Reading Club has always attracted more than 150 participants in Arnprior. In years past, participants who logged at least 10 books were invited to an end of summer party featuring a professional entertainer.

Those who logged 20 books were honoured with a personalized name plate in the front of a new acquisition. This has become an annual goal for many area children who have their names in several library books.

A new incentive in 2007 was a fire truck ride for those who logged 40 titles during the summer. 21 Children reached this milestone that was also marked with an official proclamation by the town council declaring August 27th as Super Reader Day.



Plans are well underway for a similar program in 2008 and already children are asking about the details of the party and fire truck ride!



TPL's Jane/Dundas Re-opens

Toronto Public Library's Jane/Dundas Branch re-opened on February 4 – the first of seven TPL branches undergoing major revitalizations in 2008.

Approximately 1,555 eager residents visited the Library on opening day to celebrate, admire, read, and be the first to check out some of the more than 10,000 new items waiting for them.

The Branch features wireless internet service, new express RFID check-out, interior and exterior book drops for quick library returns, a new teen zone, a quiet study room, lots of computers and comfortable seating areas for all. Architect Stephen Teeple comments, "The newly renovated library design becomes a community focal point, bringing attention to the interior as well as the exterior, creating an overall brighter, safer and inviting

streetscape. A new glass façade on the north face of the building, and additional windows on the east, bring soft, natural light into the spaces without excessive solar heat gain resulting in a bright and well tempered interior.



Photos credit: Shai Gil

A new teen zone and children's area is done in lively bright colours, defining different interior spaces and accommodating the growing needs of younger customers."

downloadLibrary Launched

At downloadLibrary (www.download-library.ca), more than 1,400 Overdrive downloadable audio-books are now available to library customers in Waterloo Region and parts of Perth County. It is thanks to the collaboration of area libraries including Cambridge, Kitchener, Perth County Information Network, the Region of Waterloo and Waterloo. Collection development is rotated among member libraries.

Virtually all selections are unabridged and response to the service has been enthusiastic. One mom, home with a sick child, said she downloaded a Susan Cooper title for him "without leaving the house." Another wrote: "All I have to say is WOW; the download library is extremely cool! I've already gotten a couple of my friends and family with expired library cards to renew them."

A man whose 88-year-old mother lives with low vision described their success, in spite of being "low tech." He said, "it was so successful that we are going to be buying an MP3 player ourselves."

Launched: Ontario Public Library Guidelines No.4

The Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council has announced the publication of the fourth edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines.

The Guidelines provide a voluntary, self-regulated process, designed to analyze the state of development of a public library and enable it to attain and maintain consistently strong levels of service. While the primary target group is small, medium and county public libraries, the Guidelines may be used by other interested libraries.

Libraries that use the Guidelines have the option of seeking recognition as Accredited Ontario Public Libraries from the Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council. Accreditation certificates are signed by the Minister of Culture and presented at the Public Library Awards Dinner at OLA Super Conference.

With the fourth edition, a separate version of the Guidelines has been produced for the first time specifically for use by Ontario's First Nation public

libraries. Among other changes, the fourth edition reflects developments in technology and adds new guidelines relating to services to young adults and to linguistic, ethnic and immigrant groups.

The Ontario Ministry of Culture has provided Council with funds to print one copy of the Guidelines 4th Edition for each public library in the province.

A free, downloadable version of the English, French and First Nations versions of the fourth edition of the Ontario Public Library Guidelines, along with a list of accredited libraries, can be found at www.olsn.ca/Guidelines/Opl_guidelines.htm



Guelph's Inspired Journey

In 1882 the Free Libraries Act was passed, allowing municipalities to establish libraries supported by local taxes. The City of Guelph was the first in Ontario to take advantage of this Act and the Guelph Public Library was founded on February 10th, 1883.

This February the Guelph Public Library began a year long celebration of its "Inspired Journey." A large crowd gathered to toast this significant milestone. Popular Canadian singer-songwriter, James Gordon performed his lively, toe tapping tribute to the library's past called The Guelph Public Library Anniversary Song. A well-known artist, Stephen Lewis, unveiled his commemorative 125th sculpture and Guelph's mayor, Karen Farbridge, shared her vision for the library's future.

A successful kickoff to a year of events that will highlight the Guelph Public Library's commitment to bringing inspiration, imagination, innovation and information to the citizens of Guelph.



Hamilton PL: John Cotton Dana Award for One Book, One City

Hamilton Public Library is one of five winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, which recognizes and honours outstanding achievement in library public relations. The John Cotton Dana honour has been awarded continuously since 1946 and is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Hamilton Public Library's entry—One Book, One City: Tackling Poverty Through the Arts—was selected for the wealth of public participation, the strong community partnerships and the innovative approach to addressing an important social issue.

The award will be presented at the American Library Association annual conference this summer.



Mike Saddy Retires from Orillia PL

Michael Saddy, CEO of the Orillia Public Library since 2000, has retired from the public library field. His last day was February 29, 2008.

Mike, a native of London, Ontario, studied at the University of Western Ontario, where he obtained both B.A. and Masters of Library Science Degrees. In 1978 he married fellow library school student Sandra McGinn.

His first professional work was at Bruce County Public Library driving the inter-branch delivery van. In 1984 he became CEO of the Midland Public Library, where he served for 16 years.

Mike came to Orillia in April 2000, where one of his main priorities was the project for a new library building. As he retires the selection process for a library architect is underway, so he can proudly say that challenge has been met!

Mike says his plans for retirement include listening to more opera, finding his golf game, and watching lots of Jerry Springer. A celebration of his career and accomplishments while at Orillia Public Library was held on Friday February 29.

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Flashpoint

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROGRAMS AT THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ADVOCACY

Draft of New School Library Document Unveiled at Super Conference

The first public draft of the Ontario School Library Association document to succeed and complement 1982's *Partners in Action: The Library Resource Centre in the School Curriculum* has been shared with the Ministry of Education who commissioned it. It was publicly unveiled at two Super Conference sessions – one exclusively for school library consultants and one for the school library membership-at-large. Subsequent regional hearings developed by the consultants for school staff have been complemented by continuing interviews with other key players such as directors of education, supervisory consultants, subject teachers and subject associations and the larger library community. By the time a final revised draft is ready, the Ministry will have provided its perspective on the content and on the method to be used for publication and distribution. The Minister's office has indicated that it is considering making the new document part of the announcement of the \$180 million in resources earmarked for school libraries in the government's election promises. OSLA was



acknowledged in the Premier's February announcement of \$40 million to augment school library staff in the province (the first Ontario government ever to invest in school library staff). While Queen's Park can never pay for school library staff, all of these activities are sending positive messages to boards about the government's support of the work school library staff are doing with children and youth in our schools.

Public Library Board Development

The OLBA's Leadership by Design program continues to forge ahead. The database of trustee materials, One Place to Look, is now available on the OLBA Web site. A Trillium Foundation application for funding to undertake research on characteristics and competencies needed for effective community collaboration has been approved.

Ontario Disabilities Act

The first meeting on the implementation of the ODA Customer Service Standard approved by the government took place in February. The Ontario Library Association represents libraries in these developments. Compliance by 2009 is the government's target. Work continues on the Information and Communications Standard. Our representative Lari Langford indicates that work will likely not be completed before 2009.

PROGRAMS

Ami McKay Wins the 2007 Evergreen Award for Adult Readers

McKay's debut novel, *The Birth House*, which explores women's rights and freedoms in rural Nova Scotia during the years before and after the First World War, was awarded OLA's Evergreen Award at Super Conference in February. One reader described the book by calling it "a compelling read that is impossible to put down until the last page is turned!"

McKay (pictured right) received her award from Sharron Smith, the Evergreen Committee Chair (left).

The program, part of OLA's Forest of Reading, is for adult readers in public libraries. Previous Evergreen winners are *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden (2006) and *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson (2005).



The OLA Forest of Reading® Festival Award Ceremonies

Voting day for the Forest of Reading awards for children and young people each year is April 23. The tallies will be revealed this year by the readers at the Forest of Reading Festival at Harbourfront Centre on May 21 and May 22. Close to 7,500 young people are expected to be in attendance and close to 60 nominated authors. The two-day outdoor festival is the culmination of months of planning, involving the personnel of both Harbourfront Centre and OLA, as well as close to a hundred volunteer members from the OLA reading committees.



OLA Education

Super Conference was again a large success, attracting almost the same number of delegates as last year in spite of a serious storm that curtailed at-the-door registrations on the Friday. The buzz was very much about the plenary speakers Ethan Zuckerman, Carl Honoré, Vincent Lam, Stephen Heppell and the spotlight speakers such as Elizabeth May, Joseph Janes, David Warlick and Andrew Keen.

The Education Institute's spring catalogue included over 100 sessions, the bulk of which are underway. The sessions are attended by library staff from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Other OLA education this spring has come from OCULA, OLITA and OPLA's Readers' Advisory Group.

IFLA Conference in Québec City this August

OLA members may attend the conference at IFLA member preferred rates, using OLA's IFLA membership number. To obtain the number, members must contact OLA.



The Partnership

All provincial and territorial library associations across Canada were in the large turnout of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and executive directors that met at Super Conference. This meeting was noteworthy for the half day of discussions with CLA President Alvin Schrader and Vice-President Ken Roberts about future relationships between the national association and The Partnership. While no concrete actions or directions were defined, there was the strong feeling that progress is being made and that the will to act combined with changing conditions promise results, albeit slowly.

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Electronic Election

While the Association has had constitutional approval to hold electronic elections for two years now, we had not found a program that satisfied us. Clarity Communications, the company building the new OLA member database, came up with a superb solution that was used to run the OSLA election. It was not only secure, it was simple and the number of votes cast was easily double those seen in comparable elections in the past.

.....



School Library Research at Queen's University

OSLA and OLA met with Queen's University's Dr. Don Klinger (left) and People for Education's Gay Stephenson, to discuss the progress evident in the second phase of the school library research project. The research is now starting to reach a mass critical enough for significant analysis. Everyone concerned is looking forward to conclusions that can be drawn about the practices and impacts of teacher-librarians on student success. An earlier OLA Board of Directors agreed to a \$100,000 OLA investment in this research, \$40,000 of which led to the project's first report on the impact of school libraries on student reading. A copy of the first report was distributed to school members last year and is available without cost on request.

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The World Outside

Library Workforce Planning: Can the Present Inform the Future?



A recent study of the Australian library workforce highlights the importance of training and professional development if the LIS sector is to survive – and indeed prosper – in a highly competitive labour market. The study also considers the role of associations in such training and development and the need for them to undertake long-term membership recruitment strategies.

Like Canadians, Australians are living longer and having fewer babies. The national unemployment rate has dropped below 5% for the first time in thirty years, and employers across all areas of business and industry are reporting difficulties in hiring the 'right' people.

The neXus research project is a study being undertaken by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and CAVAL Collaborative Solutions (a consortium of academic libraries in the state of Victoria). Its goal is to capture demographic, educational and employment data about LIS professionals at the individual level and specific recruitment, retention and training and development practices at the institutional level.

Stage One of the study was an online survey of individual LIS professionals conducted in September to October 2006. Stage Two, planned for early 2008, will investigate workforce policies

and practices in LIS institutions to examine general staffing information, recruitment and retention, staff development and succession planning. This stage of the study has attracted further support from ALIA and NSLA, the consortium of National and State Libraries in Australia. In addition, two international study tours (October to December 2006 and May 2007) brought the international perspectives to the project.

The survey, with its 2346 valid responses, captured a range of data about the Australian LIS profession, including demographic, employment and educational data. The study found that 49.9% of librarian respondents are 46 years and over and that 16.1% of librarians are 56 years and over.

Following the model used in the Canadian 8Rs study¹ these workers were grouped into three discrete career stages:

- Recent entrants – five years or less in the sector: 16.9%
- Mid career – six to 15 years experience in the sector: 31.8%
- Senior – 16 years or more working in the sector: 43.8%.

Exactly 15.8% of respondents indicated that they aimed to retire from the workforce within the next five years, with 6.5% retiring within the next three years and 9.3% retiring between three and five years. A further 15.9% plan to retire in the period of six to 10 years time, meaning that almost one third (31.7%) of the workforce could be retired by 2015. (Similar data for Canada indicates that 48% of librarians could be retired by 2014.)

The Australian study also sought to identify the types of skills that would be lost when people in the senior career stage left the workforce. The findings indicated that of those planning to retire within the next five years, 40.2% were at the middle management level and 21.4% at the senior management level. It was not

surprising to find that the functions performed at the senior management level had a strong administrative and managerial focus and include tasks such as organizational planning, budget and financial activities, policy development, management of training and staff development, space, facilities and building management, marketing and public relations, and human resources planning and management. Senior managers moving towards retirement indicated that they were still involved, on a regular basis but to a lesser extent, in other functional areas such as collection development and evaluation, the acquisition, of library resources, information literacy, and liaison activities.

Middle managers heading towards retirement reported that they continued to be regularly involved in discipline-specific functions such as collection management or reference, information service and research support (58.7%).

