



**W**elcome to the first electronic-only version of Inside OCULA. To date, we have sent out a print version of the newsletter as well as producing an electronic one. The electronic version allows for more flexibility in terms of content for the newsletter and is more cost-effective. OCULA Council hopes to use the money saved from producing the print version of the newsletter for other OCULA initiatives. Your feedback is, as always, very important. If you have any concerns about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In this issue of InsideOCULA, we are highlighting a letter from OCULA Council that was sent out to the Minister of Education; the Minister of Culture; and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in response to Bob Rae's Ontario: A Leader in Learning: Report and Recommendations. OCULA Council members were pleased to receive a response from the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, and the text of her letter is also included in this issue.

As everyone is aware, a copyright reform bill (Bill C-60) has been introduced to amend

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# **InsideOCULA**

**For and about members of the Ontario COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY Library Association No.26**

## **OCULA COUNCIL LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE MARY ANNE CHAMBERS, MINISTER OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN RESPONSE TO BOB RAE'S ONTARIO: A LEADER IN LEARNING: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

March 17th, 2005

Hon. Mary Anne Chambers,  
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities,  
Correspondence and Public Inquiries Unit,  
14th Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street,  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1L2

Dear Ms. Chambers,

As President of the Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA), I would like to highlight the important contributions that college and university libraries can make towards achieving some of the recommendations outlined in Bob Rae's Ontario: a Leader in Learning: Report and Recommendations.

Preparation for a skilled and well-educated work-force starts at a very early stage, with encouragement of the development of literacy skills through school, library and home environments. As students progress through the educational system, they need to learn how to look for required information and how to evaluate critically what they find so that they can make informed decisions about its relevance and usefulness. This involves the development of sound library research skills. Without school libraries and school librarians, this objective will be very difficult to achieve and the transition from school to university and college environments will be much harder for Ontario's students. Our former National Librarian, Roch Carrier, has noted that it is a national scandal that we have schools without librarians and without functioning libraries@.

Libraries are an integral part of the college and university learning experience. Without them, academic programmes would cease to exist, as library support is an essential component of external academic reviews of programmes. College and university librarians collect materials that support the courses that are offered on campus, but they also gather materials pertaining to the history of their institutions and local history, geography and current events in their home towns and surrounding areas. Hence, these library collections help to encourage the distinct evolution of each institution and promote differentiation@ as recommended by Bob Rae.

Mr. Rae has also noted a need to support and develop post secondary education opportunities for Francophone and Aboriginal students. He has recommended that advisory committees be set up to advise the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities about both areas. I would strongly recommend that there be librarian representation on these committees. Librarians work directly with students. They are very knowledgeable about a wide range of resources and can help to identify areas in need of development.

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**President's Message**

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the Copyright Act. There is more information about this on the OLA website at: [www.accessola.com](http://www.accessola.com). OCULA Council will be following up on this and will report back to OCULA members.

We also have much to celebrate. OCULA Council is delighted to announce that Norda Majekodunmi is the first recipient of the new OCULA Award for Graduating Students/New Professionals. Norda is a reference librarian at the Scott Library at York University. Her proposed session, The 3 Ps of Academic Librarianship: Projects, Publications and Presentations will be one of the OCULA sessions at the OLA Super Conference in February 2006. Norda will be presented with the OCULA Award at the OCULA reception at the OLA Super Conference. We would like to thank everyone who entered this competition. This Award will be given on an annual basis. More information about the Award can be found on the OCULA website at: [www.accessola.com/ocula/](http://www.accessola.com/ocula/).

On May 12th, 2005, Janet Kaufman was named YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction in the Education and Training category in Guelph. Janet is the President-Elect of the Ontario Library Association and is the Head of Information Services and Co-Director of the Learning Commons at the University of Guelph. This award is richly

deserved as Janet has contributed much to her profession and to her community.

Ilo-Katryn Maimets, Science Librarian at the Steacie Science and Engineering Library at York University received the OCUFAs (Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations) Award for Academic Librarianship on June 10th. Another very well deserved honour.

The annual Spring Academic Librarians' Dinner was held at the University of Toronto Faculty Club on May 5th. The keynote speaker was Professor Janice Gross Stein who gave a very interesting and stimulating talk. On behalf of OCULA, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Laurie Scott, Marian Press, Don McLeod and the University of Toronto Libraries for making this an enjoyable evening. Many thanks also to the staff in the OLA Office. The Spring Academic Dinner for 2006 will be hosted by Ryerson University. More information to follow.

