

# Context

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
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## Dalhousie Libraries “Expand Content”

Dalhousie University is well known for the excellence of research done by its faculty, and the Dalhousie Libraries are proud to provide both faculty and students with the highest quality scholarly resources available to fuel that research. Over the past year, the Libraries have been focused on expanding this scholarly content, and our collections are growing exponentially. As of December 2006, the Libraries hold a total of 35,414 unique electronic journal titles, many backfiled to the very first volume, providing seamless digital access from citation to citation. This represents a ten-fold increase from titles held less than ten years ago. Obtaining these journals in print form would have required a doubling or tripling of our library space!

Since 2004 Dalhousie University, along with 72 other Canadian institutions, has been a member of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN, formerly known as the Canadian National Site Licensing Project). Through its innovative licensing agreements, CRKN provides desktop access to electronic versions of scholarly journals and research databases for its participating members. The Dalhousie Libraries have benefited from this arrangement by acquiring large collections of electronic journals from such key science publishers as Elsevier, Sage, and Academic Press.

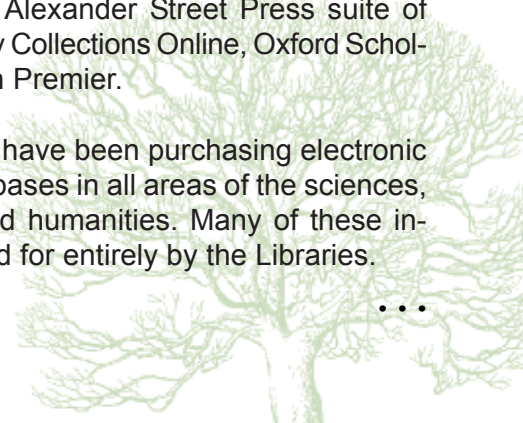
In 2005 the Dalhousie Libraries negotiated a new deal with vendors for collections of journals in the social sciences and humanities, funded entirely by participating universities. As a result, our users now have access to major resources like the Alexander Street Press suite of fulltext databases, Eighteenth Century Collections Online, Oxford Scholarship Online, and Academic Search Premier.

As of 2006, the Dalhousie Libraries have been purchasing electronic journals, ebook collections and databases in all areas of the sciences, health sciences, social sciences and humanities. Many of these invaluable research resources are paid for entirely by the Libraries.

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

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## Dalhousie Libraries Expand Content . . . . .

Some of the major items we have acquired recently:

### JSTOR: Arts & Sciences III, Arts & Sciences IV

JSTOR is a collection of full-text, keyword-searchable academic journals dating back to the late 17th century. Dalhousie already participates in the JSTOR Arts & Sciences I and II collections (275 journals), and the JSTOR Business and Language & Literature collections (105 journals). Adding Arts & Sciences III and IV will provide us with archive content for a further 150 journal titles.

### Springer Online Journal Archive

Springer has digitized approximately 1116 journals from Volume 1, Issue 1 in the Springer Online Journal Archives. All articles are published prior to 1997. Springer's OJA includes a total of 1.8 million archive records comprising approximately 800 journals formerly published by Kluwer and covers the following subject areas:

- Behavioural Sciences
- Biomedical and Life Sciences
- Business and Economics
- Chemistry and Materials Science
- Computer Science
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Engineering
- Humanities, Social Sciences and Law
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Physics and Astronomy

### Springer/Coutts eBook Collection

A collection of Springer monograph titles in digital format available through the web. The e-book collection includes 3,000 titles to be published in 2007, and a further 9,000 titles from the Springer backlist.

### Nature Archives (1869-1986)

The journal *Nature* is the world's most frequently cited multidisciplinary science journal. The addition of the *Nature* archives for the period 1869-1986 provides researchers with desktop access to almost 100 years of groundbreaking scientific information that until recently was only available in the pages of the bound journals.

