LIST OF ATTENDEES

NAME	INSTITUTION
Carolyn Alho	Cdn Nazarene
Harriet Arnold	NAIT
Susan Brayford	Keyano
Jim Carter	Portage
Marci Frederick	TKUC
Valerie Footz	NAIT/GMCC
Bill Glaister	Keyano
Nancy Goebel	Augustana
Karen Hering	GMCC
Rita Jandrey	Newman
Charlene Jones	RDC
Madeleine Lefebvre	MRC
Anita Luck	Fairview
Debbie McGugan	GMCC
Carol Morgan	AVC-Edmonton
Carol Nicks	CUC
Geoff Owens	LCC
Karen Powell	ULS
Yvonne Rezek	GMCC
Margaret Russell	Concordia
Marlice Schmidt	Lakeland
Barbara Smith	Olds
Sandy Swift	GMCC
Maureen Toews	RDC
Joyce Van Scheik	CUC
Keith Walker	MHC
Pat Waterton	NAIT
Dave Weber	SAIT
Aileen Wright	NABC/EBS

MINUTES
of the
ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGE LIBRARIANS MEETING
Spring Meeting
held at
The King's University College
Thursday, May 13, 1999

1.0   CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.0   APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 15, 1998 AACL meeting were approved.

3.0   APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved with three additions under "Other": "ACRL discussion" (Margaret Russell), "Copyright" (Madeleine Lefebvre) and a presentation by Keith Walker.

4.0   CHAIR'S REPORT
        (Geoff Owens)

4.1 Correspondence the chair has received over the past six months include updating association information in various directories, information from SIRSI (library automation vendor), information on a Master of Science degree from

Northern University (Scotland), as well as The Alberta Library information package from the third Annual General meeting.

5.0   SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1 The association's audited financial report was distributed for approval.

5.2 A summary of the AACL 1998 Financial Report was presented:
Opening balance (01/01/1998):
                                     4446.49
Receipts: 1434.90
Total income: 5881.39
Less total expenses: 1398.65
Closing balance (12/31/1998):
                                     4482.74

5.3 Kristine attended The Alberta Library's Continuing Education team meeting as the ACCL representative. The meeting was called to discuss continuing education opportunities offered by various associations across the province. Attendees included members of the Continuing Education team as well as representatives from various library associations (LAA, FLA, etc.)

6.0   REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 Newsletter
(Joyce Van Scheik)
All submissions for the spring newsletter need to be in by May 31 in order for the newsletter to be out in early June.

6.2 Union List of Serials
(Karen Powell)
Karen handed out survey results from a questionnaire distributed to all members of AACL and AGLC and summarized the results. She also distributed individual and comparative library statistics on usage of the union list. The survey results were discussed. The last survey was distributed in 1993;

however, it was not possible to compare results as the questions were too different. The Legislature Library will continue to support the union list. It was decided that positive support from the colleges still exists as well. Pat Waterton will continue as the AACL contact and Karen will continue as the AGLC contact. Karen ended her report by asking to let the Legislature Library know if you are having problems accessing the union list via their library catalogue.

6.3 Director-at-Large
Keith reminded everyone of the director's main responsibility of public relations and communication for AACL. AACL has successfully contributed to every issue of the *Letter of the LAA* over the past two years, as well as made regular contributions to the CTCL newsletter. The spring meeting was also advertised on TAL website. As per AACL's business plan, this spring saw the creation of AACL's very own website, under the direction of the subcommittee headed by Keith, with members Harriet Arnold, Pat Moore, and Diane Clark as Webmaster. Regarding the website, any changes are to go to either Diane, the webmaster, or Harriet. Harriet asked that the information be sent as straight text.

6.4 CTCL Update
(Susan Brayford)
The new secretary is Marie DeYoung (from Nova Scotia), replacing Alison Nussbaumer. Susan gave an update on CTCL activities at CLA in Toronto this June. There will be an AGM at CLA, where the CTCL Micromedia Award of Merit will be presented (Madeleine Lefebvre is nominated), followed by a wine and cheese. The event is mentioned in the CLA program.

