



# McMaster LIBRARY NEWS

library.mcmaster.ca



Spring 2008

New Series, 17 no.1



## McMaster Libraries named 'Best of the Best'

Earlier this year, McMaster University Libraries became the first Canadian institution to win the prestigious Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, granted yearly by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

The award recognizes our achievements and successful transformations of library spaces, resources, services, and staff.

An award ceremony, which drew over 100 guests, was held in the McMaster University Student Centre on February 25th, 2008. Many thanks to all of our supporters.

Previous winners of the award include Georgia Tech University and Cornell University.



This award recognizes the significant changes that have occurred within McMaster's libraries that have transformed them into active incubators of ideas and enthusiasm through innovative services and the use of technology. Being the first Canadian university to receive this award is truly outstanding.



Peter George, *President & Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University*

## Message from the University Librarian

As one of the world's leading post-secondary institutions, McMaster University has achieved a distinctive reputation for innovation and excellence in teaching, learning and research. It is our goal within the libraries to deliver the resources, services and facilities our users need in a manner that is consistent with the University's reputation for excellence and innovation. An excellent and innovative university deserves an excellent and innovative university library!

While we are still early in our process of "transformation" there is every indication that we are achieving our goals. This year the Libraries are the recipient of the 2008 Association of College and Research Libraries' Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. As the first Canadian institution to receive this prestigious North American award, McMaster was recognized as a library that exemplified a "successful transformation from a traditional research library to an innovative, user-centred library using technological advances to accomplish its goals".

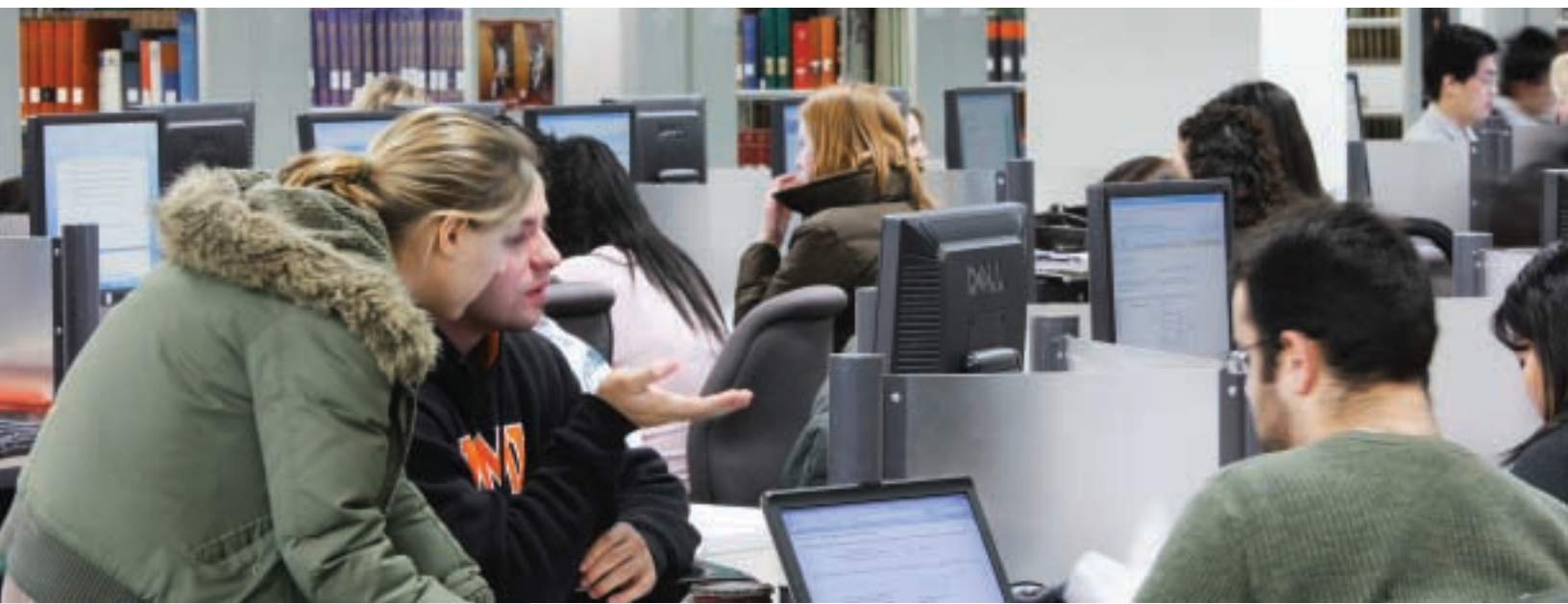
As I type this I am sitting in a hotel room overlooking the city of Kuala Lumpur where I've been invited to present to a group of Malaysian librarians who are interested in learning from our libraries' experience in

