

Library News

a newsletter from the JAMES A. GIBSON LIBRARY

A Message from the University Librarian



These are fascinating times for academic libraries. There are many uncertainties and challenges, to be sure, but never have the opportunities for productive change been so plentiful or exciting. Fuelled by the potential of technology and a deeper understanding of their roles in teaching, learning and research, libraries are more

thoroughly integrated and engaged in the academic lives of their institutions than ever before. There is no question that libraries play a major role in the democratization of knowledge, a phenomenon unleashed by the Internet. In the last five years alone, there has been an exponential increase in the amount of scholarly digital information provided by libraries to their user communities. Such information, initially confined to text, has expanded recently to include multimedia resources featuring images and sound. New collaborative purchasing models developed for the digital environment have reduced the huge disparities between large and small libraries. Mass digitization projects have begun to unlock the treasures of historical primary texts and local archival collections, making them available for the first time to the world at large.

Other major themes also dominate the current discourse in the academic library community. The development of a smart, virtual space that simplifies the information discovery process; the changing arena of scholarly communication; the importance of the library as place in a predominantly digital information environment; the creation of services that have a measurable impact on learning outcomes; the radical transformation of the online catalogue – these are just a few of the challenging and provocative issues that occupy our attention as we plan for the future of the Library at Brock. Look for discussions of some of these themes in future issues of this publication.

Thanks to an editorial committee consisting of Justine Alsop, Karen Bordonaro, Marcie Jacklin, Pam Jacobs, Laurie Morrison and Jennifer Thiessen, the library newsletter has a fresh look, a new title and an expanded format. I hope that you will find the information it contains to be relevant, interesting and engaging. Please do not hesitate to contact Justine Alsop, editor, at jalsop@brocku.ca or myself at mgrove@brocku.ca with comments, questions or suggestions for future issues.

Margaret Grove
University Librarian

New Head of Special Collections and Archives

Brock University Library is pleased to welcome David Sharron as the new Head of Special Collections and Archives. David comes to us from the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre where he was the Bruce County Archivist. A member of the Academy of Certified Archivists since 2002, David has worked on a variety of projects from cataloguing and preserving mission photographs at NASA to creation of the digital exhibit, Bruce County's Military History Online. David has a BA in History and Classical Studies from the University of Waterloo, as well as a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Arts (in History with an Archival Specialization) both from the University of Windsor.



NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES SPAN CENTURIES AND DISCIPLINES

In the past year, the Library has acquired access to many new digital resources, which not only cover a range of subject disciplines but also a range of eras, from the earliest entry dated 1473 in *Early English Books Online* to the latest issue of the journal *Nature*. The availability of this critical mass of content via the Internet allows researchers to access these unique resources at any hour from virtually any location. Advances in technology have also meant that in addition to text files, scholars will have timely access to high quality images, sound files, and data.

Electronic Books, Primary Texts, Plays and Film Scripts

New databases include *Early English Books Online*, *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*, *Literature Online (LION)*, Alexander Street Press Collections such as *American Film Scripts Online*, *Early Encounters in North America* and *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries*.

Digital Images and Recordings

ARTstor provides access to over 400,000 digital images. Tens of thousands of music recordings are available on streaming audio from the *Classical Music Library* and *Naxos Music Library*. *Literature Online* includes over 800 video clips of poets reading their own or other poets' work.

Online Journals and Journal Archives

Two highly respected journals are now available online: *Nature* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. These are available from the current issue back to 1997 and 1998 respectively.

Canada's Heritage from 1844 is the digital archive of the *Globe and Mail*, a rich historical resource that includes every news story, photograph, advertisement, and classified ad published by the newspaper since its inception in 1844.

New collections from JSTOR (a not-for-profit

organization whose mission is to create and maintain a trusted archive of important scholarly journals) include the Health & General Sciences collection which provides archival coverage from volume one to 2002 of such prestigious journals as *Science*, *PNAS* and the *Transactions and Proceedings* journals from the Royal Society of London. New journal archives include 62 titles in mathematics from Elsevier and nearly 100 Academic Press journals in a variety of disciplines. *Literature Online* includes 192 full text journals and offers access to the *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL)*.

