

Issue No. 1

A Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Newsletter Produced by The Learning Resources Centre

A New Publication is Born

NEXUS was created to inform the faculty at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute about some of the activities of the Learning Resources Centre. The name was chosen to evoke the feeling of a connection - the connection of the various parts of the LRC, the connection between the LRC and the rest of the Institute, the connection between the students and faculty and the LRC. But more than a connection, a NEXUS is the core or centre of a situation or a place and the LRC fulfils that role as well.

NEXUS will help to strengthen these connections as well as promote the idea of the LRC as the centre of activity of Ryerson's learning process. The LRC is the one place where everyone converges on more or less equal footing to get information, study, do research or be entertained. The experience that is gained in the LRC is a common one and NEXUS will help faculty share it more fully.

LRC Restructuring Under Way

In the spring of 1989, as part of a larger administrative reorganization at Ryerson, the Learning Resources Centre (LRC) was transferred from the Administrative to the Academic reporting structure. This was in response to a widely acknowledged need to expand the role of the LRC in the academic life of Ryerson.

Since that time, it has become increasingly apparent that closer links are required between the library functions of the LRC and Ryerson's academic program and departments. These links are particularly necessary in respect to the process of curriculum development, which both draws and creates new demands upon library resources.

Discussions with the Academic Planning Group, the LRC Committee and the LRC staff have led to the conclusion that a split reporting structure can best promote the academic integration of the library while maintaining the administrative efficiency of the LRC as a whole. Therefore, effective July 1, 1990 the library along with the Archives will continue to report to the Vice President, Academic through the newly created position of Chief Librarian. The LRC Microcomputing Facility will report to the Computing and Communications Services Department, which in turn is responsible to the Vice President, Finance and Administration. The Media Centre, whose mandate remains unchanged, will also report to the Vice President, Finance and Administration. ■

INTER-UNIVERSITY BORROWING PROJECT
Ontario Council of University Libraries
BORROWER'S CARD

Issued to: _____
ID No. _____
Bar Code No. _____
Status: _____
At: _____
Expiry date: _____
Authorized by: _____
See Reverse Side

Inter-University Borrowing Project

The Inter-University Borrowing Project (I.U.B.P) is an agreement among the Ontario Council of University Libraries which permits the lending of certain items to visitors from other member universities.

The agreement states that "a faculty member, graduate student, or staff member visiting another Ontario university library may borrow directly from it". Most Ontario Universities are members of the I.U.B.P. agreement and Ryerson is an active participant in the project.

Ryerson faculty and staff may apply for an I.U.B.P. card from the Ryerson library office, room L284. In most cases, the card will be available within 24 hours.

The I.U.B.P. card is used at the Circulation Desks of member libraries where an I.U.B.P. Borrowing Form is completed for each item that is being borrowed. Or, on the authority of the I.U.B.P. card the lending library may register the visitor as an external borrower and issue a separate card which permits borrowing directly and without the use of the I.U.B.P. Borrowing Form.

A card may be denied if any fines or overdue books are outstanding at Ryerson's library. These must first be cleared before an I.U.B.P. card will be issued.

Books borrowed from any participating member library may be returned at that library or to Ryerson's library for forwarding. However, borrowers are encouraged to settle any overdues or fines directly with the library from which the items are borrowed. ■

Archives a Valuable Research Tool

There is more to the Ryerson Archives than quaint memorabilia and the storage of old records.

Founded in 1971 as a result of the Smyth Study on Ryerson's governance and organization, the Archives maintains invaluable source material on the Institute's past and makes it available for current use by the Ryerson community and the general public.

The Archives Collection includes a wide variety of items: correspondence, administrative files, reports and studies, committee records, publications, manuals and handbooks, calendars, yearbooks, cartographic and architectural records, photographs (over 75,000), films and videotapes, sound recordings, paintings and drawings, artifacts, published works by Ryerson authors and subject files.

These holdings are consulted by all of Ryerson's constituents, but mostly by students for course-related assignments and projects. Journalism students, for instance, regularly research news stories, features and articles. Architecture students will seek information on Institute buildings and properties. Students in other programs may also wish to review the historical development of their department, as was done recently in the Theatre School.

The Archives is also extensively used by Ryerson staff, faculty and administrators in the course of carrying out the Institute's academic and administrative business.

Assistance is requested for:

- the formulation of policies and decisions;
- the preparation of speeches;
- presentations and displays;
- the consultation of reports;
- background information on people, places and events;
- anniversary celebrations;
- curriculum development;
- public relations campaigns;
- and organizational and long-range planning.

