

CASLIS TORONTO NEWS



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

From Our President

Greetings CASLIS Members.

April 13 Program – location change. Unbelievable to think that our program year is in the home stretch. Our last program of the year fast approaches in April with Gwynneth Evans and Carole Joling joining us from Ottawa to share their experiences working internationally – both throughout their careers with the federal government and its agencies, and now after “retirement”. Their enthusiasm will inspire you to think creatively about the difference that you can make as an information professional on the international scene. Please note, the location has changed. **The new location is the Ontario Legislature, Queen’s Park Crescent. Please enter from the East Entrance, and check in at Security there.**

FIS. The CASLIS@FIS crew have already delved into the topic of working abroad, with Lisa Diner sharing tips from her years of working in New York and Washington earlier in March, and therein wrapping up the 5-part series of brown bag lunches devoted to topics of interest to new members of our profession. Congratulations go out to all graduating FIS students. CASLIS is a great way to stay connected with FIS friends and colleagues. We look forward to seeing you at events in the years ahead.

CBC. The main March event for CASLIS was our faaabbbulous tour of the CBC Reference and Design Libraries. The event sold out quickly to a host of news junkies who were enthralled by the behind the scenes peek at what goes on to get the news out. For a review, see the bottom of page 2. Great thanks go to Lisa Diner for the idea and logistical arrangements, and Michele Melady at CBC for making all the in-house arrangements to make the event a success.

AGM. The final event of our year is the Annual General Meeting, set to take place at the Ontario Club on May 18, at which we will also be celebrating our 30th (Pearl) Anniversary as a chapter. A panel of our leaders from the past 30 years will share their pearls of wisdom harvested over the past 30 years of involvement with CASLIS. We would like to make the event pricing more accessible to students. If you would be interested in subsidizing the attendance of one or more student(s), please contact me. Please check the website (www.caslistoronto.on.ca) and listserv for more details for this auspicious occasion.

2005-06 Exec. Relative to the AGM, if you are interested in sitting on next year’s CASLIS Toronto executive, please contact President Elect, Yvonne Barber. For descriptions of all the roles, please refer to the CASLIS Toronto website. Haven’t come to an event in a while? Volunteer to help with programs, so you want to come to all of them. Wish something were covered in the newsletter? Volunteer to write or compile it. Like to put your web development skills to use? Volunteer to help with the chapter site. Foodie or organizer at heart? Volunteer to be our logistics and catering co-ordinator. Concerned that membership might be declining? Volunteer to spearhead a new membership initiative. Truly, we’ve got something for everyone, and the executive is a great way to get to know the Toronto special library scene.

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SL of the Year. Moving on to the national scene, the selection committee has identified this year's Special Librarian of the Year award, and competition was steep. The committee received numerous excellent nominations and made a decision with difficulty. The winner will be announced at this year's National AGM in Calgary.

See you soon,

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Recruiting for next year's executive

CASLIS Toronto is looking for a few folks to volunteer for the 2005/2006 Executive.

Why join??

- Looks great on a resume!
- Meet lots of new people in your field
- Have fun with us!!
- Make a difference in your profession and your association!
- Get connected!!

We are looking to fill the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Facilities and Catering
- Publicity and Listserv

If you would like more information about specific positions available this year, or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Yvonne Barber at yvbarber@yahoo.ca or visit <http://www.caslistoronto.on.ca> for more details

March Program

CBC Libraries Tour March 7, 2005

CASLIS members were treated to an inspired evening at the CBC on March 7th for a tour of the Design and Reference Libraries.

Design Library librarians Lynda Barnett and Janet Muise gave us a glimpse of the importance of the library as a central depository used by many seeking photos from their vast photo collection, inspiration for costume design through the many costume design books, or searching for one of the thousands of video clips saved and catalogued.

Our tour of the reference library, led by library manager Michele Melady, provided us with a sense of how the library functions and the role it plays in handling the varied information needs of CBC staff who work for both radio and television across the country.

The Reference Library has a staff of seven: a manager, 3 reference librarians, 1 library technician, a subscriptions clerk and a generalist clerk. The Design Library has a staff of 3.5: a librarian, 2 library technicians and a part-time library assistant.

Together, the book collection in the two libraries totals approximately 20,000 volumes. The Reference Library subscribes to over 100 magazines and a dozen newspapers from Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

The Design Library subscribes to 70 titles, with an emphasis on visual arts, fashion, and design.

Core users of the Reference Library are reporters, researchers and producers working in radio, television and new media. The Design Library serves people needing visual information. Their core users are graphic, set and costume designers.

Special projects include the ongoing scanning and cataloguing of the Design Library's still photography collection; development of training materials for end-users; and continued promotion and marketing of the Libraries' services.

