

CASLIS TORONTO NEWS



Canadian Association of Special Libraries & Information Services, A
Division of CLA, Canadian Library Association

From Our President

Greetings CASLIS Members.

Happy Spring! Isn't it about time? The only highlights of that cold, cold winter were, of course, the CASLIS events!! We trudged through snow (hopefully for the last time) to our March event at the Toronto Reference Library. Not only did we have a terrific presentation of news sources by Gwen Harris but we also had some very esteemed guests; Don Butcher and Wendy Newman (CLA Executive Director and CLA President respectively).

We are looking forward not only to warmer weather but also to the next few items on the CASLIS agenda. Including our April event our upcoming AGM in May and of course the big conference in June.

April should prove to be interesting. It was a real challenge to find a speaker who had enough background in the professional liability area (as it pertains to the information profession) to enlighten us. While many invitations were extended, few were brave enough to pick up the gauntlet. John Davis, law librarian at York University has graciously accepted our invitation and will be joining us on April 2nd. This is a "fresh", "new" topic for sure! We certainly hope you'll join us to get the 'first word' on professional liability in our profession.

The May AGM seems to be coming together as well- I'm please to announce that we have a speaker!! Dr. Elaine Fantham (Professor Emeritus at Princeton University) should prove to be an engaging addition to our meeting. Her area of specialization as a professor and author

include Roman comedy and rhetoric, Latin epic, Roman religion and the social history of Roman women. She has authored a number of books and essays including "Roman Literary Culture" (John Hopkins University Press, 1999) and "Women in the Classical World" (Oxford University Press, 1995) among others. Check out Dr. Fantham's offerings online at any of the bookstore sites (Indigo, Amazon etc). Location is still under investigation, but we're taking a look at some of the best sites in Toronto to make this a memorable evening.

The CLA/ALA conference also looms large in the not so distant future. If you're having difficulty figuring out how you'll be able to afford it, CASLIS National may be able to come to the rescue! The National board is offering three \$500 grants for current CASLIS members. The deadline is April 1st so act fast! The details on how to apply and who can apply are further along in the newsletter. Extensive information on the conference as a whole is available on the CLA website. Headed up by Vice-President Robyn Stockand, the CASLIS Toronto executive committee (and friends!) are also working diligently on a guide to the best of (cheap) Toronto for all of the many, many visiting librarians & information professionals... look for it online closer to June.

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Here's hoping that spring brings even more of us out of hibernation and into a CASLIS Toronto event! See you soon...

Jennifer McCready
CASLIS Toronto President, 2002-2003
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March Program Review

What Happened at Our Recent Meeting?

Staying Current with News on the Net.

Speaker: Gwen Harris, Gwen Harris Information Services

March 5, 2003

Report by Michel-Adrien Sheppard

This was definitely the presentation for news and information junkies. We all are constantly looking for innovative ways of dealing with the flood of information out there and this session was full of suggestions on which tools to use.

Harris began her presentation by describing electronic newsletters such as Information Today Newsbreaks and Research Buzz that help information professionals keep up-to-date about trends and happenings in the library and information science world.

Her approach was very participatory, inviting people in the audience to comment and suggest their favourite tools.

Two news and trend tracking tools to recently gain in popularity are weblogs produced by librarians and RSS newsreaders (<http://www.websearchguide.ca/newsletter/030228.htm>), software programs that aggregate news summaries from different sources in an easily read XML-based format.

Members of the audience were quite familiar with Gary Price's weblog, The ResourceShelf (formerly the Virtual Acquisition Shelf and News Desk - <http://resourceshelf.blogspot.com/>) but

newsreaders do not seem to have become a widespread tool yet among CASLIS Toronto members.

Web page monitoring tools that allow a user to track changes to web sites or to save a search string and check a search engine for new search results were next on the agenda.

Finally, Harris outlined a variety of news tools ranging from Google News that aggregates stories from 4,500 sources (<http://news.google.com>) to RocketNews that culls stories from 6,000 sources (<http://www.rocketnews.com>).

The Web version of the presentation can be found at <http://plc.fis.utoronto.ca/courses/gharris/caslis/caslis.htm>.

Gwen Harris has been teaching web search tools and strategies and current awareness services for several years in the classroom and on the web through the Professional Learning Centre (PLC) of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. She writes a widely read column, Web Search Alert, in Information Highways and produces a Web site (<http://www.websearchguide.ca>) offering free tutorials about web searching, articles, and search engine news.

CASLIS Strategic Planning Task Force

The Task Force continues to make progress in developing the plan to guide our association into the future. Please look for new documents on the strategic plan web site including reports from the Chapter focus groups and a draft goals document.

<http://www.cla.ca/caslis/strategicplan.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

In April:

Professional Responsibility and Liability

Date: Wednesday April 2, 2003

Speaker: John N. Davis, Law Librarian at Osgoode Hall Law School

Session: What is the legal duty of care that librarians and other information professionals owe to clients, employers and the other people we inform (or misinform)? What is the potential for liability for professional negligence, and how can the risks be minimized? What is the meaning of such terms as "vicarious liability", "joint tortfeasor", "joint and several liability", "privity", "contribution" and "indemnity"? This session reviews the leading cases on these questions from Canada and other common law jurisdictions.

In May:

Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday May 8, 2003

Speaker: Elaine Fantham, Professor Emeritus at Princeton University

Dr. Fantham was born and educated in England. She taught for 2 years at Indiana University and then at the University of Toronto from 1968 to 1986. Since 1986 she has been a Latin Professor at Princeton, and most recently, Professor Emeritus. Her main interests include Roman comedy and rhetoric, Latin epic, Roman religion and the social history of Roman women. She is also a commentator on National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" and enjoys drawing parallels between the ancient and modern worlds.