Professional Engagement

Respondents were asked to report on the level of their involvement in professional activities, with 27.8% reporting that they were professionally active 'often' or 'very often'. A further 25.3% reported being professionally active 'sometimes'. Almost a half of LIS workers (47%) state that they have little or no professional engagement. Forty-two percent of respondents said they were currently a member of the national professional body, ALIA, with an additional 10.2% planning to join in the next 12 months.

An interesting correlation was found when using professional engagement as the determinant for interest and participation in training and development activities. The data indicates that membership in a professional association is directly related to regular attendance at formal training and development activities such as conferences, seminars or workshops, as well as participation in

informal workplace learning activities. The study also found that the opposite applies: that non-membership in a professional association is linked to higher levels of 'rarely' or 'never' participating in continuing education activities.

The impact of retirements on the membership of library associations is also important. These associations will need to seriously consider membership recruitment strategies to retain their current membership base should large percentages of their members leave when they retire from the workforce in the next few years.

Findings

There needs to be an ongoing focus on people entering and leaving the profession, along with the skills they bring with them, skills they need to develop as their career grows and matures, and the skills that will need replenishing as they retire. It is essential that the profession consider how individuals can be motivated

and challenged to work keenly and productively, and to recreate the image of the library and information professional as being dynamic, engaged and in a state of perpetual growth.

The LIS sector cannot ignore the reality and the impact of its own dynamic environment: the faster the pace of change, the greater imperative for staff development. The development of effective managers and perceptive leaders as part of the career development process is imperative if the progressive pace of retirement from the profession, with its associated loss of skills and experience, is to be matched by incremental staff development strategies within it.

The process of developing innovative, visionary and successful library and information professionals is not the sole responsibility of the individual or of the LIS educator, but must be viewed as a sector-wide process that involves the

individual, universities, training providers, employers and professional associations.

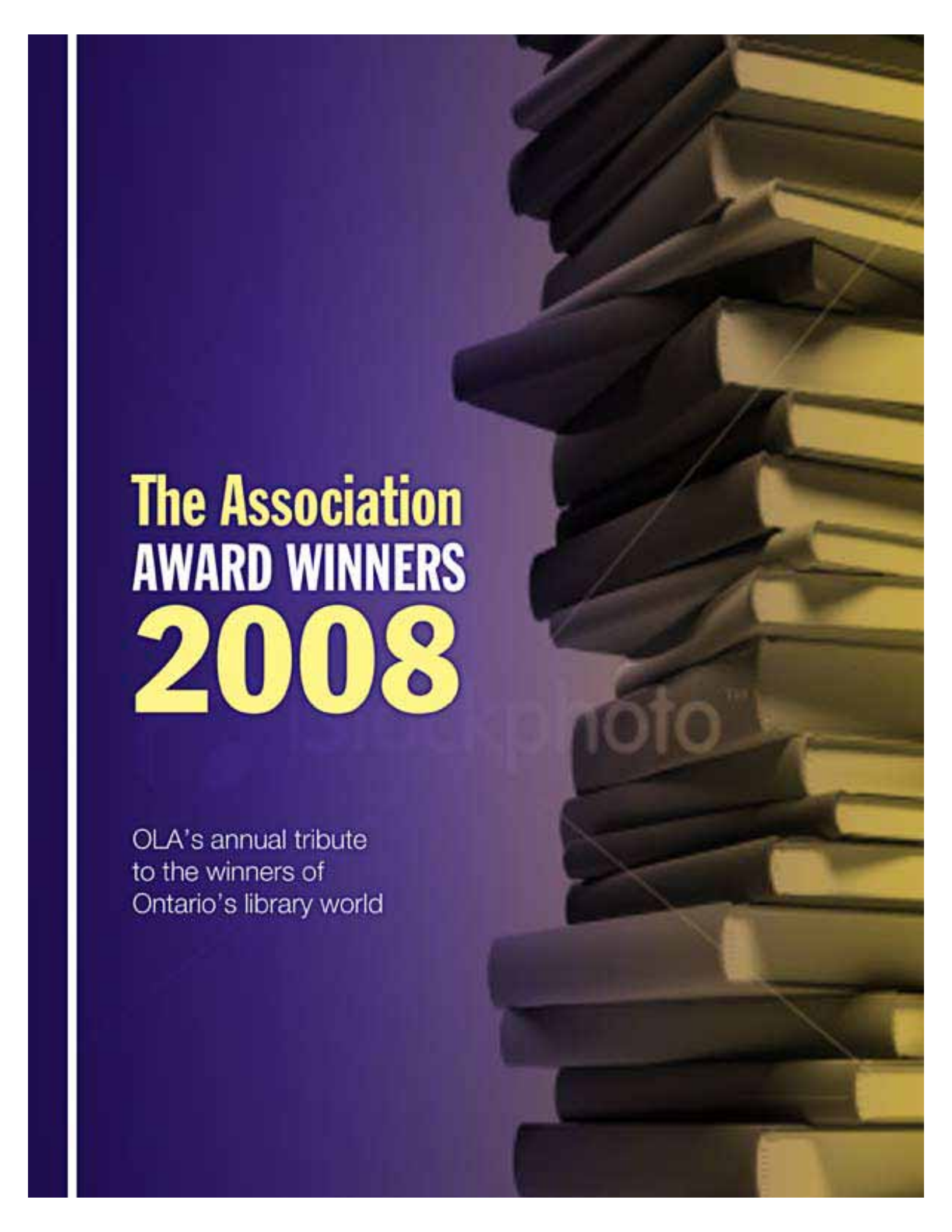
There are lessons in this study for OLA and its member libraries.

Gillian Hallam is an Associate Professor at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.

Footnotes

1. 8Rs Research Team. "8Rs Library Human Resources Study: The Future of Human Resources in Canadian Libraries" (2005). www.ls.ualberta.ca/8rs/8RsFutureofHRLibraries.pdf (Accessed January 25, 2008): 43.

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The Association AWARD WINNERS 2008

OLA's annual tribute
to the winners of
Ontario's library world

Larry Moore Distinguished Service Award: *Michael Ridley*

Michael Ridley, Chief Librarian and Chief Information Officer at the University of Guelph, is a long standing member of OLA and was OLA President in 2001. As President, he brought the library world together in a comprehensive alliance that built on OLA's strength and depth in support of his Ontario Digital Library project. The Ontario Digital Library, now known as Knowledge Ontario, was his vision, and a project that has had unprecedented support from the beginning from all sectors of the library community. Mike not only envisioned an Ontario Digital Library but was also instrumental in developing the business plan which laid the foundation for acquiring the funding.

As well, during his term as President, he solidified the move of the OLA Board to a flexible issues-based operation that is the envy of library associations everywhere. First Nations became a priority of the Association under his leadership, one of many highlights being when he, Buffy Sainte Marie, and Faculty of Information Studies Dean Lynne Howarth came together to introduce an unprecedented \$300,000 fund for indigenous education.

He is one of our most brilliant practitioners, a person to whom OLA turns when new ideas are being sought—our philosopher-king.



Bernard Katz receives the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award

OLA President's Award for Exceptional Achievement: *Knowledge Ontario*

The President's Award goes this year to the hundreds of OLA member volunteers who participated in the building of the Ontario Digital Library, Knowledge Ontario.

In 2007, Knowledge Ontario, which has been one of OLA's largest and most daring projects, struck out on its own as a free-standing corporation. It has been built with the extraordinary expertise and commitment of many, many OLA members who continue to work on it in its new independent form.

It must be noted that while OLA invested thousands of hours of volunteer time and six digit figures in the project, it was the Ontario Ministry of Culture's infusion of \$8 million two years ago that allowed Knowledge Ontario to embark on its projects to serve the people of this province. With a growing number of projects, a growing staff, and a growing good reputation, this is one OLA project that is poised to fulfill its promise.

Bravo to all the volunteers who made the Ontario Digital Library a reality.



Esther Rosenfeld, 2007 OLA President presents the award to Peter Rogers, Chair, Knowledge Ontario

Lucky 13

I thought 13 was suppose to be an unlucky number, but that does not seem to be the case. During my 13 years as a Girl Guide leader, I have learned three important characteristics of successful teen programs which have assisted me in developing popular library programs for teens:

1. Teen-directed programming
2. Hands-on activities
3. Fun

1. Teen-directed programming

Teen-directed programming means that the teens are involved with the creation, planning, decision-making, implementation, problem-solving, and evaluation of library programs for teens. Empowering teens to take on leadership roles allows them to develop life skills in a safe environment that will prepare them to be successful in adulthood.

For this reason, my first priority was to create a Teen Advisory Group (TAG) to improve library programs and services for teens. At the beginning, the teens started by simply suggesting items for the library to purchase. However, the teens soon began to try out other ideas.

Can we sell chocolate bars in the library as a library fundraiser? Yes.

At the Movie Night for teens can we collect canned food for the food bank? Sure.

Can we have a Murder Mystery Party where the teens get to dress up and act the roles? Of course.

2. Hands-on activities

Another way for teens to become actively involved in library programs is to make sure they have the opportunity to do hands-on activities. This was evident from the teens' comments on the surveys that were filled out at the previously existing teen programs. Just sitting and listening is boring. Now all of our teen programs include a hands-on component.

At the Valentine's Day chocolate-making workshop, teens made their own chocolates, chocolate lollipops, and chocolate peanut butter balls. We had positive feedback from the teen participants, including those with special needs. For St. Patrick's Day this year, teens who attend the chocolate-making workshop will be making chocolate coins and chocolate caramels.

3. Fun

Teens are amazing at finding fun. Whether this means taking a break at a TAG meeting so teens can look up their Chinese Zodiac animal, or spontaneously starting a game of swivel-chair tag at a Midnight Madness event, teens know how to have fun.

When the TAG negotiated Midnight Madness Events, open-houses for teens that lasted until midnight,

they planned the activities, food and drinks, movies, and job duties for the evening. The Midnight Madness events showcase the library's collection (DVDs, PS2 games, magazines, etc.), Internet connectivity (the printing cost was waived), teen area, and more. However, staff were pleasantly surprised by the number of reference questions and readers' advisory questions asked. One group of teens decided to look up newspaper articles on the microfilm printer. In another group, a teen started booktalking a Dr. Phil book using his uncanny impersonation skills.

In the summer of 2006, I took a two-week vacation to attend a Girl Guide camp near Guelph called Guiding Mosaic 2006 where I had the opportunity to teach forensic science skills to 866 teenage girls. The teens learned how to process a crime scene; how to compare fingerprints, shoe prints, and lip prints; how to do chromatography analysis and chemical analysis; and how to put the clues together to figure out whodunit. When I started similar CSI events at the library, more than 100 teens registered, including a Grade seven Science class and a Grade 11 English class. What an awesome way to showcase our forensic science materials and build relationships with our local teens!

When it comes to having teen programs, it always pays to be prepared.

OPLA Award for Excellence in Youth Services: *Julie Ringrose*

With this award for Julie Ringrose, we are honouring a woman who has been in the library profession for approximately 10 years, half of which has been spent dealing with youth in various capacities. Our award winner is deserving on so many levels but one of the things that stands out most in my mind is that by title she is actually an Adult Services Librarian but she has taken on the role of the Youth Librarian for her library. There are not too many adult librarians out there who are as brave as her.

Through all her hard work, she has developed a very successful teen services program for Sault Ste. Marie Public Library. A few of her achievements include:

- Creating and maintaining a successful Teen Advisory Group.
- Creating unique and fresh teen programs such as Midnight Madness and Cosmo Night events.
- And one of my personal favourites is that she takes the time to run various in-house workshops for library staff on providing services to teens.



Darcy Glidden, 2007 OPLA President presents the award to Julie Ringrose, Sault Ste. Marie Public Library

Reading for Pleasure

As a child, I don't remember learning to read, only reading. It is unimaginable to me that so many people are unable to pursue this pleasure for any number of reasons – literacy, disability, language. Canada is fortunate to have a strong public library system, free to all.

Through a municipal strategic initiative, the Ottawa Public Library is the lead on *Building a Learning and Literate Community*. The project has been defined broadly to include family literacy, services for people with print disabilities, newcomers and adult literacy learners. This project is nearing a successful completion after three and a half years of work by library staff and community partners.

Our accomplishments or “project deliverables” during this time include:

Children's staff extended the TD Summer Reading Program to “at risk” children in city daycares and day camps. Most of these children would not otherwise have been encouraged to read through the summer. In 2007, the program reached 2,209 children at 15 sites who reported reading 16,800 books. Camp staff also benefit from the program by seeing the excitement experienced by these children. Staff will, in turn, pass along this experience to their own children.

Children's staff also developed a French version of ALA's Every Child Ready to Read early literacy program. The program has now been incorporated into all of OPL's story times and is available on the OPL website in both English and French. Library staff were trained to use the program. The parents and children who attend OPL story times will see the benefits of the program as the children begin school. Library staff have also spoken to a number of community groups about the

program, including public health nurses and United Way

The CNIB Visunet Canada Partners Program (VCP) offers libraries an opportunity to extend CNIB's resources to all residents with a print disability. By joining VCP, at a low annual cost, the OPL is able to provide children with learning disabilities access to the wealth of books available electronically from CNIB as well as the Children's Discovery Portal. Adults with print disabilities also benefit.