As an educational resource, the Institute's Archives offers considerable opportunity for more advanced scholarly research. Many individuals have studied the significant educational and cultural developments of Ryerson's historic past at St. James Square while others have examined more contemporary aspects of Ryerson's unique academic and physical evolution as a polytechnic.

On an administrative level, the Archives fulfils its mandate by providing all Ryerson departments with a records management service which includes: analysis and appraisal, file maintenance and arrangement, scheduling, semi-active storage and disposition.

The Archives is located on the fifth floor of the Learning Resources Centre and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30. Call Claude Doucet or Shirley McKinley at extension 7027 for more information. ■



Fashion on Eight

Ryerson's Fashion File of designers and fashion houses is the place to find background material on a fashion designer, an illustration or other types of information on the ever-changing world of fashion. Over three hundred files contain biographical and stylistic articles from periodicals, clippings from daily newspapers and diverse street publications. These sources make it possible to provide the most recent material following the latest designer's collections.

The legends of couture form the basis of the Fashion File which resides on the library's eighth floor. However, special attention is paid to the new Toronto designers and in particular Canadian designers, who are under-represented in the international publishing world. The reigning kings and queens of fashion are also featured and an attempt is made to anticipate "hot" new designers.

The Fashion File was revived in 1985, after falling dormant for several years. Increasing demand for recent information on designers was requested by students and by 1985 over two hundred files had been added to the original collection. The Metro Toronto Reference Library has donated its large collection of fashion files to Ryerson and these are currently being amalgamated and will augment the retrospective side of the collection.

The popularity of the Fashion File continues to grow steadily. Ryerson students are the main users and it receives visits from various Community College students from in and around Metro. FTV (Fashion Television) on CITY-TV and "Fashion File" on the new 24 hour NEWSWORLD of the CBC both use the Ryerson Fashion File when they are seeking information for their fashion programs. ■



Claude Doucet and Shirley McKinley of the Ryerson Archives

New Titles in Video Collection

The Media Library on the Ryerson library's third floor has recently acquired a complete set of the International Development Video Library courtesy of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The 23 titles in this collection cover issues relating to the Third World or developing countries and are of interest to both faculty and student. A user's guide which accompanies the videos gives a brief summary of each title, lists the key concepts explored

in the programmes and provides suggested learning activities.

All Ryerson library cardholders may use these videos under an agreement with CIDA. They may be borrowed for home use (they are on the VHS format) or by groups in a non-commercial, non-theatrical situation. The borrower assumes full responsibility at all times for the safety, condition and physical control of the videos. ■

New Photocopying System in the LRC

Cashless photocopying has become predominant in the Ryerson library. Recently nine new Minolta photocopyers were installed to replace the old machines. There is one machine on floors 5 through 10 and three on the second floor. All the machines on the floors accept *cash cards only* and do not take coins. Two of the machines on the second floor accept either card or cash including the dollar coin. Machines on the 2nd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 10th floors contain letter size (8.5" x 11") and legal size (8.5" x 14") paper only. The machine on the 8th floor contains letter and ledger size (11" x 17") paper only. The latter is used for copying maps, blueprints, etc. All machines have the capability to both enlarge and reduce.

The price of photocopying is 10 cents for letter size, 12 cents for legal size and 20 cents for ledger size.

The card system which has been on campus for nearly one and a half years is called Cash Card II and is used by both the library and RSU. It is *not* compatible with the Sensor Card system that is used by the faculty. Cash Card II is also used for the microfiche reader-printers.

Cash Cards are available from the vending machine on the library's second floor for \$1. These cards are blank and must then be programmed for a certain amount e.g. \$5 or \$10 by inserting that cash amount into the machine (called the Plasti-Cashier) along with the newly-purchased card. Cards can be returned for a refund of their \$1 initial purchase price. Any remaining programming on the card will *not* be refunded. Cards are also available at the RSU Copy Shop. ■

"Largest" English Dictionary Located on Five

The cover of the second edition of the **Oxford English Dictionary** claims that it "is the largest and most authoritative dictionary of the English language and the ultimate source of information on the usage and meaning of English words and phrases".

The new edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, also known as the **OED**, was prepared by J.A. Simpson and E.S.C. Weiner and was published in 1989. The twenty volume set is located in the fifth floor reference collection under the call number Ref. PE 1625.O87 1989.