On hand to provide concrete examples of the library's central role in helping make news were Lynette Fortune, Producer with the Fifth Estate and Talin Vartanian, Senior Producer with Canada Reads.

I think it is fair to say from the response to the evening that CASLIS librarians love the CBC!
<http://www.cbc.ca/designlibrary/>

Lisa Diner
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WEB WATCH

Baseball Fever Returns

By Michel-Adrien Sheppard

The hockey season may have been ruined, but there is still baseball. As American poet Walt Whitman wrote in 1846: "Let us go forth awhile, and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our close rooms...the game of ball is glorious". To prepare for the glory of the new season about to begin, here is a sampling of some of the vast baseball riches available on the Internet.

Baseball – A Film by Ken Burns

<http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/>

Master documentary filmmaker Ken Burns created this 9-episode series for PBS a few years ago to tell the saga of baseball all the way back to the 1840s. The web site describes all of the episodes ("innings") and offers links to a smorgasbord of resources on the history of the game.

Elysian Fields Quarterly

<http://www.efqreview.com/>

Describes itself as "the literary baseball journal that is short on hype and long on content. Intelligent, quirky, iconoclastic, funny, and opinionated".

The Baseball Scorecard

<http://www.baseballscorecard.com/>

Includes a glossary of baseball terms, a tutorial on how to keep score during a game, and links to other sites that offer information on scoring a game.

Major League Baseball

<http://mlb.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/history/index.jsp>

This "official site" of the major leagues is nothing if not content rich: it can connect fans to a massive database of historical statistics, and offers individual team histories, a listing of past winners of the various MLB annual awards such as Rookie of the Year, the "This Week in Baseball History" feature, features on the so-called Negro League from before racial integration of the sport, and everything one could possibly want to know about 100 years of World Series competition but was afraid of looking like a fool in a crowded sports bar for asking.

National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

<http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/>

This site focuses on detailed profiles of historical baseball notables, lists and trivia. It also includes a wonderful daily feature called "This Day in Baseball History". You can also search the collections of the Library and Giamatti Research Center at <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/library/index.htm>: there are online bibliographies on topics such as women in baseball, Jackie Robinson, and Roberto Clemente, archival finding aids, research lists and access to the ABNER catalogue.

The Baseball Almanac

<http://www.baseball-almanac.com/>

For the trivia and stats freak lurking in the heart of every true baseball fan.

The Baseball Index

<http://www.baseballindex.org/>

Free catalogue to the baseball literature, covering more than 200,000 books, magazine articles, programs, pamphlets, films, recordings, songs, poems, cartoons, and advertising items about baseball. A project of the Bibliography Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). The SABR site itself is worth a visit, <http://www.sabr.org/>, in particular the "SABR Online" section that features syllabi of college courses, a discussion list, and forums. The site includes links to regional chapters, project pages, and member-recommended web sites. You may think it's a game, to these people, it's a serious scientific endeavour.

The Science of Baseball

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/baseball/>

Speaking of science, San Francisco's science museum, the Exploratorium, has built a web site devoted to unravelling ancient mysteries such as "How Far Can You Hit One?" and "How to Find the Sweet Spot of a Bat".

Ballparks of Baseball

<http://www.ballparksofbaseball.com/>

Information on past, current, and future cathedrals of the Major League religion. History of each park, as well as news stories, statistics, and seating arrangements.

Ballparks

<http://www.ballparks.com/baseball/index.htm>

News, facts and figures about major league ballparks, as well as a substantial bibliography on the subject.

TSN – Major League Baseball

<http://www.tsn.ca/mlb/>

Your one Canadian stop for baseball information: schedules, scores, standings, stats.

CBS Sportsline – Major League Baseball

<http://www.sportsline.com/mlb>

News, opinion columns, scores and schedules, player rankings and injury reports, plus an RSS news feed.

Sports Illustrated – Major League Baseball

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/baseball/mlb/teams/>

From the masters of sports journalism, total coverage of the game. And back in 1998, SI/CNN compiled a collection of selected articles and photos from Sports Illustrated's World Series coverage dating back to 1954: <http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/baseball/mlb/features/1998/wsarchive/>

Baseball Salaries Database

<http://asp.usatoday.com/sports/baseball/salaries/>

Put together by USA Today, the database contains year-by-year listings of salaries for Major League Baseball players, from 1988 through the current season. Figures are in US dollars.

The World Series at 100

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1466981>

In October 2003, National Public Radio (NPR) marked the centennial of the World Series. The page includes audio clips of "Memorable Moments in World Series History," an interview with the author of "Autumn Glory" (an account of the first ever World Series in Boston, which was marked by a riot before the start of Game One), and related Web links and NPR stories.

Michel-Adrien Sheppard (msheppard@blgcanada.com) is the Communications Librarian at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP in downtown Toronto.

