

Nexus

A RYERSON UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE LIBRARY

NEXUS INTERVIEWS

New Chief Librarian **Madeleine Lefebvre**



In the fall of 2007, Ryerson Library welcomed Madeleine Lefebvre as the new Chief Librarian. As part of her introduction to the Ryerson community, Cecile Farnum, editor of *Nexus*, interviewed Madeleine about her transition to Ryerson and her vision for the future.

Cecile (*Nexus*): What made you decide to come to Ryerson University Library?

Madeleine: I feel I was destined for Ryerson. There were numerous connections when I was Library Director at Mount Royal College in Calgary. I was interviewed twice for Chief Librarian in 1989/90, but told Dennis Mock, who chaired that search committee, that I didn't think I was ready for such a big move at that time. When I saw the posting last year, the ad just lit up in flashing lights in my brain, and I knew this was for me. It feels as though my whole career progression has inched me towards Ryerson, and I am very happy to be here. I love being part of a major transition in institutions: that is certainly what characterized my time at Mount Royal College and at Saint Mary's University – and Ryerson even more so.

C: What have been some of your initial challenges during your first year as Chief Librarian? What are some of the successes you're most proud of?

M: Moving alone to 'the big city' has certainly been a challenge. Going straight into a new position at the beginning of the fall semester was a major challenge. Trying to assimilate a new setting as quickly as possible, establishing myself, and listening to what the issues are all take time. And at Ryerson's fast pace, new issues are unfolding all the time. Two senior library staff resigned around the time I arrived (no connection I hope!) and trying to fill vacancies and get the Library up to full complement hasn't been easy. That being said, I have experienced a very warm welcome both within and outside of the Library.

I'm approaching my seventh month on the job so I think it's too early to talk about successes. And I think true success is judged by others, not by me. I believe in taking time to understand the culture (each academic

institution I've worked in has had a different culture) and to listen to people. I rely a lot on my intuition and I suppose my biggest success was in being in the right place at the right time. Only a few months into the job I'm given a new library site on Yonge Street and get to meet the Premier with \$45 million in his pocket! He jokingly teased me about empire building!

My motto has been "Build relationships before building a building." That has been my focus and I feel some satisfaction with taking that approach. I have spent many hours attending Ryerson events in order to meet people outside of the Library and get a sense of how they view the Library. It is gratifyingly positive. Just last week I attended a reception for the new Canada Research Chairs. They were glowing in their praise for the Library's breadth of resources and services. That was music to my ears.

C: With the development of the Student Learning Centre in the former Sam the Record Man location, what role do you see for the Library in this expansion? What are some of the key priorities for this new space?

M: I've been involved almost from the beginning. I'm on a Committee chaired by the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, Alan Shepard, where we have been looking at the best of the best and putting our ideas into a Ryerson context. I am thoroughly enjoying working with a President and Provost who attach such importance to the central role of the library on a university campus.

Your question about key priorities answers itself: I believe this new space is all about just that – space. It will be a window on Ryerson right from Yonge Street and I want it to be spacious, light and airy, with much needed congenial and secure study space for students, with key services close and convenient.

Madeleine Lefebvre – continued from page 1

If the architects can create a feeling of spaciousness right in the cramped heart of the city, it will speak volumes (pardon the pun) about the importance Ryerson places on our students.

C: How will you engage students, faculty and staff in developing the vision for the new space?

M: You will see a process start to unfold shortly. Students were surveyed in March, but there will be many more opportunities for student, faculty and staff input. I want everyone to feel some level of engagement in the creation of new space – the Library isn't aligned with any one particular department or faculty; the Library is for everyone.

C: What would you like to see in the Student Learning Centre?

M: Lots of glass and lots of space – have I said that enough? Lots of flexibility and moveable furnishings and walls; lots of collaboration. A bit of edgy style and the celebration of the programs that make Ryerson different and a physical acknowledgment right on Yonge Street of our role as a city builder and community partner.

C: Tell us a bit about what you enjoy to do when you're not at the Library?