This edition is dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second by the University of Oxford. The first edition was dedicated to His Majesty King George the Fifth in 1928.

Integration of the texts of the original twelve volume edition, the four supplements and an additional five thousand new words representing new developments in all major disciplines, produced an OED with 290,500 entries or approximately 38 thousand more words than the first edition. The text has grown from about 44 million words to over 59 million and includes some 600,000 cross-references.

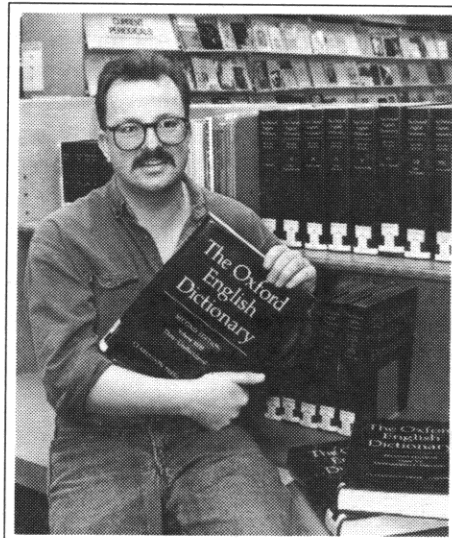
The stated aim of the dictionary is to present the history and evolution of the meaning of each word since the time of the earliest records to the present, including all the pertinent information concerning its form, pronunciation, and etymology. The over two million quotations used to illustrate definitions are selected

from general, literary, and other sources and make fascinating reading. For example, "ABORTION: 1547 Boorde Brev. Health iii. 8 Abhorision is when a woman is delyvered of her chyld before her tyme."

A unique feature of the new OED is the indication of pronunciation in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The first edition of the OED was praised as the "greatest English book of the century", "in all probability, the greatest continuing work of scholarship that this century has produced" and as a reference work which no one "who reads or writes seriously can be without".

The new edition will surely surpass the praises received by the first. ■



Clark Gosbee of the LRC's fifth floor holds one of the twenty Oxford English Dictionary volumes

Ryerson Librarian Visits Sri Lanka to Participate in Third World Project

In 1985, two representatives from the Ryerson International Development Centre (RIDC) and a consultant from the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) visited the Sri Lanka Television Training Institute (SLTTI) on behalf of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in order to determine training needs of the SLTTI in the area of television production and to define the training programmes that could be designed to meet these requirements.

Olive King, one of the two seventh floor librarians, was approached by IDRC to participate in the project. As librarian for the Third World Resource Centre, her knowledge of information sources in development communications would help to fulfil one recommendation of the RIDC/AIBD consultants which was to establish an adequately staffed resource centre to help SLTTI achieve its training objectives. In addition Olive's experience in setting up library systems made her highly qualified to take on the task.

Along with Library Technician Gina Coleman, Olive established a specialized collection of materials on development communications to support RIDC's development broadcasting project in the Asia-Pacific region. This collection is housed in the Third World Resource Centre.

The Third World Resource Centre was established in 1977 and further developed through a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is used extensively by faculty members working on RIDC projects as well as the general public and Ryerson students. It contains information on socio-economic, political and cultural issues in the Third World.

In August 1989, Olive King travelled to Sri Lanka to assist SLTTI in assessing the needs for a learning resource centre to support the training of broadcasters. During this trip, Olive organized the centre's print collection, gathered information about programmes offered by the institute, and interviewed the director and staff to determine needs.

Olive has recommended the hiring of a professional librarian to staff the resource centre and suggested that the centre continue to build its collection in the areas of television production, programming and engineering with a focus on research materials to support program development.

A proposed second visit to Sri Lanka will concentrate on providing on-the-job assistance and training to the librarian and staff. ■

(Version of article first printed in *Ryerson International*, December 1989)



Olive King (standing) and Gina Coleman

Ryerson Library Publications

Over the past four years the Education & Life Sciences area of the Ryerson library has developed several bibliographic projects designed to promote greater awareness of library collections. These projects have included the publication of bibliographies in conjunction with Ryerson sponsored conferences and the development of specialized databases related to AIDS (AIDSCAN for Health Care Workers) and health promotion (Health Promotion Currents). The application of computer technology has figured prominently in the realization of the projects, enabling the Library to disseminate bibliographic information locally and internationally through communications networks such as BITNET. The following article takes a brief look at these initiatives.