Who We Are and What We Do

*This is the continuation of our series of profiles of CASLIS Toronto executive members to give people a better idea of the roles available to volunteers. This month, the newsletter profiles **Yvonne Barber, President-Elect**. Text by Stanislav Orlov - sorlov@rogers.com*

Yvonne Barber obtained a Library and Information Science Technician diploma from Fanshawe College in London, ON and then studied liberal arts at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Major in English Literature). Yvonne chose a librarian career and graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an MLIS degree.

While at Western, Yvonne worked as Reference/Cataloguing Assistant at the Environment Canada Library and as Collection's Assistant at Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Upon graduation in 1998, she joined the Institute for Christian Studies and now is its Director of Library and Information Services.

Yvonne has always been active in professional associations, including OLA, OCULA, CLA, CASLIS and SLA Toronto. In 1999-2000 she was co-editor of the Courier for SLA Toronto. Yvonne initially joined CASLIS as an outlet for meeting other librarians. As a solo librarian of a special collection she found it important to meet other librarians and have the opportunity to hear speakers on relevant topics.

Prior to her maternity leave last spring, Yvonne decided to join a committee or board of one of the associations to maintain a presence in the field as well as to keep up with peers through continued education. She became VP of CASLIS Toronto, which provided her with a wonderful opportunity to watch the President – Erika Steffer- in action. Since the VP position is not as strictly defined as others, it provides you with a chance to be flexible in choosing what to work on, something that allowed Yvonne to carry on the VP role while having a new baby.

Another great thing about being on the executive board is having other people to lean on to make connections and help build a program that is going to meet the needs of a variety of members and hopefully encourage others to join the association.

For the next year Yvonne invites interested speakers to talk about the following topics:

- The Firm: How to measure the value of the corporate library.
- Performance measurement tools to defend and grow your library.
- Project Management skills and software programs for Information Management Professionals.
- Professional Development: Networking, Continuing Education, Career Planning, Self-Awareness (personality strengths and weaknesses).
- Branding: image strategy, focused communications, marketplace conditions.
- Professional Ethics in the corporate library.
- Becoming a Leader
- Negotiating Skills for the Information Professional
- Balance: home, work and family etc.

Yvonne is considering ways to take a poll on which topics members are interested in and a way they can offer names for potential speakers.

She is passing her position to Daniela Serban from Micromedia ProQuest. You can contact Daniela at serbandaniela@hotmail.com.

Yvonne Barber may be reached at: ymbarber@yahoo.ca.

The Evolution of CASLIS Toronto

*This year, we are also profiling prominent CASLIS members who represent the full range of generations and experiences among special librarians over the 30 years of existence of the chapter. This month, the newsletter profiles **Martha Foote**. Text by Michel-Adrien Sheppard - msheppard@blgcanada.com*

Martha has been the manager of the Business Information Centre and Law Library at Sun Life Financial for 5 years. Prior to that, she worked as a reference librarian with the law firm of Borden & Elliot (now Borden Ladner Gervais).

She has an M.L.S. degree from the University of Western Ontario and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Toronto. She is the President-Elect of SLA Toronto.

Martha was the president of CASLIS Toronto in 1988-89.

As she explains things, she came out of library school in 1986 and was interested in joining professional associations. She was persuaded to become a CASLIS director and got quickly bumped up to the position of chapter president during some very interesting times.

1987 saw a huge stock market crash, worse even than that of 1929 in terms of the overnight loss in share values. The Canadian Library Association took a bath, leaving no money for divisional programs.

As Martha recalls, "we had to be creative. You can't say 'NO' to your members, 'we have no money so there will be no programs anymore'. You go on, you have to just treat it as a blip on the radar screen of life."

Despite having no budget to rent conference rooms or to pay for mail-outs, the chapter managed to carry on under Martha's guidance. The solution was to organize brown bag "lunch & learn" sessions in the offices of members as a way to keep going and rebuild.

Martha's philosophy at the time and to this day is simple: "You have to tell people what the problem is... and ask the membership to understand," she says. "People are fairly understanding if you explain problems right away. If you have to eat crow, make sure it's young and tender. You gain credibility and you will be given a second chance."

The thing she remembers about those trying times is the solidarity of the CASLIS Toronto community. As she tells it, CASLIS is composed of a very mixed bag from all corners of the special libraries world, with people from law, government, science, finance libraries and more, and this is the organization's greatest strength. "I never felt left alone in this mess or hung out to dry by CASLIS."

On a more philosophical note, Martha says the greatest change in the practice of librarianship since she graduated is in the realm of technology. As she sees it, "there is no real learning curve allowed anymore, we are suddenly expected to know about [new applications] right off the bat."

Martha explains she is taking over the reins of SLA Toronto at this particular time because she wants to tackle the problem of recruitment. All professional library associations are facing a similar situation of stagnating growth in membership.