Plans are already afoot for the OCULA Fall Workshop and more information will be coming through about this shortly.

So, the summer is heating up. Hope everyone is enjoying it and coping with the higher temperatures!

As always, your feedback is very important. You can reach me at: [smunro@uwindsor.ca](mailto:smunro@uwindsor.ca)

All the best for now.  
■ ■ ■

**OCULA Council Letter to Minister of Training**

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Bob Rae notes that Aquality and innovation to make the student experience rewarding and successful@ should be pursued. Among other things, he recommends providing more opportunities for students to receive experiences abroad and that international students be encouraged to come to Canada. Academic libraries can support these initiatives by providing access to useful electronic resources for students at their institutions who are studying abroad and by providing access to resources in other languages for international students studying in Canada.

The Report on Postsecondary Education also contains recommendations for supporting students with disabilities. Academic libraries often have librarians who specialize in assisting students with special needs. Libraries can also provide access to equipment that will help students with disabilities to use library resources. Such equipment comes with a high price tag and libraries must be adequately funded to support this initiative. It is essential that all college and university students have equal access to services and resources. Indeed, it is mandated by law. According to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, educational institutions must "...identify, remove and prevent barriers to persons with disabilities in by-laws, policies, programs, practices and services and ...develop an accessibility plan that shows evidence of the above."

Bob Rae has recommended that graduate enrolment be increased at certain institutions. University and college libraries will need increased funding so that students and faculty will have access to the resources that they need for various programmes on campus. Without additional financial support, libraries may have to cut back on journal subscriptions and on purchasing other library materials and equipment.

Mr. Rae also recommends that a "...single Ontario digital library should be developed" as part of an investment in "...teaching excellence and educational innovation so that students have increased opportunities for meaningful contact with faculty, and better facilities and equipment." The recent provision of \$700,000 from the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, will allow for the Ontario Digital Library initiative to move forward, but ongoing funding will be essential to ensure its continued development and survival.

The Province of Ontario must invest heavily in its students today if it wants to reap the benefits of a well-educated, skilled workforce in the future. Bob Rae has noted that much needs to be done to ensure that students have equal access to necessary resources and facilities. Ontario's academic librarians are committed to working towards these goals and can contribute much to the process, but adequate government funding must be forthcoming to ensure that these objectives can be met.

Thank you for considering the above.  
Sharon Munro  
President, Ontario College and University Library Association (OCULA)

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## RESPONSE TO OCULA COUNCIL FROM THE HONOURABLE MADELEINE MEILLEUR, MINISTER OF CULTURE REGARDING LETTER SENT IN RESPONSE TO BOB RAE'S ONTARIO: A LEADER IN LEARNING: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Ministry of Culture**

Minister

Room 4320, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: (416) 325-1660  
Fax: (416) 325-1726

**Ministère de la Culture**

Ministre

salle 4320, Édifice Whitney  
99, rue Wellesley ouest  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
Tél: (416) 325-1660  
Télééc: (416) 325-1726



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Ms. Sharon Munro  
President, Ontario College and University Library Association  
Ontario Library Association  
100 Lombard Street, Suite 303  
Toronto ON M5C 1M3

Dear Ms. Munro:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role of libraries in schools, colleges and universities, and the contributions they can make towards realizing the recommendations set out in the Honourable Bob Rae's report, *Ontario: A Leader in Learning*.

I have forwarded copies of your letter to the Honourable Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education, and the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, as your letter would be of interest to them.

Development of the Ontario Digital Library is of great interest to me because it contributes to innovation in education and improves learning opportunities for students in Ontario. As the minister responsible for Ontario's public libraries, I am committed to working with my colleagues in other ministries to examine how the government can support access to digital library resources in Ontario. We share a compelling interest in library services, and in ensuring that Ontario's students throughout all stages of their lives have access to the resources that will contribute to their overall success.

The funding that I announced at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference in February is a first step toward the delivery of digital content to all Ontarians and the advancement of the Ontario Digital Library.

I recognize the extensive work that librarians in schools, colleges, universities and public libraries have done to articulate the need for digital library resources in Ontario. Staff in my ministry are working with representatives from each library sector, and with other ministries, to explore ways to make this a reality. I am delighted to hear your affirmation of the commitment of academic librarians to this endeavour.