Making the decision to add titles in DAISY format to the Talking Book Collection meant that DAISY players also had to be purchased. Through grants, the OPL purchased thirty-nine DAISY players which are available for loan to clients with print disabilities. The DAISY format has enhanced the reading experience for our print disabled community. In a year and a half, DAISY use is now 7.22% of all talking book circulation.

In December, OPL launched assistive workstations in seven branches and will be adding three more in the near future. Each workstation includes Kurzweil 1000 and 3000, which enable clients to scan documents into the computer and have the text read back to them; JAWS - screen reading software; Dragon Naturally Speaking – speech recognition software; ZoomText – text magnifying software. This service is being marketed not only to the disabled community but also the literacy and newcomer communities. The literacy and newcomer communities can take advantage of the Kurzweil 3000 which highlights the text on the monitor as it reads the information.

Several years ago, I received a call from the local branch of the Canadian Council for the Blind about a possible book club for the blind. I was asked

to support their funding application to the Community Foundation to purchase DAISY players for a book club. Fantastic! The book club is in its second year and meets monthly. I met with the initial group to talk about book clubs in general, and to assist them in the selection of their titles. The titles are then requested from CNIB through OPL's Visunet partnership. This group continues to grow and generate excitement. I attend one or two meetings a year and thoroughly enjoy the discussion and the feeling of community that has developed.

The OPL is a pilot site for the Library Settlement Partners program funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Newcomer Information Officers (NIO) offer face-to-face service in Arabic, Chinese, Somali and Spanish, in addition to English and French. NIO's refer newcomers who do not speak these languages to colleagues in other agencies, who are able to assist them. There are ESL/FSL conversation circles and book clubs in nine branches, as well as other programs. When I meet a newcomer and am able to talk about a book written by an author from their country, a barrier disappears.

Since its inception, the OPL staff have participated in the Golden Oak Adult Literacy Book Club. As part of the Selection Committee, I am reading many books I would have otherwise missed and been the poorer for it. I booktalk the titles annually to the literacy practitioners. Although only a few literacy programs have joined Golden Oak, many adult learners are reading the selections. When I do a similar presentation to adult literacy classes, the learners enjoy telling me which books from previous years they have read. This year, I structured the presentation to finish with Deborah

Ellis' *I Am a Taxi*. The learners know Ellis from previous years. It's truly wonderful to see the response when I say "and finally a new book by Deborah Ellis".

Another major accomplishment is *Getting to Know the Library / Apprendre à connaître la bibliothèque*, a manual designed to introduce adult learners to the library, emphasizes reading for pleasure. The response from learners and instructors has been extraordinary. Through a series of activities using the resources of the library, learners are not only exposed to the library but begin to feel comfortable in the library. The barriers gradually disappear. The manual is available on OPL's Web site free-of-charge. (www.biblioottawalibrary.ca/explore/getting_e.html).

As a passionate book clubber for over thirty years, I thoroughly enjoy passing along reading suggestions to friends and colleagues. Annually, I prepare a list of 50 to 60 titles that I feel can be discussed. Then I happily introduce the titles at presentations at various library branches. I am always amazed at the familiar faces that appear year after year. From the response received, I am sure that the list is widely anticipated and circulated. I welcome your suggestions!

OPLA Award for Excellence in Readers' Advisory Services, Sponsored by Library Bound: ***Marcia Aronson, Ottawa Public Library***

Marcia Aronson is the recipient of the 2008 OPLA Award for Leadership in Adult Readers' Advisory. This award recognizes excellence in readers' advisory service to adult readers. Marcia's passion for reading, advocacy and outreach make her an excellent choice for this award.

Marcia has been providing this vital service to adult readers in her community for many years through a variety of positions with the Ottawa Public Library including her present role as Manager, Adult and Readers' Advisory Services. Through workshop presentations both at OPL and beyond, Marcia demonstrates that she is a strong advocate for readers' advisory services. A regular book club speaker and a supporter of the establishment of book clubs for blind people and for homeless men, Marcia has moved beyond the library into her community. She has actively participated on OLA committees and was a founding member of both the Golden Oak and Evergreen reading programs.

Readers' advisory is a vocation for Marcia; she is a voracious reader and readers' advisor who willingly offers RA services to everyone she meets, including fellow travellers on trips! She is passionate about what she does and her passion is contagious.



Darcy Glidden, 2007 OPLA President presents the award to Marcia Aronson, Ottawa Public Library

Of Pig Roasts, Street Dances and Jig's Dinners

The Township of Clearview is one of many that came about as a result of amalgamation in 1994. It consists of the town of Stayner, the villages of Creemore, Nottawa and New Lowell, a few hamlets and outlying rural areas. While the total population of the amalgamated township is fewer than 15,000, the area is the gateway to vast tourist areas of Blue Mountains and Georgian Bay, bordered on the west by the Niagara Escarpment and on the east by the Minesing Swamp. Weekenders, hikers and cottagers expand the users of services and businesses.

I live in the village of New Lowell in the southeast corner of Clearview Township. New Lowell, once a thriving community with several businesses including a furniture factory, two hotels, a dairy and a railway station with twice daily passenger service to Barrie and Collingwood, has become a bedroom community due to its proximity to Base Borden, the Alliston Honda plant and the burgeoning metropolis of Barrie. There has been a library of sorts in the village since 1900, located in a corner of a general store, in a church basement and until recently in the backstage room of the New Lowell Community Centre. The Community Centre was the hub of local celebrations and events with a bowling alley in the basement. There are two elementary schools (public and separate) in the New Lowell area, an excellent recreation park with playgrounds and a conservation park with swimming facilities and a seasonal campground.

I managed the Sunnidale Public Library in New Lowell for a number of years before amalgamation. The library board was eager to be part of community events, entering floats in local parades, sponsoring arts and crafts exhibits and bus

trips to live theatre presentations, providing venues for prospective local politicians to meet the public, bringing programs for children to the village etc.

With the amalgamation of the townships into what is now the Township of Clearview and the retirement of the Creemore librarian, I applied to assume the Branch Headship of Creemore and Sunnidale libraries, Stayner being the main branch.

I retired as a career librarian in June 2000, planning to do some traveling and catch up with my widespread family, when our community centre was suddenly closed due to the spread of a toxic mould. A temporary solution was arranged by moving a portable schoolroom onto the property and adapting it for short-term use. More than half of the collection was put into storage, virtually inaccessible to our patrons. This crisis situation prompted me to apply to be on the board as I was afraid that this action might be a first step to closing Sunnidale Branch as a money saving tactic for the township. The cramped quarters are not conducive to browsing, public internet use or any programming. The Story Hours for little folks are presently held in a local church hall.

A plan to construct a new community centre to include the library fell through when inadequate funding from outside sources made the local financial contribution prohibitive. Time went on and nothing seemed to be planned for the future of our library. The temporary facility was becoming more problematic. A group of local concerned citizens formed the New Lowell Library Building Committee. Included in the group were an architect, two engineers, a restoration specialist, an

interior designer, a local councilor, a business plan writer, two fundraisers and myself as the library board rep. Some possible sites and costs for new construction were discussed but the one location that was perfect for a library was where the old two roomed brick schoolhouse was situated in the middle of the village, close to the public schools, sidewalk serviced and with a large lot for expansion. Once this was decided upon, the wheels started to roll. The building was inspected by a structural engineer and pronounced solid with some reinforcements, drawings were made, costs were estimated based on donated consultant fees, using local trades and labour. A professional business plan was prepared for presentation to the township council of the day.

In the fall of 2003 we were into municipal elections. Our councilor decided to run for Deputy Mayor and I was persuaded to run for councilor of the ward, hoping that between the two of us we could speed up the project. I think that the township staff and council hoped we would give up and eventually our local library could be closed and our residents could go elsewhere for library services. The upshot of this was the hopeful deputy mayor was narrowly defeated and I got in by acclamation. I had written a letter to constituents in the ward prior to the election informing them of what my priorities were for our area, the library being the main purpose.

In the spring of 2004 the building committee held a public meeting to display the architect's plans and inform folks of our intentions. Council had given approval in principle to apply for an infrastructure grant from the province and federal government. Not everyone who attended the public meeting was in favour of our plans.

Some thought we were crazy to try to restore the old schoolhouse, others thought it was a great idea to preserve this part of our village heritage. There are folks living in the village who attended this school and they were for the most part thrilled that the building would be put into service as our local library.

Since we had begun our building plans, one of the fundraisers had moved away and the remaining individual was too busy to undertake any major projects so the job sort of fell into my lap. I was inexperienced and not looking forward to this challenge but if we were to get this project off the ground we had to get started. I had no intentions of becoming a career politician, being on council is a very time consuming job.

Our community commitment was to raise \$100,000.00. We had some great times fundraising. It helps to have an extraordinary sense of humour and a great imagination. We had a Library Lottery to start off, with monthly draws at community events. We had pig roasts, a street dance, Jig's Dinners with imported entertainment, mystery dinners, silent auctions, St. Patrick's euchre dinners, a talent contest, bake sales and so on. Thankfully, I had many willing volunteers to help run events, but for the door to door canvassing, which I did myself for the most part. I have become quite nervy when soliciting for funds for local projects.

I regularly reported at council meetings about our efforts, invited them to attend our events and kept the project in front of them.

Meanwhile, the building committee kept running into roadblocks that we had not anticipated; new public building codes, liability insurance costs, procurement policy compliance and so on. We were approved for an infrastructure grant with all the bureaucratic strings attached. In the end our community project had to be tendered out and no local contractors

bid because of all the restrictions. The local trades and suppliers who had volunteered their expertise and materials have not been utilized. An out of town contractor's bid was over double our estimated costs. In some ways this has been most discouraging for me as I had hoped this project would really unite our community.

We raised the amount we had committed to before the end of my mandate on council. The newly elected council narrowly passed the motion to finance the amount of the project not covered by the grant and local fundraising.

The mayor had to cast the deciding vote.

My experience as councilor gave me valuable insight into the demands that are made on local municipal councils both locally and from other tiers of government. Municipalities are no longer the masters of their constituencies but must bow to sometimes irrelevant regulatory demands from other governments.

Our library is nearing completion. The community is excited and looking forward to the Grand Opening in the spring. We have saved a library for our village... a most commendable endeavour. Personally, the project has broadened my scope of experience, given me the opportunity to meet some wonderful volunteers and donors.

To be able to contribute to one's community in a way that will have a lasting beneficial effect for so many is, indeed, gratifying.



Darcy Glidden, 2007 OPLA President presents the award to Joyce Smith, Clearview Public Library Board

OPLA's James Bain Medallion for Public Library Trustee of the Year: *Joyce Smith*

The Queen in *Alice in Wonderland* "believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast", but rumour has it that Joyce Smith, Chair of the Clearview Public Library Board since 2001, regularly completes six or more impossible things every day!

This year's James Bain Medallion recipient has actively participated in the promotion of library service both at the provincial level through her tenure as an OLTA Councillor and OLA Super Conference Planner, and locally through her tenacious push for a replacement for the New Lowell branch of our library system.

Stirring the community into action when this branch's building was closed, Joyce worked tirelessly first to obtain approval for a temporary solution, and then to have a new permanent home established for the library. After winning a seat on Council in the 2003 municipal election she was instrumental in keeping the issue on the Township's agenda. And, as chief organizer for the community's fundraising efforts this powerhouse of a woman has helped raise over \$100,000 towards the building project. Joyce has promised to dance in the street on opening day.

The Girl Who Was Raised By Librarians

I would like to believe that I was always destined to work in a public library. One of my first memories of books was my intense love of *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton. Now looking back I think “hmm...a Caldecott Medal winner...I had great taste in children’s books even at six years of age!” I fondly remember summers of swimming lessons at our local outdoor pool. One day I asked my mother “Would

you take me to the library after swimming lessons please?” and thankfully, she did! That day was my first experience with the Paris Public Library; a simple bricks-and-mortar Carnegie building, but one that would shape my future and give me a wealth of opportunities, both as a young reader and later through a career as a children’s librarian.

When I was 15 years-old, our local

newspaper advertised a job posting for a student page. I just knew that job had to be mine and sure enough I got it! I think the chief librarian at the time thought I was a bit odd when he called to offer me the job. I was practically dancing around the kitchen thanking him profusely for the opportunity! I was going to work... and in a LIBRARY! So began my years of learning about libraries; shelving, shelf-reading, children’s programs



Darcy Glidden, 2007 OPLA President presents the award to Zeta Phillipo, Brant County Public Library

By Zeta Phillipo

and craft-cutting, authors, illustrators and the wonderful public. I recall in my early days as a student page being too afraid and shy to answer any questions that patrons may have sent my way. Luckily, I was coached along by adult staff to be more outgoing and bold. I believe that those years shaped me as an individual and the librarian that I was to become. I learned so much from a truly wonderful group of caring and knowledgeable staff to whom I will always be grateful!

Today, at the County of Brant Public Library, I continue to have the privilege of working with an incredibly talented and dedicated group of people. We plan, organize, advertise and implement storytimes, class visits, literacy programs, summer reading clubs, author visits and more across five branches; always looking ahead with anticipation to the next season and session of parents, children and families. It is the faces and names of the children who return again and again that stay with us as we watch them grow through the years. Encouraging them to find the library a friendly place where they can research a school project or simply find a good book; a place where they always feel welcome.

