

# NEWSLINE

Manitoba Library Association | Vol.27 No.1 January 2012 | ISSN 0700-3684



## Table of Contents

- [WPL Library Calculator](#)
- [A Message From the President](#)
- [Manitoba Libraries Conference](#)
- [Rapid City Regional Library](#)
- [Your SLA Connection](#)
- [Education Institute](#)
- [MLA Executive Biographies](#)
- [Forward Into the Past!](#)

## A Message From the President

Welcome to the first issue of the re-launched and revamped Newsline!

Some of you may remember Newsline from years past and I know that it has been missed. Changes in personnel and technology over the years saw the newsletter's publication come to an end, but it is our hope that we can breathe new life into the publication and add it to the list of things that is great about being a member of MLA. Our plan is to have at least two issues a year which will include some regular features such as: a look back at ourselves through an article from the old Newsline; a library spotlight, highlighting one library within in the province; and an article from an allied library association. Some features in this issue include an update on the Manitoba Libraries Conference and a library calculator to determine the dollars and cents value of your library. You'll also find bios of the current MLA executive members and many more excellent and informative pieces.

I hope you enjoy this inaugural effort and let us know if there is anything you would like to see in future issues. Don't forget to check in on our website: [mla.mb.ca](http://mla.mb.ca). You can also find us on Facebook or drop us a line at [manitobalibraries@gmail.com](mailto:manitobalibraries@gmail.com)

All the best,

*Emma Kepron*

## WPL Library Calculator

*By Kathleen Williams*

Winnipeg Public Library has been actively developing new promotions on the value of using your library card. One of these is the Library Use Calculator: an online tool for discovering library value in terms of dollars and cents. Several library systems in the US and Canada have these calculators as a very tangible way to show value, with very positive results. Library users enter the number of times per month they use a certain collection or service. The calculator adds it up, and users are invited to compare the amount to what an average homeowner contributes in taxes to the library. The concept is simple, yet the impact is immediate. Try it out at [winnipeg.ca/library](http://winnipeg.ca/library) (the calculator is found under 'Use the Library'). See if you can beat my family's use of \$12,516 annually for our \$70.22 in taxes. That's good value!

## Manitoba Libraries Conference Update

*By Lyle Ford*

Plan to attend the 2012 Manitoba Libraries Conference in May, 2012. This year, we're returning to the Delta Hotel in Downtown Winnipeg. This is a "themeless" conference but we can promise very high quality sessions. We received an unprecedented number of proposals, and faced the difficult task of selection! The good news is that we are close to announcing a program that will offer much to all of the different associations that make this conference possible. The pre-conference day is scheduled for Monday, May 14th, and the conference itself will take place on Tuesday, May 15th and Wednesday, May 16th. Registration should be available on the site early in the New Year. Be sure to take advantage of the Early Bird Rate! <http://www.manitobalibrariesconference.ca/>

## Join the Manitoba Library Association!

The Manitoba Library Association provides leadership in the promotion, development, advocacy, and support of library and information services in Manitoba for the benefit of Association members, the library community and the citizens of Manitoba. For more info contact [gail\\_matheson@umanitoba.ca](mailto:gail_matheson@umanitoba.ca).

## Newsline: Call for submissions

Let your voice be heard! MLA Newsline is your newsletter, so tell us what you want to read about. In the coming issues we plan to have recurring features such as library spotlights, updates from allied associations, articles highlighting new and innovative projects, and oh so much more. All are welcome and encouraged to submit articles or reviews relating to the library, archives, museum or information sectors to: [stephen.carney@humanrightsmuseum.ca](mailto:stephen.carney@humanrightsmuseum.ca)

---

### Library Spotlight:

#### Rapid City Regional Library



*By J. Seeland*

*Photo by Sheila Runions*

If ever there was a library that could be considered the heart of its community, it would be the Rapid City Regional Library. Serving a combined local and municipal patron base of a little over 1000 people, their recently expanded facilities are a beehive of activity.

Funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including several organizations, families, and Public Library Services. The west side of the library is a manifestation of the successful “Buy A Brick” fundraiser, through which 480 bricks were sold, engraved with the donors’ names, and formed into a decorative wall.

Conceived in 2003, the project actually began in 2008, at which time a budget of just under \$100,000 was set by the library board. Thanks largely in part to copious amounts of volunteer labour, things came in under budget, with the grand opening taking place on August 22, 2010.

