

# Context

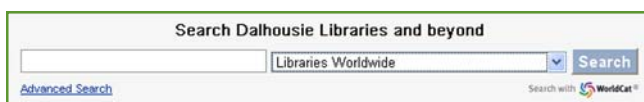
Dalhousie Libraries News

Number 11, October 2009



## Search Dalhousie Libraries—and Beyond

### WorldCat Local Offers Gateway to Global Library Resources



The Dalhousie Libraries, along with many of the other Novanet libraries, have acquired WorldCat Local, a new discovery tool which provides

expanded Web access to local, regional and worldwide library resources. When you use the new WorldCat Local search box on our website, items that are available at Dal are shown at the top of the search results, followed by items held in Novanet Libraries, Atlantic University Libraries and finally libraries around the world (WorldCat.org).

WorldCat Local provides a single interface for searching books, articles, digital items and other materials, as well as document delivery options. Other attractive features include relevancy ranking, book cover images, downloading digital content, and the ability to create lists, RSS feeds, saved searches and more. Plus you can use it on your handheld!

The regular Novanet search interface remains available for those who prefer it. WorldCat Local is an enhancement to Novanet, which will continue to be used for patron account functions, placing holds, Novanet Express, and Reserves.

We're excited about this new tool and welcome your feedback on it. Please give it a try at [library.dal.ca](http://library.dal.ca) and let us know what you think!

### IM Your Question. Get Live Help!

Working in your office or your dorm room and have a reference question? Don't get up—research help is at your fingertips! Novanet libraries across Nova Scotia offer a hugely popular online chat reference service called Live Help, and it's available at a library website very near you.



Look for the Live Help chat widget on our website at [library.dal.ca](http://library.dal.ca) and when you're in the [Novanet catalogue](#). Hours of service appear beside the widget—if there's no one online in your hour of need, just leave a message (be sure to include your email address), and they'll get back to you. And remember—there's no such thing as a silly question!

[library.dal.ca](http://library.dal.ca)

## New Wave of Digital Collections

Thanks to the dedicated creative work of Dalhousie Archives & Special Collections (DUASC) staff, the Libraries now boast five exciting new digital collections which showcase DUASC holdings. Watch our [Digital Collections](#) page for the next wave—there's more to come!

Dalhousie University



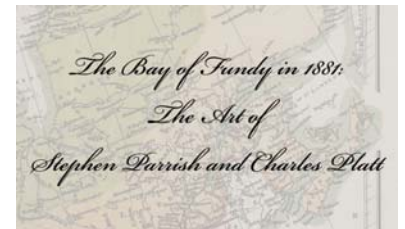
### Dalhousie University Calendars 1865-1951

Although Dalhousie University was founded in 1818, the earliest known calendars are from 1865. The publications include graduation lists, academic timetables, course descriptions, examination papers, the university constitution, and lists of the Board of Governors, Senate, and professors. [library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/DalhousieCalendars/](http://library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/DalhousieCalendars/)

Calendars

### The Bay of Fundy in 1881: The Art of Stephen Parrish and Charles Platt

In the summer of 1881, American etchers Stephen Parrish and Charles Platt travelled through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia sketching the coastal and interior landscapes. This exhibition showcases the fifty-eight preparatory drawings and thirteen etchings by Parrish and four etchings by Platt held in DUASC. Also includes a Google Earth map showing the approximate geographic locations of the artwork. [library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Parrish/](http://library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Parrish/)

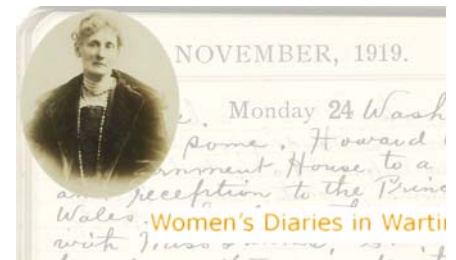


### Rudyard Kipling's *If*

Originally published in 1910, Kipling's poem *If* has been republished numerous times and translated into many languages. The evolution of the text is reflected in the many diverse editions from the Dalhousie Kipling Collection presented here. This exhibition showcases one manuscript typescript and nineteen versions of *If* published between 1910 and 1940, as well as five multimedia interpretations of the poem that have been found online. [library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Kipling/](http://library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Kipling/)

### Women's Diaries in Wartime

This site showcases the diaries of two women, Catherine (Murray) Creighton and Maria Marquard, which describe many of the same contemporary world events, including the Boer War and First World War. Transcripts of selected parts of the diaries become visible when a viewing lens is moved over the original text. [library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Diaries/](http://library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/Diaries/)



### The Halifax Disaster

The Halifax Disaster Record  
Office Report on the  
Halifax Explosion



### The Halifax Disaster

After the Halifax explosion of 6 December 1917, Archibald MacMechan was commissioned to record an official history of the event. He headed the Halifax Disaster Record Office which began gathering facts and stories on 17 December 1917. The resulting report contains a wealth of information on the events leading up to the explosion as well as the aftermath. [library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/HalifaxDisaster/](http://library.dal.ca/DUASC/Digital-Collections/HalifaxDisaster/)

## Librarians On Leave—Take Three



**IAN COLFORD**  
Assistant University Librarian,  
Collections  
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

While on leave I plan to complete two writing projects, both of which I began a number of years ago. The first is a novel titled “The Lives of Hector Tomas.” It is set in South America during a time of political instability and involves a young man who is drawn into the conflict against his will, and who must do terrible things in order to survive. The second is a book of literary criticism. I am working on a critical assessment of the work of the American novelist and short story writer John Cheever. I began this manuscript during my previous sabbatical and made substantial progress. I hope to complete it during this sabbatical.



