



# McMaster LIBRARY NEWS

library.mcmaster.ca



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## McMaster Libraries now among top 100 research libraries in North America

The 2008-9 Almanac for Higher Education, published annually by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, recently released its Library Investment Index. Since last year, we have moved up eight spots and are currently listed in 94th place. The index is composed of four quantitative data elements: total library expenditures, salaries & wages of professional staff, spending on library materials, and the numbers of professional and support staff. This is a steady improvement from previous standings, up from 106th place in the 2006-7 index, and reflects the Library's commitment to strengthening our collections and professional staffing.

## Exhibits

**William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections presents:**

**Anti-Semitism, Resistance and Propaganda in World War II** | January 2009 - March 2009  
Open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



## Renovating the Thode Library of Science & Engineering

The H.G. Thode Library of Science & Engineering, which officially opened its doors in November 1978, is undergoing a dramatic multi-year transformation. Spaces and services are being redesigned to better support the teaching, learning and research needs of a 21st century campus. The changes are being introduced in stages as funding becomes available. The immediate impact has been dramatic.

Phase 1, which officially opened December 2, 2008, was funded by a donation from the Estates of Alice Mary Young and James Mason Young, and a contribution from Student Affairs.

The new space features state-of-the-art public computing areas. Students visiting Thode Library now have access to 70 new dual-boot Apple computers, wireless access and printing hubs. For increased flexibility and convenience, 30 new Apple Laptops are now available for loan from the service desk. A self-checkout machine has been installed near the entrance to allow visitors to sign out their own materials.

The renovated space includes comfortable and functional seating areas to encourage both group discussion and quiet reflection. Students gravitate toward the new study booths, modeled after the furnishings typically seen in a 1950s diner.

The new Reactor Café, inspired by the research interests of Dr. Harry Thode, the Library's

namesake, has become a popular spot since it opened. Students and staff appreciate the convenience of being able to purchase food on site – especially during the busy exam periods.

Later this year the Library will introduce an innovative new concept in service delivery. The Information Technology Help, Reference and Circulation Desks (formerly spread out over two floors) are being brought together in a single location on the 1st floor near the entrance. Visitors will be able to get help starting a research paper, resolving a computer problem or borrowing a book – all from the same service area.

Future phases will include several new group study rooms, instruction spaces, practice presentation rooms and a small auditorium. The renovated Thode Library will become home to iSci, the new Integrated Science Program being introduced at McMaster in September 2009. McMaster's Centre for Leadership in Learning (CLL) and Learning Technology Research Centre (LTRC) will provide teaching support to faculty and graduate students from newly designed space on the 2nd floor.

We invite you to add your support to the Learning Commons @ Thode project. If you are interested in this or any other giving opportunities, please contact Anne Plessl, Library Development Officer, at (905) 525-9140 ext. 24865 or [plessla@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plessla@mcmaster.ca)



## Focus on digital initiatives

### A redesigned library website

We recently launched a redesigned library website to create a more user-centred, intuitive and dynamic online space for our information seekers to access the rich collection of resources and services we offer. Designed with input and feedback from users, the new site features:

- an events calendar
- the ability to comment on pages and blog posts throughout the site
- social-bookmarking functionality on all pages

The site was launched in “Beta” mode, allowing us to continue to test the functionality and design elements against user expectations and habits. While the majority of the work on the site was completed prior to launch, good web practices dictate that a website is never “done” and changes will continue to be made as a result of on-going testing and the steady stream of feedback we receive from our community.



Archival materials on display at the Peace and War launch



### Peace and War in the 20th Century now live [pw20c.mcmaster.ca](http://pw20c.mcmaster.ca)

After a year in development, this brand new website is live and allows you to explore two of the most central and formative aspects of twentieth-century culture: peace and war.

The website is organized into compact thematic modules with content ranging from personal diaries, letters and photographs to recruiting posters, peace bulletins and popular songs. The site includes 3,500 images, 50 case studies, audio and video segments, maps and an animation of a First World War trench raid recreated from original archival documents.

“What makes this website exciting to me is that it introduces students to the exceptional archival resources available to them in their own backyard, at McMaster University Library. The online sources are an exciting addition to research materials currently available on the Internet, and will motivate students interested in studying efforts to make peace, or the social, political and cultural impact of war,” says Dr. Ken Cruikshank, Chair of the Department of History.

### Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing

The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections has undertaken the development of an interactive, state-of-the-art website on the history of Canadian publishing with the assistance of a \$100,000 grant from the Canadian Memory Fund. The *Historical Perspectives on Canadian Publishing* website will focus on the history of publishing houses, key players in the publishing scene, authorship and the relationship between publishing and Canadian identity.

McMaster’s extensive collection of publishers’ imprints, including McClelland & Stewart and Macmillan Canada, as well as author papers from Margaret Laurence, Farley Mowat and others, will be featured in the site.

McMaster is partnering with the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library (University of Toronto) and Queen’s University Archives, which also hold significant archives related to publishing. Contact Carl Spadoni at [spadon@mcmaster.ca](mailto:spadon@mcmaster.ca) for more information.



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



## Web 2.0 Toolbox

Our services have expanded to include hosting blogs and wikis for interested faculty and staff. The Library has installed the popular blog software Wordpress to host blogs locally, and PmWiki to host wikis locally.

“We’ve noticed a trend that more and more faculty are using emerging tools like blogs and wikis to extend in-class discussions, promote group work, and provide a platform for collaboration and distributed research,” says Librarian Amanda Etches-Johnson, who is spearheading the toolbox project.

In a world where web technologies are changing the face of scholarly communication, this service is a natural extension of the Library’s traditional role in managing access to the university’s academic resources and scholarly information. To get started, please visit [blog.lib.mcmaster.ca](http://blog.lib.mcmaster.ca) or contact Amanda Etches-Johnson at [etchesa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:etchesa@mcmaster.ca).

## Library takes on new role as publisher

McMaster University Library has opened an institutional repository called *Digital Commons* to preserve and provide access to research conducted by faculty members and departments at the university. *Digital Commons* includes dissertations and theses completed at McMaster, as well as e-books and five online scholarly journals published by McMaster researchers: *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *Energy Studies Review*; *Esurio*; *Ontario Journal of Hunger and Poverty*; *Global Labour Journal*; and *Russell: the Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies*. The inclusion of several more journals is in the planning stages. In the future, *Digital Commons* will consist of pre/post prints of faculty articles, the output of McMaster research institutes, and raw research data. For more information, visit [digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca](http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca) or contact Barbara McDonald at [mcdonb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mcdonb@mcmaster.ca).

# Reorganization and new staff

The University Library has recently unveiled a new organizational structure and has hired two new librarians.

**Vivian Lewis** is now the **Associate University Librarian for Organizational Analysis, Planning and Accountability** and oversees the Library’s key strategic priorities through effective planning, funding, marketing, assessment and overall project management. [lewisvm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lewisvm@mcmaster.ca)

**Jeannie An** is the new **Director of 21st Century Fluencies / Liaison Program** and is working to identify and develop strategies to address key fluencies, including scientific fluency, information fluency and media fluency. [anjean@mcmaster.ca](mailto:anjean@mcmaster.ca)

**Kathy Ball** has assumed the position of **Director, Assessment & Accountability** as of January 2009. She provides leadership for data collection and analysis which helps to achieve service improvements benefitting students, faculty and staff. [katball@mcmaster.ca](mailto:katball@mcmaster.ca)

**Barbara McDonald** is the new **Scholarly Communication Librarian** and works with faculty and students to determine the best

option for the dissemination of their research. In addition she will provide a solid infrastructure for e-scholarship creation and dissemination. [mcdonb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mcdonb@mcmaster.ca)

**Donna Millard** has taken on the role of **Strategic Priorities Librarian**, responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating assigned projects in support of the Library’s mission. [millard@mcmaster.ca](mailto:millard@mcmaster.ca)

**Eva Lam** joined us recently as the **GIS Librarian**. Eva helps researchers and students to find and use GIS data and other kinds of geographic information, and to incorporate GIS skills into teaching and learning. [lameva@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lameva@mcmaster.ca)

**Susan Shepley** is our newest **Liaison Librarian** in the Humanities and Social Sciences. She is working with the following departments: Health, Aging, and Society, Labour Studies, Political Science, Indigenous Studies and Social Work. [ssheple@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ssheple@mcmaster.ca)