Librarian Shirley Martin lauded the efforts of many of these volunteers, of which 70 were individually named in the opening ceremonies. Martin also specified two volunteers in particular, Morley Cornish and Ron Burnell, as having been invaluable throughout the building process. “We’ll never be able to thank them enough,” Martin said of the duo, who were awarded utility knives in order to cut the ceremonial ribbon on opening day.

The Regional Library’s first librarian, Margaret Northam, was also honoured by having the addition dedicated to her memory. Her family added to the revelry by donating a black granite bench etched with a memorial to their wife, mother, and grandmother. It now stands outside of the library for “anyone to sit here and read books to their heart’s content”, said Northam’s eldest daughter Linda Black to the Rivers Banner newspaper.

“The library is a jewel in our community,” Martin said proudly, citing the 4H and drama clubs as groups which meet regularly in the space. There is also an annual haunted house for Halloween, and permanent headquarters for both Seniors for Seniors and the Daly-Saskatchewan Recreation Committee in the building. The basement of the addition is home to the Rapid City Nursery School, which helps to provide ongoing enthusiasm from the area’s youngest readers.

Enhancements to the building continue, however, as the Friends of the Library group now sets its sights on new flooring for the basement level. Funds for the project will come from the group’s annual pie social, one of which has raised over \$3000.

“The community really supports the library,” declared Martin, “and we represent and serve our community.”

## Allied Library Associations

### This month: Your SLA Connection

*By Dawn Bassett*

It is the beginning of a new year and doubtless like me, you have been receiving those little reminders in the mail about renewing your memberships to whatever professional organizations you belong to. I currently belong to three professional associations; the Manitoba Library Association (MLA), the Special Libraries Association (SLA) and the American Records Management Association (ARMA).

For many of us, this is budget time. The economic forecasts seem to have most organizations at a flat or reduced budget and we are probably all wondering what we will need to cut for next year. Often our cuts come to areas such as professional development, training, travel and conferences (if these were previously covered by our employers in the first place). However, keeping contact with a network of professionals is an important way of connecting with people as well as with a variety of affordable or even free professional development opportunities. For example, through the MLA you have access to a job bank, discounts for courses offered through the EI and the professional development and networking opportunities through the Manitoba Libraries Conference (<http://www.manitobalibrariesconference.ca/>).

Like the MLA, the SLA offers a lot of free or affordable professional development options and networking opportunities. As the incoming President-Elect of the SLA Western Canada Chapter (SLA WCC) this seemed a good time to introduce (or re-introduce) you to the Special Libraries Association.

The SLA is a global organization of information professionals which serves more than 9,000 members in 75 countries in the information profession, including corporate, academic and government information specialists. SLA promotes and strengthens its members through its core values of leadership, service, innovation/continuous learning, results/accountability and collaboration/partnering. In addition to holding one of the largest gatherings of special librarians, the SLA provides its members with access to a variety of resources, including Information Outlook magazine, a career centre, an online bibliography of articles and books about special libraries, and access to other special librarians through a variety of mailing lists. The SLA WCC includes members from the four western provinces and territories. The SLA WCC board is an active and vibrant group of librarians from Government, Academic, Public and Corporate libraries with a wide variety of experiences and interests. There are six regional directors who are in charge of developing programming for members in their area. The regional director for Manitoba is Philip Wolfart the current Manager of CONTACT Community Information in Winnipeg.

Manitoba's SLA membership is small and we are always looking to expand it. We recognize that budgets are extremely limited both in terms of what librarians can spend on memberships to professional organizations as well as professional development opportunities and that while many of us want to give back to the profession by participating in conferences, webinars and the like, we all have limited availability and our free time is increasingly limited and precious to us.

I recently discovered that in 2013 I will be the first president of the SLA WCC from Manitoba, a distinction that I am very proud of. My husband, little boy and I moved to Winnipeg in May of 2006 and are very fond of our new home here in Manitoba and I am looking forward to seeing how my new role in the SLA WCC and my role as Director of Professional Development Director can create stronger ties between the two organizations. If you work in a special library and are looking to connect with other librarians in your field, you may want to give the SLA a look. If you are already a member, I encourage you to contact myself or Philip Wolfart and let us know what kind of programming you'd like to see.

Professional development and communications are my two passions so I hope that we can find ways to bring more professional development opportunities to the membership that will benefit you and strengthen both associations.

For more information about the SLA and the SLA WCC – visit the links below or contact me for more information at [dbassett69@gmail.com](mailto:dbassett69@gmail.com) | SLA website: <http://www.sla.org/> | SLA WCC chapter site: <http://wcanada.sla.org/>

## Education Institute: Your one stop shop for professional development

As part of a profession that is continually expanding its knowledge base and trying to keep up to date on new innovations in technology, services, collections and management - it can be difficult to choose the right professional development offering. While our departmental budgets are tightening the costs of going to far flung conferences are only increasing. Therefore, the option of learning at your own desktop can be not only convenient but also attractive to the pocket book.

