

Library News

news from the James A. Gibson Library

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Brock

MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

In recent years, the Library has made a concerted effort to increase the quantity, quality and variety of study spaces it offers to students. In addition to the broad range of individual and collaborative spaces in the Learning Commons, there are additional options for study on the upper floors. The Library has increased the number of tables available for group work, and introduced an enclosed quiet study room on the fifth floor that is very popular with students. Electrical outlets have been added throughout, and all of the upper floors are zoned for noise so that students can choose the right environment to suit their needs.

This spring, the Library will be embarking on a minor renovation project to create dedicated study space for the exclusive use of graduate students. We have conferred with graduate students in a group and individually, and consulted graduate program directors and other key stakeholders. Although there is probably no such thing as a "typical" Brock

graduate student, from these consultations two important needs emerged as the most appropriate for the Library to address. First, quiet research and study space is a high priority for graduate students in all Faculties and, second, access to a well equipped presentation space. We also heard that students want a spacious work environment with room to spread out, a place to store their belongings, and easy access to technology. Without exception, the students we consulted confirmed that this is an important initiative that will serve current and future graduate students well.

The new graduate student library space will be located on the west end of the 6th floor. As the project progresses, updates will be posted on the library home page.

Margaret Grove

@ THE LIBRARY

You may have noticed that the Library has been a busy place this fall!

- During the month of October, people entered the Library/Learning Commons an average of 21,835 times each day.
- One of the busiest Help Desk days in October had 208 questions, with a peak between 2-3pm with 48 questions that hour.
- Our laptops, loaned from the Circulation Desk, are in high demand this fall: in October 2010, laptops were signed out 2390 times, compared with 1666 times in October 2009.

A MILESTONE FOR SCHOLARS PORTAL JOURNALS

The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) is proud to announce that Scholars Portal Journals has loaded its 20 millionth Ejournal article. Scholars Portal Journals provides students, faculty and researchers at Ontario's universities easy, single-search access to scholarly articles on a wide range of academic subjects through a bilingual search interface.

The content available in Scholars Portal Journals comprises the most complete multi-disciplinary database of peer-reviewed academic literature available anywhere and is an accomplishment that benefits researchers across Ontario. "This achievement acknowledges the importance OCUL places on preserving and providing access to high-quality academic resources for Ontario universities," notes Margaret Grove, University Librarian and member of the OCUL Executive.

Try out this extensive collection of resources: [Scholars Portal E-Journals](#)

For more information about Scholars Portal, please visit:
<http://www.scholarsportal.info/>



DR. LISSA PAUL ON ORLANDO: WOMEN'S WRITING IN THE BRITISH ISLES



Lissa Paul, Professor of Education at Brock University, is a renowned children's literature scholar who has presented and written extensively on her research. Currently, Lissa is researching Eliza Fenwick (1767-1840), an author who was linked to the 18th-century literary scene in London, being the first nurse for the newborn Mary Shelley and a close friend of Mary Wollstonecraft and her husband, William Godwin. In her own right, Eliza received celebrity with her novel *Secresy* (for adults) and a series of innovative children's books. Eliza has a unique connection to the Niagara region, having opened a school with a Mrs. Breckenridge in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1828. The Breckenridge House still stands (boarded up) in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lissa often delves into archival resources for her research and here shares her experiences in archival research and her enthusiasm for a new library database, *Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles*.

How did your current research evolve?

In 2007, I received a SSHRC grant to study Eliza. As a research question, I'd asked what I feared was a rhetorical question: "What was Eliza, who had been so much a part of intellectual life in London in

the 1790s, doing in my neighbourhood between 1828-1834?" It's difficult to convey how utterly thrilled and excited I was when I discovered an unreferenced and otherwise completely unknown collection of letters that Eliza and her granddaughter had written between 1828 and 1834 at the New York Historical Library. The letters are beautiful, eloquent and poignant, filled with moving details about life, teaching, and people in the region. I will be doing additional research to find out more about Eliza and situate her in the context of historical events.

How does *Orlando* fit into your research and teaching?

