

# Context

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
Number 5, October 2006



## The Atlantic Scholarly Information Network

“One of the interesting aspects of the last couple of years is the emergence of several large consolidated information resources — Amazon, iTunes, Google, etc.— which have strongly influenced behaviour and expectation. Unlike these resources, the library resource is very fragmented: it is presented as a range of databases, places, and services. In other words, libraries do not aggregate supply very well.”

Dempsey, Lorcan. “The Library Catalogue in the New Discovery Environment: Some Thoughts.” *Ariadne*, Issue 48 (July 2006)

In terms of scholarly information resources, Dalhousie’s holdings and access licenses represent a small fraction of the information universe. In fact, the holdings of the Atlantic region as a whole do not match the holdings of a University of Toronto or even the University of Alberta. Recognizing the finiteness of local library resources, the inconvenience of the fragmentation of these resources, and the growing expectation of our users to have access to as much information as possible as conveniently as possible, members of the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL) have come together to build the Atlantic Scholarly Information Network.

ASIN is a focused, scalable project designed to add value to programs of research and research initiatives, and to improve the capacity for knowledge and technology transfer. Through the effective management and integration of information, technology and people and the development of a robust information infrastructure, it will provide a

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rich, accessible and validated source of knowledge for the research community and ultimately the public.

**The intent of ASIN is to provide all the information resources of the Atlantic academic libraries through a single interface**

ASIN will leverage and build upon existing information resources and services vested particularly in our academic libraries and research centres, to create a seamless information network intimately linked to a newly constructed distributed repository of digital assets delivered wherever and whenever needed in a manner tailored to the knowledge and requirements of the user.

The intent of ASIN is to provide all the information resources of the Atlantic academic libraries to all through a single interface or portal. This is a formidable task presenting multiple challenges including jurisdictional issues, content licensing agreements, software development, personnel allocation, shared funding arrangements and shared collections, to mention only a few. Members of CAUL, however,

**Desktop delivery to researchers is possible**

believe meeting those challenges will be worth the effort, and will indeed be necessary if our scholars are to have the same information resource advantages as scholars in other parts of Canada and the world.


Progress is already being made in building ASIN. As a first step towards solving the fragmentation problem the CAUL libraries have jointly purchased software that will eventually allow searching across multiple databases and collections with a single user interface and search strategy. "Prowler" at Dalhousie Libraries is an example of this capability (see article pg. 4), which will eventually be extended to the whole region. "Relais," an automated interlibrary loan and document delivery system used at Dalhousie, which

will be made available to all CAUL libraries within the next year, automatically routes requests and delivers materials among libraries in the region and beyond. Desktop delivery to researchers is possible and contemplated once certain copyright issues are resolved. An increasing number of consortial journal and database purchases through CAUL and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network are beginning to address some of the new con-

**The ultimate aim is to form a national scholars' portal**

tent licensing challenges which have prevented libraries from sharing major resources easily and at minimal cost.

It is not only libraries in the Atlantic region who recognize that they can not by themselves supply all the resources their scholars need and expect. As we build ASIN, Ontario builds the Scholars Portal and Alberta the Lois Hole Digital Library, the ultimate aim is to network these and similar projects to form a national scholars' portal providing seamless discovery and access to the country's scholarly resources for all.

We live in a networked world of information where only the most innovative and ambitious library plans and developments and the greatest amount of collaboration can provide an information platform fully supportive of modern academic ambitions and expectations. The Dalhousie Libraries are active players in that world for the betterment of the scholarly community they serve. 



### **NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE ONLINE**

The Kellogg Library now subscribes to the electronic as well as the print version of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Find it in Novanet or on our Electronic Journals page.

## Libraries Launch New Digital Collections

### Dalhousie University Archives & Special Collections Digital Collections

The Dalhousie University Archives holds a myriad of archival collections containing information of interest and value not only to Dal students and faculty, but also to a wide range of external users in Nova Scotia and around the world. In an attempt to fulfill the institution's traditional mission to provide free and open access to its holdings to all interested users, the Archives has established The Dalhousie Archives Digital Collections. This website provides online access to collections of unique and rare materials of value to students, creators, scholars, and educators, through searchable archival finding aids, full-text documents, and digital images.

This fall we are proudly launching five new collections at a special display in the Killam Library for Dalhousie Open House on October 20.

#### Historical Roots: Blacks in Nova Scotia

In 2005 the Dalhousie University Libraries were invited to participate in the national *Our Roots* digital collection project. Our commitment was to digitize and make available resources covering Black Nova Scotian History on the *Our Roots* website. Here you will find valuable contextual information about the *Our Roots* project, links to the digitized books, and additional resources that would benefit anyone searching for information concerning Black Nova Scotian History.

#### The Buildings of Dalhousie University: An Illustrated History

Making use of resources available in the University Archives, this illustrated history of more than 50 major buildings on Dalhousie's Studley, Carleton, and Sexton campuses includes for each building a brief history including information about the construction, the location, the architects, completion and renovation dates, and photographs. An extensive list of references for further research is also provided as is a selection of aerial views of the Studley, Carleton, and Sexton campuses.