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All libraries across the province are repositories of knowledge and have an essential role in supporting Ontario's students, as well as in promoting Ontario's culture and documenting our shared history. With the advent of new technology, including digital content and the Internet, librarians have been at the forefront of developing the most effective means of providing information to their users.

Again, thank you for sharing your observations on behalf of the Ontario College and University Library Association with me.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister

c: The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers  
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

The Honourable Gerard Kennedy  
Minister of Education

## Great Teachers at OCULA's Instruction Workshop

By Sophie Bury and Wendy Rodgers

A highly engaging and informative two-day workshop presented by three academic librarians and a faculty member on March 31st and April 1st 2005 focused on helping attendees develop knowledge and skills in teaching information literacy (IL) and collaborating with faculty to build course-integrated IL programs. Over fifty people attended the workshop in Toronto, organized in partnership with OLA's Education Institute. While many attendees

came from southwestern Ontario, some had traveled from as far a field as Thunder Bay, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New York State. The workshop combined formal presentations, brainstorming, group activities, and a sheaf of useful handouts.

### Speaker Profiles

Featured speaker Trudi Jacobson is Coordinator of User Education Programs at the University at Albany SUNY and adjunct faculty at SUNY's

School of Information Science and Policy. She has published extensively on active learning, critical thinking, and motivating students. Featured speaker Tom Mackey is an Assistant Professor in the School of Information Science and Policy at the University at Albany SUNY and specializes in collaborative web development, information literacy, and instructional technology. On Day One, academic librarians Don Kinder and Bob Jackson spoke about their experience in building course-integrated information literacy with faculty. Don Kinder is the Coordinator of Library User Education at Ryerson, and Bob Jackson is the

manager of the Information and Learning Commons Team at Ryerson.

### Day One

Trudi Jacobson and Tom Mackey focused on strategies and activities for effective collaboration with faculty in developing information literacy programs. They began by providing background information about information literacy at the University of Albany, particularly in the context of the General Education mandate and the IL requirement embodied within this mandate. They elaborated on three recommended flexible collaborative models for build-

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## Spring Academic Librarians' Dinner May 5, 2005

By Robin Bergart

Whenever someone from outside the library profession speaks to a group of librarians about libraries, we are offered a reflection of ourselves and our institutions, which we may not recognize, which we may resist, or which may challenge us. It is always intriguing to hear how we are perceived and how this lines up with our self-perception.

Professor Janice Gross Stein is not a librarian; she is Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management in the department of Political Science and Chair of the Munk Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, political advisor, and familiar public affairs analyst with a well-considered stance on everything, libraries included. Professor Stein was the invited speaker at this year's Spring Academic Librarians' Dinner at the University of Toronto Faculty Club. She spoke frankly of her frustration with today's academic libraries, which she feels are neither meeting the needs of undergraduate students, nor addressing their role as public institutions by integrating themselves into the wider community.

On the first point, she raised the question bluntly: Where is the undergraduate library today? How is the university meeting the research needs of its undergraduate population? How do students get inducted into the sensory pleasures of the "sniff, smell, touch, and experience of books?" She spoke of her undergraduate class of 800 students and the fact that she simply cannot expect, much less insist that they use the library. The sheer size of the class would overwhelm library resources and staff, and using online materials only "is not a satisfactory substitute [to the sensory experience of print material]". Stein suggested that universities are failing to provide a quality education, and that this failure pervades our institutions, from the classroom to the library. She called for the strengthening of a three-way partnership of faculty, librarians, and students to bring these serious problems forward and find solutions. This is a much broader perspective than we, ourselves, often envision, of the role of librarians in

the university, and of our potential alliances and collaboration with faculty. Perhaps we need to look beyond conventional partnerships in the form of information literacy initiatives and develop a more holistic and less circumscribed view of our fundamental role as partners in education.

Stein's second point about academic libraries as public institutions revealed her well-known political leanings. She pointed out that public libraries are the most used public space in Canada, despite under-funding, and despite the fact that the Internet now fulfills many people's information needs. Public libraries are filling another need: a need for public space in which to converge as a community. How are our academic libraries responding to our surrounding communities? Not well enough, suggests Stein. She pointed to the University of Toronto's most famous library, Robarts, and its limited-access stacks. Why not open the doors for full public access at least every so often, she asked. This gesture would send an important message to the community as well as model to students the importance of civic responsibility. Stein is a familiar face on television because she says she feels a civic duty to bring the ideas, views, and research fomented in a public university to the public. So too, ought academic libraries open their doors to their broader constituencies - the taxpayers and citizens who live in the community. As students are no longer defined by the limits of a four-year program, but are staying on or returning as life-

long learners, universities and libraries need to welcome and support all pursuers of higher education, in whatever guise.