integrating emerging technologies – everything from our support for blogs and wikis to our work in games and Second Life. My presentation ends a two-week tour of Asia where technologies are advancing at a remarkable pace.

As you will see in this edition of our newsletter, our hard working and talented staff have been extremely busy developing and delivering exciting new resources, services and facilities that our users need to be successful in their academic endeavors. Emphasizing partnerships that promote innovation in teaching and learning; the development of new learning spaces; and support for the discovery of new knowledge, the libraries are establishing ourselves as the center for teaching, learning and research at McMaster University.

We know there are areas where we can improve and other areas not yet explored. I promise you we will not slow down. We will continue to build on these successes in order to become the library you both want and need.





## New spaces and services to make busy lives easier

- an additional silent study area was created in Mills Library
- email notices now inform users about holds, recalls and long overdue items
- old exam collection is now digitized
- fees for interlibrary loans and alumni cards have been eliminated
- eight new group study rooms were built and an online booking system introduced
- late-night hours until 2 a.m. now offered in a section of the Mills Learning Commons
- vending machine full of office supplies available at Mills Library
- laptop friendly study area with space for 50 users and loads of electrical outlets
- 150 books purchased for a popular reading collection
- library catalogue was overhauled, making it easier to use; also added RSS feeds, book cover art, book reviews and direct links to Amazon for easy purchasing
- new self check-out machine eases lineups at Mills Library

## Enhancing traditional and digital collections

### Center for Research Libraries

We are now a member of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), providing access for current McMaster faculty, students and staff to over four million newspapers, journals, dissertations, archives, government publications and other traditional and digital resources rarely held by individual North American libraries.

Sample holdings include over 800,000 doctoral dissertations from outside North America (including those of Albert Einstein, Dag Hammarskjold and other Nobel laureates), some of the earliest African-American newspapers and the 100,000+ page archive of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge security force. Recent CRL acquisitions now available for use include:

- American Religion Collection Series 1: Nontraditional American Religions: Western Esotericism from Witchcraft to the New Age
- Spanish Historical Writings about the New World 1493-1700
- Records of the American Committee on Africa
- British Intelligence and policy on Persia (Iran) 1900-1949

For more information, please visit

[library.mcmaster.ca/cat-coll/coll/crl.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/cat-coll/coll/crl.htm)

### Peace and War in the Twentieth Century

The Division of Archives and Research Collections received a grant from the Canadian Memory Fund to develop a state-of-the-art website on Peace and War in the Twentieth Century. Unique collections from partner institutions (Hamilton Public Library and the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum) augment McMaster's special collections and, when digitized, will provide users with online access to a rich collection of materials.

So far over 1500 images have been scanned, 100 objects photographed, 26 case studies completed and numerous audio files are in the development stages. Treasures of the digital collection will include:

- a series of World War I and World War II posters
- the collection of Alex Aronson, an aid worker killed by Saddam Hussein in 1975
- Vera Brittain's diary account of the declaration of the First World War
- the lifelong efforts of peace activist and 1933 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Sir Norman Angell



MILLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
 INNIS LIBRARY (BUSINESS)  
 H.G. THODE LIBRARY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



## Classroom Audio-Visual Services joins Mac Libraries

Shortly after the March 2008 announcement that Classroom Audio-Visual Services (CAVS) and the University Library had merged, an exciting million dollar classroom renewal project was announced.