I am thankful for the numerous partnerships that we have established within our community. We are pleased that local schools visit our branches or invite us into their classrooms each month for stories, songs and rhymes. For those children who have never visited the library, they may also go home and ask their parents "Can you take me to the library please?"

I feel that becoming a parent has very much put my career in a public

OPLA Children's Librarian of the Year: *Zeta Phillip*, Brant County Public Library

Zeta Phillip from the County of Brant Public Library is the recipient of the Children's Librarian of the Year Award for 2008.

Zeta is a strong advocate of services to children. Since starting her children's librarian position in 2000, Zeta has taken the Brant Library from offering preschool storytime to presenting a range of children's programming that has engaged a sizable portion of the community. Zeta has worked with numerous community organizations to meet the challenge of providing library service in a rural setting and enhancing the library's position in the community.

Zeta is a member of the Brant Family Literacy Committee, sits on the board of Kids Can Fly, a local children's charity and regularly networks with local schools. Zeta has partnered with the Ontario Early Years Centre: Brant on the Every Child Ready to Read initiative and the County of Brant to offer workshops and programs for parents and children.

Zeta has truly strengthened the library's profile in her community. She has also continued to make every child who visits the library feel special. That truly is the hallmark of a great children's librarian.

library in focus. Any child who walks through the door of our library could be MY child, maybe an enthusiastic secure reader, but perhaps a shy struggling reader who needs encouragement, confidence-building and caring.

I would like to thank the Ontario Public Library Association for this wonderful award and the Chief Librarian of the County of Brant Public Library, Gay Kozak Selby who nominated me and is always open and enthusiastic to new projects and ideas from the Children's Department. I also thank all of those special individuals who so generously wrote

letters of support. When I look at the names of past recipients of this award I am honoured and proud to see my name listed amongst theirs. My final thoughts are of a little girl named Kyla, who participated in one of my Preschool Storytime classes. One day she gave me a piece of yellow construction paper with my name spelled out in block letters covered with beautiful glitter. "She wanted to do something special for you...she just loves the library" her mother explained to me. That faded paper still hangs on the door of my office, reminding me of why I do what I do and how we as librarians impact the lives of children every day.

Confessions of an Academic Librarian

I thought I would take the opportunity of this article to come clean and confess. I mean, what better time than when writing an article that will be seen by all of your colleagues throughout the province to admit an embarrassing truth? So here goes.

When I decided to become a librarian, many years ago, I thought it would allow me to avoid two of my greatest fears at the time: public speaking and those scary, new (then, at least) monstrosities, called computers. In my misguided daydreams, I imagined working in a quiet room surrounded by thousands and thousands of books. What exactly I'd be doing with those books wasn't quite clear in my mind. Perhaps I would be burying my nose in them (as what librarian doesn't like to sniff a book now and then? Come on, admit it, I know you book-sniffers are out there). Maybe I would be running my fingers along the threadbare spines or caressing the brittle pages, admiring the Library of Congress cataloguing on the verso (okay, maybe I didn't know what that was yet). I wasn't sure what I'd be paid to do in this room full of books but I pictured my hair neatly tied back in a bun, sensible loafers on my feet and a slightly perceptible layer of cat hair on my cardigan sweater. Needless to say, I was quickly disabused of my foolish notions of this profession not long after I entered library school.

For one, librarians definitely do not get to avoid public speaking. Like most of you reading this article, I have had to deliver presentations

to students, boards, administrators, and now the attendees at the annual OCULA reception! And computers? Now that I've held positions with titles such as eLibrarian, Cybrarian, Virtual Branch Manager and other titles that have prompted my patrons to enquire whether I am in fact a human being or a machine, computers are no longer scary monsters. I'll admit I do have a fairly extensive collection of sensible shoes and cardigans. But the truth is, had librarianship been as staid and quiet and well, dull, as I first imagined, I doubt that I would have remained in the profession. I just plain lucked out that I've actually found myself in the midst of an exciting, dynamic profession that has the power to profoundly affect people's lives.

Academic librarianship in particular is at an exciting juncture. With so many changes—social, technological and otherwise—that are currently facing our profession, academic librarians are in a unique position to undertake original research and scholarship that can address the issues and tackle the challenges. It is the mandate and responsibility of academic librarians to perform original research; we are given the resources and opportunities through tenure, professional development leaves, funding, etc. At a time when there are questions about how best to reach the “Google generation,” how to harness emerging technologies for library applications, and how to be relevant in an age of ubiquitous information, we have a role to play in gathering the evidence and making a quantitative case for future directions. In other words, it is our role to put the science back in library science!

College libraries are in an especially unique position. We work within an institution where many of the instructors around us do not come from a research background, nor are they expected, as part of their work, to perform original research. We have a special role to play in encouraging the use of evidence and quantitative data to support decision-making, and to create a culture of scholarship.

While the thought of influencing our colleagues in academia through research is extremely invigorating, there is an even more exciting part of librarianship—and that is its people. I have been truly fortunate to have met the people that I did throughout my career—again, I've really lucked out! There is Shelagh Paterson, who first encouraged me to volunteer for OLA and whose passion for the profession is infectious. There is my Director at Mohawk College, Jo-Anne Westerby, whose commitment to innovation and the professional development of her staff is truly inspiring. And there are many others, too many to name. Thank you to all of the dynamic and dedicated people I have been so fortunate to have met throughout my career. Thank you also to OCULA and the OCULA Nominating Committee for this tremendous honour for which I am extremely grateful.

And thank you to all of you, for creating a thriving and vital profession that does not involve any manner of sniffing books.

By Jenn Horwath



Jennifer Horwath, Mohawk College

OCULA Award for Academic Librarian of the Year: *Jennifer Horwath*

As an e-Services Librarian at Mohawk College since 2002, Jennifer Horwath has been at the forefront of emerging technologies and applications in academic libraries. She has served as President and Treasurer of the Ontario Library and Information Technology Association (OLITA) and regularly shares her expertise and experience as a conference presenter at library and learning technologies conferences.

Jennifer has published articles in *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* and *Library Hi Tech* and has been involved in community projects including the Ask Ontario Technology Task Force and the Metadata Working Group of the MyHamilton Portal Project.



Don Kinder, 2007 OCULA President presents the award to Dalia Smith

OCULA Award for Graduating Students and New Professionals: *Dalia Smith*

There were seven strong submissions for OCULA Super Conference sessions from students and new professionals this year. The entries ranged from general sessions about information literacy to targeted sessions such as one for science librarians. In the end, the judging committee chose the submission from Dalia Smith, University of Guelph as the winning entry.

Dalia's session is called Success in the Job Hunt: Stories from the Trenches from New Academic Librarians. The session description was well thought out and explained, and seemed to the judges to be of particular practical value. As well, it seemed to the judges to be a new offering for the Super Conference. As well, OCULA has been actively developing a mentoring program and this session dovetails nicely with mentoring new professionals.

In her submission, Dalia said, "As a new professional in the library field, and specifically in an academic library, I am often sought out by those who have begun their job search or are about to begin." The questions inspired her to design the session. Dalia suggested a range of academic librarians for her session, one fresh from library school, two who have experience in other library sectors and one academic librarian from the States.

It was an inspiring session, with good feedback from those who managed to brave the bad weather on Friday to attend.

A Perfect Storm = A Perfect Job

A love of reading, a job that allows you to share a passion for books and words, this really is the perfect storm that has lead to the perfect job. I have heard it said that if you follow your passion the rest just falls into place, who knew that that was actually possible? Well, I am here to tell you that it is and now comes unexpected recognition with the honour of being awarded the W. J. Robertson Medallion. So where did this storm begin?

For the last 10 or so years, as Kitchener Public Library's readers' advisor, I have had the opportunity to take my passion and connect directly with readers and along the way have seen that books, reading and literacy continue to be important and valued by my community. And this was further confirmed when I recently read the results of a survey in which respondents were asked what came to mind when they thought about libraries. Overwhelmingly they said that libraries meant books and while some might consider this a threat to long-term success, I prefer to see this as in fact an opportunity, a chance to be relevant to our readers in a significant way.

Public librarians, through collection knowledge and excellent RA resources, are well placed to help readers seek out and discover the books (regardless of format) that will meet their reading needs. In fact, the time has never been better for us to serve readers. As information statistics decline and as users meet (albeit not always

successfully) their own information needs, reader service is a key public service.

Certainly every reader has their own reasons for wanting to engage in the activity of reading: perhaps they are looking for an escape from the pressures of everyday life, or maybe they want to learn about another time or place, perhaps they are looking for help in confronting or dealing with a life challenge or they just want to engage with others via one of today's social networking tools; whatever the reason, what is clear is that we as librarians have a real role to play in connecting readers and words. And so, it is by connecting with readers, that I have actually created for myself the perfect job; after all, what self proclaimed reader doesn't love to engage in lively conversations about books, sharing ideas on possible reading suggestions and gathering along the way one or two new ideas yourself.

But how did this happen? Well, as Jane Austen's Elizabeth Bennett explained about her love for Darcy "It's been coming on so gradually that I hardly know when it began." Slowly, but surely, over the years I have connected with groups in my community and found true job satisfaction. If you are interested in responding to the needs of readers in your community, consider the opportunities provided by making similar direct connections. By proactively reaching out to readers, we can play an important role in

the reading lives of those in our communities. In fact, there are real adult reader needs that have not been given either priority or emphasis. Consider how children's librarians provide direct connections with their readers. They go beyond the walls of the library and into local schools and day cares and meet with children where they are, they don't wait for them to come to the library. Why not provide this same outreach principle to adults? If you look for opportunities to do this exact same thing with adult readers, you'll be amazed by the possibilities and the rewards.

Local book clubs are eager for help in selecting books that will result in animated discussions, church and seniors groups are always looking for speakers to come to their meetings (and they offer some of the best home baking around!), employers look to offer their staff life enrichment and regularly seek out speakers for lunch and learn sessions and these are just a few basic ideas. Local newspapers often look for and welcome local content; consider offering to write reviews or annotation about new library resources. Local community events offer wonderful opportunities to engage with readers of all ages, host a table or booth, and remember to focus equally on collections, services and programs, bring examples of items that will appeal to readers of all ages, book talk them and take reserves!

By Sharron Smith

If you want to have even bigger impacts, well, consider what I refer to as the “show business” element of my job. For the last 10 plus years, I have been able to reach out to readers in my community and beyond, through book talking appearances on local television. Every month I highlight a variety of great reads for adults from our collection and after each spot, the response from the community is the same, they call and reserve the books! This is a direct confirmation of the need for reading suggestions.

Working with readers in your community can provide many rewards, it can serve as a reminder to why we became librarians, after all we are readers too, and it really is a win-win situation. Direct contact with the readers in my community, through outreach, has provided me with some of my most rewarding experiences as a public librarian. Meeting with and talking to readers about books is pure joy and provides a wonderful opportunity to bring the library message directly to the reader. Just like those kids in the class who meet their local children’s librarian, adults like to make personal library connections with “their librarian”. So consider exploring the possibilities offered by moving beyond the wall of your library building and meeting adult readers where they are.

In closing, I would like to thank the Ontario Library Boards’ Association for the honour of being selected as the Librarian of the Year, an honour that really celebrates my own version of the perfect storm.

OLBA's W.J. Robertson Medallion for Public Librarian of the Year: *Sharron Smith*

Sharron Smith, Readers’ Advisory Services Librarian at Kitchener Public Library, is an original. Just look at the pages of the Kitchener Web site promoting reading among the library’s adult users. Everything she does is colourful, insight-filled and reflective of her passion for her art and her work.

Smith was the force behind the creation of the Evergreen Award in OLA’s Forest of Reading and has chaired the committee that has brought two dynamic RA in a Day conferences to OLA Education. Organizer of OLA workshops at BookExpo Canada for years now, she is co-author of the popular Canadian Fiction volume in the international *Genreflecting* series.

Smith is working with librarians in other provinces to create a national version of RA in a Day.



Catherine Dowd, 2007 OLBA President presents the award to Sharron Smith, Kitchener Public Library

The OurOntario.ca Search Portal

The OurOntario.ca portal is an innovative discovery tool delivering integrated access to digital collections of libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, galleries, and others. We offer discovery services for diverse contributors across the province – getting users to connect to digital content about and from Ontario, in one search. It is primarily designed to help Ontarians of all ages (from school age on) discover the extraordinary stories contained in the digital collections of our partners.

OurOntario.ca is a collaborative project – in essence the portal is the sum of its partners. We continue to build upon partnerships with various organizations having cultural heritage and community content, including libraries (public, academic, government), archives, museums, historical societies, art galleries, newspaper publishers, etc... A current snapshot of contributors is available at: <http://search.ourontario.ca/contributors>.

If you have digital content online ...we make it easy for users to discover your unique collections.

Ontario citizens can find, navigate and access text, audio, video and image digital resources via the portal. Search results link the user to where the digital content lives. One search to find the content, and one click to access the site where the digital content resides. The portal is designed to drive traffic to local sites, many of which are hosted in an academic, public, government, and museum or archives context. Participating as a partner in OurOntario.ca portal guarantees higher ranking in other

search engine environments, making your content more discoverable – ensuring many ways for users to find the digital content they are looking for.