### Taylor & Francis Journal Package for 2007-2009

A collection of more than 1,100 journals covering content from 1997 onward. Two electronic journal packages are being acquired, one including scientific, technical and medical titles, the other including social science and humanities titles.

### Times Digital Archive

Every page of the *Times of London* newspaper, digitized and keyword searchable, from the first issue published in 1785 to 1985. For the first time users are able to search the full-text of the entire newspaper, including articles, editorials and advertising.

### AccessMedicine

A collection of 36 online textbooks, plus a self-assessment tool with 3800USMLE-formatted questions, answers and explanations and Lange case files in several disciplines. This package also includes image and audio files, a drugs database, sections on diagnosis and differential diagnosis, laboratory tests, guidelines and patient education information.

### LWW Journal Legacy Archive


More than 3 million pages of archival research from over 200 journals in nursing, medicine, and healthcare. Offers access to the backfiles of journals that have chronicled important breakthroughs in research and techniques in major clinical and medical specialties, including nursing, infectious disease, surgery, and cardiology. The LWW Journal Legacy Archive includes original research, reviews, notes, letters, and case studies from approximately 35,000 journal issues. Coverage for each journal begins with Volume 1 and runs through the final issue of 1999.

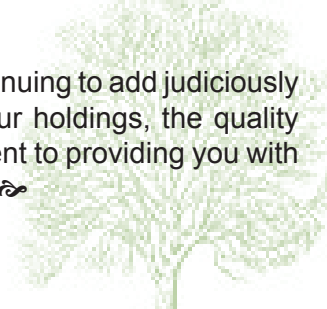
### LWW Hospital Collection

This collection features 30 top titles such as *Kaplan & Sadock's Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry* and *Cancer Principles and Practice of Oncology*. It provides access to leading references texts and handbooks to support hospital physicians, nurses, and students.

### Materials Science and Technology: A Comprehensive Treatment (Wiley 2005)

An 18 volume work. The renowned series "Materials Science and Technology" is a first in scope, depth, and usability for this continuously growing interdisciplinary field. This edition covers the most important classes of materials: metals, ceramics, glasses, polymers, semiconductors, and composites. This set was purchased by the Killam, Kellogg and Sexton Libraries.

The Dalhousie Libraries are continuing to add judiciously selected electronic content to our holdings, the quality reflecting our ongoing commitment to providing you with the research support you need. 



## www.library.dal.ca In with the new!

The Dalhousie Libraries are ringing in 2007 with a launch of our brand new website. In response to comments from Dalhousie students and faculty in our 2005 LibQUAL+ survey, the Libraries have completely redesigned the site to make it much easier and more efficient to use. And we're very proud of the results!

When you visit [www.library.dal.ca](http://www.library.dal.ca) you'll see much more than a whole new look, which is in line with university branding standards. Wherever possible, we have brought together information from all four Dalhousie Libraries to streamline usability (for example, check out the "Services" and "Contact Us" pages). The most exciting feature of our new site, however, is its focus on subject-specific access to all resources from anywhere on the website. Backed by a more intuitive search engine, the site boasts a dropdown Subject Guides box on every page. Clicking on these links takes you to subject pages packed with librarian-recommended resources in your specific field of interest. In addition, you can now search Novanet directly not only from our homepage, but from any page on the site!



Another useful new feature is the "Find Information" page, which allows you to search for books, articles, databases and journals held by all of the Libraries from one spot. And our "How Do I...?" page now offers a list of 108 options, from accessing library resources from home to how to write an outline. If you're really stuck, click on "Decide Where to Find Information", and you'll see a detailed information retrieval chart guaranteed to unblock your creative processes.

Explore [www.library.dal.ca](http://www.library.dal.ca). We've updated it for you and value your feedback, so please let us know what you think!

