

CASLIS TORONTO NEWS



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES

From Our President

Greetings CASLIS Members.

The CASLIS Toronto AGM is right around the corner, wrapping up another year of programming, learning, and networking, and we've been doing this since 1975! We'll be celebrating our 30th anniversary next year, a truly momentous occasion. I can only wonder what the original chapter members thought back in 1975. Did they anticipate such a robust future for the chapter?

Before we start celebrating our 30th, let's focus on our 29th. As in past years, the executive has sought out a speaker who is removed from the world of special librarianship.

Ann Ireland is an award-winning novelist, instructor at Ryerson, former writer in residence at a number of public libraries and former president of PEN Canada.

Her commitment to freedom of expression is one we can all relate to, since such freedom is the cornerstone for all libraries, special or otherwise. We welcome Ann, and look forward to seeing all of you at our AGM on May 13 at the Tasting Rooms to enjoy wonderful food and an inspiring speaker.

Before even hearing Ann, I'd like to share with you what I've already learned from her: the importance of getting involved with organizations and associations that matter to who you are and what you do. Yes, this is a shameless plug for considering getting more involved with CASLIS Toronto by choosing to serve on the executive or by planning a program.

As of this writing we are still looking for:

- Program Planners;
- a Program Facilities and Catering Director;
- and a Vice-President/President-elect.

Your involvement makes CASLIS Toronto a better association, and it also creates opportunities for personal and professional development.

Information about the positions can be found in the Roles and Responsibilities document, located in the members only section of the CASLIS Toronto site <http://www.caslistoronto.on.ca/>

Of course, your calls and emails are always welcome, whether you want to talk about our recruitment efforts, or anything else on your mind. I look forward to hearing from you.

Robyn Stockand, CASLIS Toronto President
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March Program

Ergonomics in the Workplace – presented by Sandra Deike, Occupational Hygienist, University of Toronto

On March 4, 2004 an enthusiastic crowd listened to and participated in a lively discussion of Ergonomics in the Workplace. There were many questions raised throughout the presentation and members engaged in case studies prepared especially for CASLIS. CASLIS members who attended the session were also given a complementary copy of the *Office Smarts: Health, Safety and Ergonomic for the Office* brochure published by the Office of Environmental Health & Safety, University of Toronto.

Sandra made a point of explaining what Ergonomics is and what it is not. According to the Office Smarts brochure, "*Ergonomics is the science that explores the relationship between the worker, the workplace and job design. The job of ergonomics is to allow work to be done without undue stress on the person performing the work. It incorporates engineering, psychology, anatomy, physiology and organizational studies*".

The speaker outlined the importance of good work postures and practices. She stressed everybody is different and that these work postures and practices are very important in our daily activities.

Sandra also emphasized that you do not require a lot of money to buy all "Ergonomic" furniture but small changes to your workplace area can make a lot of difference and can prevent unnecessary pain and discomfort.

The single most important item that individuals will need is a good quality chair. The chair should have height adjustment levers, a five-pronged base, a seat pan and backrest adjustment with lumbar support.

The most important consideration when choosing a chair is the comfort level for doing the tasks at the individual's workstation. The chair can only be considered "Ergonomic" if the person can comfortably perform his/her tasks.

Some of the factors to consider in the layout of the workstation include where you place your monitor, keyboard, mouse, telephone and lighting.

Once the presentation was over, everyone got involved in case studies where participants had to re-arrange a fictitious office workstation to match the description of the worker, and many participants were amazed as to how simple and useful some of the suggestions were.

Many felt the session gave them new insights into how they could improve their workstations without spending a lot of money.

Sandra also pointed and made references to some key Ergonomic websites:

General Ergonomic Websites:

Office of Environmental Health & Safety, University of Toronto

<http://www.utoronto.ca/safety>

Office Ergonomics (University of Toronto)

<http://www.utoronto.ca:80/safety/ergoweb/ergoweb.htm>

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety - Office Ergonomics

<http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/ergonomics/office/>

- See also CCOHS Book on Office Ergonomics

<http://www.ccohs.ca/products/publications/office.html>

- Very useful and priced right at \$10.00 per copy plus shipping and handling

Duke Occupational & Environmental Safety Office

<http://www.safety.duke.edu/Ergonomics/Default.asp>

- Excellent overview and updated website

Laptop Ergonomic Websites:

The Ergonomics of Laptops

<http://www.lapvantage.com/ergonomics>

"5 Tips for Using a Laptop Computer" Cornell University

<http://ergo.human.cornell.edu/culaptoptips.html>

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AGM Announcement

Join CASLIS Toronto on **Thursday, May 13, 2004** for our **Annual General Meeting** with **Ann Ireland**, author of the novels *A Certain Mr. Takahashi* and *Exile*, and former PEN Canada president.

Her first novel *A Certain Mr Takahashi* was the winner of the Seal First novel award and short-listed for the Books in Canada first novel, and was made into a feature film called *The Pianist*. Her most recent publication is a chapbook, a collaboration with Bosnian poet, Goran Simic. *OPEN THE DOOR* is a conversation between two writers, one Canadian, one a Bosnian writer in exile, about home and exile.

