

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

November 29, 2013

Leadership: Vivian Lewis was appointed University Librarian in August 2013.

New Hires: The following continuing appointments have been made since the Spring meeting:

- Learning Support Librarian (Leeanne Romane)
- Thode Services Librarian (Andrew Colgoni)
- Mills Services Librarian (Lynne Serviss)
- Archives Assistant (Bridget Whittle)
- Library Assistant, Mills Library (Sandra Ravovac)
- Library Assistant, Thode Library (Imthiyaz Hameed)

Budget: The Library was successful in securing a modest increase of approximately \$200,000 in its budget for 2013/14, with commitment for a more sizeable increase in 2014/15. (NOTE: The increase was required to offset dramatic increases in information resource costs.)

Celebrations of New Archival Donations: The Library celebrated the donations of 3 important archives:

- **Bruce Cockburn** (May 7) For details, see <http://www.thespec.com/whatson/article/928075--bruce-cockburn-donates-his-archives-to-mcmaster>
- **Rob Sawyer** (September 13) For details, see: <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/article/sci-fi-author-robert-sawyer-donates-papers-to-mcmaster/>
- **Basil Johnston** (September 25).

New WWII Map Site: The Library launched a new site to support access to 2,650 high-resolution WWII maps. For details, see:

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/article/second-world-war-maps-provide-digital-treasure-for-researchers-around-the-world/>

E-Book Survey – Janice Adlington and Wade Wyckoff conducted a short (7-question) survey on faculty perceptions of e-books. Is this a topic the group would like to focus on at our next meeting?

Ask A Librarian (Virtual Reference) : McMaster launched the Ask-a-Librarian online reference service on September 9. The service provides McMaster users with 67 hours a week of real-time answers to research questions. Ask-a-Librarian is offered in partnership with 9 other Ontario research libraries. Uptake has been high.

McMaster 24-Hour Film Festival: The Lyons New Media Centre held the 2nd annual 24-hour film festival on September 27. Participants had 24 hours to make a film incorporating three pre-determined elements (a chair, a key and a very specific line of dialogue). For details, see: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/22486>

Faculty Member in Residence: Dr. Brian Detlor (School of Business) was appointed as the University Library's first Faculty Member in Residence in August. Dr. Detlor will undertake a series of research projects including a textual analysis of LibQUAL comments in conjunction with Kathy Ball, Director of Assessment. For details, see: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/news?page=2>

Collaboration with Hamilton Public Library: Dr. Detlor held a Knowledge Café on August 9. This event brought together librarians and staff from Hamilton Public Library and McMaster University Library to discuss possible research projects and collaborations. Participants met in small groups to discuss broad themes). The event culminated in a set of promising projects.

Digital Storytelling: The first product of the HPL / McMaster collaboration is a Hamilton Digital Storytelling project. The two organizations are now working with the City of Hamilton to create a platform for capturing stories about local people, places and things.

Writing Circle: Anne Simpson, McMaster's Mabel Pugh Taylor Writer-in-Residence for 2013/14, is holding writing circles in the library for aspiring poets. For details, see: <http://library.mcmaster.ca/news/22523>

Student Ambassador: The Library has hired its first student ambassador (Maitreyi Ramachandran) to assist with marketing, social media and events. Maitreyi will sit as a member of ULAC. for 2013/14.

ClimateQUAL: McMaster University Library was the first Canadian institution to run ClimateQUAL, a standardized online survey of workplace health supported by the Association of Research Libraries. The ClimateQUAL team (led by Kathy Ball and comprised of staff from across the library) ran a succession of focus groups and all-staff meetings to drill deeper into the results. The Library Leadership Team and the ClimateQUAL group are now working on a joint communiqué to staff outlining a list of 15 commitments for the 2013/14 year.