Online Reference Sources

New titles include the *Oxford Digital Reference* library, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*, the academic edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* and a number of encyclopedias and directories via the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* and *NetLibrary*. The online index *Bibliography of Native North Americans* is also available.

Data

Access to the online version of Journal Citation Reports (JCR) will be available starting December 1, 2006. JCR is funded jointly by the Library and the Office of Research Services. An upgraded version of *Compustat* has been acquired in order to support access via *Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS)*, an Internet-based business research data service, which is funded by the Faculty of Business.

Most of these resources have been acquired through the Library's participation in provincial and national library consortia: OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries) and CRKN (Canadian Research Knowledge Network).

For more information on any of these resources, please consult the Library's web site at www.brocku.ca/library or contact Pamela Jacobs at pamela.jacobs@brocku.ca or by telephone at ext. 3961.

LIBRARY RECEIVES \$10,000 ENDOWMENT TO SUPPORT MASONIC COLLECTION

The Library has received a \$10,000 endowment from the Masonic Grand Lodge of Ontario and the Heritage Lodge No. 730. The investment income earned from the endowment will be used to promote and support the Library's Masonic Collection. The James A. Gibson Library at Brock is home to one of the largest collections of Masonic monographs in any Canadian university library. Thanks to the efforts of former Chancellor, Dr. Charles A. Sankey, through his personal donations, and through donations arranged by him, a major collection of more than 1,000 volumes has been assembled.



Residing in the Library's climate-controlled Special Collections area, the Masonic Collection contains a number of early standard encyclopedias and

histories of the fraternity, accounts of its tradition and ritual, modern studies of Freemasonry, annual proceedings of several major Masonic jurisdictions including the Grand Lodge, Royal Arch Masons and the Scottish Rite in Ontario, or in Canada from the 1850s. A set of the *Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of London England*, near-complete, has been acquired, as has that of the *Heritage Lodge of Canada*, founded in 1977.

The history of Freemasonry is interwoven with the social and political history of Upper Canada. This fine collection offers researchers and readers an opportunity to explore that relationship, discover obscure facts, and bring to light new information about the organization.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH: Norse Manx Kings Make an Appearance in Online Texts

By Dr. Andrew McDonald, Department of History



My current research deals with the Isle of Man in the late Norse period or the 'second Viking Age,' between the late eleventh and the mid thirteenth centuries, when the island was ruled by

a vigorous dynasty of sea-kings. Documentation is often sketchy at best - there survives an important chronicle known as the 'Chronicle of the Kings of Man and the Isles' but relatively little else. The kings themselves have left a total of about 20 royal charters across 150 years, though there are a considerable number of references in English, Scottish, Norwegian and even papal sources. It is thus important to track down every piece of evidence, however seemingly trivial it may be.

Sometimes the search for these late Norse Manx kings can lead to unexpected and indeed unusual places. Sixteenth-, seventeenth-, and eighteenth-century antiquarians sometimes dedicated considerable space to them. In the eighteenth century, when the 'grand tour' became something of a fad among the well-to-do, who often published accounts of their travels, the Isle of Man was a fairly popular destination, and some of these works include valuable antiquarian information. My quest for the Manx sea kings has thus taken some unexpected turns.

Not all of these sixteenth- to eighteenth-century works are easily accessible in Canadian libraries, however. The Library's recent

acquisition of the Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Eighteenth Century Collection Online (ECCO) databases has enabled me to utilize several of these works easily and conveniently, including John Selden's Titles of Honour 1631 ed. (EEBO), John Feltham's Tour Through the Isle of Mann in 1797 and 1798 (ECCO) and F.G. Waldron's History and Description of the Isle of Man (1742) (ECCO). Selden in particular devoted considerable attention to the titles utilized by the Manx kings, something that modern historians have glossed over without paying it much attention. Easy access to these works through the electronic databases has certainly saved me considerable time, effort and expense as I have not had to travel to Toronto or further afield to access these works.

My manuscript on 'Ragnvald Godredsson, King of Man and the Isles 1187-1229' is being evaluated by Four Courts Press in Dublin. Another manuscript, a general history of the Manx sea kings, is in preparation.

Dr. Andrew McDonald holds a Chancellor's Chair for Research Excellence.

