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## Message from the University Librarian

The Government of Canada has just released a consultation paper that provides a framework for discussions pertaining to the university's role in strengthening Canada's digital economy. *Improving Canada's Digital Advantage: Strategies for Sustainable Prosperity* touches on a number of topics that should resonate with anyone concerned with Canada's ability to grow and compete in a global economy. The key challenges identified in the report are also relevant to academic libraries, which have the potential of playing a key role in meeting the needs of students and researchers who are now working in a largely digital environment.

Two of these challenges are particularly relevant to McMaster's libraries today: Building a World-Class Digital Infrastructure and Digital Media: Creating Canada's Digital Content Advantage. I am pleased to say that McMaster's libraries are rising to the challenge. The Lewis and Ruth Sherman Foundation Digitization and Preservation Centre, which you will read about in this edition of the newsletter, will help McMaster establish a state-of-the-art facility and infrastructure to support digital research and scholarship. The Lyons New Media Centre, which you will also read about, will provide space, technology and resources that students and researchers alike need to discover, create, share and preserve digital media.

If academic libraries are to remain relevant we must continue to transform ourselves. By fall of 2010 the Lyons New Media Centre will be open for business on the fourth floor of Mills. By 2011 the first floor of Mills will look remarkably different as it becomes home to the Sherman Centre. These new facilities will be very visible representations of our transformation. We hope you will take the opportunity to drop in and see the changes for yourself!

  
Jeffrey G. Trzeciak



(l to r): Dr. Peter George, Paddy Torsney, Jeffrey Trzeciak, Dr. Peter Chasseaud, Ben Gould

## \$2.5-M gift will allow Library to 'share wealth of hidden treasures'

The McMaster Library has received \$2.5-million from the Lewis and Ruth Sherman Foundation - the largest private donation in the library's history - to digitize its extensive research collections, ensuring they will be accessible to a vast audience.

The gift will be used to establish The Lewis and Ruth Sherman Foundation Digitization and Preservation Centre, which will be located in Mills Memorial Library. It will help fund the renovation of space and the acquisition of leading-edge technologies.

"We are grateful for this generous gift to our library, allowing us to share a wealth of hidden treasures," says Peter George, President of McMaster. "The Library touches so many, including students across campus, members of our own community and people from around the world interested in our remarkable collections."

Before they passed away, Lewis and Ruth Sherman had strong connections to McMaster. Lewis, who was the former owner of Hamilton's Allan Candy, was also a bookseller with personal and professional ties to the Library. His wife Ruth

worked at McMaster, most recently in the library's technical services division. In addition to the new centre, they have left a legacy to the University, establishing the Lewis and Ruth Sherman Fireside Lounge, located in the McMaster University Student Centre.

"This donation represents a significant commitment on the part of the Sherman Foundation to preserve and enhance access to unique research collections at McMaster," says Jeff Trzeciak, University Librarian. "It is not only an investment in preserving our past but also an investment in building a strong future for McMaster's libraries

by emphasizing the role we play in promoting research in a digital realm."

It has been a priority of the Library to digitize its vast collections, some of which are already freely available online through prior digitization projects, namely Peace & War in the 20th Century and Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing.

by Michelle Donovan

“We are grateful for this generous gift to our library, allowing us to share a wealth of hidden treasures”

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



**Counting Opinions**

**Making your opinions count: Have your say about the Library**

As a user-centred library we are very interested in feedback from students, faculty and staff. We use results from various surveys and user comments to gauge needs, monitor and evaluate current services, identify problems and potential solutions and inform plans for the future.

We recently implemented a web-based survey developed by the Canadian company, Counting Opinions. The survey will live on our home page for at least the next three years. Respondents can rank the importance of library services, collections and spaces, as well as their satisfaction with them.

The library also participates in the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) LibQUAL+ Canada survey. Every three years academic libraries across the country can opt to offer LibQUAL+, a web-based instrument developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The most recent survey, completed this spring, was offered to a random sample of McMaster undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members and university staff. By participating in this particular survey we are able to compare our results to those of other academic libraries in Canada.