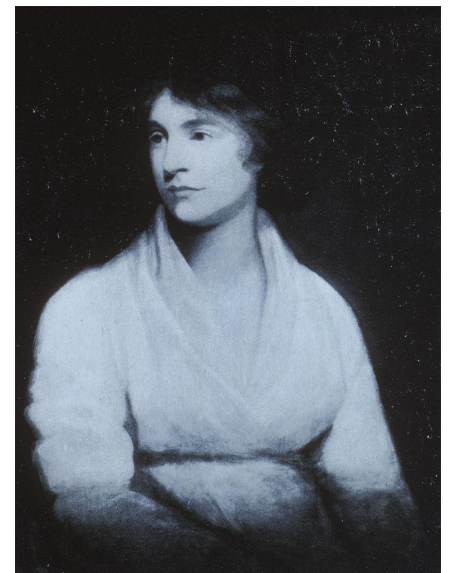
Orlando: A History of Women's Writing in the British Isles describes itself as "a highly dynamic textbase." Much of the archival work I do is very privileged and involves me travelling to rare book libraries or archival collections to see unique material. I always feel very much like a medieval monk, who, in search of knowledge, had to travel to the book he wanted to read. The *Orlando* project is a way of democratizing access to that very rare material. It is one element in a whole new era of making available materials that are usually accessible to very few scholars with the time and mandate to read them.

Lissa's essay "Ted Hughes and the 'Old Age of Poetry'", based on her keynote at the British Library last spring has just been published in Poetry and Childhood (Trentham Books, 2010). Upcoming publications include her first book on Eliza Fenwick, The Children's Book Business: Lessons from the Long Eighteenth Century, which will be published by Routledge this winter and Keywords for Children's Literature, co-edited with Philip Nel (New York University Press, 2011)

ABOUT ORLANDO

Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present is a highly dynamic and rich resource for researchers, students, and readers with an interest in literature, women's writing, or cultural history more generally. Containing biographical and writing career entries on over 1,000 writers, this tool seeks to further the study and understanding of literature, focusing particularly on the part women have played in its development.

A search on Eliza Fenwick, for example, will present a brief biography of her life, trace her writing career and create connections with literary and historic figures of her time period. Take a moment to explore this exciting new resource!



"Mary Wollstonecraft 1759-1797, British writer and great friend of Eliza Fenwick.

Image courtesy of ARTstor"

SAKAIBRARY: INTEGRATING RESEARCH HELP AND LIBRARY RESOURCES IN SAKAI

by Monica Rettig, Liaison Librarian

Do you wish there were a way to connect students with high quality resources through your course page? This fall, one in ten courses in Sakai included the additional resource of a liaison librarian's presence. Liaison librarians have been working with faculty members to embed direct links to library resources and research support within their course pages.

Jennifer Good, Associate Professor in Communication, Popular Culture, and Film, has made the connection between Sakai and library resources: "Since arriving at Brock seven years ago, I've been looking for the best way to share academic journal articles with students. I use journal articles almost exclusively in upper year courses and while I do make use of a textbook in some lower year undergraduate courses, even then I like to supplement the textbook with journal articles."

This fall, Jennifer worked with Liaison Librarian Justine Cotton to arrange access to materials within a Sakai course. "More recently, I have been linking to the articles directly from the course Sakai site," Jennifer explained, "and I really like the way in which the entire course is then contained in that one 'place' (the students seem to like this as well)."

Sakai also allows a liaison librarian to offer customized research help resources right at the students' fingertips. Students benefit from subject-specific expert advice, such as recommendations of most appropriate databases, embedded video tutorials, citation guides and tips, and information on search strategies.

"The Library is one of the many places involved in learning that is physically removed from the classroom," according to Matt Clare of CTLET. "Isaak/Sakai is an ideal location for learning to happen in a place with no physical limitations."

Matt continued, "Teaching, research, assessment and other forms of student inquiry can be linked together in Isaak/Sakai in a way that few other physical or virtual spaces can facilitate."

The integration of library resources in Sakai has several advantages for students. A centralized online work and study space makes accessing sophisticated research tools more convenient. And, when located in a faculty member's course page, a librarian's suggestions may carry more weight with students. As a result, students have the opportunity to develop more advanced research skills and are exposed to alternatives to Google and Wikipedia.