Finally, Stein exhorted librarians to take the risks that are necessary for change, and not to fear failure. "If you're not failing, you're not doing anything different. "We need to leap over those who negate innovation by saying "we've never done it that way" and keep trying to move forward in spite of the cumbersome of large institutions. As Canadians, we seem to veer towards the mediocre, she said provocatively. In libraries, as in politics, we need to make clear decisions, take risks, assume moral positions, become more self-critical, and conquer our "terminal illness of niceness." "Something will come out that will be fabulous if we unleash our talent," quipped Stein. Stein's talk was an invitation to take another look at ourselves, our roles, and our responsibilities to undergraduates and our communities.

This year's Spring Academic Librarians' Dinner was superbly organized by University of Toronto librarians Laurie Scott (Health Science Information Consortium of Toronto), Marian Press (OISE/UT Library), Gail Nichol (Engineering & Computer Science Library), and Don McLeod (UofT Libraries). Over 80 academic librarians from around the province enjoyed the opportunity to meet, eat, and reflect on Professor Stein's remarks. ■ ■ ■

### OCULA Fall Workshop

**You too can market your library! Reaching out to faculty and students**

**Friday, November 4, 2005 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Join us for this practical and inspirational workshop on how to develop marketing strategies that work.

This workshop will address key elements of marketing and how they apply to academic libraries. You will learn how to build a marketing communications plan that works, including positioning, key message, target audiences, strategies for delivering the message and evaluation measures. There will be a special focus on virtual library services and the most powerful communication strategy of all—word-of-mouth marketing. A panel of librarians will share their success stories in reaching out to faculty and students.

**Workshop leaders:** Peggy Barber and Linda Wallace of Library Communication Strategies, Inc.

To learn more about Peggy and Linda, see: <http://www.librarycomm.com/who.html>

Note that more details and registration options for this workshop will soon appear at the OLA Education Institute web site at <http://www.thepartnership.ca/cgi-bin/site/showPage.cgi?page=education/index.html> and in the new hardcopy fall calendar.

## WILU 2005 – A Colourful Success!

By Lorna Rourke

The 34th annual Workshop on Instruction in Library Use took place at the University of Guelph, May 18 - 20, 2005. 150 conference delegates came from many of the colleges and universities across Ontario, as well as from almost every province in Canada. Some attended from as far away as Oregon, Maryland, North Carolina, and even South Africa and Uzbekistan! The weather cooperated, the food was great, and delegates and planners alike were pleased!

Most importantly, we received very positive feedback on the quality of the sessions offered, and many delegates commented that they appreciated the relaxed atmosphere that was conducive to sharing ideas and making contacts with people. This year's WILU included half-day pre-conference workshops. These were very well attended and delegates enjoyed having the time to delve deeply into topics.

In all, there were sixteen 1.5-hour sessions and four 3.5 hour pre-conference workshops. These sessions and workshops focused on our conference theme, "Information Literacy: A Kaleidoscope of Possibilities." In the spirit of the kaleidoscope, speakers explored a myriad of literacies (information, visual, financial, technological, media), and described exciting collaborations and creative initiatives at their home institutions.

The keynote and plenary speeches were presented by Bill Johnston, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Academic Practice at the University of



Strathclyde, Scotland, United Kingdom; Sheila Webber, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Information Studies at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and Barbara Fister, Academic Librarian at the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library, Gustavus Adolphus College, Minnesota. Each is a respected and renowned writer and speaker on information literacy.

We are grateful to our conference sponsors, the library and university staff at Guelph, and especially to the conference speakers and delegates—we couldn't have done it without you!

The WILU 2005 Steering Committee included Janet Kaufman (Co-Chair and Local Arrangements), Jane Burpee (Co-Chair and Program), Gohar Ashoughian (Finance), Robin Bergart (Fundraising), Jocelyn Phillips (Publicity and Communication), Lorna Rourke (Attendance and Registration), Wendy Rodgers (Web and Technology), and Judy Wanner (Activities).

