



<http://library.mcmaster.ca>

## Proposal for a New Knowledge Commons in Mills Library

The University Library has put forward a proposal to the University Planning Committee to create a new integrated learning facility in existing spaces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors of Mills Library. The proposed Commons would bring together all of the print and electronic resources, services, assistance and study space that students need to carry out their research “from start to finish” within a single facility.



Courtesy of Moffat Kinoshita

A fully realized Commons would accommodate 200 wired computers, 120 wireless access connections, six collaborative study rooms and 79 lounge seats. If demand warranted and funding could be secured, some portions of the facility could be accessible 24 hours a day.

The proposal is being driven by several objectives, among them:

- to create an enriched learning environment, fully supportive of both individual discovery and collaborative learning;
- to create a flexible, inviting environ-

ment which supports both new and evolving forms of student learning;

- to vastly increase the number of public computer stations in the Library;
- to create a state-of-the-art facility to showcase the Library’s wealth of electronic and print resources;
- to provide integrated, expert technical and reference assistance to users at the point of need;
- to build upon McMaster’s reputation for innovation, creativity and excellence.

If the model proves successful, one or more satellite Commons could be established elsewhere in the Library

system, the first being in the Thode Library of Science & Engineering.

The Library invites public comment on the proposal, and is hosting two campus consultations for members of the University community on March 22, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 1:30–3:30 p.m. in GH 111 (Council Room). The full text of the report, including floor plans and artist’s perspectives, is available on the Library web site at <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/about/k-commons/k-commons.htm>>. ■

V. Lewis

## Space Requirements in the University Library: A Blueprint for the Next Decade

“Well-planned space enables the library to fulfil its mission and pervades all other services.” (Mark Powell, *Libri* 52 #2 [June 2002]: 110–120)

The University Library is facing increasing and conflicting demands for use of its public spaces. Rich print collections are rapidly outgrowing current shelving capacity. At the same time, the vision of the “deserted library” has failed to materialize. Despite the increasing availability of virtual collections and services, physical entrance counts continue to climb. During busy times of day, students scour the buildings searching for an empty seat. Learning is becoming an increasingly collaborative process: students need spaces to work in small groups to complete their assignments. Demand for hard wired

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stations continues to climb despite the increased availability of wireless access on campus.

In response to these concerns, the University Librarian struck a small group to review the use of public space across the three libraries. The Public Space Utilization Group was charged to create a blueprint for accommodating significant increases in the number of students using the Library and to reflect our users' changing information needs and learning styles.

The preliminary report recommends a careful re-balancing of public spaces. Significant changes are proposed for housing the Library's rich collections. The report recommends greater use of compact shelving in all weight-bearing areas and the creation of a centralized high-density shelving facility to house low-use material.

Dramatic changes are also required in the allocation and location of study seating. The report recommends that at least 600 seats be added throughout the three libraries over the course of the next decade. At the same time, the amount of space devoted to public computers should be doubled, primarily through the establishment of *Knowledge Commons* facilities in both Mills and Thode. Wireless connectivity should be expanded in all three libraries.

Many existing spaces need refurbishment. As areas are re-purposed, attention must be given to carpet and paint. Lighting must be upgraded in the larger study halls. Additional electrical outlets must be added to accommodate laptop use. The state of public furnishings must be reviewed on a systematic basis.

The recommendations outlined in the report would alter the proportions of assignable public space being used for various activities. The size of the Library's collections would grow but, given alternative shelving strategies, the actual amount of floor space devoted to collections in existing

buildings would actually decrease. Study and computer space, on the other hand, would increase to meet our users' changing information needs and learning strategies.

Public consultation on the Blueprint will continue for the next few months. Two campus consultations for members of the University community will be held on March 22, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. and 1:30–3:30 p.m. in GH 111 (Council Room). The Library hopes to finalize the Blueprint in Spring 2005. ■

V. Lewis

### ***Poster campaign helps students "get in gear"***

The Library's innovative @ your library® poster series for 2004/2005 was launched in September at a reception for library donors. Building on last year's award-winning campaign, the new series consists of eight posters featuring student-athletes from McMaster's rowing, gymnastics, soccer, rugby, squash, water-polo, cycling and golf teams.

Now a familiar sight on campus, the posters are intended to promote awareness of the libraries and their services and resources to students, particularly undergraduates. In a fun and visual way, students are encouraged to "get in gear", "get in the



swing", "stretch your mind", "get on course", "put your heads together", "focus", "get on the ball" and "keep your head above water" @ your library®. To see the poster images, go to: <<http://www.mcmaster.ca/ua/opr/slideshows/cycling.html>>.