We also develop our own local surveys to evaluate specific initiatives or services. For example, in spring of 2009 we conducted an exit survey on the recent renovations to the H.G. Thode Library of Science & Engineering; and in the winter of 2010 we surveyed users on the laptop lending service in Mills, Innis and Thode libraries.

As well, we regularly receive feedback through our online suggestion box. Post your suggestions and view responses at [library.mcmaster.ca/php/suggestionbox.php](http://library.mcmaster.ca/php/suggestionbox.php).

Comments, suggestions and survey results are analysed and help to inform short- and long-term planning for the library. For example, student comments about the need for late night study space prompted the Late Night hours in Mills Learning Commons which will be open 24/5 (24/7 during exam periods) starting this fall.

## Lyons New Media Centre and McMaster Health Forum near completion at Mills Library

The University Library and Collaborations for Health, an interfaculty initiative, are jointly establishing two new state-of-the-art facilities in Mills Library to house the Lyons New Media Centre and the McMaster Health Forum. The facilities are being built in adjacent space on the fourth floor of Mills, with construction slated for completion during the summer months.

### Lyons New Media Centre

The Lyons New Media Centre will become an incubator for the innovative use of new and traditional media in teaching, learning and research at McMaster. Centre staff will provide a wide variety of services, including:

- support and consultation for a wide range of digital media projects, including video and audio editing, graphics and web page design
- assistance to faculty who want to digitize materials for classes
- short courses on editing video, creating DVDs and producing podcasts
- a scholarly collection of DVDs and CDs (including the Lyons media collection)
- lecture capture and archiving
- exploration and promotion of the use of new media to support teaching, learning and research.

Spaces will include video and audio editing workstations, group viewing rooms, video-gaming rooms, and a small media teaching centre. A variety of equipment will be made available for students and faculty, including portable audio recorders, high-definition camcorders and a green screen.

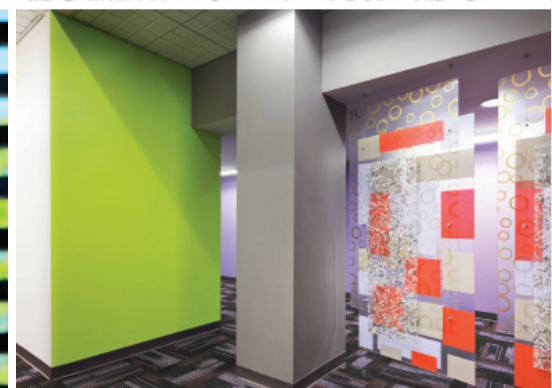
The Centre will feature a large video wall to showcase the media creation process, highlight faculty and student research, display faculty and student media projects and other media rich presentations. We also hope to offer seminars, workshops and guest lectures.

### McMaster Health Forum

The McMaster Health Forum is a newly-formed organization that aspires to be recognized as a world-leading hub for improving health outcomes through collective problem-solving. The Forum has already organized a series of successful stakeholder dialogues that involve harnessing evidence on pressing health challenges, and convening influential doers and thinkers from across the province, country and globe to deliberate and work towards creative solutions. Examples of topics addressed to date include improving access to primary health care in Canada, strengthening chronic disease management in Ontario, and engaging civil society in the use of research in health systems globally.

The new facilities will provide the Forum with a state-of-the-art meeting venue called the DialogueSpace, as well as a Hub for informal gatherings, a BreakoutSpace for simultaneous or concurrent gatherings, and a WorkSpace for Fellows (both undergraduate and graduate students), visiting leaders, and staff.

“The University Library is pleased to be the home for these important new centres,” says University Librarian Jeff Trzeciak. “The design of the spaces will facilitate the hosting of important debates and dialogues on critical topics that can later be discovered, used and reused for learning and research. The two spaces complement each other perfectly and are representative of the changing role of the University Library.”