The 35th annual Workshop on Instruction in Library Use will be hosted by Acadia University. The theme for WILU 2006 is Charting a Course for Instruction.



### Great Teachers at OCULA's Instruction Workshop

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ing effective information literacy programming – (1) Teaching Alliances, (2) Campus Partnerships, (3) Virtual Collaboration.

In building teaching alliances with faculty, Tom and Trudi stressed that librarians should seek to develop a fuller understanding of faculty culture as well as advocating to faculty the many advantages of partnering to teach IL. Campus partnerships should ideally involve a collaborative network including campus teaching support centres, campus-wide committees focusing on teaching or learning, the university administration etc. Finally, they emphasized the importance of virtual collaboration in teaching information literacy effectively. Tom shared his extensive knowledge of course management software and its application in teaching information literacy skills. Trudi and Tom also introduced the audience to a number of scalable/tiered models for teaching information literacy. Here the focus was on learning goals and specific assignments to help students develop these competencies at first year, upper level undergraduate and graduate levels. The speakers closed by sharing a number of case studies of successful information literacy collaboration initiatives at the University of Albany, and by discussing assessment strategies to help gauge the effectiveness of an IL program.

Day One concluded with a lively and informative presentation by Don Kinder and

Bob Jackson from Ryerson University in Toronto. The presentation focused on the key role that the Library has played in providing instruction for two of Ryerson's Success Programs – Business 100 Strategies for Success and Arts and Contemporary Studies (ACS 102) – Learning and Developing Strategies. The pair outlined learning objectives for the library component of these programs, and discussed the merits and challenges of various delivery methods (labs, lecture style, and courseware). They shared the assessments used in each program, including a pre-test/post-test for Business 101 and examples of student assignments for ACS102.

#### Day Two

Trudi Jacobson discussed active learning techniques that enhance students' critical thinking and motivation in information literacy classes, reminding us that learning is not a spectator sport.

After discussing the drawbacks of active learning, Trudi led a heartening discussion of solutions. To address time constraints, acknowledge that less can be more, set a time limit for an activity and stick to it, monitor a chat forum on Web CT to answer additional questions, or circulate a sign-up sheet for your office hours. If you fear that students won't receive the same message by working in groups, prepare a handout. To manage distractions, lay out the room to maximize participation, simply ask students not to use e-mail or online chat, or get some teacher training in classroom management. To overcome

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## PEOPLE NEWS

### McMaster University

**Allison Thompson** has joined the Health Sciences Library as Electronic Resources Librarian on July 25. Allison graduated from McMaster University in 2001 with honours degree in English, and from University of Western Ontario in 2002 with her Master of Library and Information Science. She has done cataloguing for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough and at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. Allison also has experience in reference and library instruction.

### Mohawk College

The Library @ Mohawk is pleased to announce that **Cynthia Williamson** has joined the Library as Collections and Access Management Librarian. Previously Cynthia was Technical Services Coordinator at Lincoln Public Library. Cynthia received her MLIS from the University of Western Ontario and her Honours, B.A. in History from McMaster University. She was also one of the OPLA Super Conference coordinators in 2004.

### Ryerson University

**Kelly Dermody** (B.A., M.A., M.I.St.) is working on an 8-month contract librarian position as the Coordinator of Library Services for Persons with Disabilities. She will be working primarily with Borrower Services Team to establish routines for the delivery of alternate format materials, and will also be writing a report on "best practices" in order to establish an appropriate level of staffing for this service on an on-going basis. She has over four years experience as a volunteer for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Her previous library experience includes working at the Caven Library at the University of Toronto, and for the Libraries Branch of the Ministry of Culture.

**Donna Kewley** has joined the Borrower Services Team on a one-year contract as a Library Technician. Donna will be working primarily in Interlibrary Loan, and will also participate in reference work and other Borrower Services activities. She is a recent graduate of the Library and Information Technician program at Seneca College. Prior to her studies at Seneca, Donna worked in the information management field, holding various positions with Micromedia.

Ryerson Library bid a fond farewell to long-time library technician **Susan Cochrane**, who has retired from the library after many years of service.

### University of Toronto

Two librarians have recently joined the staff of the library at the University of Toronto at Mississauga: **Rochelle Mazar**, a UWO graduate, has assumed the position of Instructional Technology Liaison Librarian and **Mindy Thuna**, a FIS graduate, is the new AstraZeneca Science Liaison Librarian.