Posters are displayed in all campus libraries and other campus buildings, and as screensavers on the Library's public computers. Thanks to the Department of Athletics & Recreation, which partnered with the Library on the campaign, the images also appeared on the Mactron during the Marauders' home football games.

Last year's poster campaign received recognition from the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAЕ) when it awarded the Gold Award to McMaster's Library for Best Print Ad or Ad Campaign in the annual Prix D'Excellence, a national awards program recognizing outstanding achievement in alumni affairs, public affairs, development, student recruitment, and overall institutional advancement. ■

A. Plessl

### ***get it! An Exciting Addition to Our Toolbox of Electronic Services***

On September 8, 2004 McMaster launched GET IT, a new service designed to improve access to electronic journal (e-journal) articles.

Like other large research libraries McMaster subscribes to thousands of scholarly e-journals from a variety of publishers. Library researchers sometimes think that finding relevant articles is akin to finding a needle in a haystack. The key to finding e-journal articles on a particular subject is not to search every potentially relevant e-journal one-by-one, but to use a specialized academic "search engine." These search engines are also known

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## *Celebrating Academic & Athletic Excellence*

Library donors and friends were invited to an event on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of @ your library® posters promoting campus libraries to McMaster students. Provost Ken Norrie welcomed guests on the University's behalf. University Librarian Graham R. Hill extended thanks to



*Guests mingle with student-athletes*

donors for their support to the Library, to the many student-athletes who participated in the two poster campaigns, to the Department of Athletics & Recreation for their partnership in the campaigns, to photographer Scott Gardner, and to library staff who worked on the poster committees.

Thérèse Quigley, Director of Athletics & Recreation, introduced the student-athletes who were able to attend the event, and donors enjoyed mingling with them at the reception following the formal proceedings. ■

*A. Plessl*

*(GET IT — cont'd from p.2)*

as Abstracting & Indexing databases or e-article databases. GET IT is the "middleware" service which links the search engines to the e-journal articles. With GET IT in place, researchers can identify an interesting article in an Abstracting & Indexing database, and click right through to the full text of that article.

GET IT is a cooperative initiative of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and uses the SFX ("Special Effects") software from ExLibris. ■

*B. McDonald*

### ***LibAccess***

The Library has introduced a new authentication system to replace the existing system for access to our electronic resources. The new system, called LibAccess <<http://library.mcmaster.ca/libaccess.htm>>, was introduced to simplify the process of accessing the library's electronic resources from off-campus. Since LibAccess was introduced, both library staff and users have been benefiting from the advantages of the new system:

- more operating systems and

browsers are supported compared to the former proxy system (including users who access the Internet via AOL, as well as Macintosh users);

- users are no longer required to configure their browsers in order to log in;
- LibAccess allows the library to offer a consistent mode of access to our users—both at home and in the library;
- the new system is fully administered by the library, allowing library staff to provide support and troubleshooting;
- guest access is now more streamlined and allows non-McMaster users to access the Internet and select electronic resources in the libraries until midnight on the day of their visit;
- a self-administering login system allows users to set up their own accounts with a username and password of their choice. As well, our more forgetful patrons can reset their own username and password should they forget their original selection! ■

*A. Etches-Johnson*

### ***Library News & Events Blog and RSS Feeds***

In September, the library rolled out its new News and Events Blog on the library Website

<<http://library.mcmaster.ca/php/blog.php>>. A blog (short for "Web Log") is a database-driven format of Web publishing that consists of short pieces of text presented in reverse chronological order on a Web page, and includes individual links to each item on the page. The Library News and Events Blog provides a dynamic space for news and event items that are of interest to the library community, and the blog format provides for date and subject archiving as well as a powerful search function.

The biggest advantage of converting News and Events from a static page to blog format is that it allows us to provide RSS feeds for our news stories. RSS ("Rich Site Summary" or "Really Simple Syndication") is an XML-driven method of content delivery that allows anyone with an RSS feed reader (or "aggregator") to receive updates from the Library's News and Events Blog whenever new stories are posted to it. The library currently publishes 11 RSS feeds based on the subject categories of each news post. Visit our Web site for links to these feeds and for more information on RSS, visit <<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/rss>>. ■

*A. Etches-Johnson*

### ***American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies***

Dr. Ray Stephanson, Professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan, was the 2004 recipient of the McMaster-ASECS fellowship award. Dr. Stephanson spent four weeks at the Library in September–October 2004 researching McMaster's copies of many early editions of Alexander Pope's letters. His research focused on determining how Pope's correspondence was intended by Pope to be read when it was first published in the 1730s, and how the author selected, shaped and edited his letters over editions to influence his readers and their opinions of him. ■