# New spaces and services to make busy lives easier

- Borrow a data projector from Mills, Innis or Thode for up to 4 hours; projectors can be taken out of the libraries.
- Loan time for library laptops has increased from 3 to 4 hours and the laptops can now be taken out of Mills, Innis and Thode libraries.
- IM chat has extended hours on evenings and weekends:
  - Monday-Thursday 11-9
  - Friday 11-5
  - Saturday and Sunday 1-5
- Popular Reading Collection is now on LibraryThing. ([www.librarything.com/catalog/McMasterPopReading](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/McMasterPopReading))
  - Read reviews of books or create a free account and write one of your own.
  - Get suggestions for other books you might like.
  - Leave comments or suggestions. You can even “friend” us.
- The Wong e-classroom has a fresh new look with upgraded technology for teaching and learning.
- A video-conferencing facility called the “Connection Centre” recently opened on the first floor of Mills Library.
- You may now renew a borrowed book online up to 6 times (was previously 4) through your library account.



## Recent notable acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

### ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

#### Holocaust and Resistance materials:

extraordinary collection of materials pertaining to the resistance movements, underground literature, concentration camps, anti-Semitism and Nazi propaganda in Europe during WWII.

**E Pauline Johnson archives:** 3 issues of *Boys Own World*; programs and news clippings of three plays produced by the Brantford Amateurs between 1885 and 1887 in which Johnson appeared.

**Margaret Laurence archives:** her annotated copy of Tom Harpur's *For Christ's Sake* (1986).

**Penang Daily News**, propaganda newspaper in English issued by the Japanese imperial army in 1942.

**Bertrand Russell archives:** letters in Russell's hand; films (many courtesy of Tom Stanley and the Bertrand Russell Society), most notably one of Dora Russell and the Women's Caravan of Peace; portrait of Russell in pastels.

**George Henry Kirpatrick ("Pat") Strathy:** 2 albums memorializing the life of the young and brilliant University of Toronto mathematics and physics graduate who was killed on the H.M.S. Ajax in the autumn of 1940.

**Vimy Pilgrimage collection:** 2nd accrual, consisting of guide books and a passport specially issued to George Muir and Leta Dalta Muir.

**Sir Sydney Waterlow and Katina Paxinou correspondence:** approximately 75 letters written in French in 1938-39 when Waterlow, British Minister to Greece, fell in love with a prominent Greek actress.

**World War I and II collections:** ration cards, posters, magazines and photo albums of nurses and airmen at Trenton, ON.

### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Thanks to the Digital Content Infrastructure for the Human and Social Sciences (DCI) Project, McMaster University Library has been able to add a number of significant e-resources in support of humanities and social sciences. New resources include:

- *Periodicals Archive Online* - 500 full-run journals covering 200 years

- *CAIRN* - 143 current French-language journals
- *Érudit* - 57 French-Canadian journals
- *Canadian Publishers Collection* - 8,100 Canadian e-books
- 19,000 Oxford, Cambridge and Taylor & Francis e-books, with 1,000 more titles to be added over the next three years
- *Past Masters* - critical editions of 117 major philosophers, from Aristotle to the 20th Century
- *Adam Matthew Digital* - 8 primary source collections
- *Theatre in Video* - 250 plays, with streaming video
- *Classical Scores Library* - over 8,000 scores from the Renaissance to the present

Outside the DCI, the Library has added:

- *American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards*
- *BestCase* - Canadian cases and legal resources
- *Chicago Manual of Style Online*
- *CiNII* and *Nichigai MagazinePlus* - indexes to Japanese periodicals
- *Index Islamicus*

## Recent notable gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

**Janice Acton**, archives of Tools for Peace, a Canadian organization in aid of the Nicaraguan people during the 1980s; interviews with Canadian Central American Solidarity activists.

**James Alsop**, his archives from his term as Chair of the Dept. of History, including a collection of campus posters and ephemera from the 1980s.

**Bernard Baskin**, a collection of antiquarian books.

**Lorne Brown**, tapes and transcripts of interviews pertaining to Canadian Central American Solidarity activists.

**Peter Chisholm**, archives of his grandfather A.G. Chisholm, lawyer for the Six Nations with regard to native land claims beginning in the early 20th century.

