Library wins CLA Award for Innovative Technology

The Canadian Library Association (CLA) has awarded Ryerson Library the 2013 CLA/OCLC Award for Innovation Technology for the RULA BookFinder application. The award is given in recognition of the groundbreaking and innovative use of technology to provide exceptional library service to members of the community. The BookFinder application helps Ryerson students, faculty and staff more easily find library materials in the stacks while searching the Library catalogue. More information about BookFinder is available on the Library website.

For more information on the CLA/OCLC Award for Innovation Technology, please view the press release.

Members of the Library Information Technology Services Team show the new BookFinder app at the Learning Commons Open House. From left to right: Cynthia Ng, Stephen Marsden, David Quast, Fangmin Wang.

Library Welcomes Joe MacInnis, Distinguished Visiting Professor

Joe MacInnis, physician-scientist, author, and deep-sea explorer whose expeditions to the Titanic wreck helped inspire James Cameron’s Academy Award-winning film, has been appointed the first distinguished visiting professor at the Ryerson University Library and Archives. His appointment, effective to the end of December 2013, is co-sponsored by the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, and the Faculty of Science.

For the past 10 years, Dr. MacInnis has been studying leadership in dangerous environments. He has collaborated with astronauts who built the International Space Station; has spent time in Afghanistan with Canadian Forces fighting the Taliban; and is currently working on a leadership project with Canada’s Special Forces.

In his role as distinguished visiting professor, Dr. MacInnis delivered a public lecture on April 3 on Deep Leadership: James Cameron’s seven-mile dive into the Mariana Trench. More information is available on the university website.

Dr. MacInnis has an ongoing connection to the Library through the MacInnis Audio Visual Collection, donated to the Library’s Special Collections. This collection consists of audio, video and film recordings made by Dr. MacInnis and his team during his dives to shipwrecks such as the Titanic, the Breadalbane, and the Edmund Fitzgerald from the 1970s to 2004.
This is awards season at the university, and it has me thinking about recognition and its many forms. The People First initiative, spearheaded by our VP Finance and Administration, Julia Hanigsberg, has identified recognition as a key element for Ryerson staff. On May 28, two long-time library staff were inducted into the 25 Year Club. Joseph Boissonneau has worked with us in Circulation all that time, a calmly efficient, friendly face at the Circulation Desk who must have helped thousands of students and faculty over the years. Meanwhile, Anna Tassone has been a constant and reliable force as the Chief Librarian’s Administrative Assistant. The 25 Year Club is one of the highlights of Ryerson’s year, where inductees contribute memorabilia and commentary about their Ryerson experience. It’s a wonderful celebration of Ryerson’s growth and community spirit, and teaches those of us who haven’t been here that long a lot about Ryerson rites of passage.

Don Kinder, Coordinator of Reference and Instruction and Library Faculty Teaching Chair, also received special recognition this year, when he won the OCUFA Award for Academic Librarianship. We recently celebrated with Don in the Alumni Lounge at the Mattamy Athletic Centre, where it remains a thrill to attend a reception overlooking a hockey practice down on the ice – a never tiresome reminder of the achievement of revitalizing the former Maple Leaf Gardens into a vibrant facility for the community to enjoy.

Later this year, we shall be recognizing the many contributions of two long-time librarians, Liz Bishop and Susan Patrick, who will be retiring. Liz has now passed the 35 year mark in service to the Library and Ryerson. Her latest role as Associate Chief Librarian has been fundamental to the success of the Library. Susy has been responsible for Audio Visual services in the past, and more recently Special Collections and Archives. She is widely known to faculty and students as a liaison librarian in such areas as Theatre and Image Arts, and she recently coauthored a very successful book.

Two library technicians who have contributed a great deal to the Library’s effectiveness, Carol Tyson and Alan Miller, are retiring this year, and we shall celebrate with them to honour their many contributions.

Another cause for celebration came along when the Library Information Technology Services team, under the leadership of Fangmin Wang, won the Canadian Library Association’s Innovative Technology Award for their BookFinder application. Accepting the award at the CLA national conference in Winnipeg, Fangmin said that he didn’t see his BookFinder project staff (Steven Marsden, Cynthia Ng and David Quast) as techies or geeks; he had told them they were artists whose paintbrush was their keyboard, their screen their canvas, and their projects their artwork. Creativity abounds in the Library!