Provost Ilene Busch-Vishniac and VP Administration Karen Belaire have identified \$1 million to go towards upgrading and enhancing classroom technologies in approximately 50 classrooms on campus.

Some examples of potential improvements include technologies such as:

- interactive whiteboards
- touch screens
- in class computers
- access to web-based technologies
- streaming audio and video
- document cameras
- DVD, VCR, CD, MP3 players

## We're unleashing thousands of rare books on the world

Thanks to a unique partnership between McMaster University Library and U.S.-based companies Kirtas Technologies, Inc. and Lulu.com, the Library will be embarking on mass digitization and publishing projects involving our rarest collections. We will be using the high-tech, automated APT BookScan 2400RA to digitize up to 1,000 out-of-print books a month.

Once the books are digitized and processed, McMaster faculty, students and staff will have free access to digital copies of the entire collection of scanned materials. The world will be able to access McMaster's unique collections online, and even purchase print-on-demand books from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com).

# INSPIRING INNOVATION

## The Campaign for McMaster University

### Learning Commons @ Thode

Walk into the Mills Learning Commons at any time and you will see students engaged in active learning individually and in groups. This popular learning space, recently transformed from a dreary reading room reminiscent of the 1950s, is the model for a similar facility to be constructed on the first floor of the H.G. Thode Library of Science and Engineering.

The **Learning Commons @ Thode** is part of *The Campaign for McMaster University* with a \$4 million fundraising goal. Features of this new space for students will include:

- powered tables and wireless access for laptops
- electronic classrooms with laptops, movable seating, video conferencing and streaming, and other advanced learning technologies
- small group study spaces featuring interactive whiteboards and plasma displays
- expert help (research help, IT help, writing workshops, academic counselling)
- services for students with disabilities; adaptive software and equipment
- a café to encourage social interaction

Thanks to a generous bequest from the Estates of Alice Mary Young and James Mason Young, construction of the first phase of the project will begin this spring, with subsequent phases to be constructed as funding is available. The **Learning Commons @ Thode** will enhance the learning experience of all McMaster students, particularly those in science and engineering, and will make a significant contribution to their academic success at McMaster and beyond.

### Innovative Learning

The Innovative Learning initiative combines both space and programming, creating a one-stop shop to foster teaching excellence and innovation in support of student learning. With a fundraising goal of \$6 million, the Innovative Learning initiative is also part of *The Campaign for McMaster University*.

The physical space that will be home base for the programming will be called the **McMaster Collaboratory**, and will include high-end computers for multimedia development and a classroom with break-out rooms and technology for video conferencing, streaming, media development and satellite capabilities. Program offerings will include:

- the 'digital sandbox' (tools and technical support to explore innovative educational applications)
- The Global Image and Gaming Space (space, resources and support for students and faculty to take advantage of gaming and visual mass media for instruction and research purposes)
- student research & publication awards, faculty-in-residence programs, symposia and competitions to encourage collaboration and innovation in teaching and learning.

Through these initiatives, McMaster faculty and graduate students will get the support they need to effectively engage 21st century learners in the classroom and elsewhere.

**We invite you to participate in the transformation of teaching and learning at McMaster by making a gift to support one of these Library initiatives. For more information on these or other giving opportunities, please contact Anne Plessl, Library Development Officer (by phone at 905.525.9140, ext. 24865 or by email at [plessla@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plessla@mcmaster.ca))**



## Quick facts and figures

**5,105**

Average daily visitors to Mills Library  
in the 2007/2008 academic year

**35,243**

Daily hits to library website

**13,137**

Number of students taught in  
library research sessions  
in the 2007/2008 academic year

**26,054**

Daily hits to library catalogue



## Upcoming events and exhibits

### An Evening with Brian McFarlane

May 22, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

University Club

Contact [plessla@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plessla@mcmaster.ca)

### An event to celebrate McMaster Library's entry into Mass Digitization and Publishing

May 26, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mills Learning Commons

Contact [bairdca@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bairdca@mcmaster.ca)

William Ready Division of Archives and  
Research Collections presents:

### French Enlightenment:

#### The Collection of Dr. Conlon

June 2008 - August 2008

Open Monday to Friday,

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Liaison program pairs librarians with faculty

In summer 2007, we launched an exciting new initiative, Library Liaison @ Mac, which matched librarians with academic departments, schools and programs to ensure that library services and collections are closely aligned with teaching and research priorities.