### University of Western Ontario

**Joyce Garnett** has been reappointed to the position of University Librarian. At the time of the announcement, Western's President Paul Davenport commented on the excellent leadership that Joyce has provided to Western since joining the Libraries in 1998. Most recently Joyce Garnett has been elected by Senate as a representative on the University's new Strategic Planning Task Force to be chaired by President Davenport.

**John Enright** has been appointed as the new Head, Research and Instructional Services, The D.B. Weldon Library. John received his Honours Bachelor of Arts (History), followed by his MLIS, from Western. With a career start as Senior Librarian in the Mid-Manhattan Library (New York Public Library) in June 2000, John moved on to become a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Sarah Lawrence College in July 2002. Most recently he worked as Instructional Services Coordinator for a consortium of three university libraries at New School University in New York. John joined Western Libraries in April 2005.

**Deb Grey** was appointed as reference librarian at the John and Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library effective May 2005, following a two-year secondment to the reference position. Deb graduated with her Master of Library and Information Science degree in 2004.

**John Sadler**, Director of the John and Dotsa Bitove Family Law Library, has been elected president of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association canadienne des bibliothéque de droit (CALL). He began his two-year term in late May following the annual Law Library conference in St. John's, Newfoundland.

**Anne Deacon**, Head of Acquisitions (UWO), and **Scott Wicks** (Cornell University) co-presented a session entitled "Partnership Makes it Work" at the Charleston Conference on Issues in Book and Serial Acquisitions in late 2004. Anne's presentation focused on the dramatic changes that the use of technology made when Western Libraries successfully automated a repetitive process and freed staff to concentrate on the intellectually challenging part of their work. Along with Anne, **Ajdrejs Alferovs** (Vice-President, Sales, Coutts Library Services), presented an overview of how Coutts' "I Approve" database interfaces with Western Libraries' Innovative system. The collaborative effort was well attended (it had to be moved to a ballroom to accommodate attendees!) and Anne and Ajdrejs have received queries from librarians across North American who heard the presentation.

### Great Teachers at OCULA's Instruction Workshop

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licensing issues, get training accounts from vendors (but show students the "locked-out" message they are sure to get from the database sometimes). Ask different groups to search different databases (and/or the web) and compare results.

To overcome resistance to active learning, put a positive spin on learning from one another ("You know more than you think you know"), explain why they are working with one another, and state that it is more realistic: real library research does not involve listening to a lecture. Try to visit the class beforehand to observe the culture. Ask the professor to introduce you and stress the importance of participation in your class. If the professor does not use active learning, present the activity carefully when you give the class -- students may not be used to the method. In the class, refer specifically to the course assignment.

To help shy students, use the think/pair/share method so that each student is participating in a one-on-one situation. Trudi strongly advocated free writing, which benefits all students. Ask students to write down a question they would like answered in the class, then collect them and pick out a few to answer during the class. This method keeps students engaged because their questions are being answered, and it allows them to ask without being singled out. Each Q & A creates a little break between your other planned activities.

Stay tuned for details on OCULA's next workshop.



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**PEOPLE NEWS**

**University of Windsor**

**Christine Jain**, Cataloguing Librarian, will retire from the University of Windsor in August 2005. The Leddy Library has benefited from her excellent cataloguing skills, cataloguing training and first-rate knowledge of complex cataloguing rules for 37 years, and we wish her all the best in her retirement!

**York University**

**Stacy Allison-Cassin** has joined York in the continuing stream position of Bibliographic Services Librarian. Stacy holds an M.I.S. from the University of Toronto, a Master of Music Performance from Dusquesne University, and a B.A. in Music from Wilfrid Laurier. Prior to York, Stacy was the National Librarian at the Canadian Music Centre in Toronto. Stacy will be drawing on her considerable experience in music to provide music cataloguing for the York Libraries.

**Carolyn Casenas** has begun in the position of Adjunct Archivist for a 1-year contract in York's Archives and Special Collections. Carolyn holds a joint M.A.S./M.L.I.S. from the University of British Columbia, and a B.A. in Linguistics from Simon Fraser University. She has a wide range of experience in archives including most recently at the UBC Rare Books and Special Collections.

**Seth Lee** has begun at York as Digital Services Librarian. This is a three-year contractually limited appointment based in the Bibliographic Services Department. Seth graduated this spring with an M.L.I.S. from McGill University, and holds a Bachelor of Science from Hangvang University in Seoul, Korea. Prior to his library career, Seth was an IT Specialist at IBM Global Services Korea.

