Open Access

What is Open Access?

Open Access is a movement to use the power of the Internet to distribute scholarly information as widely as possible, and with a minimum of price barriers (subscription cost, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and permission barriers (most copyright and licensing restrictions) to the user. As described in the launch of the new open access journal *PLoS Medicine* in October of last year, it is "the revolutionary idea of anyone being able to read any article." It focuses typically on scholarly material that authors wish to make available to the widest possible audience without the expectation of payment.

Open Access Publishing

In accordance with the Budapest (February 2002) and Bethesda (June 2003) declarations, authors/copyright holders/publishers who subscribe to the principle of open access must agree to let users "copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship . . . ." Many authors and publishers who participate in open access publishing subscribe to one of the Creative Commons licenses (*creativecommons.org/)* to explicitly protect the integrity of their works and authorize uses which reflect the needs of legitimate scholarship. Open Access journals, which now number in the hundreds, use editorial boards, peer review processes, etc., which parallel established procedures in the commercial journal publishing sector and are increasingly included in ISI citation metrics which measure impact factor.

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DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

Costs of Open Access Journals and Publishing

Open access is not a new business model but rather a new kind of access (Open Access Overview, Peter Suber) enabled by the internet and associated digital publishing opportunities. Many business models are compatible with OA, so that there are different possibilities for paying the real associated costs while ensuring the reader is spared any charge. The Public Library of Science (*www.plos.org*) represents one model, while BioMed Central (*www.biomedcentral.com/*) and PubMed Central (*www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/*) represent others. Ultimately the costs of publishing Open Access journals are considerably less than publishing under the existing commercial journal model.

Libraries have encouraged this movement for several important reasons. The movement enhances accessibility to scholarly information for all users everywhere, unhampered by licensing and other restrictions; it has had a dampening effect on the exorbitant inflationary costs of the large commercial scholarly journal publishers; fnally, it promises to lower the costs of distribution and access for which libraries have largely been responsible in the past.

Consider Participating

Authors who publish in Open Access journals or use the principles of Open Access increase their audience and the impact and visibility of their work (The Impact of Open Access Journals*: www.isinet.com/media/presentrep/ acropdf/impact-oa-journals.pdf*). By bypassing traditional commercial journal publishers, they ensure potential users of their works are not hampered by high costs or unnecessarily restrictive licensing and copyright policies. More of the money that is now committed by libraries to the purchase of commercial scholarly journals and licensed access could be used to support research instead. The more authors support Open Access, the less likely it is that commercial publishers will return to the inflationary and unreasonable pricing polices which have made it increasingly impossible for libraries to meet the information needs of their scholarly communities.

Learn More

Open Access Overview
www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm

Budapest Open Access Initiative
www.soros.org/openaccess/

Open Archives Initiative
 www.openarchives.org/index.html

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition
www.arl.org/sparc/

Open Journal Systems: Public Knowledge Project, U.B.C.
www.pkp.ubc.ca/

Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Information
www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/

Institutional Repositories
www.arl.org/sparc/IR/ir.html

The Directory of Open Access Journals
www.doaj.org/

Kellogg Acquires EMBASE

The Kellogg Health Sciences Library has purchased a subscription to EMBASE, the premier European biomedical and pharmacological database. EMBASE is an Elsevier Science product.

EMBASE contains over 10 million records from 1974 to the present, with 500,000 citations and abstracts added annually, and 2,000 new records added daily. Each record contains the full bibliographic citation, indexing terms and codes; 80% of all citations in EMBASE include author-written abstracts. The EMBASE journal collection is international with more than 6,500 journals from 70 countries indexed. Full Table of Contents are provided for 4,500 EMBASE journals. Search options include not only Quick and Advanced, but also Field, Drug, Disease, and Article search capabilities. One of EMBASE's many unique features is that it offers document delivery via Infotrieve.

EMBASE features comprehensive coverage of: drug research, pharmacology, pharmacy, pharmacoeconomics, pharmaceutics and toxicology; human medicine (clinical and experimental); basic biological research; health policy and management; public, occupational and environmental health; substance dependence and abuse; psychiatry; forensic science; and biomedical engineering and instrumentation. Navigate from citations directly to full text from the world's leading STM publishers, including Elsevier Science Direct, SpringerLink, KargerOnline, Thieme-connect and CrossRef (via DOI).