The interface allows for keyword search, advanced search, and browsing of media types (audio, image, text, video) and by contributing organizations. Search results can be limited to or refined by media types, contributing organizations, locations, collections, and by item types. Another option for narrowing a search is to conduct another search limited to the current set of results. We continue to explore the ways in which we can assist the user to make sense of their search results and to provide as much information as possible in the context of a particular search. This will be an interesting challenge as the portal continues to grow in content and the user is presented with an ever-increasing number of search results.

In addition to searching the main Our Ontario portal for digital objects, our customers are also able to directly access government documents from the collection of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (<http://govdocs.ourontario.ca>). Over 20,000 monographs and serials are available for full-text searching by Ontario citizens via a mini-portal within OurOntario.ca, with documents being added on a monthly basis. Within the Government Documents section the portal services support browsing by ministry/agency, subject, and year, in addition to title and author. Options to narrow search results are available. With one click users are also able to link the results of a keyword search within the Government Documents index to a parallel search within the main OurOntario.ca search (and vice-versa) ensuring that even though the search occurs in two different indexes, the end-user is aware of and able to

access all of the records pertinent to their search.

How it works

A meta-search layer to the user interface allows distributed digital collections from a range of institutions to be searched from one access point. For managed collections, we harvest the metadata records held on the participating agency's Web site, along with the URL link to the digital objects. The metadata records are ingested, normalized and indexed on our servers. Searches are conducted on the copy of the metadata provided by the contributing partner.

We gather metadata from both standard and non-standard content – the searching options reflect what archives, museums and libraries have in common in their metadata to provide a Dublin Core basic record. In a specific context we can leverage a much richer discovery experience, providing browse, search and faceted results to scoped sets such as government documents.

Technologies and Platform

The portal is being developed and funded by Knowledge Ontario as a province-wide initiative. It is an open source tool based on Apache Tomcat, Apache Cocoon, Apache Solr and Apache Lucene. It is being deployed on a Linux server based at the University of Toronto. In the past it has also successfully run on a Windows 2003 platform, but a decision was made to move it to a Linux-based platform. The technologies used are capable of multiple character sets, allowing for internationalization.

Currently in Development

We are collecting metadata and URLs on hundreds of external sites, so that we can provide discovery

and access to virtual exhibits and collections, augmenting our existing access to digital objects. Our plans include another mini-portal for discovery of and access to digitized newspapers (including birth, marriage, and death records). We are currently exploring options to enhance the user experience within the context of OurOntario.ca – stay tuned for further developments.

Open search and RSS feeds are in beta testing but currently not available in production mode yet. We plan to introduce OAI harvesting in the future.

Scope

OurOntario.ca is innovative in both its technology and in scope, currently offering a service that was previously not available anywhere in Ontario or in Canada, to either end-users or contributors (libraries, archives, museums, etc.) of content. The OurOntario.ca portal technologies have been adopted Canada-wide by Alouette Canada (<http://alouette.ourontario.ca/test/rechercher> - the national initiative to provide aggregated access to digital content from Canadian memory organizations). Our partnership with Alouette Canada gives us the ability to bring in Ontario content from across Canada and provide access to it virtually via the OurOntario.ca portal. This discovery tool symbolizes the power of partnerships across the province and across Canada.

Try a search today - www.ourontario.ca. If you are a content provider interested in making your content discoverable to a global audience, find out how you can participate in OurOntario.ca by contacting Loren Fantin, Our Ontario Project Manager, at lfantin@knowledgeontario.ca, or 647-288-0276.

OurOntario.ca – it's yOur story!

OLITA Award for Technological Innovation in Libraries, Sponsored by OCLC Canada: ***The Our Ontario Portal for Knowledge Ontario***

The Ontario Library and Information Technology Association has chosen OurOntario.ca as its 2008 winner of the OLITA Award for Technological Innovation.

OurOntario.ca is an impressive and ambitious undertaking to centralize access to the digital collections of this province's libraries, archives, museums and more. It is innovative in both its scope and its pursuit of providing a measure of regional search to a field dominated by large foreign corporations. Its ambitious scope (reaching across Canada to assemble digital objects pertinent to Ontarians) is without peer in the province. Its foundation of open source technology and contributions back to the library technology community set a standard of open collaboration to which it can only be hoped other projects will aspire in the future.

OurOntario.ca is an innovative project, both in terms of the service it provides to Ontario libraries and the technology leveraged to make it work. It opens up small local collections to the wider community by making them searchable via a common on-line portal. The use of open-source software for metadata indexing/searching combined with a top-notch public interface amounts to a model of the practical application of technology.

All of the committee were impressed with the talent and expertise that were required to bring about this useful and much-needed tool.

OLITA therefore recognizes the OurOntario.ca portal as the OLITA Award recipient for 2008 due to the scope of the project, its content recruitment approach, its foundation of open source technology, and its impact on Ontarians.



Loren Fantin, Our Ontario Project Manager

Give Them Books: Give Them Wings

It is the highest honour to be nominated by colleagues and then to receive recognition from the Ontario School Library Association for supporting the growth of literacy skills in our students. I am so grateful to the wonderful teacher librarians and library technicians in the Peel District School Board for their humbling recognition.

Promoting student reading, writing and critical thinking is so central to the work we teachers do, day in and day out, that it is almost second nature. Whether we work in a classroom or a school library or we move into resource or administrative roles, I believe it is our job to seek highly effective and visible strategies for promoting and supporting student literacy.

As Director of Education in the Peel District School Board, it is a weekly highlight to spend every Wednesday visiting schools and engaging students and staff. The fact that I am invited to read to students on a regular basis is pure personal joy. I have always loved to read but I especially love reading and interacting with our children. Over the last several years, under the coaching of Marilyn Willis, Peel's outstanding Instructional Coordinator for Libraries, I have built a wonderful collection of books suitable for students in all grade levels.

My collection of picture books serves another vitally important purpose in my work in Peel. Since my arrival as Director, I have started every school year by meeting with all of the Principals and Vice Principals of our 232 schools along with all of the support and resource staff, to set the direction for the year ahead. At every one of these meetings I read or refer to a wonderful picture book.

My intention is to convey a supportive message to all staff that is underscored by the theme of the book. I make sure that every school receives a copy of the 'book of the year' for the school library. It is my hope, by modelling the use of books with staff, that they will find suitable opportunities to do the same for their colleagues as well as their students. I want everyone in the system to know and to see that literacy is extremely important and that we all, no matter our role, have an obligation to be active in its promotion.

Among the titles that I have shared with staff in Peel are some classics that you will all recognize:

- *The Tiniest Acorn* by Marsha Danzig is an encouraging story of the importance of the value of each child.
- *Bravo Livingston Mouse* by Paula Duncan Edwards is a story of music, co-operation and leadership.
- *Stone Soup* retold by Jon Muth is an excellent tale that encourages communication, co-operation, community and trust
- *The Three Questions* retold by Jon Muth is an exceptional story about the importance of encouraging staff and students to pay attention and help those who are near.
- *Imagine a Day* by Sarah Thompson is a book filled with imaginative drawings designed to remind us of the ordinary miracles that occur every day in our classrooms.
- *The Dot* by Peter Reynolds underscores the message that each children can learn, grow and feel valued
- *So Few of Me*, also by Peter Reynolds stresses the importance of stepping

back from the activity trap and taking time to think and to dream

- *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden* by Edith Pattou is a beautiful story of the joy of a literal kindergarten.
- *Thank you Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco is an uplifting autobiography of the trials of a child with a reading problem who encounters a teacher who promises her success and delivers on that promise.

I have learned so much from my visits to exemplary classrooms and school libraries about student literacy and the amazing array of books that are available to students. Teachers, teacher librarians and library technicians who connect through a true partners program create rich and inviting learning environments for their students. I particularly enjoy watching these teams in action and have come to understand the value of this coaching/mentoring relationship. In a high growth system such as Peel, where over half of the 9,000 multi-talented teaching staff have arrived in the profession in the last six years, such partnerships are pivotal in stimulating the development of exemplary instructional strategies.

Great teachers learning from other great teachers get even better.

My love of reading and my commitment to its promotion throughout Peel comes from a number of sources. Of course, my early years were filled with books and family members who made the time to read wonderful stories to me. Reading to our children was such an inspiration for Sharon and me. I continue to learn every day about literacy and learning from my son, daughter and wife, all of whom are kindergarten teachers.

I learned the value of modelling a personal commitment to literacy as an educational leader from Judy Turriff, and exceptional teacher and Superintendent from my days as Director in Ottawa-Carleton. The impact of her sheer joy of reading books at all events for staff and students was formative to my own commitment to find stories which serve as metaphors for effective teaching and leading in education.

The title of my article comes from yet another significant influence in my growth as a professional. Marguerite Jackson (CEO of EQAO) when she served as Associate Director of Education in North York launched a wonderful initiative to provide a huge infusion of reading materials to the school libraries. Through a project entitled Give them Books; Give them Wings, this superb educator made a profound impact on the collections in the school libraries.

How wonderful it is to have come into contact with such amazing role models throughout my career. There are literally thousands of teachers, students and parents who have been an inspiration. Books are an important part of my life and they are most definitely an essential component of how I choose to work along side the amazing and talented staff throughout Peel.

Your recognition is the highest honour you can pay to a career teacher and educational leader. I am deeply touched by your award, thrilled by the nomination from the Peel staff and encouraged to accelerate my promotion of the work of teachers and teacher librarians.

In the words of Patricia Polacco in her book *Thank You, Mr. Falker*:

"The honey is sweet, and so is knowledge, but knowledge is like the bee who made the honey, it has to be chased through the pages of a (good) book."

Thank you for this great honour.



Esther Rosenfeld, 2007 OLA President presents the award to Michael Ridley, University of Guelph

OSLA School Administrator of the Year: *Jim Grieve*

Jim Grieve is the Director of Education for the Peel District School Board, Canada's second largest and one of North America's fastest growing public school systems. With over 150,000 students, 232 schools more than \$1.2 billion and annual growth rate of approximately 3,000 students, the Peel board is one of the most significant and successful organizations in the GTA.

Jim has been a Director of Education in Ontario since 1998. He served in that role in the Ottawa-Carlton District School Board before joining Peel in 2002. His career includes outstanding teaching and leadership roles in Peel, North York, and Ottawa.

Jim is a passionate advocate for children and a strong supporter of school libraries and particularly champions the role of the teacher librarian. You will see him every Wednesday heading out to schools with a picture book in his hand ready to read to students and to talk to staff always making a stop at the school library.

In staffing libraries in Peel he has made sure that there is no less than a .5 teacher-librarian at the elementary level and full-time teacher librarian and library technician at the secondary level. He understands the importance of the teacher librarian's role and how they support student achievement in schools. Their role as educational leaders and information literacy experts is valued at each school in Peel. He is a frequent visitor in Peel's Professional Library scouring the shelves for an appropriate picture book that he will read to staff, students, trustees or superintendents.

He is a highly visible and approachable leader who is always asking "Have you read any good books lately?"

From the Moment I Could Talk

My mom tells me that I wanted to be a teacher from the moment I COULD TALK!....well, I've done a lot of talking over the years....my family will attest to that. But 35 of them have been in teaching!

To be selected as the 2008 recipient of the OSLA Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award, I am truly honoured.

I began my career as an elementary school teacher. Can any of you remember education in the early 1970s? I was the music teacher, the art teacher, I parachuted into the gym teacher – parachutes were big in those years! I wrote and planned curriculum from sketchy objectives and outlines at that time- learning activity stations, cooking stations, SRA reading labs, basal readers, five reading groups, class sizes in primary of 37, still lots of portables, trips to Pioneer Village, pop corn sales, Scholastic book clubs... all this and more... for \$364.00 a month. Those were the days!

But when I reflect on this stage of my teaching career - those really were the days! My elementary teaching experience taught me the basics of becoming a good teacher. It taught me to balance and to juggle and to balance some more! This is the experience that I brought to the secondary panel. This is the experience that enabled me to teach those older students- the ones who were too big to "put their hands on their heads" to get their attention. The ones who didn't have recess and fight to hold my hand! The secondary panel had its challenges, but underneath it all kids were still kids... and kids still just want to have fun. Learning is fun. Learning is real. Learning experiences are

still very important, but much more memorable if they include activity, participation, celebration and doing. Kids can have fun learning!

To all Librarians, there is a vital role that we have to continue to live in our academic settings. Super Conference 2008 has reinforced that in spite of the onset and implications of Web 2.0, 2.1 anon anon..."we can never stop learning" but we need to "learn when to stop."

As was discussed this year at Super Conference, we cannot allow a culture of distraction to keep us from teaching critical thinking. As librarians we will continue to travel with our students through the research process. The new Ministry directed School Library document written by OSLA will open doors to learning and teaching partnerships with our teachers, our students, our school communities and our libraries. Libraries, teacher-librarians and library programs will continue to have a vital role in the education and successful launching of the critical thinkers of tomorrow. The Durham District School Board recently reported in the local media, the value of investing in library facilities across our board. We expect even greater things in Durham!