The program has produced a number of successful collaborations, including that of Liaison Librarian Shawn McCann and Joe Kim, a professor in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour.

Kim has been working closely with McCann to equip first year psychology students with essential research and library skills. This past fall Shawn worked with 70 IntroPsych TAs to help them teach first year students to critically evaluate the information they find on the web.

"I'm now working with Shawn to develop a library and research module for IntroPsych's interactive website where students go to view lectures. These research skills are absolutely critical and have to be taught to students right from the beginning in their first year at university," says Kim. The new module will be launched in September 2008.

In the liaison program's first year of existence, the following four key priorities have been established:

- Building partnerships with departments, schools and programs
- Partnering to teach 21st century fluencies
- Managing access to scholarly literature
- Providing research consultations for faculty, graduate students and research assistants

**To contact your Library Liaison,  
or for more details, visit  
[library.mcmaster.ca/liaison](http://library.mcmaster.ca/liaison)**

**McMaster Library News**

1280 Main St. W, Hamilton ON L8S 4L6

Edited by Catherine Baird and Anne Plessl

[bairdca@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bairdca@mcmaster.ca), [plessla@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plessla@mcmaster.ca)

ISSN 0024-9270



## Recent notable acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

**e-Books:** McMaster University Libraries now provides access to over 240,000 e-Books, up from 50,000 just a year ago. As academic resources continue to migrate online, we are increasing our access to scholarly materials by acquiring electronic resources collaboratively with other universities across Canada. This allows us to stretch our collection budget further and to provide McMaster faculty, students and staff with access to a wealth of research materials both on campus and remotely. Our collection of e-Books includes:

- 14,000 e-Books from Springer, a major science and technology publisher
- 1,700 items from IEEE
- 400 titles from Info-Sci Online
- 6,400 items from the Canadian Electronic Library
- 1,150 OECD e-Books
- 16,350 titles from Literature Online (LION)

- 96,000 titles as part of the Early English Books Online (EEBO)
- 8,800 titles as part of Early Canadiana Online (ECO)
- 12,200 titles as part of Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- 1,425 titles as part of the ACLS Humanities e-Book project

**Allan Roy Dafeo collection,** consisting of 24 photographs taken between 1934 and 1941, celebrating the fame that came to him as the doctor who delivered the Dionne Quintuplets.

**Pauline Johnson archives:** two letters (1897 and 1912), including a detailed letter to Lawrence Burpee about her literary writings.

**Bertrand Russell archives:** In the last year we have made a number of significant archival acquisitions. These include: photographs of Russell and carte-de-visite photographs of the Amberleys, his parents; a number of letters,

the most interesting being a letter written by Russell to Francis E. Maitland, 11 July 1927, about public education (our thanks to Professor William Bruneau for partial funding towards the letter's purchase); and books formerly owned by Russell or Lady Ottoline Morrell, the hostess of the Garsington circle. The highlight of all this material is a commonplace poetry book containing transcriptions in Russell's hand of more than 30 of his favourite poems.

**H.G. Wells:** 2 letters, one to the writer Upton Sinclair and the other to Marriott Watson on the merits of chicken farming.

**World War collections:** a number of archives, including the Bruce Doherty collection of photographs and photographic postcards related to the Royal Flying Corps and the insightful diary of Jane Abbott who discusses her time in Vienna when the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated.



