

Nexus

A RYERSON UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE LIBRARY



Brian Cameron, Digital Initiatives Librarian, discusses open access during the launch of Digital Commons @ Ryerson.

Digital Commons @ Ryerson

The Ryerson University Library and Archives (RULA) recently launched *Digital Commons @ Ryerson*, an institutional repository solution hosted by Berkeley Electronic Press. This initiative brings Ryerson into the open access movement and satisfies one of the Library's key strategic goals. The institutional repository will allow us to load data sets, objects, images, theses, articles and multimedia files. As technology advances, we will investigate streaming solutions for video and sound content. Digital Commons is run on a professional publishing platform, allowing us to publish journals and other series, and has the potential for use as a thesis submission platform. In addition, it offers scholar profile galleries, where an online profile can be created for a researcher, with online links to their content.

The open access movement dates back a few decades, but recent technological advances and a growing awareness of the problems associated with for-profit publisher monopolies has contributed to the growth of open access publishing and self-archiving solutions, where authors upload pre- or post-prints to personal web pages or institutional repositories.

Several national funding agencies have implemented mandates requiring authors to deposit articles funded by them to open access repositories. Examples are the National Research Council and the Canadian Institute of Health Research, with the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) currently developing a mandate to do the same.

Researchers should be aware that by depositing an article in an open access repository their research impact will increase because more people will read it and cite it. Digital Commons provides download statistics via e-mail, allowing the researcher to receive feedback on the dissemination of their research.

It is also important for researchers to be aware of copyright transfer agreements that may prohibit their article from being placed in an open access repository. Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Canada has created an author addendum to help researchers retain author rights. But, even without a copyright transfer agreement, the overwhelming majority of publishers permit some form of self-archiving in an institutional repository.

Brian Cameron, Digital Initiatives Librarian, recently launched *Digital Commons @ Ryerson* on October 22 as part of Open Access Week, offering a brief demonstration of the product and an opportunity for faculty to discuss the open access movement at large. Brian was joined by Professor Jason Nolan from the School of Early Childhood Education, who discussed his experiences with open access. Please contact Brian at bcameron@ryerson.ca to arrange for a visit to your departmental meeting in the near future to discuss open access and its impact on your faculty.



From The Chief Librarian MADELEINE LEFEBVRE

Building on Success: An Update on RULA's Strategic Plan

With the academic term well underway, a fall issue of *NEXUS* is an excellent opportunity to provide an update on what's new and to chart our progress with meeting the five over-arching goals of the Library's Strategic Plan: building our space; collections; technology; teaching, learning and SRC support; and reputation. *NEXUS* is typically produced once a year in the spring, but given all of the exciting initiatives underway, we wanted to connect with our users earlier in the year by producing an additional issue. For this issue, we have also decided to go 'green' and produce an online version only. This allows us to produce the newsletter quickly, eliminates the time and cost required to print and distribute the newsletter and will save a few more trees. It also allows us to embed links to additional content, creating a more dynamic experience. I hope you will still enjoy reading *NEXUS* in this fashion.

Building Our Space

We completed a Functional Program for the Student Learning Centre over the summer and soon we shall be choosing a team to oversee the design and completion of the new building; a new landmark for Yonge Street and a welcoming and multi-faceted destination for our students.

We have also been steadily improving our current space. Last year, we left access to the Graduate Reading Room on the fourth floor unrestricted, so that any student requiring a quiet study space could use it. After feedback from both graduate and undergraduate students, and meetings with the RSU, access to this space was recently limited to graduate students only.

Building Our Collections

Our Special Collections and Archives areas continue to expand. After recently receiving the image archive from *Canadian Architect* magazine, we are currently working on cataloguing it for valuation purposes. New software will soon enable the Ryerson community to discover the institutional memory held within the Archives.

In the past several years at Ryerson, we enjoyed substantial increases as a result of the ambitious expansion of our programs, and the enhanced purchasing power of a strong Canadian dollar. Despite fluctuations in the exchange rate, we continue to expand our program offerings and must still meet our current obligations and contracts, which include inflationary costs. More than one third of our overall budget goes to

acquiring resources and making them available either in hard copy or electronically. This budget is under constant pressure. Some additional funds were targeted to support new graduate programs, but with the economic downturn, we were unable to add a general increase to match inflationary costs.