7.0   BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Cataloguing of Digital Resources
(Pat Waterton)
The Alberta Library's RIOT team met to discuss the prospect of sharing expertise of cataloguing Internet resources. Pat was interested in hearing where people are in terms of cataloguing Internet resources. The following is a summary of the round table of information that was presented. AVC (Calgary), Cdn. Nazarene College, Keyano, NABC, CUC, SAIT, and Fairview are not cataloguing any Internet resources. King's and Portage currently catalog CD-ROMs. MRC and LCC are concentrating on getting their new system operational. For RDC, Olds, MHC, cataloguing Internet resources is not a priority. GMCC catalogues government documents and full-text journals from Ebsco-Host subscription (but they are not hot linked). Concordia is cataloguing bona fide sites and Augustana plans on adding some over the summer. After some discussion, it was decided to revisit the topic in six months, when more libraries will have their Web-based catalogues up. RIOT identified government websites as a priority.

7.2 Partnering and Electronic Information
(Pat Waterton)
Pat followed up on the information she posted on the listserv regarding sharing database licensing. She contacted Gary Gibson from Micromedia and he identified some titles as potentials for cost savings. She passed around a handout with information to that effect. There was some concern regarding duplication of effort with TAL (with Knowledge Network funding) also looking at joint purchase of licenses. Pat identified four titles TAL is looking at: CBCA, Cdn NewsDisc, Electronic Library and either EbscoHost, Infotrac or Proquest. It was decided that AACL

will not pursue these titles. Pat will continue communicating with Lucy Pana and Doug Poff.

There were concerns regarding individual subscriptions for databases and refunds/rebates available when subscriptions changed to a consortium, cost-saving arrangement.

Discussion then turned to who should take the lead in pursuing cost savings with the remaining databases of interest. For titles where two or less institutions are interested, it would be up to them to figure something out. If there were three or more libraries interested, NAIT would take the lead for those databases that included them. If NAIT was not one of the libraries interested, it was up to one of the other libraries to volunteer as lead. As there were a couple of additions to the list, Pat agreed to post the list on the listserv again. NAIT will indicate the titles for which they will be principal negotiator. For other titles, principal negotiators need to be identified. The discussion ended with an assurance to make sure AACL is not at cross purposes with TAL in this initiative.

7.3 Update on TAL Initiatives That May Impact AACL Member Libraries
- TAL Onecard: EPL is set to join this project. In southern Alberta there was a TAL Onecard inauguration where libraries in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Chinook Regional System took part. In Calgary, due in part to a reciprocal borrowing agreement between the university and the colleges, they are not prepared to use the Onecard yet; CPL has not joined either.
- Knowledge Network Steering Committee: Keith Walker, Joanne Kemp and Heather Morrison are members. Doug Poff has been seconded for six months to implement the document delivery

part of the business plan. TAL will be hiring a librarian to get the electronic resources licensing into place. To date, nothing has been done on the third initiative, Campus Alberta.

- Christine Sammon is replacing Alice McNair as the college representative. There are many college librarians on various TAL committees.

Knowledge Network (KN) Roundtable discussion ensued. The following is a summary of what various libraries are doing with the KN funds:

RDC will be constructing an "information commons" - increase of public access computers (from 30 to 65), allowing access to library and research databases, Internet, e-mail, as well as word processing, spreadsheets, etc. Collaborative money is going to a Web Services/Virtual Reference position (working with the NAIT/GMCC Virtual Reference librarian on Virtual Reference project), UofA/DRA upgrade, and shared databases.

NAIT library received $900,000 of the $1.4 million NAIT was allocated. Money has gone to: replacing library system (RFP to go out in June), librarian position to work on the "information blueprint project" (working the library into a modularization of curriculum), replacing computer equipment and upgrading infrastructure and Virtual Reference Librarian position (Valerie Footz) which is a collaboration with GMCC.

AVC/Edmonton library received half of the funds and will use it for a new library system as well as acquisition money for the collection.

Lakeland: new computer lab was built; with the collaborative money, they are looking at agricultural databases.

King's: replacing computer equipment. Collaborative portion of the funds will be spent on UofA/DRA upgrade, upgrading NEOS Webpage, general library orientation package (Web-based) and collaborative databases.