**MICHAEL MOOSBERGER**  
University Archivist  
September 1, 2009 – August  
31, 2010

I plan to undertake two major activities during my sabbatical leave.

The first will be to prepare a draft publication that will assist university faculty in managing the research, teaching and administrative information they create as members of the university community. This will involve reviews of faculty collections currently residing in selected Canadian University Archives, and of all available archival literature related to the acquisition, appraisal and management of faculty papers; the creation of an advisory committee of University Archivists who have already been approached concerning this project, and the preparation of survey instruments to acquire current data on faculty records-keeping practices and awareness of records-keeping requirements; an analysis of the completed survey data and the preparation of an analysis report for review by the advisory committee; the preparation of a draft publication for review by the advisory committee and integration of the committee’s revisions.

My second research project will build upon information presented at a 5-day Digital Preservation Management Workshop that I attended in October 2008 at the University of Michigan. I plan on undertaking a further examination of the standards, policies and procedures and various digital preservation initiatives that are taking place in university settings around the world. This review will lead, I hope, to a far better understanding of our own institutional needs and the organizational framework that will be required for Dalhousie to create and maintain if it is committed to the preservation of its digital resources. The ultimate goal is to develop a draft organizational framework for a digital preservation program for the Dalhousie University Libraries.



**SARAH STEVENSON**  
Science / Reference Librarian  
Killam Library  
July 1 – December 31, 2009

I propose to investigate two questions during my leave:

- Are Dalhousie University Libraries meeting the needs of the Faculty of Science?
- How can the Libraries improve services to the Faculty of Science, or make them more aware of what we have to offer?

This will involve soliciting feedback from students (undergraduate & graduate), post-doctoral fellows, staff, and faculty through an online survey, focus groups and interviews.

During my leave, I will be one of the Researchers in Residence at Dalhousie’s School of Information Management. They are providing me with a workspace and a collegial environment for my research in exchange for a presentation in their Public Lecture series and mentoring with their students.



## Could Hard Economic Times Mean Loss of Ejournal Access?

**If we subscribe to a journal in electronic form and then the journal dies, do we lose access?**

Publishers have been aware of this issue since the inception of electronic publishing and many have built provisions into their contracts and licenses to cover all contingencies. Many promise access “in perpetuity,” admittedly without making clear what this means.

A common action that many publishers are prepared to take if they go out of business is to provide customers with the content that the customers own so they can load it up to their own servers and continue to provide access locally.

If a huge publisher like Springer or Elsevier were to go out of business, the presumption is that they would have sufficient advance notice to be able to send their customers the appropriate electronic files. If the loss of access were sudden and catastrophic, to the extent that this wasn't possible, then the entire Western world is probably facing severe and widespread problems that make loss of access to electronic journals seem trivial by comparison.

More problematic are the fringe publishers and small societies that publish only one or two titles. Some make the same promise, that they will provide electronic files that customers can load locally. Others promise that in the event they are no longer viable, they will provide print copies of issues to cover the content that their customers or members have purchased in electronic form. More likely is that, if forced under by a financial squeeze, they will try to sell their content to a bigger player that operates on a more stable financial base.

This issue has received a lot of attention. In 2002 JSTOR starting looking at broadly based archiving solutions for scholarly journal content. This project attracted the attention of foundations with the money and clout to be able to provide the needed infrastructure to make it happen. In 2005, the project was launched under the name Portico, which declares as its mission, “to preserve scholarly literature published in electronic form and to ensure that these materials remain accessible to future scholars, researchers, and students.” Dalhousie is a participant in Portico.

More information is available at:  
<http://www.portico.org/>

There is always a chance that some content will be lost. Small publishers are the most vulnerable and with so many getting into the electronic publishing game, it's inevitable that some will be swept out of existence in an economic downturn. All we can do is hope that such losses are kept to a minimum.



### DOUGLAS ARTHUR BROWN READING

**Winner, 2009 Thomas Head  
Raddall Fiction Prize for his  
novel *Quintet***

October 14, 7:30 pm  
DUASC Reading Room  
5th floor, Killam Library  
494-3615 for information

## A “Cloud”y Future: Cloud Computing



If you've been following developments in the area of information technology recently, you've probably seen the phrase “cloud computing” floating around. But do you know exactly what cloud computing is—or why you should be aware of it?