The Tasting Rooms, 100 King St. West, First Canadian Place, (King St. and Bay St.), (416) 362-2499 <http://www.toronto.com/infosite/147458/>

Registration 5:30 pm; Dinner 6:30 pm

\$35.00 Members \$40.00 Non-members
\$20.00 Students

Please see the CASLIS Toronto Web site <http://www.caslistoronto.on.ca> for more information or to register

WEB WATCH

The guy who put the “Boole” into Boolean logic

By Michel-Adrien Sheppard

We don't often celebrate the “patron saints” of our profession, the people who laid the intellectual foundations of what we do everyday. Dewey, Cutter, Garfield, Vannevar Bush, Vincent Cerf,...: when you stop to think of it, we would be drowning in one huge mess had it not been for our predecessors who came up with the rules for cataloguing, the field of citation analysis, the logic of the Internet... Well, 150 years ago, a British working-class whizkid and mathematician named George Boole published “The Laws of Thought”, in which he outlined concepts that form the underpinnings of the modern computer and of online searching.

The Isaac Newton of Logic

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040327/BOOLE27>

Article from the Globe and Mail Science section outlining Boole's life and impact on the fields of logic, mathematics and artificial intelligence. Includes an “Idiot's Guide to Boolean logic” (for non-librarians, I assume?)

Famous Yellowbellies – George Boole

http://www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire/asop/people/george_boole.shtml

Yellowbellies are people born and bred in the Lincolnshire region of the UK: “George Boole's most important paper was published in 1854 and had the catchy title ‘An Investigation Into the Laws of Thought, on Which are Founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities’. This was the paper in which he detailed the relationship between algebra and logic, and it is this study on which much of today's computer technology is based.”

George Boole – the Lincoln Genius

<http://homepages.enterprise.net/rogerp/george/boole.html>

By Eileen Harrison, Lincoln Cathedral Guide (there is a Boole memorial in Lincoln Cathedral, UK): “Today, George Boole is rightly regarded as one of the founding fathers of computing and information technology. George Boole is the unsung hero of the Information Revolution. It was his genius that set the scene for all the technological innovation that we take for granted today, from digital recordings and television through to the Internet itself...”

George Boole

<http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/Mathematicians/Boole.html>

From University of St. Andrews, Scotland: “Boole approached logic in a new way reducing it to a simple algebra, incorporating logic into mathematics. He pointed out the analogy between algebraic symbols and those that represent logical forms. It began the algebra of logic called Boolean algebra which now finds application in computer construction, switching circuits etc.”

George Boole entry

<http://scienceworld.wolfram.com/biography/Boole.html>

From the World of Scientific Biography

 Michel-Adrien Sheppard
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 Communications Librarian at Borden Ladner
 Gervais LLP in downtown Toronto.

From the "Copyright Revolution" department

In its recent decision in the matter of **CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada** (<http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/rec/html/2004scc013.wpd.html>), the Canadian Supreme Court came up with "one of the strongest pro-user rights decisions from any high court in the world", according to Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-commerce Law at the University of Ottawa and Toronto Star columnist.

The case revolved around a dispute between legal publishers and the law society (LSUC) whose library provided copies of cases and law journal articles to member lawyers. The publishers sued on the grounds of copyright infringement.

In its unanimous decision, the Supreme Court argued that the fair dealing exception to copyright infringement had to be interpreted in a very liberal fashion and that this exception should be seen as constituting users' right that must be balanced against the rights of copyright owners. Geist argues that the Supreme Court ruling "signals a societal shift" in the handling of copyright issues away from being "primarily about large-scale commercial infringement claims that do not resonate with the average person. Rather, copyright is now very personal, focusing on the work, creativity, and activities of millions of individuals..."

And in a more recent decision that made waves internationally, the Federal Court of Canada rejected a motion that would have allowed the Canadian recording industry to sue 29 individuals who allegedly swapped thousands of song files over the Internet using peer-to-peer networks. The case will probably end up in the lap of the Supreme Court which has made it clear rightsholders like

publishers and huge music multinationals cannot walk all over users' rights.

The new copyright game in Canada is one of balancing the rights of creators and consumers.

<http://shorl.com/fybrigrotekytu>

Q&A from LSUC -

http://www.lsuc.on.ca/news/updates/mar1604_copyright_qa.jsp

Other comment:

<http://post.queensu.ca/~lm19/lawsocietymar04.html> (Laura J. Murray (Associate Professor Department of English, Queen's University)

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>

CASLIS Toronto Electronically

Stay on top of what's happening with CASLIS Toronto. Get advance notice of meetings and news of last minute changes.

See our Web site, www.caslistoronto.on.ca.

Get an electronic copy of the newsletter either on the Web site or by sending an email to Michel-Adrien Sheppard (criticalmass@idirect.com)

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2003 - 2004

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