EMBASE is accessible on and off campus, and is restricted to Dalhousie users only. Access it via the Libraries' database page, or from the Novanet catalogue.

www.embase.com/

Patrick Ellis Appointed Health Sciences Librarian

The Dalhousie Libraries are very pleased to announce the appointment of Patrick Ellis as Health Sciences Librarian for a five year term effective July 1, 2005.

Patrick is no stranger to the Dalhousie community and especially the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Professions which he has served since 1979, initially as a Library Assistant. After obtaining his Library degree from Dalhousie in 1988 he was hired as a professional librarian in the Kellogg Library.

Dalhousie is well served by Patrick's enthusiasm and dedication. He is a member of the University Librarian's Council; Council, Faculty of Health Professions; Council, Faculty of Medicine; the Faculty of Dentistry, Academic Resources Committee; and the University Libraries Policy Advisory Committee. He has served on the President's Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities for several terms and on the President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment.

Patrick has been very active in the Canadian Health Libraries Association serving as President in 2000-01 and as Co-Chair and Co-Author of the CHLA/ABSC Survey of Canadian Health Science Information Professionals, 2001 - present. He received the CHLA/ABSC Award of Outstanding Achievement in 2003 in recognition of all his contributions.

He currently serves as Chair of the Atlantic Health Knowledge Partnership, is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Nova Scotia Health Network and was recently appointed to Ebsco's Biomedical Advisory Board. He has always been an active and contributing member of Novanet.

Patrick is also well known about town as a musician, drumming for the JP Ellis Trio, Chalmers Doane Trio and the Big Blue Eastern Swing Band.

Think outside the books.

Dalhousie Libraries' 2005/2006 PR Campaign

The Dalhousie University Libraries have much more to offer than most people know…and we're going to let them know it!

To be specific, we plan to demystify our resources and services for this year's group of first-year students, many of whom have never stepped inside an institutional library before. With that goal in mind, the Libraries will be running a year-long publicity campaign, with "*Think outside the books*" as our slogan. The campaign is intended to highlight not only useful electronic resources like online research guides and the Assignment Calculator, but also our group study spaces, one-on-one and live chat reference service, friendly staff, and other features which make the Dalhousie Libraries welcoming and stimulating places in which to work.

The campaign will include a series of ads in the *Gazette*, a flyer in the frosh pack, posters in university residences and academic departments, promotional t-shirts and more. The slogan is flexible enough that each of the Dalhousie Libraries can use it to advertise their own particular holdings and initiatives.

Look for the Dalhousie Libraries to be a real presence on campus this fall, and…*Think outside the books!*

www.**library**.dal.ca

Stellar Lineup For CLCP Public Reading Series

What's could be more interesting than reading a book? Hearing the writer read his or her work and talk about writing, that's what!

The popular CLCP Public Reading Series, hosted by the Killam Library, has been around since 1992 and is a great way to get in touch with what's happening on the local literary scene. Poets, playwrights, novelists and short story writers from all over the Maritimes have appeared on our "stage," launched their new books, and revealed their works-in-progress, all sponsored by the Canadian Literary Collections Project.

Watch for posters and announcements about our exciting 2005/2006 series. For more information about the CLCP, visit our website at:

www.library.dal.ca/duasc/spcoll/clcp.htm

In the spotlight this season:

Edward Riche, Newfoundland novelist, playwright, screenwriter and radio writer. Winner of the 2005 Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize for his novel *The Nine Planets* (Viking Canada).

Glenn Walton, noted Halifax actor, film director, screenwriter. His latest film *Chamberpiece* was featured in the 2004 Atlantic Film Festival, where it won the Best Actor award.

Jonathan Campbell, Annapolis Valley author of short stories, plays and television dramas. Winner of the 2005 Dartmouth Book Award (Fiction) and the Margaret & John Savage First Book Award for his novel *Tarcadia* (Gaspereau Press).

An Information Literacy Coordinator for Dalhousie

*Out*there

The Dalhousie University Libraries are pleased to announce that Fran Nowakowski has accepted the new position of Information Literacy Coordinator for the Libraries, effective July 1, 2005.