We continue to purchase e-resources through library consortia wherever we can, to maximize our buying power. However, we have had to develop spending priorities for database renewals in order to ensure we maintain the greatest capacity from the collections budget. Liaison librarians were asked to rank e-resources in their subject area, considering which they felt were critical to their program areas, and which they felt were not as essential. Further analysis was done to determine where there may be duplication of content in more than one e-resource, which e-resources are integral parts of consortial agreements, as well as looking at usage data where available.

In the event that a product relevant to your subject area will not be renewed, you will be notified by your liaison librarian in advance. We will also work to ensure that alternative resources are identified to help meet your needs. We appreciate your patience and co-operation. Please do not hesitate to contact your liaison librarian with any concerns.

Building Our Support of Teaching, Learning and SRC

The role of librarians is changing in large university libraries. Librarians are becoming active participants in course development and sometimes delivery, working closely with teaching faculty. We are keen to expand this role and encourage you to talk to your liaison librarians. A subcommittee of the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee on Information Literacy has recently been struck to examine and collect best practices currently taking place in our classrooms. Membership includes librarians, faculty and representatives from the Digital Media Projects Office, the Academic Integrity Office, and the Learning and Teaching Office. The activities of this subcommittee will help encourage the inclusion of information literacy more widely in the curriculum at Ryerson.

The librarian role as knowledge manager is increasing as we add a focus on access to data and unpublished material. In addition to the recent launch of our institutional repository, our librarians are also working hard through the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) to develop an Ontario-wide geospatial and health data portal, supported by a grant from Ontario Buys.

Building Our Technology Infrastructure

RULA played a key leadership role in the recent *R Mobile* initiative to expand mobile services at Ryerson, adding to the University's growing reputation for technological innovation. We continue to seek new ways to use technology to enhance our services and access, and are currently working on an initiative to embed program-specific library information and assistance within Blackboard.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!





Building Our Reputation

The Library recently hosted the first campus-wide Ryerson University Book Fair on November 12, with more than 80 submissions of books, edited books, chapters and dedicated journal issues published by Ryerson faculty in 2008/09. Events such as these provide opportunities to celebrate the University's record of publication and showcase the Library's capacity to serve as a venue for these celebrations.

We are undertaking a variety of initiatives to evaluate our collections and services in our goal of continuous improvement. A Student Advisory Committee (RULA-SAC) was recently formed to facilitate direct communication between the Library and the students we serve. Students were invited to submit an application to join RULA-SAC and attend regular meetings throughout the academic year to provide thoughtful ideas on library resources and services.

Also, some of you may have noticed that we are now calling ourselves Ryerson University Library and Archives (RULA), and have a new logo reflecting this change. This modification to our name fully reflects the important role both the Library and the Archives play at the university, and provides an opportunity for us to carve out a new identity as we move ahead with our strategic plan.

We continue to seek and develop collaborations across campus, and value your feedback. Please feel free to contact your [liaison librarian](#) or send us your [comments and suggestions](#).

Madeleine Lefebvre, Chief Librarian



AskON

Chat with us on [AskON](#)! This collaborative virtual reference service is continuing to expand throughout the province, with new partners coming online. AskON is a real-time chat reference service provided to Ontario university students by university libraries and librarians. With access to digital resources from off-campus and online learning, many of our patrons need research help when they are not physically in the Library. Current university library partners include Lakehead University, University of Guelph, University of Guelph-Humber, University of Windsor, University of Toronto, York University and Ryerson University. Due to the collaborative nature of the service, librarians from any of these institutions can provide assistance to users from any institution. This has required additional

training to ensure that librarians have familiarity with libraries and library resources from across the province.

This service continues to rise in popularity, as evidenced by our latest statistics. In September 2009, the university queue received 1272 questions, a 29% increase from last year's September numbers. 333 of these questions were from Ryerson patrons, making us one of the biggest users of this service. If you need help from the Library, either while in your office or when off-campus, consider chatting with us at AskON.

The Fall hours for AskON are:

Mon. to Thu. 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Fri., Sat., and Sun. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Learning Success at RULA

Building partnerships with other units on campus that share our vision of student success is an important strategic priority for RULA. Our recent partnership with the Learning Success Centre is an example of this philosophy in action. The Learning Success Centre now occupies space on the main floor of the Library, at the north end, and provides generalized learning support, as well as tutoring for students in science and engineering. The [schedules](#) for all three services are available on the Library website, so please encourage your students to drop by next time they are in the Library.