Cdn Nazarene College did not receive any KN funds. The college is currently applying for accreditation.

Portage library received 1/3 of funds and is using it to purchase a new library system.

MRC: all KN funds went to the library and they will be used to purchase a new library system, as well as upgrading hardware; investing in an archival periodical database; electronic resources; three new positions: "Collaboration Librarian", D.L.I. (Data Liberation Initiative) technician position, and electronic reserves technician; and freeing up funds to build up monograph collection (the "Weed & Seed" project). Madeleine brought up the issue of reporting how KN funds are being spent. The government is following the LEE reporting format and a report will be due soon.

Keyano library received all KN funds and is buying a new library system.

GMCC library received $800,000 of the KN funds. Collaborative projects include the Virtual Reference Librarian position (shared with NAIT), joining NEOS (as the first non-DRA member), and Relais project (ILL). Other projects funded by the money are creation of Web Services Librarian (Yvonne Rezeck) who has been hired to educate faculty on Web resources, revamping training room and learner centre, upgrading infrastructure and ERL server hardware (for Web-based delivery).

NABC and Newman Theological College received no KN funds.

CUC will upgrade computer equipment and increase access to databases.

Fairview's funds will pay for membership to NEOS and migration to DRA.

Olds is joining NEOS and migrating to DRA. They will also be upgrading computer equipment.

MHC collaborated with UofL and 0migrated to a new library catalogue (September 2 is the grand inauguration). They will also be upgrading computer equipment and infrastructure.

SAIT will be purchasing electronic databases.

Concordia will be undergoing a major equipment upgrade as well as doing more Webpage development and purchasing high-end science products.

Augustana will be putting the funds towards purchasing a new server, a new operating system, new equipment and upgrades and new furniture. The collaborative part of the funds is going to UofA/DRA upgrade, NEOS homepage and shared databases.

LCC is using the funds to upgrade their library system and upgrade library infrastructure.

7.4 Web Page for AACL
There was some concern about including people's names due to FOIPP. As such, only the libraries are listed, not the employees. There was some question as to whether a paper and Web version of the newsletter should be distributed. In the interest of saving paper, it was suggested to give everyone the option to get it in paper, but that it should be on the Web as well.

7.5 New Executive
The following persons were elected or volunteered for executive positions:
Chair: Kristine Plastow (RDC)
Secretary/Treasurer: Barb Smith (Olds)
Director-At-Large: Bill Glaister (Keyano)

The following persons will continue in their positions:
Newsletter Editor: Joyce Van Scheik (CUC)
Statistics Coordinator: Tom Skinner (SAIT)
Workshop Committee: Dave Weber (SAIT) and Marlice Schmidt (Lakeland)
Coordinator of the Union List: Karen Powell (Legislature) for AGLC and Pat Waterton (NAIT) for AACL.

8.0   OTHER

8.1 ACRL Conference
(Margaret Russell)
Margaret passed on some information from the ACRL conference which she recently attended. ACRL is held every two years; the next one will be March 15-18, 2001, in Denver, Colorado. She passed on a Website address: http://www.carthage.edu/ais/media/detroit/index.htm - on training for technology (related to training student lab assistants) and a paper by Manual Pacheo and Blenda Wilson on the importance of librarians and teaching. Information on the paper can be found on the conference Website.

In a related vein, Madeleine Lefevbre mentioned EDUCAUSE, another good conference, on academic technology. The next one will be held October 26-29, 1999, in Long Beach, California.

8.2 Copyright
(Madeleine Lefebvre)
A letter recently came from Linda Richardson regarding copyright; let Madeleine know if you did not

receive it. Also, Tom Skinner (SAIT) and Madeleine have been the college/ Institute representatives and now that Madeleine will be leaving Alberta, a replacement needs to be selected. Madeleine will put a call out to the listserv to solicit a volunteer and recommend the volunteer to the Council of Presidents.

8.3 <u>Presentation to Madeleine Lefevbre</u>
Keith Walker thanked Madeleine for her contribution and support for AACL and presented her with a gift on behalf of AACL. Madeleine is off to St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

9.0 DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided to tie the fall meeting in with the TAL Directors Meeting on October 29. Thus, the next meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 1999 in Edmonton. UofA School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) has volunteered to host a meeting; Kristine will contact them. If SLIS does not work out, NAIT volunteered as a possible back-up. Dave Weber and Marlice Schmidt will work on a workshop topic for the meeting.