A few years ago, we began a student Library Assistant recognition program, and each year, it gets better and better. Experiential learning is a core value at Ryerson, and one we promote in the Library. The award ceremony is a highlight in my year, as we give certificates of thanks to each of our student assistants, and also select one as Student Assistant of the Year. A group photograph is displayed in the Library, as well as a book or media item of their choice which is purchased in the student’s name. This year we added another element: Wendy Newman, Senior Fellow from the University of Toronto’s iSchool talked to the students about what led her to follow a library career (she had been a shelve herself) and shared information with them about the Master’s Program in
Information.

Shortly after the event, we were very touched to receive an email from one of our assistants – too shy to allow me to use his name here – which included the following:

*My experience of working with the Ryerson University Library & Archives is one such vital opportunity that allowed me the opportunity to come out of my comfort zone to become a more mature and confident individual. After joining the Ryerson Library team as a student night assistant in September 2011, I came across many important life experiences which provided me with valuable skills and knowledge towards my future path. From these experiences, the three important skills that I developed were paying attention to details, a sense of responsibility and a positive attitude. I believe these skills are important in any aspect of the life that a person is involved in whether it is professional or personal because they provide the guidance principle to be focused and stay committed to the task that the person may get involved in. As a night assistant who is responsible for serving the needs of the patrons at the circulation desk as well as ensuring all the library materials are organized in the right manner, it is my responsibility to be mindful of the details of the tasks that I am involved in. This adds further strength to the importance of the sense of responsibility involved in my duties as a night assistant. Through continuous support from my supervisors and colleagues by having a positive attitude, even amid the most difficult situations, I was able to remain calm and focus on the good in every situation. Also from these experiences, I started to develop passion for research and policy development. These skills has aided me in preparing for the major research essays and assignments in many of the courses as well the job related tasks that I have participated up to date.

This student began his message by saying that he, along with family and friends, were playing on the beach on December 26, 2004 when the devastating tsunami struck. The fact that they survived and their subsequent move to Canada has caused him to consider that he was reborn on that day. To receive such a message from him was a golden moment and one I shared with President Levy and Provost Lachemi, who were just as moved as I was. What better recognition could the Ryerson Library have received than to be told that we had helped to grow a student’s future?

**Jack Layton Book Club**

During the month of March, the Jack Layton Chair, in partnership with the Ryerson Library and Archives, have been hosting presentations of the Jack Layton Book Club – interesting and interactive discussions of books that mattered to Jack, and the ideas Jack championed throughout his remarkable career.

Jack Layton’s personal book collection has been donated to Ryerson, where he was a professor of Politics during the 1970s and 80s. At each meeting of the Jack Layton Book Club, an expert speaker introduced us to a book Jack read, treasured and was inspired by.

Terry Grier, Ryerson President Emeritus, spoke at the first meeting on “Jack Layton’s Political Journey: From the Classroom to National Icon”, discussing Jack as student, teacher and political leader. On March 28, Dr. Alex Wellington, from the department of Philosophy, presented “Jack Layton’s Environmental Vision: Green Economy and Climate Justice” – looking at two books that reflect Jack’s contributions to environmental activism and climate justice: Guy Dauncy’s *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change* and Tim Flannery’s *Now or Never*. The final meeting of the Book Club for the academic year on April 10 looked at the influence of Elizabethan tragedy on Jack, with Dr. Jason Boyd from the English department presenting “Jack Layton and the Lessons of Christopher Marlowe’s Edward II”.

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*Image of students at the library*
New Statistics and Data Webpages

New and improved! The Library website has new webpages for Statistics and Data that include information about key resources for research, data consultations, archiving research data, workshops and much, much more!

Summer Renovations for the Student Learning Centre

The Library is excited to be expanding with the building of the new Student Learning Centre, currently under construction at Yonge and Gould streets. This dynamic facility will greatly expand study space for students, house key academic support services and provide a vibrant learning environment for the Ryerson community.