Conference Bibliographies

Faculties, Schools and Departments at Ryerson each year host a range of conferences aimed at fostering communication and the development of knowledge in the disciplines that they represent. The library provides bibliographies for distribution at these conferences in the interest of encouraging library-based research both here at Ryerson and in the wider scholarly community.

A 1988 conference on *work and the family* sponsored by Ryerson and the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services provided one of the first opportunities for the library to undertake conference-related bibliographic work. A twenty-three page bibliography and resource guide covering significant aspects of the work/family theme was compiled by the librarian for Education & Life Sciences. This was included as part of the kit distributed to approximately 200 participants at the conference. Bibliographies produced for subsequent conferences have covered such topics as economics and the family, computers and nutrition, risk assessment, intimate relations and

the aging process, fitness and nutrition, and nutrition and the healthy heart. Bibliographies on *the nursing crisis in Ontario* and *AIDS in the workplace* were also compiled for Ryerson's Union Fair in 1989.

In many instances these bibliographies have been made available to universities and colleges throughout Canada and the United States via BITNET communications network. BITNET (Because It's Time Network) evolved from a computer linkage established in 1981 between the City University of New York and Yale University. BITNET now links 2300 host computers at sites in 32 countries. These linkages are made possible through connections with networks in Canada (NETNORTH), Western Europe (EARN-the European Academic Research Network), Great Britain (JANET), and Asia (ASIANET). The library has utilized Ryerson's link with the networks to distribute conference bibliographies to academics at Canadian universities and U.S. institutions such as M.I.T.

AIDSCAN

The AIDSCAN database and its printed equivalent, *AIDSCAN for Health Care Workers*, consists of annotated citations to journal articles, monographs, and occasional papers that address the occupational health and safety concerns of health care and human service professionals who are providing care for people with AIDS. The database was developed to provide students and faculty in Ryerson's Schools of Nursing, Environmental Health, and Social Work with convenient access to the growing body of literature on the relationship between AIDS and the occupational health and safety of caregivers. From the outset, an attempt was made to identify literature that addresses both the physical and the psychosocial concerns of health care and human service professionals who are working with people with AIDS.

The subjects covered by AIDSCAN include: accidental exposure, precautions, psychological stresses and coping, ethical issues, and attitudes towards AIDS. Entries in AIDSCAN refer users to material available in the Ryerson library. Some 50 journals are now scanned on a regular basis for AIDS related articles. Ryerson library technician *Charlotte Broome* has been responsible for the selection, annota-

tion, and indexing of publications that are cited in AIDSCAN.

The printed version of the database has been available since the spring of 1988. That same year, a portion of AIDSCAN was transmitted via BITNET to approximately 800 sites in North America and Western Europe. In February of 1990 the electronic distribution of AIDSCAN was undertaken by the Hamilton-based Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. The database is now available through the Centre's interactive online computer system, CCINFOline, and on CCINFOdisc, a compact disk subscription service offered by the Centre. CCINFOdisc reaches 4,000 users in 31 countries.

Health Promotion Currents

Health Promotion Currents was developed in 1986-87 in response to the information needs of students in Ryerson's interdisciplinary minor in health promotion. The electronic and print versions of the database consist of 600 abstracted citations to journal articles and monographs that are available in the Ryerson library. Publications cited in the database reflect the World Health Organization's definition of 1977 and the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion in 1986. This definition emphasizes the inter-relationship between health and political, social, cultural, environmental, and biological factors. Collections in several areas of the library have provided a base for the development of *Health Promotion Currents*.

The print version of the database has been available since the spring of 1987. Consideration is being given to the further development of *Health Promotion Currents* through links with other academic institutions. In December of 1989, Bob Jackson, librarian for Education & Life Sciences met with a representative of the World Health Organization to discuss this project.

These projects demonstrate the Ryerson library's capacity to support research in specialized areas and its ability to apply contemporary computer technology to the dissemination of information. They also provide us with the opportunity to promote Ryerson in the wider community, locally and internationally. ■

Contributors

■ The following people have been instrumental in the production of this first NEXUS issue:

Liz Bishop
Claude Doucet
Sue Giles
Peter Hanlon
Bob Jackson
Rosemary Stackhouse
Carol Van Der Heym

■ Please address all comments and correspondence concerning this publication to:

Daniel Phelan, Editor
NEXUS
Learning Resources Centre
350 Victoria Street
room L-1058

(416) 979-5084

Published April 1990
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute
350 Victoria Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3
Member: Council of Ontario Universities (COU)
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)