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## Recent Notable Acquisitions

The Library has acquired the following important research materials:

- ❖ archives of the author and bank robber Stephen Reid and an accrual of the archives of author Susan Musgrave.
- ❖ an accrual of the papers of author David Helwig.
- ❖ the new 60-volume edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, including online access for one year. Published in September 2004, this is an illustrated collection of 50,000 specially written biographies of the men and women who shaped all aspects of Britain's past, from the fourth century BC to the year 2000 (Mills Ref. DA 28 .O95 2004).
- ❖ additional backfile for all Elsevier *ScienceDirect* journals. With this acquisition, McMaster students and faculty now have access to a full 10 years (1995 to present) of full-text electronic Elsevier journals.
- ❖ the online classical music collection *Naxos Music Library*, with over 85,000 tracks including Classical, Jazz, World, Folk and Chinese music.
- ❖ the complete suite of over 1,000 journal titles offered electronically by *Taylor & Francis*, and the *Sage* online suite of 350 journal titles.
- ❖ the full-text electronic version of *Scientific American* from 1993 to the present.
- ❖ *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy Online*. ■

## Recent Notable Gifts

The Library has received the following gifts from:

- ❖ Janice Acton, a collection of photographic material pertaining to the Canadian Chemical and Textile Union—Artistic Woodwork Strike, 1973.
- ❖ Alwyn Berland, books on American & British literature, and literature

in translation.

- ❖ Michel Brisebois, a collection of ephemeral and fleeting literature on France in WWII.
- ❖ W. Watson Buchanan, books on British history and literature.
- ❖ Manfred Dietrich, journals and books pertaining to English literature in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ Lorenzo DiTommaso and Diane Labrosse, books on Judaism and science fiction.
- ❖ Simon Haykin, books on electrical engineering.
- ❖ Jackie Hooper, two Margaret Laurence letters.
- ❖ Maureen Hupfer, books on advertising and consumer behaviour.
- ❖ Jack McNie, a collection of 13 Soviet satirical posters issued by Boievoi Karandash in the 1980s.
- ❖ Don Measner, a collection of rare maps.
- ❖ Morris Norman, WWII recruitment poster and map of Lanark County.
- ❖ Betty Owen, a copy of Alexander Pope's translation of *The Iliad of Homer*, 1743.
- ❖ George M. Paul, books on classics.
- ❖ Peace Brigades International, an accrual of archives consisting of 22 boxes of administrative files and correspondence from Haiti and Europe.
- ❖ Oliver Pocknell, books on French drama.
- ❖ Charles Roland, books on various topics.
- ❖ Gary Schwarz, 3 volumes of *Graham's Illustrated Magazine* (1843, 1844 and 1848).
- ❖ Leslie W. Shemilt, books and conference proceedings on waste management.
- ❖ Dr. Ian Spencer, his archives comprising his Ph.D. thesis and published articles; and the archives of the organic chemist R.H.F. Manske, 32 cm of textual records, consisting of Manske's publications, his research notebooks, and his theses for M.Sc. and D.Sc.
- ❖ Ed Thomas, an accrual of the archives of CUPE, Local 5 (Hamilton, ON) containing correspondence,

minutes, and audio & video tapes.

- ❖ John C. Weaver, books on Australian and New Zealand history.
- ❖ from an anonymous donor, eleven binders of reports and four videos for the Westinghouse Canada archives.

We are grateful to all donors for their generosity to the Library. ■

## Publications

The following recent publications made use of our collections:

Hide, Øystein. "Wittgenstein's Books at the Bertrand Russell Archives and the Influence of Scientific Literature on Wittgenstein's Early Philosophy," *Philosophical Investigations* 27:1 (January 2004): 68–9.

Knister, Raymond. *After Exile: A Raymond Knister Poetry Reader*. Gregory Betts, ed. Toronto: Exile Editions, 2003.

Leerhoff, Holger. *Bertrand Russells Philosophie der Mathematik als Ursprung des Logischen Atomismus*. Marburg: Tectum Verlag, 2004.

Nichol, bp. *Konfessions of an Elizabethan Fan Dancer*. Nelson Ball, ed. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2004.

Ostovitch, Helen and Sauer, Elizabeth. *Reading Early Modern Women: An Anthology of Texts in Manuscript and Print, 1550–1700*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Powers, Lyall Harris. *Alien Heart: The Life and Work of Margaret Laurence*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2003.

Yibao, Xu. "Bertrand Russell and the Introduction of Mathematical Logic in China," *History and Philosophy of Logic* 24 (2003): 181–96. ■

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