In addition to money, our libraries need support staff. This can come in many ways. We welcome and value our parent volunteers. Linda Graham holds the record at Sinclair. Her daughter graduated over 10 years ago and Linda still finds a place for us in her weekly schedule.

Teacher-librarians Myra MacLennan, Marilyn Girndt, secretarial support from our principal and Heidi Parfitt... this award is a shared award. I

have the honour and privilege of working with a team! "No one can do everything but we can all do something."

When I was putting away my Christmas decorations this year, a box of stuff....librarians have lots of "stuff collections"... fell open on the floor in front of me. In sifting through the stuff, I found a card from my mom and dad from my graduation from Toronto Teacher's College- early 1970s

It's hard to realize how fast

The years have all gone by

It doesn't seem like any time

Since you were just so high...

And now that you are all grown up

And graduating too

This comes with love to wish life's best

And happiest things for you

Signed

All our blessings...

Mom and Dad

P.S. Be a good girl and a damn good teacher.

And now as 35 years of teaching have flown past, I am graduating once again! A new challenge awaits me for sure... a superhero never retires!

By Nancy Cotter



James Saunders, Saunders Book Company, Peggy Thomas, 2007 OSLA President, and from Sinclair Secondary School; Nancy Cotter, award recipient, Marilyn Girndt, and Myra MacLennan

OSLA's Teacher-Librarian Of The Year: *Nancy Cotter*

Nancy Cotter, head librarian at Sinclair Secondary School in Whitby, Ontario, is a leader within our school in programming, technology, mentoring, and so much more.

Nancy has been a teacher-librarian for 24 of her 34 years in both elementary and secondary panels. As a teacher-librarian, Nancy has transformed existing libraries into exciting, vibrant, student-centered classrooms. Nancy is a motivational leader and mentor to those with whom she works. She demonstrates her philosophy "As a team there is nothing that we can't do," daily. Her core belief "in the school, for the school" has ensured that Sinclair Secondary students have all the resources they need in order to be successful. Nancy brings a level of enthusiasm and energy to her job that is truly remarkable. She is a catalyst for change and a positive role model for integrating technology into the Resource Centre's programs and into the school. Administration and staff rely on her recommendations for technology purchases. Nancy's visionary ability to see the big picture has ensured that the Resource Centre is the hub of the school.

A highly gifted educational leader, Nancy Cotter is this year's OSLA Teacher-Librarian of the Year.

The Country is Watching

The first library that I worked in was at Clarke Road Secondary School in the London Board of Education. It was 1962, the beginning of a new era of interest in secondary school libraries. The classroom library that I inherited in September of that year gave way that winter to an exciting new addition that included a library three times larger and a new music room.

Things that shape your thinking

I had 32 students come to be part of my first library club (soon to be called library assistants). I promised them an exchange visit with the Library Club at Oakwood Collegiate in Toronto that year. Clarke Road was not an academic school. Seeing that only one of the 32 assistants was an A student, the principal only agreed to the trip for those students that improved their marks to an A average in the intervening set of exams. 28 actually succeeded! The four students who had improved but not to an A level were driven to Toronto by teachers, so impressed was everyone.

I can still see my library assistants hiding behind the door of my office to brush their hair down over their forehead the day after the Beatles appeared for the first time on North American television. Two of my library assistants went on to library school and eventually to marry! This was also the time when our students were kept writing their exams and sent home without being told that John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed.

In the '60s, library program was mainly about reading. At Clarke Road, curriculum interest came from the history department, the technical and

commercial departments (if you were willing to look) and, most of all from the teachers of the two-year stream "terminal" students. I, of course, taught "library skills" to the Grade 9 level, although I was not clear to what end.

Experimentation and Change at Queen's

These years and the experiences they provided, aided by the totally enlightening Masters program at the University of Michigan's Library School, shaped my thinking over the following 15 years. There were so many remarkable projects in which I was fortunate enough to take part during my years developing school librarianship at Queen's University: the first Canadian standards for school libraries in the '70s, the first school library program experimentation with the University of Maryland and the University of Washington, the introduction of curriculum design and development into curriculum program, the establishment of a structure for Partners in Action, and my responsibility for running the programs to introduce the new document that is only now being replaced 25 years later.

The thousands of students that went through the courses at Queen's were part of widespread experimentation with media, multimedia and differentiated learning and with the ground-breaking ideas of Margaret Beckman and Stephen Langmead on the relationship of space design to library program.

These "students" became the inventive and dedicated leaders of the last twenty years. When I became Executive Director of the Ontario

Library Association, I was fortunate to meet many of them again as incredibly effective people developing outstanding materials through the Ontario School Library Association.

Maintaining the High Road

While the public support of school libraries waned in the 1990s, OLA and OSLA never lost the vision of school libraries as pivotal parts of a student's growth and development. The school library field's denouncement of Information and Equitable Access set us up for the problems that followed with the funding formula and the fiscal struggles to be faced by schools. While the prolonged advocacy to get back on government and education radar has taken over a dozen years, the continuing quality of the leadership and program of OSLA and the very sizeable financial and moral support of the total library field through the Ontario Library Association is finally achieving encouraging political recognition.

A Time for Thoughtful Response

While advocacy in the last 15 years has required wearing, intense and lengthy struggle, there is more to come. The new school library document currently being piloted is key to identifying the next challenges and opportunities. The teacher-principal-teacher-librarian collaboration established by Partners in Action 25 years ago is giving way to the power of an even broader partnership that includes all levels of the board and the community. Getting out of our ivory tower may be the biggest challenge of all. We must consciously accept that there is still very, very much to learn and many new bridges to be built. Our collective

will, constructive work and unflagging common sense will be key to success.

It has been a privilege to work with

so many hundreds of you over the years. Whether our fortunes have been up or down, there has been no end to the extraordinary skills and insight

you and OSLA have brought to this work. I have been delighted to support and fight for you but this award belongs to all of us.



James Saunders, Saunders Book Company, and OSLA volunteer superstars: Peggy Thomas, 2007 OSLA President, Sya VanGeest, Anita Brooks Kirkland, Bobbie Henley, Michael Rosettis, Diana Gauthier, Rose Dotten, and Joanne Laforty with recipient Larry Moore (centre).

OSLA's Award for Special Achievement: *Larry Moore*

Larry has dedicated his professional life to librarianship in general, but he came from the school library world. From his time as a teacher-librarian in a high school to the students he guided as a professor at Queen's University and finally to his work at the OLA, Larry has been central to the growing profile of school libraries in Ontario.

Over the years he has mentored and coached countless individuals, and he has done so with what seems like effortless panache. One of the traits I so admire is Larry's ability to quietly listen and then reflect back the most salient points with a gentle prod to go deeper, be more specific, and take more risks. And no one applauds louder than Larry when someone he has coached turns their dreams into reality.

Larry has always been a visionary, looking for the next opportunity, eager to walk towards the great unknown with confidence. It has led the Ontario Library Association into breathtaking endeavors: the Forest of Reading, Super Conference, The Partnership, the Africa Project, to name just a few. I will always be grateful for Larry's thoughtful guidance and care, and I suspect that there are many others who feel this way as well.

Larry, we wish you well in your retirement. OSLA has benefited greatly from your wisdom and wit. It will be interesting to see where you next direct your energies and passion. Whatever the organization or cause, they will be lucky to have you on their team.

Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award: *Bernard Katz*

The OLA Board of Directors is honoured to present OLA's Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award to Bernard Katz.

In 2000, Bernie took early retirement from his position as senior director at the University of Guelph Library. Before then and since, OLA has benefited from his commitment and his wisdom. Bernie served on our Intellectual Freedom Committee under Les Fowlie's chairmanship and led the development of OLA's "Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual."

Bernie's ethics and integrity brought him front and central when Deborah Ellis' *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*, was massively challenged as an entry for the Silver Birch Award. He provided the detailed evidence and research that became the heart of OLA's defence of children's right to read this remarkable book. Bernard was our learned source. He was central to our significant success.

Bernard says that Les Fowlie was a very meaningful mentor and role model for him. We should all take inspiration from Les's legacy and Bernard's example but, most importantly, we should accompany this honour for Bernard's work with a quiet but firm commitment to step forward, as he did, the next time we see a threat to the fundamental right to intellectual freedom.



Peggy Thomas, 2007 OSLA President presents the award to Jim Grieve, Peel District School Board

First Nations Friendship Feathers: *Jeff Burnham, Mariposa in the Schools and Larry Moore*

The Friends of Ontario's First Nation Public Libraries Honour Program honours individuals and organizations that have actively demonstrated significant understanding and support for the establishment and ongoing development of public libraries in First Nation communities. As many of you know, we have a great need for that understanding and active support. This year, we are making three Friendship Feather presentations.

Jeff Burnham, Creator and President, GoodMinds.com

Our first friendship feather recipient is Jeff Burnham. Many of you know Jeff as the president of GoodMinds.com, a comprehensive and reliable source of native resources. We also know Jeff

as a strong advocate for the establishment and sustainability of public libraries in First Nation communities.

As a former trustee of Six Nations Public Library, Jeff is knowledgeable about the cultural, political, and financial issues First Nation public libraries face in their communities. As an individual, he has made it his life's work to take on the challenge of discovering and disseminating materials that are accurate and balanced in their representation of aboriginal pasts, presents, and future speculations.

In addition to discovering and disseminating quality resources, Jeff will be responding to the lack of quality resources by launching an aboriginal curriculum resources publishing program through GoodMinds.com.



Barbara Lewis, Mnjikaning Public Library, Judy Sarick, Mariposa in the Schools, Karen Foster, Georgina Islands First Nation Public Library, Dolores DeMarchi Anderson, Mariposa in the Schools



Barbara Lewis, Mnjikaning Public Library and Karen Foster, Georgina Islands First Nation Public Library present the award to Larry Moore (centre)



Barbara Lewis, Mnjikaning Public Library and Karen Foster, Georgina Islands First Nation Public Library present the award to Jeff Burnham, GoodMinds.com (centre)

Whether it is his presence and voice, a written submission, or support in other forms, Jeff Burnham is undeniably a Friend of Ontario's First Nation public libraries. He has a good heart as well as a good mind.

Mariposa in the Schools

Our next friendship feather recipient is an organization – Mariposa In The Schools, popularly known by its acronym, MITS.

For almost 40 years, MITS has introduced young audiences across Ontario to quality traditional performing artists who represent oral cultures from around the world and who are passionate about sharing their music, dance storytelling, and heritage.

Although schools are its usual vehicle for reaching audiences, we've learned that MITS is a flexible organization, eager to reach out to and learn more about First Nation communities, even if it means doing it with public libraries that have no programming budgets. 2008 marks the third year of partnership with MITS that's as strategic as it is entertaining

The partnership, funded by grants MITS pursues, enables non-native performers to come to our communities, meet community members, conduct workshops with our youth, and perform for everyone's enjoyment—all this under the sponsorship banner of our public libraries.

Because we struggle for profile and support in our small, rural and remote communities, our libraries are eager to cultivate every opportunity that helps relay and reinforce the "power of public libraries" message.

It's a message that's hard to deny when, on home turf and courtesy of their public libraries, First Nation communities are enjoying Caribbean percussion and chanting, Afro-Canadian storytelling, and old-

time fiddling and dancing reminiscent of our own traditional social dances

Larry Moore, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association

Our third friendship feather recipient is an individual well known to us—Larry Moore.

We have come to know Larry Moore over time, as many of you have. We have witnessed how tirelessly he works on behalf of libraries of all types and we are most appreciative of the commitment he has demonstrated to the issues associated with ours.

For First Nation public libraries, Larry has turned the face of OLA from one that was distant and inscrutable into one that is warm and welcoming. Larry has been a thoughtful and open-minded listener who makes good things happen—there's nothing quite like dealing with someone whose stock lines are, "What can we do for you?" and "Sure, no problem." What distinguishes Larry in our minds is his awareness of the need to tend to the spirits of our librarians as well as the needs of our libraries.

A decade ago, OLA knew very little about First Nation public libraries and First Nation librarians knew very little about OLA. There was likely, not a single First Nation librarian at an event like this. Amazingly, 10 years later and with Larry's support, we're here in numbers – breaking bread, celebrating achievements, and sharing stories. Best of all, we're confident we're welcome at the party.

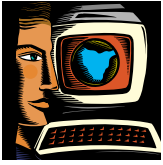
Larry, thank you for your caring and enabling friendship. We hope our paths will continue to cross as you depart from OLA.