#### The Dalhousie Sir Francis Bacon Collection

The Sir Francis Bacon Collection is one of the Dalhousie Libraries' most significant research collections and ranks among the top three Bacon collections in North America. This website presents the Dalhousie Bacon Collection's significant holdings of works published by Bacon himself and the many influential editions of his work published prior to 1700.

#### The Artwork of D.C. McKay

D. C. MacKay, war artist, illustrator, printmaker and painter, served as the Principal of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design until 1966. This digital collection features 102 scanned images of MacKay's work, which consists primarily of preliminary sketches of various Maritime subjects, such as historical & prominent buildings, naval scenes, landscapes, seascapes, animals and people.

#### The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Collection

This resource will present illustrated highlights of material (both textual and photographic) from the papers of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra fonds in the University Archives.

Visit these and other digital collections at:  
<http://www.library.dal.ca/duasc/digital.htm>



Nova Scotia premier Edgar N. Rhodes laying the cornerstone of the Chase Bldg., August 29, 1929  
From: *The Buildings of Dalhousie University*

## We Hear You! Libraries Respond to LibQUAL+ Survey

In February 2005 the Dalhousie Libraries ran a major campus-wide survey to determine how Dal faculty, students and staff feel about the quality of the resources and services we offer. Over 1000 undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff took the LibQUAL+ survey. We tabulated the results and studied the comments. These are some of the major issues we have addressed so far:

- **Easier access to electronic resources**

Users frustrated with complex database searches now have the option of using Prowler, a brand new search tool which helps you find articles without needing to know which databases they are in. Prowler searches multiple databases at once, saving you time—big time!

- **Noise in the library**

The Killam Library has just designated the entire 4th and 5th floors as “Quiet Study Floors.” Most of the large group study tables have been replaced with small individual-use tables to encourage quiet study.

- **More computers / more study space**

In June 2006, the Sexton Library opened the Sexton Learning Commons, which features 8 new Scholar workstations and 2 Express workstations. The Kellogg Library has expanded its Learning Commons by putting 8 additional computer workstations on the mezzanine, and has removed shelving where the old dental journal stacks used to be to allow for an expansion of the study area on the top floor.

- **Confusing layout**

See the article on this page about Killam Quest, our brand new virtual tour!

- **Outdated equipment**

We now have new state-of-the-art copiers and micro-form readers at the Killam Library.

- **More electronic resources**

We are constantly acquiring new electronic journals, books and databases, and we value your recommendations. Check “eSearch” and our “Databases on Trial” webpage find out about our latest acquisitions.

*Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who took the time to fill out the LibQUAL+ survey. We continue to act on your comments and suggestions, so watch for more changes at the Libraries!*

## Find It Fast, Find It Now! Prowler Article Finder

Frustrated by  
complex  
article  
searches?  
Try Prowler!



Prowler is a new search tool provided by the Dalhousie University Libraries. It enables you to search for and find articles without needing to know which databases they are in. Prowler can also retrieve books, theses, and encyclopedia and news items related to your search.

Prowler is able to search across more than 80 resource collections at the same time. You can “prowl” all databases at once, select your own subject area to be searched, or choose one or more specific databases from the complete list. This will benefit undergraduate students as they begin to conduct their own research, but it will also be very helpful to graduate students and faculty members. In particular, it will facilitate multi-disciplinary research projects which cover more than one or two databases.

*Continued on next page...*

## Take the Killam Quest Virtual Tour



Killam Quest, an interactive orientation to the Killam

Library and its services, is a newly minted resource which will help students become familiar with what we have to offer. Using a road trip motif based on *The Amazing Race* tv show theme, Killam Quest “drives” you through the library from the ground floor up, and even includes a quick cruise through the highlights of our new website. This virtual tour is intended to complement the real tours provided by the Killam every September during orientation.

Roadies on the Killam Quest have several navigational options or “routes” from which to choose. You can do the guided tour by clicking on the directional arrows, which will lead you from floor to floor through the whole tour; jump from floor to floor using the interactive graphic on the left hand side of every page; explore individual areas of the

*Continued on next page...*

**Please note** that although Prowler is designed to save you time, it does not include all of the databases that the Dalhousie Libraries subscribe to, nor does it enable you to refine your results using the advanced search features available within individual databases.

Explore this great new search tool at:  
<http://www.library.dal.ca/prowler>



### LIBRARIES ACQUIRE E-BOOK COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to be able to offer our users two great new electronic book collections:

**Oxford Scholarship Online  
History E-Book Project**

Explore them both via Novanet!

library from the clickable floor plans; or search for specific resources and services from our “Where Do I Find...?” dropdown menu.

Killam Quest is intended to be fun as well as informative. As we continue to develop the tour more features will be added to enhance the experience, such as “Did You Know” popups, quizzes and Flash elements.