Some of the generalized learning support services include:

- time management
- group work
- test preparation
- improving mental focus
- effective presentation
- learning styles
- tackling a writing project

Business Liaison Office Hours

The Library has a Research Advisory Office in the Ted Rogers School of Management on the eighth floor, TRS 2-168. It is staffed from Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. This office provides expert research assistance in all business areas taught at the Ted Rogers School of Management, as well as general reference support for all disciplines of study and is available to both students and faculty.

Goodbye CISTI Source...Hello Discover!

With CISTI Source no longer available, [Discover](#) is a new service for finding articles from the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI). *Discover* puts millions of peer-reviewed scientific, technical, medical and some business journal articles at your fingertips and also offers clients the ability to create alerts. Searching *Discover* is free but you will incur credit card charges if you order items directly from *Discover*. To avoid these credit card charges, search for free on *Discover* and then, from your search results, request items Ryerson does not own by using [RACER](#), our interlibrary loan service. RACER is available to Ryerson students, faculty and staff with a valid Library account.

Apple Hours

Are you a Mac user? Come ask the Apple Campus Rep about anything Mac!

Visit the Library fourth floor every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and talk to Patrick, the Apple campus representative. He can help with any questions you may have, from apps to hardware.





Library Stars



Student Employee of the Year Award 2008/2009

In 2009, Chief Librarian Madeleine Lefebvre (right) and Ursula Trescases, Co-ordinator of Part-time Staff (left) presented the Student Employee of the Year Award 2008/2009 to **Dheeraj Vipparthy**. Dheeraj, who has worked at the Library as a Night Time Student Assistant since fall 2007, is the third recipient of this annual award. The winner receives an award certificate and a prize in the form of a \$100 gift certificate. Congratulations, Dheeraj!

Publications and Presentations

Librarians **Jane Schmidt** and **Trina Grover** co-ordinated a pre-conference session, "From Rules to Entities: Cataloguing with RDA," at the Canadian Library Association (CLA) Conference in May 2009.

A number of librarians presented at the 2009 Ryerson Faculty Conference. **Dana Thomas**, **Weina Wang** and **Jay Wolofsky** co-presented on "Advanced Research Methods." **Lei Jin** presented on "Adapting to the Climate Change—New Online Library Resources 2009." **Diane Granfield** co-presented with a faculty member and student from the School of Social Work on "Working with Wikipedia: A Faculty/Librarian Partnership."

Weina Wang also co-presented "Limitless Opportunities: Collaboration and Customization with Internal and External Partners" at the Canadian Health Libraries Association (CHLA) Conference in 2009.

Chief Librarian **Madeleine Lefebvre** presented "Building Community and Collaboration: Social Computing Tools for Learning and Knowledge Sharing" at the World Library and Information Congress in August 2009.



Want to keep up to date on what new books in your subject area have recently arrived in the Library? Check out the [NEW TO THE COLLECTION](#) application on the Library website!

www.library.ryerson.ca

Staff Notes

The Library bid a fond farewell to Librarian **Joan Parsons**, who retired in August 2009.

Liz Bishop was appointed to the position of Associate Chief Librarian in August 2009. Liz had been the Acting Associate Chief Librarian prior to her appointment. Among her responsibilities as Associate Chief Librarian, Liz will monitor the Library's progress through measurable outcomes in achieving our strategic objectives and develop a Library-wide staff training and development program.

Graham McCarthy, formerly the Library Systems Analyst, is our new Innovative Technologies Librarian. Graham will be responsible for providing leadership in designing, developing and incorporating emerging technologies to create web-based library services, systems and tools that engage Library users and staff in new and innovative ways.

Librarians **Jay Wolofsky** and **Ursula Trescases** have recently been converted to RFA status.

Librarian **Trina Grover** will be taking a year-long sabbatical to plan for the implementation of the new cataloguing standard RDA (Resource Description and Access) in Canadian libraries.

In Borrower Services, **Mandissa Arlain** has taken the position of Circulation Supervisor. Lead Hand **Jeanine Orleans** is on maternity leave, and in her absence, **Maria Lupoi** will be assuming her position. **Nani Reddy** will be assuming a Lead Hand position. **Kevin Tan** will be filling Maria's vacancy in Audio-Visual/InterLibrary Loans.

Flora Hon is the new E-Reserves/Copyright Technician.

Jessie Farewell has joined the Reference team as a University of Western Ontario (UWO) Faculty of Information and Media Studies Co-op student.



Library Hours

Monday to Friday – 8 a.m. to midnight
Saturday and Sunday – 10 a.m. to midnight

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