

# Library News

news from the James A. Gibson Library

Spring 2009 Volume 3, Issue 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



The 2008/09 academic year stands out in the recent history of the James A. Gibson Library. The opening of the Matheson Learning Commons last September was without question the

high point, marking the culmination of extensive planning followed by a full year of construction. After seven months in operation, I am delighted to say that the Learning Commons has exceeded our expectations in every respect, and is an outstanding success by any measure. The Learning Commons also provides the university community with a convenient east-west indoor shortcut. Gate counts at the new south entrance on a typical busy day are in excess of 20,000, evidence that the new traffic corridor is well used. At this rate, the carpet may need to be replaced sooner than anticipated!

While the completion of the Learning Commons is the most obvious milestone of the past year, there are a number of other important highlights:

### *Building for the Future*

- The successful Map Library renovation project has created a welcoming and functional space for students, faculty and staff.
- Laurie Morrison was appointed to the position of Head, Liaison Services to provide leadership to the Library's new liaison program.

### *Digitization Projects*

- The Library is contributing unique pre-1923 materials from Special Collections & Archives to the Internet Archive project for digitization. See Brock's growing collection and explore the wealth of this non-profit "Internet library" of historical and cultural scholarly resources at: <http://www.archive.org/details/BrockUniversity>

- The Map Library has digitized over 1000 air photos of Niagara, taken in 1934. View the photos at <http://www.brocku.ca/maplibrary/airphoto/1934/home.html>

### *Access to New Resources*

- The Library's membership in the Center for Research Libraries provides Brock researchers with access to a collection of over 5 million newspapers, journals, documents, archives and other resources. The Center's mission is to support advanced research and teaching in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences by ensuring the survival and availability of the knowledge resources vital to these disciplines. Explore the collections at: <http://www.library.brocku.ca/dbinfo/crl.php>
- The Library provided the Brock community with extensive new collections of e-journals, primary source collections, e-books and multimedia resources in the humanities and social sciences through its membership in the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN). Access these resources at: <http://www.library.brocku.ca/dbinfo/crkn.php>

I encourage you to peruse this latest edition of *Library News*, explore the links it contains, and contact us with comments, suggestions and questions.

*Margaret*



Alice Prochaska, Yale's University Librarian, with Margaret Grove

Alice Prochaska visited the Brock Library on March 12 to deliver the lecture: "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: the Impact of Digitization on Research."

## DISCOVERING IMPERIAL RUSSIA: PRIMARY SOURCES IN THE CLASSROOM



Jonathan Seiling's enthusiasm for research is contagious. "What I enjoy most," notes Seiling, "is the process of discovery and the surprises that are often hidden, overlooked, undervalued, or forgotten... it is exciting for me to dig and find something that provides a new angle or insight on an idea, person, event, or issue." During

the 2009 winter term, students in Seiling's 3rd year history course were able to share his passion for research through an innovative assignment using materials from the Centre for Research Libraries (CRL), which Brock joined in 2008.

CRL, located in Chicago, offers member libraries access to a collection of over 5 million unique resources. These resources are sent through Interlibrary Loan with an extended loan period, providing a wonderful opportunity for in-depth research and analysis. For students in "The Rise and Fall of the Russian Empire," Seiling created an assignment that developed the students' research skills and also connected them with primary documents.

Through a search in the CRL catalogue, Seiling identified a collection of Imperial Russia documents on microfiche. The collection was sent to Brock and placed on Course Reserve in the Library. Students used the Library's microfiche readers (located on the 5th floor) and explored the historical documents for topics and themes that were of interest to them.

**"They were proud of what they had discovered."**

*Jonathan Seiling*

"I wanted them to explore and gain the excitement of finding something they wouldn't find in most libraries," Seiling explains, "and the feedback I received from the students was overwhelmingly positive. They were proud of what they had discovered." Students felt the materials were "really cool" and that the process had demystified microfiche and given them the opportunity to feel connected with the time and place they were studying.

Are you interested in pursuing a similar project with your students? Contact your liaison librarian for more information! Explore the Centre for Research Libraries at <http://www.crl.edu> and attend our CRL workshop on April 22 at 10:55 in the Matheson Learning Commons (see page 4 for more details).

## Helping Students Succeed...

Did you know?

- Librarians at Brock presented over **250 instruction sessions** in 2007/2008
- Over **25,000 questions** were answered at the Library Help Desk between September 2008 - March 2009



# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES: INITIATIVES AND ACQUISITIONS

David Sharron, University Archivist



The James A. Gibson Library has recently sent approximately 300 items from Special Collections

to the Internet Archive digitization facility at the University of Toronto. The books reflect two of our collection strengths – early travel and tourism to Niagara Falls and the War of 1812. These materials are now digitized, full text searchable and online. Visit the collection at: <http://www.archive.org/details/BrockUniversity>.