Good old Wikipedia defines cloud computing simply as a style of computing in which resources are provided as a service over the Internet. For example, some of the most familiar cloud computing providers are Google, Microsoft, Yahoo and Amazon, and applications we've all seen are Facebook, Skype, and Google Apps. The actual term is a metaphor based on the cloud symbol that's often used to represent the Internet in flow charts and diagrams.

A cloud can be public (i.e. selling services over the Net, Amazon being currently the largest) or private, a proprietary network or data center that supplies hosted services to a limited number of people. Both are intended to provide easy, scalable access to computing resources and IT services.

The major advantage of cloud computing is that things like server rooms, backup generators, networking, wires and even the machines themselves become someone else's problem. The downside is that security, redundancy and availability all move out into the wild. That can complicate matters significantly depending on what kind of information you're working with.

So are we on the eve of a revolution or will this be another footnote in the history of technology books? It's difficult to say for sure, but as an increasing number of major vendors are getting involved, it's hard to imagine that it's a passing fad. The forecast is definitely cloudy...

Want to learn more? Visit [searchcloudcomputing.com](http://searchcloudcomputing.com), “the Web's most comprehensive resource for cloud computing news, analysis and case studies”

## And in other news...

**Libcasts** are instructional videos you can watch online or download to your ipod. Some new ones:

### Searching for Images in ArtSTOR

ARTstor is a digital library of art, architecture and archeology images. It also includes associated image information and software to edit and present images.

[Watch video now!](#)

### WorldCat Advanced

Beyond the basics, this video teaches you how to get the most out of our new search interface

[Watch video now!](#)

### Graduate Students Centre open at Killam

The Killam Library is now home to a great new resource for grad students—the Graduate Students Centre, housed on the northeast corner of the fourth floor.

The Centre is intended to provide grad students with a secure, dedicated study space, accessible only by swiping their DalCards. It includes a wireless quiet study area with a variety of table setups, a casual lounge with bookcases, notice boards and movable whiteboards, and a seminar room with conference table and audio-visual equipment. The Centre also features a kitchenette with fridge, sink and microwave for those all-important refreshment breaks, and a copier, printer and lockers.

### We're all a-Blog about The Libvine

Keep up to date with our new blog **The Libvine!** Post your comments, subscribe to the whole blog or select your own subject area There's a special category for the Killam Learning Commons too!

<http://blogs.dal.ca/libraries/>

### Follow us on Twitter

We've mastered the cutting-edge art of tweeting and we have lots to twitter about...(that's 56 characters but who's counting?)

<http://twitter.com/DalLibraries>

# focus on...

## Geoff Brown

Head of Technical Services  
Killam and Sexton Libraries

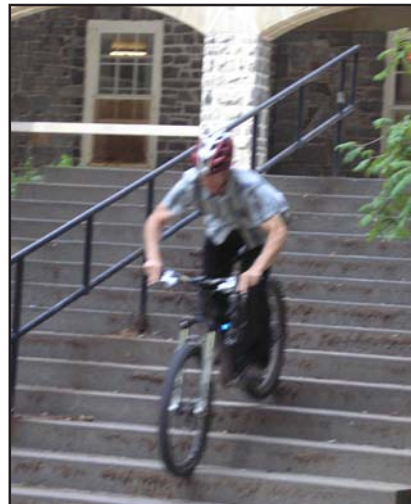


Geoff Brown's job is a real right brain/left brain challenge. As Head of Technical Services he oversees the complex tasks required to set up public access to new print and electronic resources, from purchasing journal packages to getting them into Novanet, managing the link resolver system, and informing users where and how they're available. But he also supervises 15 people in Bibliographic Control & Access, Serials, Government Documents and Conservation and Bindery, who among them handle all the technical services work for both the Killam and the Sexton libraries. Nowadays the name is slightly misleading: "technical services" is not the same as IT. Technical services staff order, receive, handle invoicing for and make accessible all of the print and electronic resources owned and/or licensed by the Libraries. They

do use highly specialized computer applications for this work, of course—applications which must all be coordinated to share data.

"This is where the work becomes challenging," says Geoff, "sitting down with one application and making it communicate with several others. Those are the little victories. But working with people is the rewarding part. It's crucial to have everyone on the same page so you can really work productively together." In fact Geoff spends part of every day "yacking it up with pretty much anyone" in the Killam atrium, briefly "shelving work" just so he can find out what makes his colleagues laugh and get to know them better.

Geoff's career track has been, as he says, a reflection of the larger picture of what's been happening in libraries recently. Beginning as Bibliographic Control Librarian in 2003, he was appointed Electronic Resources Librarian and then became the head of the entire Technical Services Unit, a move that makes sense as libraries increasingly focus on acquiring the majority of our collections in electronic format.



*Commuter Geoff arriving at work*

When Geoff can tear himself away from all this he can be found biking, skiing, playing hockey or soccer, or installing solar panels on his Molega Lake cottage. He also claims an interest in extreme croquet and Kubb—"a Viking cross between chess and horseshoes," and ownership of the Geoffigy, his top-secret all-terrain piñata/flamethrowing robot. These latter allegations however remain unconfirmed to date.