The Education Institute (EI) as part of the Canadian collective of library associations known as The Partnership, is an option that library workers across the country are taking advantage of. Consisting of primarily one hour webinars and teleconferences the EI provides training options in many subject areas. Everything from leadership and management to readers' advisory to understanding eBooks - the sessions are run by professional librarians or leaders in the field and are aimed at library workers of all types. Web conferences are run through the Adobe Connect platform and are accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. These are interactive sessions where the presenter is sharing presentation materials, live web searches or demos and interactive polls and chats for the participants.

Those that register for a session are given archival access to the recording for future reference or use with a larger group of staff. Many librarians in charge of staff training use these sessions as part of a staff meeting in order to learn more about a topic and engage staff in conversation and learning. This is often helpful as it gives staff access to a professional speaking on the topic but also allows them to discuss and explore the local opportunities and how it relates to their own unique library environment.

If you are unable to attend a session and would like access to the recording after the fact this can be arranged by contacting the Education Institute directly. If the speaker has given permission EI is able to share the recording for a small fee covering the cost of transmission.

Education Institute Faculty members are among the crème de la crème of the library world – many are frequent speakers on the conference circuit and are certainly known as leaders in their subject areas. If you are interested in joining this league of instructors, or know someone that would make a good addition please contact your provincial library association or the Education Institute directly. We're happy to hear your suggestions!

The Winter 2012 EI Calendar is now available at [educationinstitute.ca](http://educationinstitute.ca). For more information or to stay up to date on our current offerings please join us in the social networksphere! You'll find us on Twitter @edinstute, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/edinstute> or LinkedIn.

---

## MLA 2011-2012 Executive Team Biographies

### **President: Emma Kepron**

After earning a B.A (Adv.) in English from the University of Manitoba, Emma pursued her MLIS at the University of Western Ontario in 2005. Upon completion of her degree she returned to her hometown of Winnipeg to work for the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. In 2008 she started work at the University of Manitoba where she is currently the Liaison Librarian for the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, and the Department of Psychology. Emma has been involved in the Manitoba Library Association in one capacity or another since 2006.

### **Vice President: Alex Homanchuk**

Alex is the Digital Initiatives Librarian and Head of Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery and Course Reserve units at the University of Winnipeg. He is also the Collection Manager for History of Art and Politics. Recently, Alex sat on the conference planning committee for Access 2010 and was instrumental in organizing Hackfest.

## **Past President: Sherri Vokey**

Sherri is the Health Sciences Centre Librarian at the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library, and an Assistant Librarian with the University of Manitoba. Before moving to the NJMHSL, she held positions as an academic librarian at the University of Winnipeg, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Toronto. Sherri was the lead instructor in the Library & Information Technology Program at Red River College from 2007-2010. She graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Master of Library and Information Science in 2002, and a Master of Arts from Queen's University in 2000.

## **Treasurer: Kathy Rusnak**

Kathy has been with the University of Manitoba for 27 years. For the first 16, she worked in Financial Services at the Fort Garry campus in various positions, and then moved to the Libraries in 2000. Kathy is the Financial Officer for Technical Services and monitors the finances for all the libraries at the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses. She is also the Treasurer for the 3Rd Maples Scouting group, and has held the position for the last five years.

## **Secretary: Katherine Penner**

Katherine received her MLIS from the University of Western Ontario in August of 2009, and began her career with the U of M's Elizabeth Dafoe Library as a sessional Reference Librarian. Katherine currently serves as the Undergraduate Services Librarian and Liaison Librarian for the Faculty of Nursing. As a reflection of her enthusiasm for patron services, Katherine's research interests focus on alternative reference and teaching strategies for emerging groups and generations in academic library systems.

## **Advocacy Director: Ian Fraser**

Ian has been involved with libraries since 2003, when he began as a shelver at Winnipeg Public Library. After two years as a Reference Assistant, Ian decided to pursue his MLIS at McGill University's School of Information Studies. His time in Montreal was well spent, working in a number of interesting libraries, including the Atwater Library, formerly the Mechanics Institute of Montreal, Canada's oldest lending library. Upon completion of his MLIS in 2008, Ian returned to his hometown of Winnipeg, Manitoba, to take a position as a Reference Librarian at the University of Winnipeg Library. This position has progressed since then to incorporate a variety of interesting initiatives, including instruction services, data services, teaching technology liaison and collection management work. Ian currently serves as the Head of Instruction, Data Services, and Teaching Technology.