### Upcoming RefWorks Tutorials

Wednesday February 7 .....	10:30 - 12
Wednesday February 14 .....	2 - 3:30
Thursday February 22 .....	9 - 10:30
Friday March 2 .....	1 - 2:30
Wednesday March 7 .....	6 - 7:30
Monday March 12 .....	10:30 - 12
Thursday March 22 .....	1:30 - 3
Tuesday March 27 .....	3:30 - 5

## Did you know ...

Our new website  
has a page of information for faculty  
called  
**Placing Items on Reserve?**  
Just click on  
**Services > Course Reserves**

## Digital Signage at Killam

If you've been in the lobby of the Killam Library recently, you have probably noticed the large screen facing you high up in the glass wall as you walk in. Thanks to generous funding from Student Services, we now have our very own digital messaging system!

The projection screen was acquired for the specific purpose of promoting library-related news and events.\* Content will be provided not only by library staff, but also by all other units in the library, including the Centre for Learning & Teaching, the Writing Resource Centre, the GIS Centre, and of course Student Services. The highly visible, dynamic display can accommodate web content, video, images, text, PowerPoint slide shows and live news feeds. Its prime location in the Killam lobby ensures that all library users will see it as they enter the building.

We will be populating the screen with three types of information. These are, in order of priority:

- Dalhousie Libraries news and current/upcoming events. These include workshops and

tutorials, new resources, special events (e.g. tours, GIS lecture series, public readings, Food For Fines), information about special services/resources (e.g. group study rooms, Killam Quest), changes in library hours, etc.

- Student Services and Dalhousie University news: specifically, on-campus events and major announcements.
- Emergency messages and breaking news of global significance

Because we're new to this system, we would very much appreciate your feedback on it. For instance, please let us know if there is anything in particular that you personally would like to see up there, or if you feel the content is not displaying clearly enough.

With all this exciting news being promoted right before your eyes, you'll have no excuse for missing out on anything happening in the library—or on campus!

*\*The screens in the Killam atrium are managed by Dalhousie Communications & Marketing.*

## Integrated Document Delivery Services

As of January 1, 2007, the Dalhousie University Libraries are establishing a single, integrated, campus wide document delivery service. With the imminent implementation of the Relais Enterprise document delivery management system—including the capability to deliver articles to users' desk tops—the development of the new library website, and potential links with Serials Solutions, it is an opportune time to reorganize the four current services into one streamlined service for the benefit of Dalhousie users.

### What's In It For You?

- **It's FREE!** Document Delivery and Novanet Express fees have been eliminated for Dalhousie faculty, staff and students for items picked up at a Dalhousie library

- Delivery fees to registered Dalhousie Distance students have also been eliminated
- A single online request form allows you to choose your preferred Dalhousie "pick up" library and includes request tracking capabilities
- "Return to any Dalhousie Library" feature for Document Delivery items

Although most document delivery functions will be based at the Killam Library, it will be through the cooperative efforts of staff at all Dalhousie libraries that the new integrated document delivery will continue to offer the exemplary service which the Dalhousie Libraries have always been committed to providing.



## Jackie Torrens Reading

February 1, 2007, 3 p.m.  
Archives & Special Collections Reading Room  
5th floor, Killam Library  
494-3615 for more info



Nova Scotia playwright, television writer and actor Jackie Torrens makes a special appearance at Dalhousie to read from her new play in progress, *Cubicle: A Play About Falling*.

Originally from Prince Edward

Island, Jackie started off her writing life in poetry, under the mentorship of Cape Breton writer Don Domanski. Torrens has had her critically acclaimed plays professionally produced by Eastern Front Theatre, Two Planks and A Passion and Mulgrave Theatre. Her play *Georama* premiered at the National Arts Center in Ottawa, as part of the On The Verge Festival. Her play *Live! Nude! Animal!* was filmed for the Bravo! Channel. Torrens made her directorial debut in 2005 with an indie film she also wrote, called *Pickled Punk*. The film premiered at this year's Atlantic Film Festival and will be screened in February at the National Film Exchange Festival.