Fran Nowakowski, currently a Reference Librarian/Subject Specialist at the Killam Library, also acts as Coordinator of Orientation & Instruction in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Nowakowski has distinguished herself at Dalhousie as an innovator and advocate of Information Literacy. Over the years, she has consistently demonstrated a high level of involvement in service initiatives, a remarkable skill for collaboration and an uncanny ability to get new ideas heard by the people who can act on them.

Fran Nowakowski has 24 years of professional experience with Dalhousie Libraries. During this time she has actively pursued and developed lifelong learning skills in the area of instruction/education, technology and web/graphic design. Recent projects include the integration of information literacy instruction into target courses in Sociology and Social Anthropology; development of a suite of online tutorials; and the creation of web sites for Information Literacy and for Plagiarism.

Information literacy is defined as "the ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate and use information effectively." The Dalhousie Libraries are committed to working with faculty and students to promote and develop a strong presence of information literacy in the learning environment. Working together, we can ensure that all Dalhousie students graduate with well-developed information skills and the knowledge base to learn for a lifetime.

- For further information about and resources on information literacy, please visit our Information Literacy website at *infolit.library.dal.ca/*

■ **Google Enhances Desktop Search**

Google has just released a new version of its desktop search tool, offering features such as integration with Microsoft Outlook, a sidebar with nifty widgets to display photos, headlines and much more.

Options include being able to search your desktop and Google's Gmail with the floating Google Deskbar, or the new Google Sidebar with 8 customizable panels, which automatically update with new info and offer access to:

- **email** Read new Gmail without having to visit the Gmail site
- **news** News headlines will be personalized over time based on articles you've looked at in the past
- **web clips** The Google name for RSS feeds
- **scratch pad** Type and save quick notes
- **photos** Images from your photos folders are displayed as a slide show
- **quick view** Access to frequently used web pages and files
- **what's hot** What people are talking about, extractedfrom blog/RSS engines Technorati and DayPop
- **stocks** Current stock prices for your favorite securities
- **weather** Current temperatures and a one day forecast for places of your choice
- **search** A search box at the bottom of the bar

People

Amir Feridooni
Technical Lead
Dalhousie Learning Commons

Amir (left) helps a student in the Learning Commons

Amir Feridooni, a man of great compassion and intelligence, is passionate about what he does—his work and his life are one. He also has a seemingly infinite talent for reinventing himself.

Originally from Iran, Amir arrived in Canada in 1999 with his wife and two sons, an unfinished university degree, and $20 in his pocket. With several bitter years as a political refugee in Turkey behind him, his one desire was to complete his education and create a stable life for his family. He spoke little English and his wife virtually none.

Since that time, Amir has successfully attended two terms at Community College (studying from a textbook he had to borrow because he could not afford to pay for his own); studied computer science for two years at Saint Mary's University; and attained a BCSc. in computer science from Dalhousie with brilliant marks. He is currently in his final year of the Health Informatics program at Dal. And he's doing this while working full time in the Killam Library as the Learning Commons Technical Lead.

Amir began at the Killam as a student navigator in September 2004. By January 2005, he had moved up to a T5 position, and a month later was appointed Technical Lead. But as he puts it, it's not the job he cares about the most, it's the students, and being able to teach them skills that they will carry with them when they leave the university. "I'm not here as a T7," he says. "I'm here to work with the people, and I'm so happy to give them the service." Amir often stays in the library until 7 or 8 o'clock helping students in the Learning Commons.

The philosophy of this remarkable man is: "I don't make dreams, I make plans." His next plan is to get a law degree at Dalhousie, in order to help other refugees create new lives of their own. Those who work with Amir can attest to his utter dedication, patience, and wonderful sense of humour. The Dalhousie Libraries are very fortunate to have Amir Feridooni on our "team"!

Did You Know...?

The Dalhousie Libraries are in the process of implementing ALEPH, a new library management system. ALEPH is being acquired by all libraries in the Novanet consortium. We plan to have the new system up and running in January 2006.

ALEPH is a state-of-the-art library automation system. It encompasses a web-based library catalogue with many great new features for our users, plus fully integrated Cataloguing, Acquisitions/Serials, Circulation, and Interlibrary Loan modules.

Novanet has set up a Project Implementation website which is updated regularly, and which will archive all information and documentation pertaining to the project. To check on our progress and get further details, please go to:

www.novanet.ns.ca/implementation/index.html