



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



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.

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.”