Torrens has won two Gemini Awards for her work on CBC's *Made In Canada*. She has also been nominated for a Gemini for her writing work on *Trailer Park Boys*. She is currently resident satirist with CBC's *Information Morning*.

*Photo courtesy George Georgakakos*

## Outthere

### ELECTRONIC BOOKS



You're probably aware that the Dal Libraries have been acquiring large collections of electronic books, like NetLibrary, AccessMedicine and the History E-Book Project—but do you know why?

E-books have been around since the 1990s, but only recently has their potential to be much more than electronic versions of printed texts been exploited to the fullest. Some of the coolest features of today's e-books:

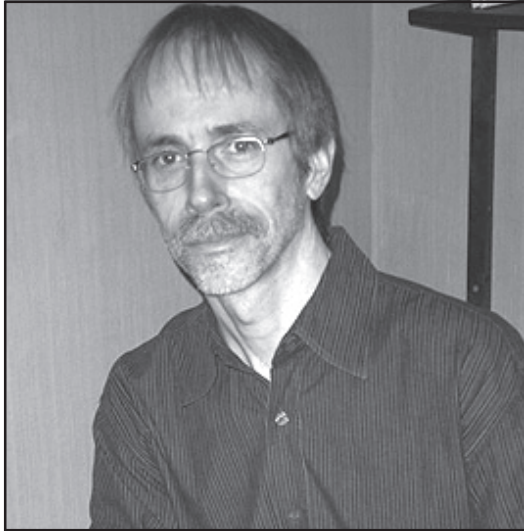
- They are portable, transferable, and fully searchable
- They often incorporate multimedia features such as audio, video and image files and simulations
- E-books contain hyperlinks to other places within the text like citations, other chapters and indexes
- They also contain hyperlinks to online resources, and allow readers to add their own hyperlinks to the text
- They offer annotation tools, enabling researchers to make notes in the margins, and sometimes to share their notes with other readers
- E-books can include commenting and chat tools, allowing readers to interact
- Other useful functions can include printing, copying and pasting, and readability on PDAs

Electronic books offer readers new ways of experiencing and interacting with text. They bring content to life!

## PEOPLE

### Ian Colford

Assistant University Librarian, Collections



Our collections are in good hands.

Since last April, Ian Colford has been in charge of allocating and maintaining the collections budget for the Dalhousie Libraries. Based at the Killam, Ian works with other librarians to manage the acquisition of new databases, electronic book collections, and electronic journals. He also acts as the Dalhousie contact with the major research institutions who are our consortial partners, in particular the Council of Atlantic University Libraries, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network, and the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries. “They negotiate with vendors,” says Ian, “and then offer member institutions deals. The savings can be significant.” The Libraries have also benefited from this arrangement by switching existing subscriptions to a consortial partner to take advantage of a deal that wasn’t in place when they originally subscribed.

In his position as Collections Development Librarian, Ian is on a number of key committees:

the University Librarian’s Council, the Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Planning Committee and its Faculty Council, and most recently the FASS Academic Development Committee. Within the Killam he works closely with the Head of Serials and with the Electronic Resources Librarian in judiciously selecting research materials.

As if this were not enough, Ian is also the Theatre subject specialist, and teaches students in Theatre, Film Studies, Performance and Acting classes how and where to find the resources they need for their assignments.

Ian loves reading, traveling, and cats, but his true after-hours passion is writing. His most recent success is a collection of short stories titled “Evidence” which is slated for publication by Porcupine’s Quill Press in 2008. The thirteen stories are linked by a single narrator, a refugee from Eastern Europe who chronicles his journey from his home country to North America. Two of the stories have already appeared in the *The Antigonish Review* and *Grain*.

To find out more about this soft-spoken man of many hats visit his website at <http://myweb.dal.ca/icolford/>. And to see what he’s actually been buying for the Libraries recently—see the cover article of this issue! 