MERRY - GO - ROUND

ALBERTA VOCATIONAL COLLEGE, EDMONTON

Frank Ostlinger, MLIS 1997, started at Alberta Vocational College - Edmonton, Library and Information Services, in February of 1999. Frank is responsible for reference services, bibliographic instruction, and circulation services.

Carol Morgan

FAIRVIEW COLLEGE LIBRARY

Fairview College Library has undergone some major changes since last fall. Dave Saunders, who has been with us for the past two years, accepted a position at Kwantien College in BC. This may have been the proverbial case of the grass being greener on the other side of the fence (souther BC compared to northern Alberta). We wish him the best in his role as creator of a new Learner Assistance Centre for Kwantien College.

With Dave's leaving, we are undergoing another name change. We are the library once again. We started out as Library, went to Learner Resources Centre, back to Library, went to Learner Services Centre, back to Library. It's good that the sign post wasn't changed in front of the building because it still reads "Library" and now is once more correct.

Fairview College Library has officially become a member of the NEOS consortium. Because the records for the collection are not in MARC format, we decided to hire two library technicians, Tora Volkers and Christine Hansen, to convert them. It is estimated that conversion will take a year for the main circulating collection plus additional time for the remaining items. The library staff are looking forward to working with a new system. It is definitely time to lay "Mac the Librarian" to rest. Although everyone is aware that a major change like a new library system and membership in a consortium is stressful, the staff can't wait to get the new system working to its full potential. Knowledge Network Funding was a godsend for us.

In preparation for our membership in NEOS, a major deselection process of library materials is taking place at all Fairview College campuses. Our freebie table is overflowing. Any patrons that pass through the library are obliged to take away some of our discards, at least that's what they're told by our staff. We know of a few book hoarders who, although having been strictly forbidden to bring even one more book home, furtively stock up at the freebie table, then make plans on how they can sneak their treasure past their wives.

Usually summertime is not as hectic as September to May, but with our conversion project and NEOS training, everyone is finding that there is very little time to complete the normal year-end projects that are a priority at this time of year. But no hurdles seem too daunting if there are rewards at the end of the trail.

Anita Luck

GRANT MACEWAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The LRC joined NEOS effective May 1, 1999. We are the first member of NEOS that is not sharing the DRA system. Over the next few months we will be working with NEOS to develop borrowing procedures and investigating the technical aspects of transfering patron records between our automated systems. We have implemented ILL service with the NEOS libraries and began regular delivery to the Bard on June 1.

Val Footz assumed the position of Virtual Reference Services Librarian in April. This is a shared position with NAIT and is funded for a two-year period as a collaborative Knowledge Network Project. Yvonne Rezek was seconded to the position of Web Services Librarian as of February. This position was funded for a one-year period from Knowledge Network institutional funding. Part of Yvonne's job is to offer individualized Web training sessions to staff in their offices. To date over sixty have taken advantage of her services. Karen Hering was hired for a one-year term reference librarian position to replace Yvonne.

The LRC underwent a major move in April. The college is desparately short of larger size classrooms and is converting a large space on the west end of the second floor of the LRC to classrooms. As a result we had to move some stacks, relocate one of the LRC entrances and shift the entire collection. Another project that will be taking place over the summer is a renovation of our LRC Training Room. We are replacing all of the computers and furnishings and the number of workstations will increase from eighteen to thirty. We

have also increased the number of computers in our Learner Centre from 60 to 120. This project is being funded from Knowledge Network Funds.

In May we moved all of our Silverplatter and Micromedia products from the CD-ROM platform to the Web version (ERL). The databases we have available via the Web include Ulrichs, Books in Print, CINAHL, ERIC, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Art Index, Canadian New Disc, and CBCA. Students and staff who wish to access these databases from outside the campuses are able to do so by going to our homepage, selecting the database they wish to search and entering their LRC patron barcode number. We have increased our licenses for the number of simultaneous users for most of these databases and used KNF to pay for the additional costs.

