

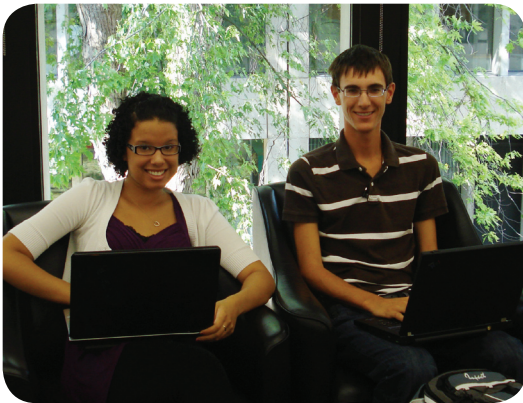
Library News

news from the James A. Gibson Library

Fall 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN The Matheson Learning Commons and More



What a difference a year makes! In last fall's newsletter, I was writing about demolition, construction and confusion. That is all behind us now. On October 26, the Brock community marked the official opening of the Matheson Learning Commons with a celebratory event to acknowledge the contributions of donors and provide special recognition of William H. Matheson, Professor Emeritus of Political Science. An impressive new tribute wall was unveiled in honour of Professor Matheson, the Brock University Students' Union, and Dr. James A. Gibson, Brock's Founding President.

It was wonderful to observe the initial reactions of students when we first opened the doors to the Learning Commons on September 3. Returning students were amazed by the transformation, and many new students expressed spontaneous delight and immediately embraced the space as their own.

Based on occupancy alone, the Learning Commons is a great success. It is always full and humming with activity, particularly at the south end where study booths and tables encourage collaborative activity. Students gravitate to the Learning Commons to take advantage of the technology, the group study rooms, the varied seating options, and

the extensive academic support services. They are using the space exactly as we hoped they would.

Now that the construction project is complete, our attention has shifted to the development of collaborative programming initiatives, particularly those that engage faculty in the Learning Commons. Over the next few months, this will be a particular focus of the Learning Commons Programming Committee, a group which includes Professors John McNamara and Barry Joe as faculty representatives.

While the Learning Commons has consumed much of our attention recently, it has not been our only focus. Our new liaison program, which is intended to strengthen support to faculty research and graduate programs through increased outreach by librarians, is progressing well. We continue to work with colleagues at other Ontario institutions to expand the scope of Scholars Portal services. Through our membership in the Canadian Knowledge Research Network (CRKN), we have added a number of exciting new databases in the Humanities and Social Sciences. For details on the CRKN Digital Content Expansion Initiative, please read on.

Margaret Grove



Mark Your Calendars!

The Library will be offering a faculty information session on the Centre for Research Libraries (CRL) – Learn more about collections in your research areas and how to order materials.

Date: Wednesday, December 3

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Matheson Learning Commons, Classroom B

To register, please contact Laurie Morrison (lmorrison@brocku.ca) or Justine Cotton (justine.cotton@brocku.ca)

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

AT BROCK

Karen Bordonaro

Instruction Coordinator

Library instruction at the James A. Gibson Library encompasses a wide range of activities. This past fall saw many different forms of library instruction initiated, tested and delivered. Smart Start Library orientation sessions designed to welcome new students and introduce them to general resources and services were offered both in-person and online through the introduction of new library tutorials. The InfoSkills Certificate series of workshops designed to teach students advanced searching skills were also offered both in-person and online. Specialized instruction in highly specific subject areas such as business, education, and science was offered through guest lectures by liaison librarians, through open clinics, and through hands-on seminar instruction. In addition, the use of Moodle as an interactive online teaching tool was explored by liaison librarians in visual arts, biology, and dramatic arts, among others. Liaison librarians have also participated in the production of short videos to reach distance learners and in the use of instant chat to establish real time connections with students.

In addition to reaching students in their classes, in our instructional spaces in the Library, and online, new library ventures have also included the delivery of workshops in different locations such as Niagara College, home of the Brock Partners program, and at Concordia Seminary in an effort to reach students in all programs affiliated with and supported by Brock University.

In all of these ventures, our goals are to connect with students, to teach them how to effectively and efficiently search for information, to introduce them to available resources, and to let them know that we are here to help them. If you would like to discuss or arrange library instruction for your students, please contact your liaison librarian.

MAP LIBRARY REJUVENATED!

Colleen Beard, Map Librarian

The Map Library underwent renovations this past summer and users are enjoying the new space. The layout features increased work space and workstations, new furniture, and fresh furnishings. The number of public workstations has increased from two to six, and each is enhanced with GIS software.

A large LCD screen is mounted in our newly created "teaching and instruction" area that is used for demonstrations/seminars and hands-on instruction. When not in use for instruction, it displays library content and scrolling news items. To make space for the renovations, the Map Library collection was considerably downsized; this resulted in a very successful map sale early in the term.

In an effort to maximize the new teaching area, mini hands-on workshops will be offered during the fall and winter terms. The workshops will include:

- An introduction to GIS
- Mapping with Google Earth
- Tour of online map resources

Please let us know if you would like to be added to our notification list for dates and times.

Contact Map Library staff at ext. 5890, email maplib@brocku.ca, or drop by for a look.



