News from Newfoundland and Labrador

On October 15, 2009, the grand re-opening of the Barbara J Hopkins Library at the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism took place. The Centre, located in St. John's, provides services including library services, to the entire province. A number of volunteers from the regional library community donated their time and expertise to get this library online, including cataloguing some 500 items. Check out this new library at: http://www.autism.nf.net/library.html and its grand reopening at: http://www.nlla.ca/photos.htm

Submitted by: Annette Anthony

Jenny Seeman will be representing the Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive, Health Sciences Library, Memorial University, at the Association of Canadian Archivists Conference in Nova Scotia this coming June. The abstract below was submitted and accepted, and so she will be making a poster presentation at that conference.

Jenny subsequently submitted the abstract to the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Libraries Association conference committee, and her proposal has also been accepted for the NLHLA Conference and AGM on 19 April. We will both be attending that conference.

Abstract
The Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive proposes a poster display which will demonstrate its use of online material to promote the archive, create and build partnerships with other archives and medical groups in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and increase use of archival material to new, often unknown user groups. Memorial University’s Digital Archives Initiative (DAI), an online repository, provides a gateway to research-based cultural materials in the province, hosting a variety of collections which together reinforce the importance, past and present, of Newfoundland and Labrador’s history and culture. The Founders’ Archive has contributed to the DAI unique photograph collections, educational exhibits, and publications of sister organizations, which often provide a fascinating glimpse into the province’s medical history from a socio-cultural perspective. In so doing, the Founders’ Archive has provided access to a wealth of archival treasures to researchers who may not have otherwise known such material existed. Reaching out to new users and providing a service relevant to the next generation of archival researchers is a vital strategy of the Founders’ Archive. Providing different and creative access points to its archival resources is proving to be an effective marketing tool, which strengthens the relevance of the archive to new and expanding user groups and ensures continued and increased use of materials held in the archive. This display could be of interest to any archivist planning to make archival material available online.
News from the Faculty of Medicine Founders' Archive

Archives Symposium
The Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive celebrated its 10th anniversary at the Health Sciences Centre on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 with a day of presentations and discussions. The symposium, “Examining the Archival Footprint: The Past and Future of Archives in Newfoundland and Labrador,” held in collaboration with the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives (ANLA), was intended to promote the use of archives and demonstrate the services and resources archives have to offer. The varied agenda supported this aim with the first presentation from the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Dr. Daniel Caron, giving the national perspective on archival work in the 21st Century; promoting the relationship between libraries and archives, University Librarian, Lorraine Busby, chaired this session.

The lunchtime session, partnered with Medical Grand Rounds, featured a presentation by the Hon. Dr. Max House, who spoke about Telemedicine, the pioneering work spanning three decades in the field of distance health education and provision of remote health care. The Telemedicine Collection, housed at the Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive, is currently being arranged and described and will be available for research in the coming months.

The final session of the day was a round table discussion examining the future of archives in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. In keeping with the topic, the panelists were chosen to represent the next generation of archivists and each talked about their current work situation and their thoughts on the direction of the archival profession, including the services that each of their archives provides. Jenny Seeman represented the Founders’ Archive on this panel.

Exhibit
A new exhibit is now on display in the main foyer of the Faculty of Medicine. The collection of 'I'm Getting Well Cards' by Dr. Brian Payton, featuring 15th and 16th century images of anatomy, is a humorous take on the notion of get well cards that would be sent by the patient to family and friends at home. Originally published in Dr. Payton's History of Medicine at MUN Medical School, 1969-1988, which is available in the Health Sciences Library's Historical Collection and the Founders' Archive, the cards have been kindly reprinted by Dr. Payton for the display.

Digitization Project: Newsletters of the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association, 1943-1986
The Founders’ Archive partnered with the Health Archives and Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador (HAMNL) to digitize two newsletters of the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association. Kayla Matthews, MUCEP student, scanned The Happy Warrior (1943-1947) and the Northern Light (1949-
The newsletters begin with the fight against tuberculosis in the province. Ted Meaney, the creator of the newsletters, went on to become the first full time secretary of the Newfoundland Tuberculosis Association. Himself a tuberculosis survivor, he became very active in raising public awareness about the transmission of the disease. Over time, the focus of the Lung Association changes, with more of an emphasis on other respiratory diseases. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the campaign against smoking intensifies, and articles educate readers on the effects of second hand smoke, and how to quit smoking. In this way, the newsletters provide an interesting view of the province’s medical history from a sociological perspective and are a fascinating read for anyone with an interest in Newfoundland and Labrador’s health history. A total of 45 issues were scanned.

212 issues of Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association publications (1958-2008) have been scanned and are now available online through Memorial University’s Digital Archives Initiative (DAI): http://collections.mun.ca/cdm4/description.php?phpReturn=typeListing.php&id=77. This two year project was completed, in part, with financial support from the NLMA. Their newsletter continues to be a means both to connect all the physicians and surgeons in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to inform upon happenings in the medical profession throughout the province.

Submitted by: Stephanie Harlick and Jenny Seeman

The Alternate Format Materials Library (Dept of Education, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador) specifically serves students with disabilities related to manipulating, seeing or reading text (referred to as "perceptual disabilities" in Canadian copyright legislation).

A perceptual disability is defined as "a disability that prevents or inhibits a person from reading... a literary, musical, dramatic or artistic work in its original format, and includes a disability resulting from:
1. severe or total impairment of sight... or the inability to focus or move one’s eyes,
2. the inability to hold or manipulate a book, or
3. an impairment relating to comprehension."
(Canadian Copyright Act Section 32: http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showdoc/cs/C-42)

Once the application has been received, the student is given a unique username and password and the resources that they need are attached to their account.
The student can then download the resources to their computers, Ipods, or MP3 players. At present our collection consists of 221 resources -- 147 textbooks and 74 novels/plays in the following formats - 75 Digital Audio; 118 pdf files; 35 Word documents; 12 Kurweil files; 33 cassettes; and 3 CDs. (* note some textbooks/novels/plays are available in more than one format). We have 563 registered students and the total circulation is 4139 resources.

You can check out our website at: https://cmaf.gov.nl.ca. To contact me, email jewelcousens@gov.nl.ca or call 729-6953. The AFM library is located in the Dept of Education, 3rd Floor West Block, Confederation Bldg.

Submitted by: Jewel Cousens