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



## Help build our collections

Donations play a significant role in building the Library's collections, often providing rare and unique materials for research and study. We are always pleased to receive offers of these special items, and they are carefully reviewed by librarians in the Division of Archives and Research Collections.

Don't have a collection of rare books? You can still help! Donations of current, scholarly books and multimedia add richness to the Library's resources and free up acquisition dollars for the purchase of other items. There are a few types of items that we're not able to accept, so we do ask that you contact us before making a gift of books or other items.

And, of course, monetary gifts are always appreciated. If you would like to help us build collections in a particular discipline, you may designate your gift for that subject area or for acquisitions in a particular library. If you wish to support general acquisitions, you may designate your gift to Library Acquisitions or the Library of the Future Fund.

As scholarship evolves and new degree programs are created, the Library sometimes needs to collect in new areas. Currently, we're developing collections in **French-Canadian literature, culture, and history; Gender Studies**, including women and feminism, queer studies, GLBT studies, and men's studies; and **Global Islam**. We are also investing in online "backfiles," the historical copies of scholarly journals. Making the move from print copies to the online version allows us to provide 24/7 access to the McMaster community from wherever they happen to be and to dedicate more space in our buildings to students rather than storage.

For more information about all of the ways to support the Libraries at McMaster, please contact Anne Plessl, Library Development Officer at [plessla@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plessla@mcmaster.ca) or 905-525-9140 ext. 24865.



Dr. Peter Chasseaud addresses library donors and friends

## Mapping the trenches of World War I

"...and with maps I make him familiar with the topography of Golgotha." These words, penned by soldier-poet Wilfred Owen in 1918, were the theme of a recent presentation to Library donors and friends by British scholar Dr. Peter Chasseaud, the world's leading expert on First World War military maps. Set in the historic ambiance of the Great Room in Alumni Memorial Hall (built to commemorate McMaster students who were killed in the two world wars), Chasseaud captivated the audience of some 70 geography and history enthusiasts with his many visual images and interesting narrative.

McMaster has a unique relationship with Chasseaud. In 2009, with funding from the Movable Cultural Property Grant Program on behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, the Library purchased his collection of 921 trench maps, possibly the largest collection of First World War military maps in private hands in the world. The

maps will be made available to researchers and the general public worldwide through the Library's Mass Digitization Project.

Researchers interested in trench warfare or trench mapping may also be interested to know of the recent acquisition of Chasseaud's database of trench names that he compiled for

his book *Rat's Alley: Trench Names of the Western Front 1914-1918*. The Library is in the process of adding this database to our webpages as a text-based search tool to 22,000 trench and topographical names.

To view the library's collection of WWI military maps that have already

been digitized, please visit [library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home.htm](http://library.mcmaster.ca/maps/ww1/home.htm). To read more about trench maps, visit the Peace and War in the 20th Century website ([pw20c.mcmaster.ca](http://pw20c.mcmaster.ca)) and see the case studies entitled "The Topography of Golgotha" and "The Body Snatchers: Trench Raid at Roelincourt."

“  
 ...and with maps  
 I make him familiar with the  
 topography of Golgotha.  
 ”

Wilfred Owen, *soldier-poet*, 1918



## Upcoming Exhibit

William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:

### The Archive & Everyday Life

May to September 2010

Open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This exhibition draws on four Canadian archives to show the context and creation of archives in daily experience: the Crombie family fonds; Margaret Watkins fonds, a woman photographer from Hamilton; the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians; and the Gordon Griffith fonds.

## Recent notable acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

### ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

**Major Charles Bridges:** 200-300 negatives related to his training at a bomb defusing school in Horsham, England, from November 1940 until May 1942.

**Holocaust and Resistance collections:** 600 air drop leaflets; Nazi propaganda small posters; photos of prisoners from the liberated Nazi camps; 2 letters from Rolf Larson, an American soldier, writing about Buchenwald and the Nuremberg trials; 46 cards written by the Loeb family in French internee camps; a personal collection of a German soldier with photographs, a training manual, and personal effects; books about the 1936 Berlin Olympics and the Warsaw ghetto; and a collection of 200 Holocaust testimonies.