## Recent notable gifts

### The Library has received the following gifts from:

**Bernard Baskin**, two collections of antiquarian books, including Benjamin Ursinus's *Ursini mathematici electoralis Brandenburgici Trigonometria* (1625) and the author's annotated copy of William Williams's *Primitive History from Creation to Cadmus* (1789).

**Estate of Pierre Berton**, the 13th accrual of his archives, consisting of manuscripts of books, articles, and other writings, professional correspondence, news clippings, pocket diaries (including his 1936 Canadian Boy pocket diary), photographs, and drawings (including a sketch book undertaken during the Korean war).

**Estate of Sylvia Bowerbank**, Professor of English at McMaster University, her archives consisting of diaries, photographs, and professional literature.

**Michel Brisebois**, two donations of WWII documents pertaining primarily to the German invasion and occupation of Belgium.

**Pierre Conlon**, 166 titles by French authors of the eighteenth century during the period of the enlightenment.

**Chris Crombie**, two small accruals of his family archives from Brant county.

**Karl Freeman**, a collection of books, facsimile atlases and maps.

**C.H. (Marty) Gervais** (author and publisher), two donations of his archives, consisting of 55 inkjet photographs from his exhibition entitled "A Show of Hands: Boxing on the Border" and manuscripts, correspondence, photographs audio recordings, and family material.

Publisher and editor **Douglas Gibson**, the sixth accrual of the archives of McClelland & Stewart, consisting of the editorial files of Douglas Gibson Books.

**Marjorie Harris** (graduate of McMaster University, free-lance author, editor, and authority on gardening), her extensive archives of manuscripts, correspondence, etc.

**John B. Lee**, the Poet Laureate of Brantford, his rich archives of manuscripts, publications, photographs, scrapbooks, and juvenilia.

**Christopher Levenson**, poet and Emeritus Professor of English at Carleton University, the second and third accruals of his archives, including manuscripts, correspondence with authors, and the editorial files of Harbinger Poetry series.

**Estate of publisher Jack McClelland**, the 10th accrual of his archives.

**Brian McFarlane**, the second accrual of his archives (young adult fiction and hockey manuscripts) and the diaries of his father, Leslie McFarlane, one of the ghost-writers of the Hardy Boys series.

**Eugene McNamara**, the third accrual of his archives consisting of his notebooks, journals, and manuscripts of several works (*Irving's Coat*, poetry, and a novel)

**Claire Mowat**, the sixth accrual of her archives, consisting of manuscripts and research material for *Girl from Away*, *The French Islands*, *Last Summer in Louisbourg*, and *Travels with Farley*.

**Farley Mowat**, the 15th accrual of his archives containing correspondence, manuscripts (*Bay of Spirits: A Love Adventure*), audio reels, three large ink drawings on paper by Harold Town in celebration of Mowat's marriage to Claire Wheeler, etc.

**Norah Perez**, the third, fourth, and fifth accruals of her father's archives (Leslie McFarlane), consisting of diaries, correspondence, photographs, and manuscripts.

**Christina Duff Stewart**, a collection of correspondence, poetry, and broadsheets of Richard Outram, Barbara Howard, and the Gauntlet Press. The collection was supplemented by material sent to us from the Outram archives at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto (our thanks to Peter Newman and Susan Keene of the estate of Richard Outram).

**William C. Wonders Map Collection**, Cameron SciTech Library, University of Alberta, a scrapbook containing almost 100 air photos from World War I.

**Alan Walker**, funds for the purchase of several letters for the Franz Liszt and His Circle collection and a separate donation of 14 letters written by Liszt and 16 letters from his contemporaries.

**Robert L. Walters**, several eighteenth-century books.

We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the following donors:

- Class of '50
- Class of '55
- Estate of Catherine Margaret Hodgson
- Estates of Alice Mary Young & James Mason Young
- Alvin Lee
- John D. Parish
- Donald M. Shepherd

and many other donors who wish to remain anonymous

**A sincere thank you to all our donors for their generosity to the Library.**

If you would like to make a gift of books or archives, please see:

[library.mcmaster.ca/develop/bookgift.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/develop/bookgift.htm)