**Nathalie Zhou** has joined the Steacie Science & Engineering Library as Science Librarian for a

2-year contract. Nathalie holds a M.L.I.S. from UBC, and a B.Sc. in Information Science, from Wuhan University, P.R. China. Nathalie worked previously at the University of Arizona Library and in the Vancouver, Richmond, and Coquitlam Public Libraries.

**Tanis Fink**, Chief Librarian and Director of Seneca College Learning Commons, will be joining the York Univ. Libraries on September 15th for a six-month term as a "True Visitor" visiting scholar. True Visitors are faculty members or librarians employed at York University while on leave from other universities or educational institutions. She will be one of twelve such visiting scholars at York University.

All the best to **Merle Steeves**, who left York's Bibliographic Services Department on February 28, 2005 for a Library position as Bibliographic Services Librarian in Harriet Irving Library at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

**Ilo Maimets**, Science Librarian at the Steacie Science & Engineering Library received the OCUFA Academic Librarianship Award for 2004. The award especially highlighted Ilo's considerable work with York's School of Nursing to integrate information literacy into the curriculum. Congratulations Ilo!

Congratulations to **Mary Kandiuk**, Scott Reference, for being year's recipient of the CAUT Academic Librarians' Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes the significant contribution Mary has made over the years to the status of academic librarians and the advancement of working conditions of librarians at York University.

Congratulations also to **Maura Matesic**, **Mark Robertson** and **Jody Warner**, all of whom were promoted this spring to Associate Librarians with continuing appointment. **Maura**, **Mark**, **Leila Fernandez** and **Suzanne Dubeau** will all be on full year sabbatical leaves during the upcoming year.



**Around the Province**

**Confederation College  
Raising Readers: Family-Friendly Environments**

The staff of the Challis Resource Library at Confederation College was recently commended for the Family-Friendly Environment that they have created. It is a unique experience in academic libraries. Director, Laraine Tapak, says, "The space created in the Library is not only an area for children and families, but also a place where family literacy and numeracy skills are promoted."

The college Library has always maintained a collection of materials for the Early Childhood Education program. Laraine Tapak and her staff decided to pull these resources from the regular book collection to create a child and family-friendly space for the many staff and students who are parents. They bought furniture, painted the shelves in bright colours, and provided stuffed animals, wall hangings, bean bag chairs, cubes, etc. Communities Together for Children/Ontario Early Years Centre donated a literacy kit containing approximately 50 books for children and parents to enhance the library collection. The library promotes the area in several ways—inviting the Children and Family Centre to bring children from the daycare, advertising the corner to students and faculty in the student newspaper, putting up posters and providing special signage.

Parents supervise their own children while they are working or studying in the area.

**Mohawk College**

The Library @ Mohawk used the LibQUAL+™ survey instrument to administer a comprehensive survey of the college population during the winter semester of 2005. A total of 704 people completed the survey, yielding useful results that will inform the Library's strategic planning process. Developed by the Association of Research Libraries, LibQUAL+™ is a suite of services that libraries use to solicit, track, understand, and act upon users' opinions of service quality.

Also, during the winter 2005 semester, the Library @ Mohawk piloted the use of Instant Messaging (IM) as a means to provide information assistance to students. Staffed from 8:30am - 9pm Monday - Friday and 8:30am - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday, the service provides help using the popular IM software Yahoo, MSN and ICQ. The service was so successful that it has been incorporated as a mainline service.

In June 2005, the Library was pleased and honoured to win the 2005 CTCL (Community and Technical College Libraries) Innovation Achievement Award for its BRAIN\_blog. The BRAIN\_blog features library news and online searching tips and tutorials and has been active since September 2003. In addition, the Library wrapped up Phase III of its web site usability study in June of 2005. The study took one year to complete and comprised three phases,

*Continued on page 9*

# Around the Province

which took place in June 2004, December 2004 and May 2005. The usability study involved observing students while they used the Library's web site TheBRAIN. Comprehensive data was collected in order to make the web site as easy to use as possible.

## Ryerson University

Ryerson University Library hosted librarians from the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain on June 10, 2005. Librarians from both universities presented on various services and projects ongoing in their respective libraries. Ryerson also hosted a 2-day RACER workshop on June 21-22, involving about seventy-five Interlibrary Loan or Resource-Sharing managers and their staff from several Ontario universities.