View of the East Wing



View of the West Wing



For business librarian Linda Lowry, newspaper articles describing the dire financial problems across the world capture our attention but do not explain the full story. While the public is captivated by stories about the excesses of CEOs and the dramatic collapse of Lehman Brothers, grasping the cause and effect of market fluctuations can be more difficult. Understanding how the economy operates is important, even for those who may shy away from business discussions. Everyone, from school children to senior citizens, should strive to become financially literate in order to better

UNDERSTANDING THE ECONOMY: Financial Research with the Brock Library

manage their money and make well-informed decisions about their own personal finances.

Economic and financial research need not be complicated and, to help new researchers, Linda has compiled resources on the Library's "Research a topic in...Economics" and "Research a Topic in...Finance" webpages. Whether you want to find information on a company, interest rates, mutual fund performance or exchange rates, there are a number of sources that will guide you to a better understanding of the economy and how it works.

Some of Linda's favorite sites for keeping up to date are: **CBC News Money** (<http://www.cbc.ca/money/>), **Canadian Economy Online** (<http://www.canadianeconomy.gc.ca/>), and **TMXMoney** (<http://www.tmxmoney.com/>).

Timely titles in the Library's collection include: **Surviving large losses : financial crises, the middle class, and the development of capital markets** / Philip T. Hoffman, Gilles Postel-Vinay, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal.

Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard

University Press, 2007. Call No: HB 3722 H644 2007.

Empire of debt : the rise of an epic financial crisis / William Bonner and Addison Wiggin. Hoboken, N.J. : Wiley, c2006. Call No: HB 3722 B658 2006.

LIBRARIAN SET TO BEGIN RESEARCH ON BROCK'S LEARNING COMMONS

In November, one of Brock's liaison librarians will begin research for a project that will investigate the potential learning outcomes of the Learning Commons at Brock. Kevin Manuel received the Canadian Library Association's Research and Development Award, a \$1000 grant in support of the research project.

EXTENSIVE NEW COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LIBRARY



Researchers at Brock have access to a wealth of new resources thanks to the Library's membership in the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) and the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) in Chicago, IL. These new collections include thousands of electronic journals, e-books, primary source collections, and multimedia resources that will enhance research at Brock.

CRKN Purchases

CRKN is a partnership of Canadian universities, dedicated to expanding digital content for academic researchers. The Library's CRKN purchases in 2008 include a diverse range of materials, from thousands of university press e-books to digitized children's adventure stories from the height of the British Empire.

What does this mean for researchers? These new resources have immense benefits. First, materials once available only through visits to the British Library, for example, may be accessed from your computer or in your classroom. In addition, digital primary sources offer new and exciting ways to engage students with course material.

Highlights of the CRKN Resources include:

- A 17th-century book of midwifery (published in London, 1671) in *Defining Gender*, an Adam Matthew database
- Firsthand accounts of the Blitz, during WWII, in *Mass Observation Online*, an Adam Matthew database
- Sir Laurence Olivier performing in the 1948 production of *Hamlet*, streaming online through *Theatre in Video*
- Comprehensive new French-language materials: journals, ebooks, theses, and proceedings (*CAIRN & Érudit*)

Find out more about CRKN and the latest library databases at:

<http://www.library.brocku.ca/dbinfo/crkn.php>

Center for Research Libraries

Brock's membership in CRL offers great benefits to researchers here on campus. CRL provides access to over 5 million unique and unusual materials from across the globe. Here at Brock, faculty, students, and staff can request CRL materials through RACER Interlibrary Loan and, increasingly, online. Whether you are seeking an obscure women's

periodical from the Great Depression or a playbill from a 19th century London performance, searching the CRL collections will offer some unique options for research. Explore the CRL collections at:

<http://www.library.brocku.ca/dbinfo/crl.php>

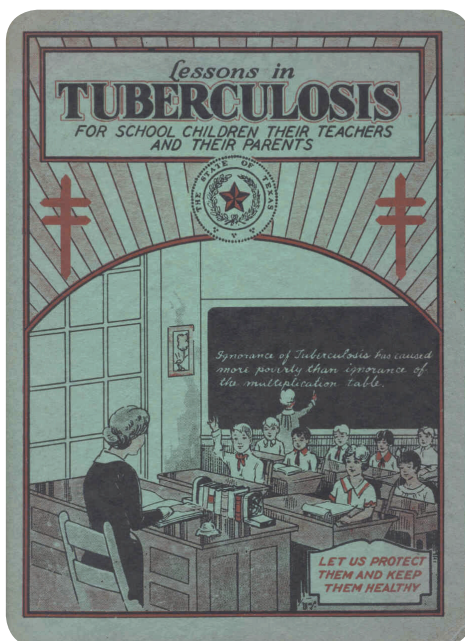
For more information about any of the Library's new resources, please contact your liaison librarian.



Visit Archives and Special Collections, on the 11th Floor of the Library to see the exhibit

"Isaac is Everywhere."

This exhibit features some unique items from the Brockiana Collection and showcases the various incarnations of Sir Isaac Brock's image through the years.



Library News is published by:
The James A. Gibson Library
Brock University

Editor: Justine Cotton
justine.cotton@brocku.ca
(905) 688-5550 x3234