Martha believes there may be a range of reasons why this is occurring. "Are new librarians getting funding support from their employers to join? Maybe technology, knowledge management or competitive intelligence associations are pulling them away. Or is it us?," she asks. "Are we doing enough to make new librarians feel welcome? Or do we make them feel snubbed when they show up at our meetings?"

The mentality of librarians, especially younger ones, is changing. "They are more likely to want to move up in their organizations and they now see themselves as comparable to other professionals," Martha says. "Librarians used to be more staid, that is changing."

Changing in the workplace. And in our professional organizations.

A trip down memory lane

30 years ago: Bill Gates and Paul Allen write their first program, a BASIC compiler. Microsoft founded. First handheld mobile phone. Cray I begins the modern supercomputer trend. LEXIS introduced to university law libraries. Xerox develops 1st WYSIWYG application for the PC.

Inventions and discoveries: laser printer, phone cards, DES computer cryptography, disposable razors, computerized supermarket screens, omni-font optical character recognition, CCD (Charge Coupled Device) flat-bed scanners, bar code technology, RFID tags, Rubik's Cube patent application filed

In the bestseller section of your local library branch: *Ragtime*, E. L. Doctorow; *Looking for Mister Goodbar*, Judith Rossner; *The Great Train Robbery*, Michael Crichton; *Shogun*, James Clavell; *Winning Through Intimidation*, Robert Ringer; *The Ascent of Man*, Jacob Bronowski; *The Bermuda Triangle*, Charles Berlitz

20 years ago: Marvin Minsky's *The Society of Mind*. AOL founded. CD-ROMs introduced. Commodore Amiga features 4,096 colors and stereo sound. Domain Name System, the origin of the .com, .edu., .org structure of the Internet, is developed: Symbolics.com quickly registers the first domain name. Mass media discovers "hacker" phenomenon after Wisconsin teenagers break into nuclear weapons developer Los Alamos National Laboratory computer system.

Inventions and discoveries: first reports of the opening of an enormous hole in the Earth's ozone layer over Antarctica, IBM develops the scanning tunneling microscope which can visualize images on an atomic scale, 386 microprocessor, Tetris computer game, camcorder, Polymerase Chain Reaction (technique for genetic testing and DNA forensic fingerprinting), Pagemaker (desktop publishing software), buckyballs (the first self-assembling nanomaterials), patent application for AZT as an anti-HIV drug

In the bestseller section of your local library branch: *Texas*, James A. Michener; *Lake Wobegon Days*, Garrison Keillor; *Contact*, Carl Sagan; *Secrets*, Danielle Steel; *Iacocca: An Autobiography*, Lee Iacocca; *Elvis and Me*, Priscilla Beaulieu Presley; *Dancing in the Light*, Shirley MacLaine; *A Passion for Excellence: The Leadership Difference*, Thomas J. Peters; *I Never Played the Game*, Howard Cosell

10 years ago: Amazon.com founded, first wiki site on the Net, Northern Telecom becomes Nortel, Iomega markets Zip drives, first banner ad on the Internet, portable CD player sales overtake cassette players, Nicholas Negroponte's *Being Digital*, Clifford Stoll's *Silicon Snake Oil*

Inventions and discoveries: DVDs, PDF file format, RealAudio (computer audio streaming software), SSH Secure Shell standard for Internet security (password encryption), new form of matter called Bose-Einstein condensate discovered, last subatomic particle called the "top quark" discovered, Comet Hale-Bopp, the brightest comet in 400 years, discovered (closest distance to Earth in March 1997), first extrasolar planet discovered by Hubble telescope, students on Minnesota field trip find disturbing numbers of abnormal frogs in a farm pond, considered a sign of impending catastrophic species extinction

In the bestseller section of your local library branch: *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*, John Gray; *Mars and Venus in the Bedroom*, John Gray; *The Rainmaker*, John Grisham; *The Lost World*, Michael Crichton; *The Celestine Prophecy*, James Redfield; *Politically Correct Holiday Stories*, James Finn Garner; *The Horse Whisperer*, Nicholas Evans; *Miss America*, Howard Stern; *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates; *My Point...and I Do Have One*, Ellen DeGeneres

CASLIS Toronto Listserv

Members are encouraged to subscribe to the Toronto Chapter's unmoderated discussion group. The list provides a forum for discussion topics of interest to Canadian information professionals working in special libraries. The listserv is hosted by Yahoo! Groups.

TO SUBSCRIBE: Send a message to
caslistoronto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

After subscribing, you may receive a message saying that your e-mail address has been rejected. Do not fear! Yahoo Groups will only accept invited members to join their groups. Astrid Lange will review your e-mail and sign you up.

For more information, see the CASLIS website at : <http://www.caslistoronto.on.ca/Listserv5.html>

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TORONTO CASLIS EXECUTIVE
2004 - 2005

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