Library Liaison @MAC

Report to ALUC/SELUC/SLAC
by Barbara McDonald, Director of Library Liaison. November 2007.

Staffing:
- Seven new librarians have joined the University Library since June, all of whom are involved in liaison on some level. We have been busy working with our new colleagues to welcome and orient them to McMaster.
- As of November 12, there will be 26 liaisons assigned to portfolios in Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, Engineering, Business (http://library.mcmaster.ca/liaison/dept.htm) and Campus & Community Partners (http://library.mcmaster.ca/liaison/campus.htm)

Liaison Priorities for 2007-08:
- **Communication & Building Relationships:** Liaisons are focusing on getting to know their departments by meeting with key faculty members (library representatives; faculty who regularly request information literacy sessions, chairs, new faculty, curriculum committee members and course coordinators). Liaisons report a very positive reception from faculty colleagues.
- **Teaching & Learning:** Karen Nicholson, the “Teaching and Learning Librarian” joined us on September 4, 2007 and will be the lead in this area. During the fall semester we continued to teach information literacy classes and workshops as we had done last year, with new librarians working in collaboration with experienced McMaster librarians. Karen is working on a number of new initiatives and will provide a report on Teaching & Learning at the Spring meetings.
- **Managing Access to Scholarly Literature:** Liaisons are working with faculty representatives and Wade Wyckoff (Collections Librarian) to create a monograph acquisitions strategy for each department. They are collaborating with faculty representatives to review collection development policies ([http://library.mcmaster.ca/cat-coll/coll/policies/](http://library.mcmaster.ca/cat-coll/coll/policies/)), with the goal of updating them by May 2008 and are developing basic library research guides for their subjects ([http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/](http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/)).

- **Research Support for Individuals:** The Library has restructured “Research Help” (Reference Service) staffing, so that more of the front line assistance (in person and virtual [http://library.mcmaster.ca/justask/](http://library.mcmaster.ca/justask/)) is being provided by Library Assistants. Liaisons each work some hours on a Research Help Desk (in person and/or virtual) as well as providing individual research consultations for graduate students, researchers and faculty.