## **Communications Director: Stephen Carney**

Stephen earned his MLIS from the University of Alberta in 2002, and worked for a year as a Public Services Librarian at Bibliothèque St. Jean, University of Alberta. From 2003 until 2011 he worked as a digital librarian for Alberta Education's LearnAlberta.ca project. He started a new position in May 2011 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

## **Conference Director: Vera Keown**

Vera is currently the Head of the Sciences and Technology Library at the University of Manitoba. Prior to this she was with the National Research Council for 11 years where she was held various positions including manager of the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information's (CISTI) NRC Information Centre located in the NRC Institute for Biodiagnostics, Technical Business Analyst (TBA) with CISTI's Competitive Technical Intelligence (CTI) program, CTI Team Leader where she managed a team of TBAs across Western Canada and Ontario, Group Leader for the CTI Program and finally Planning and Business Officer for the Central Business Support group. Vera holds a Masters of Library and Information Studies from McGill University as well as a Bachelor of Science, Honours (Genetics) from the University of Manitoba.

## **Fund Development Director: Evelyn Bruneau**

Evelyn works at the University of Manitoba as an Electronic Resources Access Specialist in the Technical Services Department, and has been working with electronic resources for the past 11 years. She has experience developing productive business relationships with vendors and publishers, preparing new budget projections for electronic resources and preparing regular

formal reports on finances. Evelyn also works with national and provincial library consortia (COPPUL, MLCI, CRKN) on behalf of the Libraries. She holds a Bachelor of Human Ecology (Family Studies) from the University of Manitoba and is currently completing her MLIS via San Jose State University.

### **Membership Director: Gail Matheson**

Gail is currently working at the University of Manitoba in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library and the Architecture/Fine Arts Library as a Reference Librarian. She has a Master's of Library Science from the University of Western Ontario (2011), a BFA honours in ceramics (2009), and a BA in film studies (2004) from the University of Manitoba. Gail is a practicing ceramic artist and her research interests are in ceramics indigenous to Manitoba, traditional building and processing techniques, and the use of local materials. Gail uses the unpredictability of local clay and limestone in her art to explore concepts of beauty and imperfection.

### **Professional Development Director: Dawn Bassett**

Dawn is the Coordinator of Library Services for the Canadian Grain Commission and the Current Treasurer of the Western Chapter of the SLA. Dawn holds a BA in English Literature from Simon Fraser University and an MLIS from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) at the University of British Columbia. Dawn has had the pleasure of working as a corporate librarian in both for profit and not-for-profit special libraries, as an academic reference librarian and as an independent researcher.

### **Director-At-Large: J. Seeland**

J. Seeland is a Library Technician at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, Manitoba. His duties include cataloguing, interlibrary loan, reference and orientations at many of the province's ACC facilities, with a smattering of circulation thrown in for good measure. Prior to joining the college, he was a Library Technician with the River East Transcona School Division in Winnipeg. He graduated from Red River College in 2003, and is working towards a BA with a major in History through the University of Manitoba's Distance and Online Education programs. Although he enjoys many hobbies including music, seasonal gardening and Muay Thai, his main interests are centered on his growing family.

### **Director-At-Large: Donna Sikorsky**

Donna is the Reference Librarian at the E.K. Williams Law Library at the University of Manitoba. She was previously Librarian at Taylor McCaffrey LLP, a full-service law firm in Winnipeg. Donna served on the Winnipeg Public Library Board from 2001 to 2006. She obtained a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and an MLIS from the University of Alberta.

---

## **Forward Into the Past!**

### **Articles from the Newline back file**

Delving into [Newline's back issues](#) provides for some fascinating reading regarding local library history and the state of the profession in Manitoba throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s. While it's undeniable that much has changed in 30 years, there are still some constants, such as assumptions (perhaps correct) regarding a child's innate ability to master the technologies that define her generation, as can be seen in the following snippet from vol. 9, issue 1 of Newline from September 1983:

*✓ A TRS-80 Microcomputer has been loaned to The Pas Public Library by the Council for Exceptional Children. The computer is used on a first come, first served basis and the number of students using it at any one time is limited to three. The students also enjoy teaching their parents how to use the computer.*

I'll admit to being pretty amazed a couple of years ago at how quickly my daughter mastered using my wife's iPad. Read the full issue at: [Newline Vol. 9, Issue 1](#)