WEB WATCH

How to keep up with the world of search engines

By Michel-Adrien Sheppard

e-mail: michel-adrien.sheppard@workopolis.com

It can be quite a task to stay current with the ever-changing world of search engines on the Internet. New engines are constantly appearing, the features and syntax of existing ones change, and there is a trend towards the rapid consolidation of the commercial searching market with companies gobbling each other up and sometimes radically modifying or suddenly killing your favourite search tool.

Here are some of the better Web sites to help you stay up-to-date about trends and happenings in the search engine world.

1) Gary Price's ResourceShelf -

<http://resourceshelf.freepint.com/>

Gary Price, co-author of the book, *The Invisible Web*

(<http://store.yahoo.com/infoday/invisibleweb.html>), produces this indispensable weblog that is updated daily. While its mission is very broad and goes beyond the search engine world, it does contain many announcements of search engine enhancements as well as some of the most well-informed commentary about the commercial strategies of search engine companies

2) Web Search Guide -

<http://www.websearchguide.ca/>

This site is by Toronto's very own Gwen Harris, instructor in the courses *Mastering Web Searching* and *Current Awareness Services on the Net* at the Faculty of Information Studies at the Univ. of Toronto. The site contains news about search engines and online search tutorials, all from a Canadian perspective.

3) Search Engine Showdown -

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

This site is run by Greg Notess, writer and speaker on Internet issues and reference librarian and associate professor at Montana State University. It is chock full of search engine reviews, news items about new features, stats (size, index freshness of different engines...), search strategies.

One of the most useful sections of this site is the search engine features chart that allows you to quickly see how different engines implement Boolean and proximity searching, truncation, field searching, limits and sorting.

4) Search Engine Watch -

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

This is a collaborative effort on the part of Danny Sullivan and Chris Sherman (co-author with Gary Price of The Invisible Web: Uncovering Information Sources Search Engines Can't See). This is a rich site for both search engine users and for webmasters, web marketers and others involved with creating and promoting web sites as it is full of search engine submission tips so your web site ranks higher in results lists.

For the searcher, the site offers searching tips, daily detailed articles, comparison reviews and help on finding specialty search engines.

5) Search Engine Guide -

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

The best part of this site is its categorized, searchable, directory of search engines, portals and directories on a huge variety of topics.

It also offers newsletters with search engine news as well as tips on Web site design and the use of metatags for better placement in search engine results.

6) Search Tools -

<http://www.searchtools.com/index.html>

This site is written from a very different perspective, that of web site searching technology. This is a site for helping you decide which engine to puyt onyour web site or Intranet to make its contents searchable.

7) Toronto Public Library Search Engine Guide -

<http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/Internet/search.htm>

A very quick and useful list of librarian-recommended and annotated search tools. The list is broken down into subject directories (including some with a specifically Canadian focus), database and gateway sites to the Invisible Web, search engines, meta-search engines, French language directories and search tools, international directories and search tools, resources for Web site quality evaluation, etc.

8) SearchAbility –

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

This is a heavily annotated site about guides/portals to hundreds of search engines and databases covering thousands of topics.

Annotations include a description and critical comments on strengths and weaknesses of each guide, subject coverage, how results are displayed, what each guide is useful for.

9) UI Current LIS Clips: Web Searching -

http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/clips/2002_12.html

This LIS Clips are a current awareness service run by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the university of Illinois and Urbana-Champaign.

The December edition is devoted to web searching. It is broken down into sections on Understanding Search Engines and Subject Directories, Specialized Tools and the Deep Web, Formulating Web Searching Strategies, and Evaluating Web Resources.

Michel-Adrien Sheppard (michel-adrien.sheppard@workopolis.com) works as a Web Content Producer and editor of the Ask an Advisor e-mail service at workopolis.com, Canada's largest Internet recruitment services site. Every week, he scans current awareness services for fascinating odds and ends to share with his always amazed non-librarian colleagues.

CLA Conference Grants for CASLIS Members

CASLIS National is pleased to offer 3 conference grants of \$500 each for use in attending the ALA/CLA Conference in Toronto, June 19-25, 2003.

WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply if you:

- ◆are a personal member of CASLIS in good standing, and your membership began prior to January 1, 2003,
- ◆demonstrate financial need,
- ◆(if employed) provide a letter from your employer assuring you time off to attend the conference,
- ◆are not receiving conference-related funding from another CLA or CASLIS chapter source,
- ◆are able to attend the CASLIS Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2003, and provide a written summary of your conference experience for publication in CASLIS Special Issues within 6 months of the end of the conference.

Conference grant applications must be submitted in writing, indicating your eligibility for this grant and your ability to meet the grant's requirements. If employed, please indicate the amount of financial support you will be receiving from your employer for the conference.

The conference grant is non-transferable; if the recipient of a conference grant is unable to attend the conference, another candidate will be selected. Conference grants will be presented at the CASLIS Annual General

Meeting.

The closing date for applications is April 1, 2003.

Applications should be sent to:

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CASLIS AT CLA/ALA

Read *CASLIS at the Conference* to find information on programs of interest to CASLIS members during the 2003 CLA/ALA National Conference in Toronto.

http://www.cla.ca/caslis/caslis_at_cla_ala2003.pdf

CASLIS Toronto Needs You

Join the CASLIS Toronto Executive Team 2003/2004!!

Would you like to know more about how the CASLIS executive serves its members? Do you have any ideas for programming? Have something you want to say?

If you would like more information about specific positions available this year, or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Tracey Palmer at traceypalmer_mist@yahoo.com

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. CASLIS Toronto president, Jennifer McCreedy, 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 Sandra_craig@ontla.ola.org

TORONTO CASLIS EXECUTIVE 2001 - 2002

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