Although the bulk of the renovation will be taking place outside of the Library, or in areas restricted to staff, from June to August 2013, there will be some minor renovations to the Library’s 2nd and 3rd floors that may impact on use of the space. The Library will remain open during the Spring and Summer terms, and the bulk of the demolition and construction should take place during off-peak hours to minimize disruption to patrons. Free ear plugs are available at the Research Help Desk if noise becomes an issue for our users. To keep up to date with renovations, please visit the Library website, or follow us on Twitter or Facebook for regular updates. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Liz Bishop, Associate Chief Librarian, announces retirement

After 35 years of service to the Library, and to Ryerson, Liz Bishop, Associate Chief Librarian, will retire as of September 30.

Liz started working at the Library in 1978, and has witnessed many changes in the delivery of library services, and the growth of Ryerson as an institution. In addition to being a long-time manager in Borrower Services, Liz took the role of Acting Chief Librarian from 2006-2007, and provided much-needed leadership in the Library until a new Chief Librarian was named.

Liz was appointed to the position of Associate Chief Librarian, and in that role, she has taken over strategic planning processes, evaluation and assessment, staff training and development, and the chairing of the Library Appointments and Promotions Committees.

Over the years, Liz has offered advice and mentored many librarians, as well as providing incredible guidance and support to Library staff. Her open door policy and positive attitude have left an indelible mark on the Library, and has helped foster an atmosphere of collegiality and respect.

Liz will be greatly missed not only in the Library, but throughout the university. A celebration of Liz’s contributions will be scheduled and announced in the near future.

Changes to Copyright

Many sections of Bill C-11 (The Copyright Modernization Act), including fair dealing exceptions for education and other educational and library specific provisions, have been in force as of Nov. 7, 2012. For more information, please visit the Copyright section of the Library website, or contact Ann Ludbrook, Copyright Coordinator/Librarian at aludbrook@ryerson.ca or 416-979-5000, ext. 6910.

Highlights:

• Fair dealing for the purpose of education, and parody and satire, are now exceptions
• Public performance rights are no longer needed to show a movie or video in a classroom setting
• Material from the Internet that does not have clearly posted warnings against reuse can be reused in course materials

Librarians who participated in BUS100 get together to celebrate at the RU Dining Room.

Left to right: Librarians Ann Ludbrook, Lucina Fraser, Dan Jakubek, Diane Michaud, Jane Schmidt, Anahit Dervishyan; Hospitality and Tourism Management student; Brian Heasman, Professor in the Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; librarians Brian Cameron, Ursula Trescases and Trina Grover.
OCR It! Help Creating Accessible Documents

The Library now offers access to an online OCR (Optical Character Recognition) tool, which can convert “non-selectable” text files into machine-readable or recognized text, making a document readable by adaptive software such as text-to-speech applications. This tool is funded by the Library, and is offered as part of a pilot project to ensure that submissions to Digital Commons, Ryerson’s institutional repository, conform to basic accessibility for all readers, including those using adaptive technology. Ryerson faculty and staff can also use these services in their own work to facilitate the creation of accessible documentation across campus. For more information on these tools, or to receive help, please contact Diane Michaud, Accessibility Services Librarian at dmicha@ryerson.ca, or ext. 4120.

Additional information and resources on creating accessible documents is available in the tools section of the Accessibility website.

New to the Collection

SAGE Research Methods: an online tool created to help researchers, faculty and students with their research projects. This resource links over 100,000 pages of SAGE’s renowned book, journal and reference content with advanced search and discovery tools. Researchers can explore methods concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify a new method, conduct their research, and write up their findings.

Electronic Delivery of InterLibrary Loan Articles

What could be more convenient? As of May 13, 2013, you will no longer have to come to the Library to pick up most of the articles you requested through RACER, the InterLibrary Loan system.

When your article is ready, you will receive an email from racer@ryerson.ca. The subject line will read: Ryerson University – E-doc delivery.

The email will contain a link to your article, and instructions concerning copyright restrictions. This new service is being run as a pilot, which we hope will become permanent. More information is available on the Library website.

You Asked… We Listened!