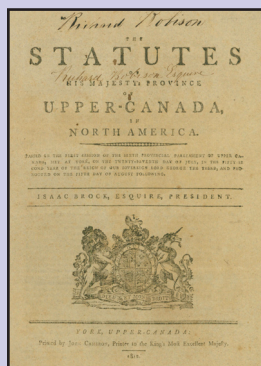
## Recent acquisitions:



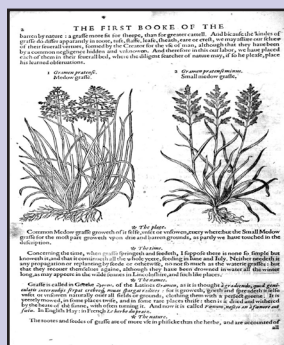
**Ethelwyn Wetherald archives:** Letters, photographs, rough notes, scrapbooks and more from poetess and women's issues journalist /

editor Ethelwyn Wetherald (1857-1940). Correspondents include contemporaries Duncan Campbell Scott, Bliss Carman, Louis Blake Duff, Earl Grey – Governor General of Canada, Wilfred Campbell and Wilson MacDonald who noted in 1939, “Canada, to my mind, has had only four women poets – Ethelwyn Wetherald, Isabella Crawford, Marjorie Pickthall and Pauline Johnson.”

**New Militia Act for the War of 1812:** Original copy of the Upper Canada Statute for raising and training the militia of U.C. at the outset of the war against the United States. The Act was passed in July 1812 under the leadership of our own Isaac Brock – then President of Upper Canada.



**The Herbal, or, General Historie of Plantes** by John Gerarde (1597): this is the first edition written by Gerarde; coincidentally Special Collections also has the second edition from 1633. These are the works from which all modern English herbals are derived. The 1597 edition is now the oldest printed book in our collection.



For more information, please contact [dsharron@brocku.ca](mailto:dsharron@brocku.ca)

## E-Books Take Off!

Oprah Winfrey has called the Kindle her “favourite new gadget” joining other high profile advocates including Martha Stewart, Toni Morrison, and Neil Gaiman. Amazon’s wireless reading device, first launched in 2007, has raised the profile of e-books. The latest version – Kindle 2 – offers users the ability to download up to 1500 books, magazines, newspapers, and more to a lightweight, handheld device.

The Kindle is not yet available in Canada but you can still take advantage of e-books! Through the Brock Library website, you can access over 400,000 e-books. In February alone, we added more than 8,000 scholarly titles including collections from Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, and Taylor & Francis. These prestigious collections are available through Brock’s membership in the Centre for Research and Knowledge Network (CRKN).

## Why use e-books?

- E-Books put research at your fingertips, any time of day or night
- Links to individual e-book titles can be added to WebCT/Sakai, making it easy for students to access scholarly books
- Full-text searching makes it easy to locate keywords and topics within the text

Explore the Library’s e-book collections by visiting <http://catalogue.library.brocku.ca/screens/Ebook.html>

Please contact your liaison librarian for more information about e-books for research and teaching.



## Your Research, Our Resources Library Workshops for Faculty and Graduate Students

On **Wednesday, April 22, 2009**, the Brock Librarians invite you to spend the morning exploring the latest resources at the Brock Library. Sessions will be held from 9-12, in the Matheson Learning Commons. The Library will also be hosting a 25 minute coffee break following the second session.

To register, please visit: [http://www.library.brocku.ca/faculty\\_workshops/](http://www.library.brocku.ca/faculty_workshops/)

Sessions include:

- **Exploring Google's Digital Library** (30 minutes)  
*Participate in a hands-on workshop to learn how to find the perfect Google book for your purposes and discover new ones that interest you.*
- **The Truth about Impact Factors!** (30 minutes)  
*Learn how impact factors influence the way published research is perceived and evaluated.*
- **Discover the Center for Research Libraries** (30 minutes)  
*Be informed of the wealth of digital and primary sources available from the Center for Research Libraries.*
- **RefWorks in a Nutshell** (30 minutes)  
*A short workshop highlighting why RefWorks is an essential resource for all faculty and graduate students.*
- **Brock University on iTunes U** (30 minutes)  
*Learn how Brock is using iTunes U to feature course resources and learning materials.*
- **Archives: Going Right to the Source** (30 minutes)  
*Discover research treasures and be introduced to the archival records held at Brock University.*
- **Making RefWorks Work for You!** (50 minutes)  
*Participate in a hands-on workshop to explore how the bibliographic citation management software RefWorks can assist your scholarship and research.*
- **My Google Map!** (50 minutes)  
*A fun and useful session on using Google mapping tools to plot data, including photos, images, audio, routes, and data samples.*



### The Library is going green!

Our newsletter is now published  
**online** 3x a year. Visit: [http://  
www.library.brocku.ca/library/news/  
newsletter.htm](http://www.library.brocku.ca/library/news/newsletter.htm) to read past issues.



### LAURIE MORRISON HEAD, LIAISON SERVICES

The Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Laurie Morrison to the position of Head, Liaison Services. Laurie joined the James A. Gibson Library in 2006, serving as the liaison librarian for Modern Languages, Visual Arts, Dramatic Arts, and Studies in Arts and Culture. Since her arrival at Brock, Laurie has made significant contributions to the Library including the launch of the virtual 'chat' reference service and the development of innovative research sessions for students in Visual Arts.

Laurie will provide leadership to the Library's new Liaison Program, which is designed to foster strong connections between academic departments and the Library. "The nature of our work as librarians has changed over the past few decades," notes Laurie, "and today we are more actively engaged in the teaching and research mission of our institutions. Liaison will take us beyond the walls of the Library and into collaborative partnerships with faculty."

Contact Laurie at (905) 688-5550 x5281 or at [lmorrison@brocku.ca](mailto:lmorrison@brocku.ca)

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