**Margaret Laurence fonds:** accrual consisting of passports, an address book, and letters and contracts with her publishers.

**Leslie McFarlane:** 11 signed copies of reprints in the Hardy Boys series. McFarlane, the ghost author of 19 books in the series, rarely signed copies of these books. The books were obtained from Norah Perez, McFarlane's daughter.

**Russell Motor Car Company collection:** documents from 1915 from Canada's first automobile company.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

*Cambridge Crystallographic Structural Database* - Organic, organometallic, and metal complex structures whose 3D structures have been determined using X-ray diffraction or neutron diffraction.

*Conference Proceedings Citation Index*, via the *Web of Science* - Cited reference searching from proceedings in the Sciences and Social Sciences.

*Eighteenth Century Journals III* - Newspapers and periodicals 1680-1816, from British Library Newspapers, Colindale and Cambridge University Library.

*Fixed Income Securities Database/Mergent Bondviewer* - US taxable and municipal fixed income and evaluation data.

*Mass Observation: British Social History 1937-1972 Update* - Adds daily diaries for 1941-1942, documenting daily life in Britain during WWII, along with 6 new topical collections.

*Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles* - Biographical and writing career entries on over 1,200 writers.

*Springer 2010 Ebook Collection* - Over 3,300 ebooks published by Springer in 2010, covering a broad range of topics in science, technology, and medicine, with a lesser emphasis on the social sciences. The full text for all titles has been loaded onto the new Scholars Portal e-books platform, shared by Ontario universities.

*World Newspaper Archive: African Newspapers* - Complete in 2010, the African collection will provide access to more than 40 fully searchable newspapers published between 1800 and 1922. McMaster is a charter participant in the World Newspaper Archive, under the auspices of the Center for Research Libraries.

## Recent notable gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

**Anonymous donors**, a copy of Griffith Hughes, *The Natural History of Barbados* (1750); photos of the Belsen concentration camp after liberation and a commendation signed by Hitler with a blank piece of Hitler's stationery.

**Michel Brisebois**, cards written by Tadeusz Stefanko, incarcerated at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943-44.

**Robin Farr**, his archives concerning his career in publishing with Copp Clark, McGill University Press, and the Ryerson Press.

**Thomas E. Kennedy**, archives of Gordon Griffith (1914-2000), who served in the RCAF as the navigator of a bomber crew during World War II. The archives consist of maps, Griffith's in-flight navigator's reports of bombing raids over German targets, and personal effects including his air force uniform.

**Susan Musgrave**, 7th accrual of her archives.

**Morris Norman**, a collection of cartoons by Andy Donato; a bound ledger book owned by James M. Deaubin, a merchant in Amherstburg, Ont. 1850-53; a folder of graphic and textual records, being primarily b&w photos from an album of the Miller family and Roger Miller & Sons, an engineering company in Toronto, from the 1870s to the 1920s; Wilson Thomson fonds, mainly artwork done for the Blue Book between 1948 and 1950; 10 photos and a serviette related to the Klondike Gold Rush; the Canadian School Notebooks collection, 3 notebooks created at the turn of the last century; 4 letters written by C.C. Brant in 1922 when he worked as a teamster hauling logs from a logging dump near Algonquin Park and later as a rancher in Fort St. John, B.C.; a photograph album of Lorraine Phelan, 1932; 45 labour union tags from conventions in Canada and the USA, 1937-62; 3 small scrapbooks of news clippings related to several repertory theatres in Toronto, in the 1920s; and additions to other collections in advertising, entertainment, music, and circus and war posters.

**Stephen Reid**, 2nd accrual of his archives, containing correspondence, writings by Reid and others, printed materials, and documents about his incarceration and rehabilitation.

**Lorne Shields**, 4 American WWII posters and a medal collection of P.A. Richards.

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