M: I'm tempted to say there's not much time when I'm not at the Library – it has been a very busy seven months! I was lucky to find a beautiful apartment in a quiet and lovely neighbourhood. At the end of a very long day I like to sit by the window, read the newspapers and listen to music. Once I feel more established, I want to get back into acting. I'm a member of ACTRA and Equity so I hope to be able to sharpen my acting skills, occasionally. I also love public speaking and have been doing some invited presentations here and there about my book, *The Romance of Libraries*.

Coming to Toronto was the right thing for me. I love the 'vibe' here. I've just spent a week tucking trips to Toronto Fashion Week around my work schedule and having a wonderful time.

New E-Books

Ebrary: access to over 5,000 titles in a wide variety of subject areas (Education, Fine Arts, Geography, History, Languages and Literature, Law, Medicine, Political Science, Science, Social Sciences and Technology). A free downloadable reader is required to view these books.

MyiLibrary: A collection of over 12,000 titles (2005 – 2008) published by Springer, as well as some additional titles from Humana Press in a variety of fields.

To connect to these e-book collections, please visit:
<http://www.ryerson.ca/library/ref/ebooks.html>.

New E-Resources

PEN – Practice-Based Evidence in Nutrition: a dynamic service designed as a series of knowledge pathways, each focusing on a topic from the diverse practice of dietetics. Each pathway is developed from key practice questions and evidence-based answers, with links to tools and resources consistent with the evidence. Knowledge pathways are grouped under four broad Practice Categories: Population Health/Lifecycle, Health Condition/Disease, Food/Nutrients, and Professional Practice.

CSA Illustrata: Natural Sciences: the first in a series of CSA Illustrata databases of searchable tables, figures, graphs, charts and other illustrations from the scholarly research and technical literature.

Net Advantage: an online source of comprehensive business and investment information produced by Standard and Poor's. The portal includes data and analysis of industries, companies, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, indexes and current news. Net Advantage contains the following S&P publications: *Bond Guide*, *Mutual Fund Reports*, *Corporation Records*, *The Outlook*, *Dividend Record*, *Register of Corporations*, *Earnings Guide*, *Stock Guide*, *Industry Surveys* and *Stock Reports*.

Cambridge Collections Online: accessible introductions to major writers, artists, philosophers, topics and periods. All are collections of specially commissioned essays, shaped and introduced to appeal to student readers. Together the chapters add up to a systematic critical account of, for example Plato, Luther, Jane Austen, Tom Stoppard or Stravinsky, the French Novel or Jewish American Literature, and each title is supported by reference features such as a chronology and guide to further reading.

CumInCAD: a cumulative index of publications about computer-aided architectural design. It includes bibliographic information about over 8,100 records from journals and conferences such as ACADIA, CAADRIA, eCAADe, SiGraDi, CAAD futures, DDSS and others. All papers include full abstracts. Full texts, in PDF, of some 5,400 papers are also available.

For a complete list of new e-resource acquisitions, please visit:
http://www.ryerson.ca/library/er_resources.html.



Library Stars

Ryerson Library has been honoured two years in a row by the Innovative Users Group (IUG) with a Be Innovative! award, as part of its annual awards program for libraries using the Innovative integrated library system. In 2007, Ryerson received the first-place award in the Patron Empowerment category for "Simplified Citation Links with RefWorks." **Sally Wilson**, Web Services Librarian, developed a script which allows users, in one mouse click, to save citation information from a bibliographic record in the library catalogue to the RefWorks web-based bibliographic citation manager software. This has allowed for a more seamless transfer of bibliographic information from the catalogue to RefWorks for library users.

With the addition of Multimedia Programmer, **Graham McCarthy**, the Library has enhanced its ability to integrate social software with Library applications. In 2008, Graham McCarthy's work developing a Library application for Facebook also won a Be Innovative! award for patron empowerment. This application allows Facebook users to search the Library catalogue and e-resources from within Facebook. Graham and Sally have shared their expertise at various library conferences, and are developing Ryerson Library's reputation as a leader in social software and technology development.



Mary Chevreau, Innovative's Vice President of North American Sales, presenting the Be Innovative! award and cheque to **Sally Wilson** and **Madeleine Lefebvre**, Chief Librarian.