'Spotlight on Research' highlights the use of library resources by Brock researchers. If you would like to be featured in this column, please contact Pam Jacobs at ext. 3961 or pjacobs@brocku.ca.

Early English Books Online (EEBO) contains digital facsimile page images of virtually every work printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America and works in English printed elsewhere from 1473-1700.

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) makes available more than 155,000 volumes and over 30 million pages of historical works - every accessible English-language and foreign-language title published in the United Kingdom between 1701 and 1800, along with thousands of important works from the Americas.

Library Renovations Update

By Deb Kalvee, Associate University Librarian, Services

Compact shelving on floor 7 increases storage capacity

Like many areas of the University, the Library is extremely short of space, a fact which makes the effective management of its existing space absolutely critical. In an effort to provide additional storage capacity for library collections, and increase study space for students, the Library embarked on an extensive renovation to the 7th floor this past spring and summer.

After consulting with a Toronto-based structural engineering firm, the south side of floor 7 was reinforced to accommodate high density, compact shelving. New, more energy-efficient lights and ceiling tiles were also installed on the south sides of floors 6 and 7.

Then, to make room for the first phase of the learning commons on the main floor, the government documents collection was moved to floor 7, where it is housed in compact shelving. Additional compact shelving was installed to double our storage capacity on the south side of the floor. This form of shelving is widely used by a variety of museums, art galleries and libraries as a means of maximizing space and mitigating the need for off-site storage. For example, at McMaster University's Mills Library, some of the book collection and most of their government documents are in compact shelving. In the new Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre of the University of Toronto Mississauga that just opened, the entire library collection will be housed on compact shelving.

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Renovations update cont'd...

Current periodical reading area on floor 7

Now that a portion of our print journal collection is stored in compact shelving, a small area has been cleared on the east end of floor 7. This has provided us with an opportunity to create a periodical reading area where we can display the most recent issues of humanities and social science journals that are still received in paper (currently about 710 titles). Feedback from faculty suggests that it will be appreciated, and it also allows us to increase our casual seating capacity. The area will be zoned as Quiet study space and should be ready by mid-November.

New group study area on floor 6

The removal of the little-used closed carrels at the east end of floor 6 will allow us to add about 4 or 5 study tables for desperately needed group work. This area will be set up very shortly.

For more information on library renovations, see the Library's website.

Do you have comments or suggestions? Is there something you would like to see in this newsletter? Please contact:

Justine Alsop: jalsop@brocku.ca or ext. 3234

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Undergraduate Research Award

For the first time, the James A. Gibson Library has established an Undergraduate Research Award to recognize and celebrate academic information literacy achievement of Brock students. The award will be based on a paper or project completed by a student in fulfillment of a course requirement. The award is designed to identify students who can clearly articulate what library resources and services they used, how they used them, why they used them, and what they learned from using them.

Entries will be accepted from October 1, 2006 until March 31, 2007. Submissions should include a copy of the paper, a completed application form signed both by the student and the professor for whom the paper was completed, and a 500-750 word essay by the student that describes the use of sources, research strategies, and what the student learned during this process.

A prize of \$500 will be awarded to one undergraduate student. For more information, please visit the following link <http://www.brocku.ca/library/researchaward.htm> or contact Karen Bordonaro, Information Literacy Services/Instruction Coordinator at x4423 or by email kbordona@brocku.ca.



Changes to Login Procedures

This September saw a number of technological changes in the Brock Library, including a requirement that all of our users log-in in order to use the Library's computers. This was not a decision that was taken lightly. In the past, we had offered open access to the Internet, but unfortunately there had been incidents when our computers had been used for malicious attacks. In order to eliminate the possibility of this happening again, we have adopted the same security model used in computer labs across campus.

To use the Library's computers, students use their computer account—the same username/password that grants them access to their WebCT, the computer lab PCs, and their Brock email—while existing faculty must specifically request their computer account be activated by ITS.

If you are an existing faculty member and your computer account is not yet activated, please follow these steps:

1. Send an email from your Brock mail account to desmond@brocku.ca requesting a Campus Active Directory account.
2. ITS will set up a Campus Active Directory account and notify you via your Brock email to pick up the default password from User Services.

Please contact Jonathan Younker, Head, Library Systems and Technologies, at ext. 4899 or jyounker@brocku.ca if you have any questions.