Super Conference 2008





- 1.** In praise of all things green. OLBA presented Green Party Leader Elizabeth May in another stellar session.
- 2.** Stephen Heppell opened the conference and stayed as speaker-in-residence, delighting groups and individuals in two days of interviews.
- 3.** The Art of Networking broke the ice for many new members and conference first-timers.
- 4.** UWO's David Fiander, Norwich University's Meredith Farkas and Plymouth State University's Casey Bisson led the ever-popular Tech Trends session for OLITA.
- 5.** Ethan Zuckerman had eyes popping with his insight about participation of people on the internet around the world. A big hit!
- 6.** Ryerson University Library Director Madeleine LeFebvre, IFLA Conference Co-ordinator Céline Gendron from Library and Archives Canada, OLA Executive Director Larry Moore, and Michael Ridley, Chief Information Officer from the University of Guelph, at the IFLA 2008 information booth.
- 7.** Joseph Janes, always a popular speaker at OLA, enthralled his audience at OCULA's spotlight event.
- 8.** Giller Prize winner Vincent Lam proved to be totally engaging and charming. Everyone wants him if they must have an emergency.
- 9.** David Warlick brought great depth to OSLA's spotlight event and enjoyed much praise for his free-flowing session with Stephen Heppell.
- 10.** It was a time of honours for retiring OLA Executive Director Larry Moore. The Hon. Aileen Carroll brought eloquent messages from herself and Premier Dalton McGuinty.
- 11.** Former OLA President Stephen Abrams continued his generosity to OLA by sharing his formidable knowledge in discussion of staff and new technologies in libraries.
- 12.** Carl Honoré was funny, he was wise, and he was sexy in praise of slow. And the audience loved it.
- 13.** Super Conference is about sharing, and here trustees air their problems and solutions in the OLBA's round table.
- 14.** Urshad Manji blew her audience out of the water in a dynamic, thrilling presentation.



Eye on *the Web*

LINKS TO THE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

French Literary Prizes Online

This Eye on the Web column will highlight Web sites identifying French language literary prizes and their recipients. Alongside winning titles and nominees, the featured sites contain valuable information including descriptions and historical overviews of major prizes as well as book reviews and links to publishers' resources.

French Canadian Literature

In Canada, and particularly in Quebec, there are numerous prestigious literary prizes. The suggested sites provide exhaustive lists of awards and their recipients, though not every prize has its own dedicated Web site.

Notable French Language literary prizes awarded in Canada include:

- Médaille de l'Académie des lettres du Québec (since 1946) www.academiedeslettresdu-quebec.ca
- Prix Alain-Grandbois for poetry (awarded since 1988)
- Prix Anne Hébert (since 2000)
- Prix Athanase-David (since 1968)
- Prix des Écrivains francophones d'Amérique (since 1993; formerly Prix de la Société des écrivains canadiens)

- Prix des libraires du Québec (since 1994; includes a category for works outside Quebec)
- Prix Gilles Corbeil (since 1990) www.fondation-nelligan.org/prix.html
- Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général du Canada (since 1936)
- Prix Trillium (since 1987) www.omdc.on.ca/Page3769.aspx

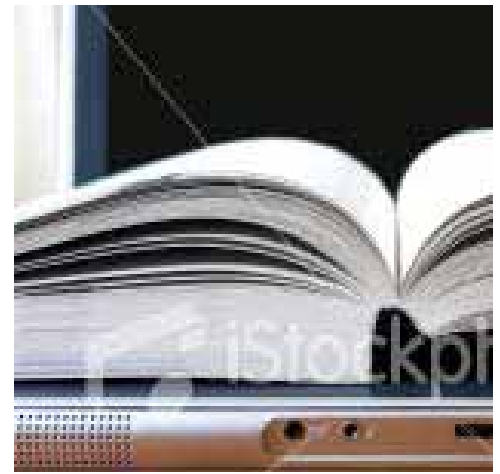
Organizations promoting French literature in Canada

- Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français <http://aaof.ca/>

Since its foundation in 1988, the mission of the Association des auteures et auteurs de l'Ontario français has been to promote Ontario's French language literature. Its members are poets, novelists, and playwrights. Under the Resources menu of the site, you will find a list of numerous prizes with descriptions and links to more information. Unfortunately, there are no award recipient lists available on the site.

- Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) www.banq.qc.ca

The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec offers the most comprehensive list of resources available on literary prizes in Quebec.



Its online resources menu includes a specific category for literary awards which provides the names of organizations that confer prizes, as well as a list of awards attributed in Quebec and current recipients. The index of award winners includes biographical information on the authors and a short description of the award. One can also browse the award list by geographical location. The site also provides a retrospective index to past recipients for a majority of the awards.

Among valuable specifics on this site are a list of new releases in various subject categories (fiction non fiction, youth, comic books, other languages) and formats. This list features the option to subscribe to RSS feeds.

- Canada Council for the Arts (Literary Prizes) www.canadacouncil.ca/prizes

In its advocacy role for the arts, the Canada Council for the Arts awards several literary prizes, namely the Governor General Literary prizes, the Canada-Japan Literary prize, the Molson Prize and the CBC literary prize. The information about the Governor General prizes includes a historical overview of the awards and cumulative lists of finalists dating back to 1979. The Molson arts prize is awarded to outstanding artists in any discipline in the arts, including literature. It may be given to an English or French speaking artist. The CBC literary prizes are



divided into three categories: short story, poetry and creative nonfiction. The Canada Council of the Arts site provides a link to the list of the current finalists and recipients on the CBC Web site. In addition, the Canada Council for the Arts provides links to resources on the web such as prize and literary association Web sites.

- Culture.ca
www.culture.ca/explore-explorez-f/Arts/Prix/Ecriture

This site contains links to resources in all areas of Canadian culture and artistic production, including literature. Start your exploration of the site with the article about literary prizes available in the Writing section of the Arts category (www.culture.ca/featuredarticle-articlepublie-f/literary_prizes-prix_litteraires_200711.html), which lists and describes important literary prizes in both French and English.

In the Writing section you will find a sub-category for Prizes that lists useful links to literary award resources. You can browse the list by province or territory. To find resources for French language literary prizes, it is important that you browse the site in French as many of the links provided are specific to the language used.

- Le Libraire: Portail du Livre au Québec
www.lelibraire.org/

This site is one of my favourite links on the Web for French language literature. The portail du livre is the online companion to Le Libraire,

a publishing industry magazine available in Quebec. This magazine is similar to Quill and Quire in its mission and content. It provides its readership (mostly librarians, booksellers and publishers) with industry news, book reviews, new releases information, etc... Its online version also provides valuable links to book reviews, articles and other resources related to the literature scene both in Canada and abroad. It doesn't have a section on literary prizes but its excellent coverage of award winners through reviews and content articles allows for easy retrieval of information regarding titles or authors with the use of the site's excellent search engine. It is possible to limit your search to subject categories (Quebec fiction, nonfiction, international literature), or document type (review, editorial, article), year of publication or author of the article. The site also includes links to Web sites of Quebec based and international publishers, a frequently updated news section, in-depth articles on hot topics and more. Visitors can also subscribe to several feeds on news, articles and online resources.

French Literature Outside Canada

There are numerous literary prizes for fiction and poetry awarded in the French-speaking world. Here are some of the most widely recognized:

- Décembre (since 1989)
- Femina (since 1904)
- Goncourt (since 1903)
www.academie-goncourt.fr/
- Grand prix de la francophonie
www.academie-francaise.fr/
- Grand prix du Roman de l'Académie française (since 1918)
www.academie-francaise.fr/
- Interallié (since 1930) Médicis (since 1958)
- Prix Nobel de Littérature (since 1901)
<http://nobelprize.org/index.html>
- Renaudot (since 1926)
www.renaudot.com/
- Prix-Littéraires.Net: L'actualité des prix
www.prix-litteraires.net/

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Eye on the Web

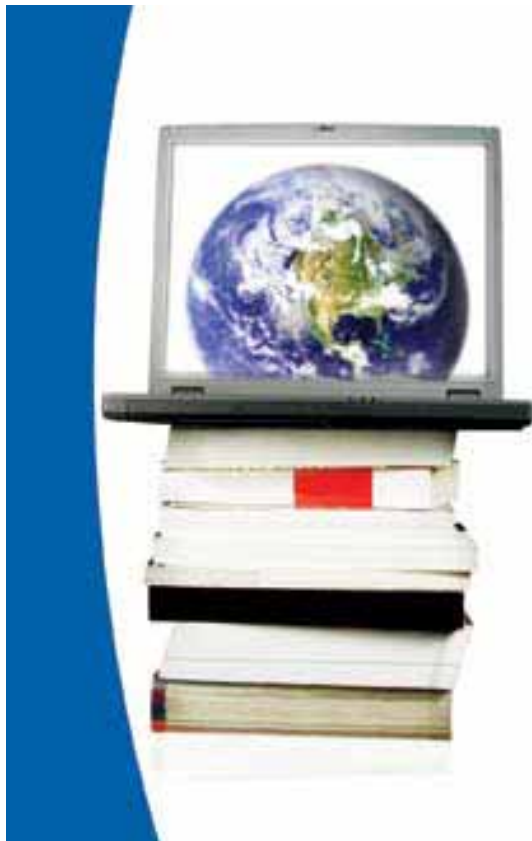
Prix-Littéraires.Net is a comprehensive directory of over 1000 book prizes in France and Europe from travel books to major literary prizes. Here you will find the recipients of the most prestigious award such as the Prix Goncourt, the Prix Femina, and the Prix de l'Académie française. For many of these prizes you will find complete lists of recipients from the most recent to the very first honored work.

The site includes a blog for news updates. The site is impressive as it not only list major prizes but also less recognized awards, directing readers to quality works that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. To find information on a specific title, author, or award, do a keyword search using the search engine on the site. The search capabilities are rudimentary but sufficient for quick and dirty retrieval of information.



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Resource Centre, University of Ottawa.
She holds a Bachelor's degree in French*



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Knowledge Ontario

KEEPING OLA MEMBERS IN THE BIG PICTURE



Knowledge Ontario's forward momentum continues unabated with many new product developments and announcements. Most significantly, the appointment, by the Knowledge Ontario Board, of David Thornley to the position of Executive Director. Read more about David at Knowledge Ontario's newly redesigned site (www.knowledgetontario.ca)

On the project/product front Knowledge Ontario is pleased to make the following announcements:

Our Ontario is excited to be partnering with the Ontario Legislative Library to make the Government Documents from the Legislative Library Collection available @your fingertips. Via the Government Documents section on Ourontario.ca (<http://govsdoc.ourontario.ca>), Ontario citizens are able to

access over 20,000 government documents, with additional documents being added on a monthly basis. For the very first time monographs and serials from the collection of the Legislative Library is available for full-text searching. Options include keyword search, advanced search, and browsing by title, author, ministry/agency, subject and year.

Check out our newly redesigned site at www.ourontario.ca.

OLA marked the official launch of askON, the province's first collaborative chat-based virtual reference service. The Hon. Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture cut the ribbon and recognized Knowledge Ontario, the Ask Ontario volunteers and the library community for our continuing dedication to developing innovative services that deliver digital content and equity of access



Virginia Roy, Project Manager of Ask Ontario (right) cuts the ribbon with the Hon. Aileen Carroll, Ontario Minister of Culture (left) at the official launch of askON/Ondemande, which delivers real-time chat reference service through Ontario's libraries.

for Ontarians. Dozens of library leaders, including many of the directors of the service's participating libraries were on hand to toast askON's early success. In the first three weeks of the service askON staff responded to 888 chat inquiries and there are over 200 trained askON staff around the province.

AskON is currently comprised of 10 participating public and seven post-secondary libraries. Each contributes staff time towards a collaborative askON schedule. Members of these communities can, by clicking on the distinctive askON logo on the library websites, chat in real-time with an askON information specialist who can help them find information and improve their research skills. For more information on askON visit askon.ca or the Web sites of the participating libraries.

The askON project team is accepting expressions of interest from libraries who may wish to participate in phase two of the project. If you want to learn more about future participation in askON email Virginia Roy, the project manager at vroy@knowledgeontario.ca.

Check out the Knowledge Ontario site (www.knowledgeontario.ca) for information on our other projects - Connect Ontario, Teach Ontario and Video Ontario all of which are on the move!

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HealthWatch

KEEPING WATCH OVER LIBRARIANS' HEALTH ISSUES

DOCTORS USING GOOGLE:

What Happened to Quality Assurance?



By Mark Aaron Polger

With the explosion of Web 2.0, the Web has become a showcase of community-driven, user-focused, collaborative content. Content used to be created by one but now Blogs, Wikis, and Podcasting have transformed the Web into a new frontier. Not only is the Web an information highway, but a plethora of pseudo-experts preaching to the masses. Anyone can create a blog and publish useful information about cancer prevention. Anyone can create a wiki about pregnancy and support each other and offer useful information. Wikis are Web

sites where anyone can add, edit, and remove content. Wikis are usually subject specific (most popular is Wikipedia, a community driven Encyclopedia), democratic, and collaborative. Wikis have no central authority and some (like Wikipedia) have a committee that addresses the issue of quality control.

Finding health information has never been easier than now. When I first surfed the Web in 1994, I was ecstatic to find lyrics to my favourite songs. Nowadays, Web searching has become more serious. Students are

using the Web for their assignments and for research. Elementary school children are doing projects and citing Web sites, instead of traditional reference books. Lastly, more people are searching for health information online, and they're not using PubMed or Medline.

More users seek information from Google because those Web sites are the starting point (or platform) for their information journey. Users want information fast and some don't flinch when it comes to evaluating or critically appraising the information.

An article entitled “Googling for a diagnosis - use of Google as a diagnostic aid: Internet-based study”, from the British Medical Journal, reported the findings from an Internet-based study where 26 diagnostic cases were searched on Google (researchers were blind to the correct diagnoses). The findings were compared against the diagnosis found in the New England Journal of Medicine. The Google search results gave 15 out of 26 correct diagnosis. However, the article did not address the proficiency of the researcher involved in the study.