AskON: Online Research Help

Ryerson Library is now delivering virtual reference services as part of AskON, a collaborative pilot project involving college and university libraries across the province. Through our participation in AskON, chat reference service is available from Monday to Thursday 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. and Friday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the academic term, with reduced hours during the spring/summer terms. To connect to AskON, please visit the Library website.

Submitting InterLibrary Loans Just Got Easier!

The Library recently integrated RACER, the InterLibrary Loan system, with the Get It! Ryerson menu that searches for full-text access to journals available at Ryerson. If the article you are looking for is not available at Ryerson, you now have the option to automatically populate the fields of the RACER request form from within the Get It! Menu. To learn more, please ask at the Reference Desk or talk to your subject librarian.

Staff Notes

The Library had a number of retirements in the summer of 2007. We bid a fond farewell to Librarian **Daniel Phelan**, Library Technician **Charlotte Broome**, and the University Archivist, **Claude Doucet**. **Jane Schmidt** has assumed Daniel's responsibilities as Manager of Collection Services. **Leijs Weijs** has been hired as the new Library Technician replacing Charlotte's position. The Library also welcomed technicians **Kraigen Brown** and **Denise Matchett** to Audio-Visual/InterLibrary Loan. **Owen Jenkins** has recently been hired to manage the Archives with **Rosalynn MacKenzie** joining him as an Archives Assistant.

The Library has also added some new staff positions. **Beth Knazook** has joined the Library as a Photographic Curatorial Specialist in Special Collections. Beth is a graduate of Ryerson's master's program in Photographic Preservation and Collections Management. **Graham McCarthy** is currently working as a Multimedia Programmer developing several unique applications designed to streamline Library operations and to enhance user access to the Library's resources and services.

Librarians **Ophelia Cheung** and **Joan Parsons** are currently on six-month sabbaticals.

Liz Bishop, Manager of Borrower Services, has recently been appointed as interim Associate Chief Librarian. Liz will play a key role in the development of a new Library Plan to support Ryerson's new Academic Plan; building on such assessments as LibQual+ and others to develop measurable outcomes, and the promotion and development of a library-wide staff training and development framework.

SPEAKING OF THE LIBRARY

www.library.ryerson.ca

Publications in 2007

Ophelia Cheung and **Susan Patrick** published "E-Reserve in Blackboard: Chalk it up to Collaboration" in the *Journal of Interlibrary Loan, Document Delivery & Electronic Reserve*, 17 (3): 129-143.

Brian Cameron and **Cecile Farnum** published "Promoting Professionalism, and Academic Librarianship: Observations on the Marketing of the M.L.S." in *Partnership: the Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research*, 2(2): 1-4.

Don Kinder and **Cecile Farnum** co-authored a paper with **Professor Maureen Reed** entitled "Collaboration between Librarians and Teaching Faculty to Teach Information Literacy at One Ontario University: Experiences and Outcomes" in the *Journal of Information Literacy*, 1 (3).

Val Lem continues to be a regular contributor to the online reviewing journal *CM Magazine*.

Presentations

Sally Wilson and **Graham McCarthy** presented at the 2008 Eastern Canada Innovative Users Group in Ottawa on "Socializing your WebPAC."

OLA 2008

Kelly Dermody co-presented "Creating a Level Playing Field: Service Accessibility for Users with Disabilities."

Sonny Banerjee participated in the "Diversity Roundtable," discussing issues regarding retention and support for diverse employees.

Sue Giles co-presented "Breaking News on the Data Front – from Census to Surveys."

Brian Cameron and **Cecile Farnum** presented on "Marian the Naughty Librarian: The Sexualization of Librarians in Popular Culture." Brian also participated in a panel discussion on career paths.

Sally Wilson and **Graham McCarthy** presented a poster session "Re-Invent Your Library," exploring the use of Web 2.0 to reach out to users and raise the profile of the library.

Library Hours

Monday to Friday – 8 a.m. to midnight | Saturday and Sunday – 10 a.m. to midnight



Please address all comments and correspondence concerning this publication to:

Cecile Farnum, Editor, *Nexus*

Library, 350 Victoria Street, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3.

Telephone: 416-979-5000, ext. 4093

Nexus