**Estate of Matt Cohen**, 13th accrual of the author's archives.

**Chris Crombie**, 3rd accrual of the Crombie family fonds.

**Raymond D. Findlay**, antiquarian books mostly on Canadiana.

**Douglas M. Gibson**, accrual of the archives of Douglas Gibson Books, including materials related to books by Alice Munro and Alistair MacLeod and the recent biographies by Brian Mulroney and Paul Martin.

**Elmar Hodsoll**, rare maps, prints & books.

**J. Robert Janes**, archives of the author of the St. Cyr-Kohler mystery series.

**Margaret & Frederick Lock**, archives of Locks' Press, a private press established in 1979.

**Family of Jack McClelland**, 11th and 12th accruals of his archives, including notes and sections of his unfinished autobiography and the "coat of many authors."

**Morris Norman**, Canadian Victory bond posters and other war-related posters and ephemera.

**Leslie M. Shemilt**, books and maps on various topics.

**Vietnam War Prisoners of War and Missing in Action collection**, research materials, transcripts, notes from interviews and photographs gathered together by Monika Jensen-Stevenson for *Kiss the Boys Goodbye: How the United States Betrayed Its Own POWs in Vietnam* (1990) co-written with her husband, William Stevenson.

**David Webster**, archives of the East Timor Alert Network.

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

- Class of '53
- Estate of Lois M. Harper
- Arthur Fox
- Alvin A. Lee

and many other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

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



# McMaster University LIBRARY

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2008-2011

STRATEGIC PLAN

## Strategic Plan | 2008/2011

Libraries today are at the heart of a major transformation in teaching, learning and research on university campuses. Fueled by emerging technologies, shifting student and faculty expectations and use patterns, changing teaching strategies, and evolving digital scholarship, libraries have changed dramatically as well. No longer “book warehouses,” libraries have become centres for teaching, learning and research.

Over the past two years McMaster University Library has transformed itself into an innovative, user-centred partner in teaching, learning and research. It is an evolution that most recently culminated in the receipt of the 2008 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Excellence in Academic Libraries award, received in recognition of “a successful transformation from a traditional research library to an innovative, user-centered library using technological advances to accomplish its goals.”

As an organization, we are committed to our new strategic plan and feel that it represents continued dedication to transformation and builds on the McMaster tradition of innovation. We strive to reach an even greater level of excellence as we work towards these ambitious goals.

## Our Vision, Mission and Values

### Vision

McMaster University Library will be recognized as Canada's most innovative, user-centred, academic library.

### Mission

The University Library advances teaching, learning and research at McMaster by:

- teaching students to be successful, ethical information seekers
- facilitating access to information resources
- providing welcoming spaces for intellectual discovery
- promoting the innovative adoption of emerging learning technologies

### Values

- excellent customer service
- collaboration, innovation, creativity and risk taking
- inclusiveness and respect for the individual
- accountability for our actions and decisions

C. Alire, 'ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries winners announced', January 29, 2008. Retrieved July 10, 2008 from <http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2008/january2008/academic08.cfm>



## Strategic Directions | 2008/2011

**During the coming years, McMaster University Library will continue to transform itself in response to user needs. Librarians and library staff will focus their attention on seven key areas:**

- 1** Contribute to the creation and transfer of new knowledge by securing long-term, sustainable access to quality research materials and by promoting and preserving McMaster's unique contributions to research and creative scholarship.

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- 2** Establish ourselves as the centre for teaching and learning at McMaster by fostering innovation and excellence in the classroom and by partnering with faculty to teach students to be 21st century fluent.

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- 3** Position ourselves as leaders in the provision of responsive and professional customer service designed to meet current and emerging needs.

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- 4** Proactively, creatively and enthusiastically market the library as the premier information service provider on and off campus.

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- 5** Develop an evidence-based culture enabling change while emphasizing ambitious goal-setting, strategic risk-taking, entrepreneurship, and continuous quality improvement.

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- 6** Actively recruit, develop and retain a diverse, team-oriented, highly-skilled, technologically-fluent flexible and superlative staff.

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- 7** Strive for financial health through alignment, accountability, innovative partnerships, improved business practices, and creative development initiatives.

**The Library's Strategic Plan is a living document.**

**For details regarding specific initiatives, benchmarks and successes, please visit our website at:**

**<http://library.mcmaster.ca/mission>**