The following assumptions are made if doctors use Google as their research tool in helping to treat patients:

- They possess strong online research skills
- They possess the basic principles of information literacy
- Access the right information to satisfy their research needs
- They evaluate the information
- They use the information effectively, legally, and responsibly.

Most physicians know that Google is part of the free Web. Most understand that anyone can develop a professional looking Web site that looks credible, and legitimate.

Most know that electronic journals and databases aren't free and libraries spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in subscription fees.

Many physicians and health care professionals know the difference between a health Web site authored by a drug company, versus a health Web site authored by a non profit health organization or the government. However, some Web sites are not as obvious.

Malepregnancy.com is sponsored by the RYT Hospital-Dwayne Medical Center, a fictitious hospital in the United States. The Web site is updated occasionally but there is no mailing address or contact to reach. The Web site looks authoritative, credible, and authentic. There are case studies and there are references to physicians on the site. The Dwayne Medical Center prides itself for being innovative with such initiatives as male pregnancy, Clyven, the first transgenic mouse with human intelligence, and Genochoice, a web-based tool that extracts your DNA, then “corrects” all of the errors in order to create a genetically perfect child. Most will find the RYT hospital amusing and entertaining, but there lies a potential danger for those who are less Internet savvy.

In a hospital in the Greater Toronto area, a patient educational publication comparing Breastfeeding and Infant Formula was found to have biased referencing (in its bibliography) that lacked authority, objectivity, and was not written by a health care professional. The nurse who researched the topic used Google instead of CINAHL or MEDLINE and she found articles written by non-experts on the topic. Library staff intervened and educated the nurse on the need to evaluate resources, critically appraise, analyze, and verify that the information is unbiased and is authoritative. It was alarming that this publication was approved by a committee of physicians and nursing staff. Why weren't Library staff involved in the process?

Why do Health Librarians subscribe to high quality authoritative resources when doctors use Google to treat their patients? It is clear that Google is free and easy to use. Google's search page is clean, and without bells or whistles and, at present, no advertisements. With various commercial databases, the user needs to learn the EBSCO, OVID, or ProQuest interface before searching.

We promote and teach MEDLINE, CINAHL, and other clinical information resources in our hospitals, universities, and public libraries but what is the danger in doctors using Google?

In our Web 2.0 world, there is a risk in maintaining quality when health care professionals use Google to treat their patients. Anyone can become an expert and if the site looks believable, some may not verify their sources. Anyone can be a TV producer and upload content to YouTube, anyone can be a radio producer and create a podcast, and anyone can instantly be an author by publishing their own blog.

In health care, best practice, quality assurance, and risk management are fundamental. It is disturbing when health care professionals use Google to help diagnose and treat their patients. Students are educated in college and university not to cite Wikipedia entries since it's not a “real” encyclopedia. Some librarians promote Wikipedia as a great “starting point” for research, but few Medical Librarians would promote this to physicians and hospital staff.

In this busy world where users want information fast and instantly, it would be beneficial for Library staff to teach users how to search Google Scholar, and try to wean them back to library resources. After all, why are we spending tens of thousands of dollars on core medical and health journals, databases, and scholarly resources when they may be underutilized?

Mark Aaron Polger is the Health Sciences Librarian at Humber River Regional Hospital in Toronto. He is also an instructor in the Library and Information Technician program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology.



The Next Generation

STUDENTS LOOK AT THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION COMMUNITY WITH FRESH EYES



A Librarian in Transition

I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a librarian but I did not know what “type”. Having worked in libraries since the age of 14, most of my work experience stemmed from university libraries. I graduated with my MLIS from the University of Western Ontario in 2000.

Making the Transition

Since 2000, I held library positions at a Biotech Consultancy, two university libraries, three public library systems, and the CBC. After graduating, I discovered that permanent positions were few and far between. Most of my pre-MLIS experience was from academic libraries. I worked for two years as a Liaison Librarian at the University of Waterloo and briefly was employed as Web/Systems Librarian at Ryerson University.

In May 2006, I was hired at Humber River Regional Hospital (HRRH), a partially-affiliated teaching hospital in Toronto. I had no health care background and knew nothing about medical libraries.

A notable difference my position entailed was providing literature searches, articles and books to my clients. My previous positions involved teaching users how to access resources on their own and encouraging them to be independent researchers.

At HRRH, 40% of my work involves literature searching, 30% document delivery, 20% library instruction, 5% interlibrary loan, and 5% collection development, circulation, and cataloguing.

In comparison with academic libraries, 30% of my work was devoted to reference assistance, 30% to collection development, 30% to library instruction, and 10% allotted to committee work.

Juggling Five Libraries and Five Staff: Adventures of a Multi-Site Hospital

HRRH is a three-site hospital born from the mergers of Humber Memorial, York-Finch and Northwestern General. There are five libraries; two for staff and physicians, two for patients and families, and a combined Health Sciences Library/Consumer Health Library. The department is comprised of one manager, one librarian and three library technicians.

Working in a one-person library forces staff to juggle schedules and multi-task. Medical libraries are busy and fast-paced, forcing library staff to prioritize and set tight deadlines. They are also smaller in size, with smaller collections, budgets, & less staff.

Learning New Jargon

Since working at HRRH, I have gained knowledge about the various clinical units in a hospital. I have become familiar with medical terminology, hospital culture, and issues of quality assurance, confidentiality, and risk.

I have also become acquainted with the many different professions that work together to support patient care. It is exciting to work at a multi-site hospital because I meet and serve different users. Any given day I serve physicians, registered nurses, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers, administrative staff, clinical educators, clinicians, and pharmacists.

Similarities Lie in Raising the Library's Profile

During my first year at HRRH, I learned that while there are vast differences between medical and academic libraries, the similarities lie in marketing library services and resources. On the next page is a table of some strategies used to promote the library.

By Mark Aaron Polger

EDUCATION	PROMOTION
• Presentations: Staff orientation and departmental meetings that update staff on library services and resources.	• Web site: contains library instructional guides and materials available to remote/local users. • Welcome package for new physicians: contains a welcome letter, the Health Sciences Library bookmark, business card, and articles about current issues in health care. • Bookmarks: lists Library Services and Resources • Business Cards: hand out whenever possible • Library rounds: includes instruction to physicians and staff in their offices and on clinical floors. • Electronic Bulletins: sent to staff to highlight specific services and resources. • Promotional articles: written for the physician's monthly publication to raise awareness of library services and resources. • Education Calendar: Promotes library instructional workshops using tagline "Information Take Out and Delivery, the Library comes to you"

The Health Sciences Library represents a small part of the greater hospital community, but our mandate is big; to support patient care through research, information, and education.

One of the most satisfying moments is realizing the impact that our services have on patients. A few months ago, I conducted a literature search for a Physician and delivered articles in the Critical Care Unit. He thanked

me and said, "This is who you are helping" (as he pointed to the sleeping patient). To identify that my work supports patients means a great deal to me knowing that I am improving the patient experience.

Mark Aaron Polger is a Librarian at Humber River Regional Hospital in Toronto. He is also an instructor in the Library Technician program at Seneca College. He holds a B.A. (Sociology), an MLIS, & an M.A. (Sociology).



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Readers' Advisory

PROMOTING ENJOYMENT AND PASSION FOR THE WORLD OF BOOKS

RA in a Day

This past fall, the OPLA's Readers' Advisory Committee held its second annual RA in a Day workshop on October 26th. Participants from libraries in Ontario came to the St. Lawrence Hall in Toronto to listen to a variety of informative speakers.

The day began with David Wright, a fiction librarian at Seattle Public Library who may be known to readers for his contributions to *Novelist* and to the "He Reads/She Reads" section in *Booklist* magazine.

In his talk, "Literature 2.0: Keeping Your Cool While Meeting the Reading Needs of the Twenty-something Reader," he presented some of the book-seeking habits of today's "hipsters." Wright indicated that while they can be particular in their quest to find a good book, readers in this age group can also be very interested to serve. Less inclined to consult sources such as *The New York Times* or even Oprah for recommendations, they often get their reading suggestions not only from music, film, and "cool" bookstores, but also through word of mouth, particularly when it comes from online social networks, such as Shelfari and LibraryThing. (Library staff wishing to learn more about online literary communities and culture may wish to check out *The Bookaholics' Guide to Book Blogs*, compiled by Rebecca Gillieron and Catheryn Kilgarrieff

and published in September 2007 by Marion Boyars.)

Wright also provided an overview of genres and formats which often appeal to these younger readers, including cult fiction, slipstream, graphic novels, and urban fiction.

Following David Wright was Neal Wyatt, collection manager for Chesterfield County Public Library, Virginia, and one of *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers. In her talk, "Reading Maps: Charting Itineraries Through Books," Wyatt began with an overview of "whole collection" readers' advisory, distinguishing between "read alike" and "read arounds," and explaining how the whole collection approach can add breadth and depth to RA service.

For the main part of her presentation, Ms. Wyatt focused on the technical aspects of creating reading maps online, demonstrating how this can be accomplished with tools such as Microsoft PowerPoint, HTML, and the photo management site flickr.com.

After lunch, Canadian author Robert J. Sawyer stepped up to the podium and gave a polished and passionate presentation on the value of science fiction, a genre which,

when done well, can encourage people to think critically about society and its problems. He decried the influence of blockbuster series such as *Star Wars*, describing them as fairy stories which spoon feed morality without really reflecting the complexity of human society. A real work of science fiction, he continued, is very grounded in contemporary social issues, making its point through the use of metaphor, intriguing plot lines, and well developed characters.

Sawyer finished off his entertaining session by exchanging opinions with audience members on the success of productions such as the new *Battlestar Galactica*.

Rounding out the day was an especially energetic presentation of new fall titles by the Dewey Divas, and as ever, there was a large table's worth of galley copies for participants to paw through at the end. All in all, the day was a success, and we are looking forward to holding our third RA in a Day session on October 24th of 2008!

Angela Bowen is a Librarian at the Ottawa Public Library and a member of OPLA's Readers' Advisory Committee.

By Angela Bowen





The Last Word



Margaret Beckman: A Modern Pioneer

Some voices are stilled but they are never silenced. The words and the actions of truly great leaders echo and reverberate – they are touchstones we turn to over and over again.

Margaret Beckman died on February 28, 2008. For many of us, Margaret was the epitome of an inspirational leader. As our mentor she made us reach higher, think more clearly, and strive to excel in all we did. Even now she continues to urge us on.

Margaret interviewed me for my first professional position. I remember that day vividly. I entered her very large office in the McLaughlin Library at the University of Guelph; she was sitting behind what seemed like an impossibly large black desk surrounded by dozens of lions (there were lions everywhere — pictures, drawings, paper cut-outs, toy versions...) Implicitly and explicitly, I had entered the lion's den! Intimidation doesn't seem like a strong enough word to capture what I felt. Now what? True to form, Margaret was gracious, curious, and engaging; I got the job. Sixteen years later that same office became mine when I was appointed Chief Librarian. I even kept the large black desk.

At Margaret's funeral, Sarah Beckman called her grandmother a "modern

pioneer." Women of her era weren't supposed to study physics, innovate with computers, lead organizations, succeed. To be recognized as good at what she did, Margaret had to be great and she was. She exceeded expectations and excelled at what mattered. In doing so she was particularly focused on encouraging women to reach for the highest levels and to take on the roles that had been previously reserved for men.

Her accomplishments are well known. She was Chief Librarian at the University of Guelph from 1971-1984, and then the Executive Director of Information Technology until her retirement in 1987. Prior to and following retirement she maintained an active consulting business. Working with Stephen Langmead, she designed and renovated libraries around the world. Their book, *New Library Design : Guidelines to Planning Academic Library Buildings*, has had a profound impact on library architecture and functionality. She served as President of the Advisory Board on Scientific and Technological Information for the National Research Council of Canada, lectured at Western's School of Library and Information Science, and was active in OLA, OCUL, CARL and ARL. In recognition of her contributions, Margaret received honorary doctorates from Laurentian University and UWO.

Margaret was a loyal supporter and a formidable adversary. Like many, I experienced both. You always knew where you stood with her. She was clear about her views and she was clear about the shortcomings of your views should you not agree with her. Strong stuff

sometimes but always provided with a genuine concern for making things better.

Apparently Margaret used her severance cheque from the University of Waterloo to buy a fur coat (she was famously and proudly fired by UW – that's another story). She wore that coat somewhat defiantly. It was into that coat that a not-to-be-named colleague inserted a permanently sensitized book detection strip. Every time Margaret left the McLaughlin Library wearing that coat she set off the alarm. I doubt she ever never why; certainly no one had the nerve to tell her!

Margaret's legacy is written all over the libraries and librarians she influenced from coast to coast and around the world. Through her leadership, consulting, writings, and presentations she directed, encouraged, humbled and inspired those she came in contact with. Upon the news of Margaret's death many colleagues used phrases like "the end of an era" or "a legendary figure in our profession."

I will remember Margaret Beckman as a determined visionary and a relentless champion for libraries and librarians. And I will continue to hear her voice as she encourages us to build a better future.

— *Michael Ridley, University of Guelph*

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