Ryerson has recently acquired significant Image Arts collections. Kodak Canada has donated its entire historic company archives to Ryerson University. The Kodak Archives, which begin in 1909, contain historic photos, files, trade circulars, Kodak magazines, price lists, daily record books, cameras, equipment and other ephemera. The print and photograph collection is currently being processed in the Library with assistance from graduate students in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management.

The Library has also acquired an extensive collection of materials on the history of photography from the private collection of Nicholas M. and Marilyn A. Graver of Rochester, New York. The Graver collection, built up over many years, consists of over 1,000 books, periodicals, catalogues, and other similar material related to the history of photography.

## York University

York University Archives was renamed in honour of Dr. Clara Thomas, Professor Emirata of English at York University from 1961 to 1984. The archives, now known as the Clara Thomas Archives at York University, has been a beneficiary of Dr. Thomas' extensive literary connections, moral and financial support, and good will for many years.

The Clara Thomas Archives continues to attract the papers of individuals and organizations of note including those of journalist Steve Paikin, lawyer and human rights activists Diane Martin and producer and director Norman Campbell. Recent donations have been made to the existing fonds d'archives of Linda McQuaig, James Laxer, Harry Boyle, Robert Christie and Jack Granatstein, among others.

The Scott Library is converting a 100-seat study room to a dedicated Graduate Student Reading Room. This decision was made after consultations with graduate students who expressed a need for space exclusively for use by graduate students. The room will include workstations, laptop connections and a variety of soft seating and study tables.

During several weeks of June and July, York Libraries updated its software to a new version of SIRSI. The upgrade will improve acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation functions.

## University of Western Ontario

In spring 2005, Western Libraries participated in the final phase of the three-phase Project SAILS, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills research project headed by librarians at Kent State University. The project goal is the creation of a reliable and standardized tool to measure the information access, management and application skills of undergraduates. This was Western's second year of involvement. Tom Adam, Western Libraries Information Literacy Coordinator, led the Information Literacy Committee that oversaw Western's participation in the project. The survey was made available electronically via the Libraries' Web site. 172 participants responded to survey. Responses were rather evenly distributed between first to fourth year students.



## 2005 OCULA Council

### PRESIDENT

*Sharon Munro*  
Ledy Library  
University of Windsor  
(519) 253-3000 Ext. 3850  
FAX: (519) 971-3668  
<smunro@uwindsor.ca>

### VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

*Cynthia McKeich*  
King Campus Learning Commons  
Seneca College  
(416)491-5050 Ext. 5194  
FAX: (905)833-1106  
<cynthia.mckeich@senecac.on.ca>

### PAST PRESIDENT

*Delia Antonacci*  
King Campus Learning Commons  
Seneca College  
(416)491-5050 Ext. 5105  
FAX: (905)833-1106  
<delia.antonacci@senecac.on.ca>

### TREASURER

*Martha Joyce*  
Fanshawe College  
(519) 452-4240 Ext. 45569  
FAX: (519) 452-4473  
<mjoyce@fanshawec.ca>

### COUNCILLOR

*Gohar Ashoughian*  
University of Guelph  
@Guelph: (519) 824-4120 x 53607  
@ Humber: (416) 675-6622 x6080  
CELL: (519) 835-9928  
<gashough@uoguelph.ca>

### COUNCILLOR

*Sophie Bury*  
York University  
(416) 736-2100 Ext. 66951  
FAX: (416) 736-5687  
<sbury@yorku.ca>

### COUNCILLOR

*Martie Grof-Iannelli*  
Fanshawe College Library  
(519) 452-4430 Ext. 4351  
FAX: (519)452-4473  
<mgrof-iannelli@fanshawec.on.ca>

### COUNCILLOR

*Daniel Phelan*  
Ryerson University Library  
(416) 979-5146  
FAX: (416)979-5215  
<dphelan@ryerson.ca>

## InsideOCULA

### ONTARIO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

100 Lombard St., Suite 303,  
Toronto M5C 1M3  
(416) 363-3388 / 1-866-873-9867  
FAX: (416) 941-9581 / 1-800-387-1181  
<info@accessola.com>

InsideOCULA describes the decisions and activities of OCULA leadership, explains OCULA programs and provides news of Ontario's college and university library systems.

Editor: Gohar Ashoughian  
Managing Editor: Trevor Balla  
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