For more information about collaborating with your librarian or creating links to electronic resources, you are invited to contact your [liaison librarian](#) or read more on the [Persistent Links](#) page.

POPULAR READING AT THE LIBRARY

In 2008, the Library launched a collection of popular reading titles located on the main floor of the Learning Commons. The collection is easy to browse and offers books with buzz: prize-winning novels, classics, and books that have been featured in the news. This growing collection contains nearly 200 books and is available to Brock students, faculty, and staff.

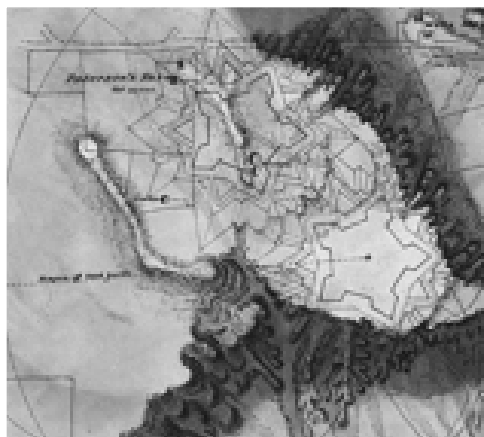
Here are the most popular titles:

1. The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
2. What was she thinking? Notes on a Scandal by Zoe Heller
3. The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory
4. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by F. Scott Fitzgerald
5. Blue Diary by Alice Hoffman
6. How I live Now by Meg Rosoff
7. The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
8. Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert
9. Marley & Me by John Grog
10. Running with scissors: a memoir by Augusten Burroughs



MAP LIBRARY EXHIBIT OFFERS A GLIMPSE OF THE 1812 LANDSCAPE

by Colleen Beard



In anticipation of the upcoming bicentennial, the Map Library recently launched a new digital collection of War of 1812 era maps of the Niagara Region. This collection of fifty maps, which range in time from pre-war to post-war, were acquired from Library and Archives Canada and represent plans of battle sites, military reserves, and forts. One map depicts a beautiful plan of the proposed fortress on “The Mountain” (Fonthill) that was never erected.

The 1818 plan of Queenston indicates “here Sir Isaac Brock fell”, a unique

connection tying Brock University’s namesake with these historic maps.

The maps recently received attention from researchers across the border: “We just started the production on the ‘Siege of Fort Erie in 1814’ for WNED/PBS TV and your War of 1812 Map website is the best we have encountered... Without your website, we would not have known about them!” Nancy Knechtel, Professor, Art History, Niagara Community College.

These maps may be viewed using the zoom feature, which enhances detail very nicely. Users may also download the images as JPEGs.

This unique exhibit may be viewed



from the Map Library website: <http://www.brocku.ca/library/collections/maplibrary/>

Colleen Beard is a Liaison Librarian and Head, Map Library, cbeard@brocku.ca

BROCK UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES E-THESIS PILOT PROJECT IN FACULTY OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

by Barbara McDonald

Brock University launched its E-Thesis Pilot Project during this year’s international Open Access Week (October 18 - 24). During the Pilot Project, which runs from October through August, graduate students in Applied Health Sciences will submit theses electronically to Brock’s institutional repository.

“Our Faculty has MA, MSc, and PhD students, covering nine different fields of graduate research and on average has about 40 thesis defences per year,” explains Dr. Michael Plyley, Associate Dean in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences. “It makes us an ideal candidate to pilot the e-thesis development over the 2010-11 academic year.”

Rebecca MacPherson, a PhD candidate in

Applied Health Sciences, is the graduate student representative on the project committee. “The committee recognized the importance of having a student perspective on the work and flow of submitting a thesis,” she says. “It will make a significant difference to the access that colleagues and collaborators from around the world will have to students’ theses. And, since students are already very comfortable using electronic communication, establishing policies and procedures that are practical and effective will make the process easy and efficient for students.”

E-theses provide greater exposure for the scholarly work of graduate students, and will contribute to raising Brock

University’s research profile. “This project represents a significant development for Brock’s graduate community,” notes Barbara McDonald, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Liaison, “it will help prepare the next generation of scholars to function effectively in a digital scholarly environment.”

For more information on the E-Thesis Pilot Project: <http://www.brocku.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/e-thesis-pilot-project>

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