In our last LibQUAL+ survey, you asked for an easier interface to search and access Library resources. In 2011, we implemented Search Everything, a tool that allows you to access the majority of the Library’s resources (online and print) with a single search. Feedback from users who have tried Search Everything has been very positive, and we’ll continue to look at future improvements and enhancements to Search Everything, based on your comments.

Library Stars

Congratulations to Mubarak Mohamed and Brittany Ryan, the 2012 and 2013 Student Employees of the Year. This award distinguishes student employees who have excelled and made a positive impact during their employment at the Ryerson University Library & Archives.

Cataloguing Librarian Marina Morgan has won a scholarship to attend a course offered by the California Rare Book School in Born Digital/Digital Collections. This course takes a holistic approach to digital content, technologies, standards and policies in special collections, with particular emphasis on born-digital materials and digital preservation. This course content is highly relevant to Marina’s current involvement in digital humanities projects on campus, and the digitization and preservation of RULA’s Special Collections and Archives.

Students Giving Back

The Library has introduced a new program to recognize the contributions of graduating student library assistants. All student assistants from the classes of 2012 and 2013 were invited to recommend one media item for the Library collection. The items selected by the students this year have been added to the collection with a mention of the contributors in the catalogue, as well as in each of the chosen items themselves. The new additions to the collection chosen by student library assistants for 2012 and 2013 are viewable in the Library catalogue. Thank you to our students for their wonderful contributions – and all the best in the future!
Presentations
Ontario Library Association (OLA) Superconference 2013

Lei Jin, electronic resources librarian, May Yan, electronic resources librarian and Jane Schmidt, head of collection services, presented “A Changing Landscape in Collection Development”.

Brian Cameron, digital initiatives librarian, presented “The Cost of Knowledge”.

Ann Ludbrook, copyright coordinator/librarian and Diane Michaud, accessibility services librarian, co-presented “Open Access/ibility”.

Kevin Manuel, data librarian and May Yan co-presented “Evaluation of Discovery Layer Satisfaction at Ryerson”.

Marina Morgan, catalogue librarian, co-presented “DDC23 in the 21st Century”.

Ophelia Cheung, audio-visual and reserve services librarian, Ann Ludbrook, and Fangmin Wang, head of library information and technology services, co-presented “One-Stop Course Readings: a breakthrough in campus collaboration”.

Fangmin Wang also co-presented “Mobile Device Loans at the Library”.


Cynthia Ng, acting web services librarian, presented “Making the Website More Accessible” at the Amigos Library Services HTML5 and CSS3: Ready for Prime Time? Online Conference.

Dana Thomas, assessment and evaluation librarian and Lei Jin co-presented “Putting Discovery Under the Microscope” at the Innovative User Group Conference in San Francisco.

Staff News

Librarian Susy Patrick, a long standing and valued member of the Library, will be retiring at the end of August. Susy has been a subject librarian in many areas, including Image Arts, Theatre and Fashion. In 2006, she was appointed Special Collections Librarian, and this area has continued to grow under her leadership, bringing unique collections to the Ryerson community while providing valuable experiential learning opportunities for students.

Innovative services librarian Graham McCarthy has had his leave extended for another year, and is being replaced by MJ Suhones. MJ recently worked with the Toronto Public Library in the area of digital preservation, and has an engineering degree from Queen’s, an MIS from U of T, as well as post-degree technology qualifications.

David Quast has been appointed to the position of junior systems programmer. David is a graduate of University of Toronto with a BSc in Computer Science. Prior to joining RULA, David has worked for the University of Toronto’s Utilities Central Control and Monitoring System as an application developer.

After many years of service, the Library also bid a fond farewell to Jim McKelvey, lead hand in Borrowing and Lending Services, Carol Tyson, interlibrary loan technician and Alan Miller, library technician in Learning Services. Thank you, and we wish you all the best!

May Yan has been appointed to the position of e-resources access and discovery librarian. May has been working at the Library for over a year, providing support in electronic resource management. Previously, May worked in User Support and Instruction at Scholars Portal, and at the Engineering and Computer Science Library at the University of Toronto. Prior to becoming a librarian, May worked extensively in database architecture, programming and web design both as in independent contractor and at Goldman Sachs in New York.

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