Funding for the creation of Killam Quest was provided in part by the Dalhousie University Libraries and through a Teaching with Technology grant from the Centre for Learning and Teaching.

Want to explore Killam Quest? Start your engines...and go to: [http://infolit.library.dal.ca/Killam Quest/](http://infolit.library.dal.ca/KillamQuest/)

# Outthere:

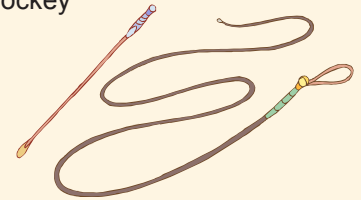
## GOOGLE JOCKEYS



Dr. Chen has been using Google jockeying all semester in his Western History class. He’s been livening things up by getting a student to “Google” real-time during his lectures, searching the Web for resources relevant to the day’s topic. The Google jockey’s actions and results are displayed to the rest of the students on a projection screen. An IM application lets students send requests to the Google jockey for particular searches or direct the jockey to reference sites. Dr. Chen has rotated the task of jockeying, and each student has had an opportunity to do it once. Most students say that being the Google jockey is challenging and that it forces them to be extremely focused on what is happening and on their actions.

### What is it?

A Google jockey is a participant in a presentation or class session who surfs the Internet for terms, ideas, or Web sites mentioned by the presenter or related to the topic at hand. Someone in the presentation—typically just one person, though an environment could be set up to allow for multiple jockeys—is designated the Google jockey for a session. A screen displays the jockey’s searches for all participants to see related resources and additional information that clarify the main topic. Other students can request or direct the searches of the Google jockey.

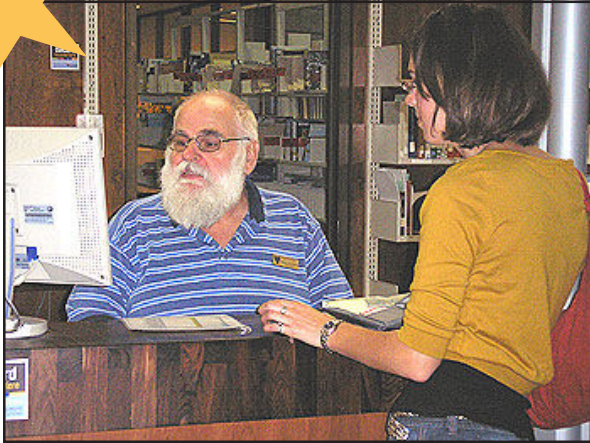


Although the term takes its name from the Google search engine, any search engine will do, and the practice also includes navigating directly to known Web sites that might (or might not) be directly mentioned in the lecture, without passing through a search engine.

<http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7014.pdf>  
 Authored by *The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative*

## People

### Serge Lachapelle Library Clerk, Circulation Killam Memorial Library



In the LibQUAL+ survey run recently by the Dalhousie Libraries, our public services staff were rated highly for their friendliness, go-the-extra-mile helpfulness, and professionalism. A few were singled out for special kudos—Serge Lachapelle was one.

A full-time Library Clerk at the Killam's Circulation Department since 1992, Serge is a familiar face to many patrons who come to the Circ Desk to sign out a book, renew a loan, or use any of the services offered here. Like all of the Circulation staff who work at this heavily trafficked front line, Serge is a "people person" ("I especially enjoy September when they all come back!"), who takes the time to get to know the faces on the other side of the counter. He particularly enjoys following the academic careers of returning students he encounters year after year. "It's wonderful when you see someone go from being an inexperienced undergrad to a doctoral candidate," says Serge. He cites one instance of a Dalhousie student he worked with via Novanet Express who is now on tenure track at UBC. Serge's daily duties include working the front desk and handling Novanet Express transactions, which involves receiving books from other

libraries for Killam patrons and following up on any problems. And speaking of problems, working at the Circulation Desk brings challenges of its own. Like all public service staff, Serge frequently has to deal with difficult, sometimes abusive people. He is typically pragmatic about this—"You either handle it or walk away and let someone else deal with it." And he is exceptionally understanding. "We get all kinds of people here, and many of them are under great stress," he comments calmly.

Compassion is the keystone of Serge's personality. When asked what he does in his spare time, he replies, "I'm a supportive live-in for two intellectually-challenged men. I also do relief counsellor work at the group home on Oxford Street, and I volunteer many hours for the Canadian Mental Health Association." For 11 years Serge has been active with the Regional Residential Services Society, sharing his home with mentally challenged adults, keeping them safe and well fed and helping them deal with their lives in the outside world. They are lucky to be able to share Serge's great sense of humor and his caring nature—and so are we at the Dal Libraries! 🌀

### Donna Morrissey @ Killam October 20, 2006, 1<sup>30</sup> p.m. Special Collections Reading Room



Halifax-based writer Donna Morrissey, author of bestsellers *Sylvanus Now* and *Kit's Law*, will be giving a reading at the Killam Library as part of Dalhousie Open House 2006.

All are welcome!

**494-3615 for more info**