Work has started on another KNF project to identify music LP titles in our collection that are available in CD format. Those that are available on compact disc will be replaced. Some Lps that are not available on compact disc will be copied onto Cds. Another KNF project in progress is the cataloguing of the art slide collection. We hope to have the collection catalogued and accessible on our online catalogue by August 2000.

As you can see, we have had a very busy and exciting year! We are not sure what our budget will be for next year; however, we are expecting a base budget reduction of approximately $20,000. We are hoping that this cut will be offset by increased dollars as a result of some new Access programs in the college.

Debbie McGugan

KEYANO COLLEGE

Our move to our new automated system (as yet still unnamed here, as the contract has not been officially signed) is progressing. We are in the process of downloading a small sample of records, to see how the new system converts our holdings, and then see what software the new company will have to write to accommodate the download. We were hoping our training on the new system would take place in the summer but that

time of year is the most popular time, so staff training has been pushed back to mid-October. At that time we will be able to train on our own database, as our library records should be converted and "repaired" by that time.

We are now up to twelve Internet stations for students' use, with another six arriving, which will be used primarily for WEB OPAC access. At that time, we plan to use filtering software to block the use of all the popular e-mail programs and chat lines on the six WEB OPAC stations, and post signs to that effect at each of the stations. At the present time, we have not had to designate any of the twelve Internet stations as "non e-mail stations", but as they get busier, this will be another step that we can take.

We have four CD-ROM stations and the Electric Library and General/Health Reference databases on the Internet stations for research purposes. As our subscriptions to the General/Health Reference Internet databases will not be renewed in November, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of any Alberta Library consortium deals of which to take advantage at that time.

Both Susan and Bill will be attending CLA in June, and hope to get together with some of you there. Rumor has it that Susan is buying beer for anyone who wants to network at the conference. Three cheers for networking!

Bill Glaister

LETHBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Geoff and I have been busy since July working first with Medicine Hat College and University of Lethbridge libraries to see if we could make it a go purchasing Innopac together and having our database on U of L's server along with MHC's. Due to FOIP and other considerations, it was decided that we would not have our database on U of L's server and so we expanded our search, still including Innopac to keep the possibility of mutuality alive in Southern Alberta. We underwent a RFP process, utilizing the help and counsel of NAIT, Keyano, and AVC Edmonton libraries to do

so. The wording of the tender document allowed for discounts if other interested Alberta College libraries also purchased the same software up to December 31, 1999. Through an internal process the bids were evaluated and passed through several levels of decision-making before Endeavor was confirmed May 18th by the Board of Governors as the software of choice for LCC. We'll have to do a data migration and likely follow MHC and Keyano's lead by contracting with DRA/multiLIS to get the data in flat ASCII files that Endeavor can work with. We will also be purchasing new Pcs, barcode readers, printers, and an image scanner. Having our own server and a new firewall for the college will allow us to give access to our OPAC 24 hours a day. We'll be having electrical work done to add seventy new ports for laptops and more flexibility in where OPACs can be located. Even if we moved with lightning speed it is unlikely that students will be using Endeavor until January 2000.

We purchased the Canadian Abridgement CD product from Carswell but know that this product will be phased out in favour of the full text Web product called Law Pro. We have decided to bite the bullet and make the switch this summer. The full text advantage outweighs the slightly slower response time due to the inherent time issues connected with the Internet. Since our long-range objective is to get full text e-journals through Website licenses that give access to learners through authentication software, we're looking at other full text Web databases. We've been looking most seriously at Proquest Careers and Technical and Electric Library. However, costs are high, especially due to the US exchange rate. For that reason (trying to lower license costs) we enjoyed the May 6th meeting at University of Calgary and the hope of enhancing the geographic boundaries for SARIN partners to encompass the whole area from Calgary south to the US border (if not including Montana and Eastern BC). We're definitely looking for partners to lower costs so if the kinds of products I've described are what your library is also interested in, contact Geoff Owens at 403-382-6944.

The TAL card inauguration festivities attended by SARIN members included a

speech by Clint Dunford, and the presence of Senator, Joyce Fairbairn. The SARIN card which preceeded the TAL card was very popular with our clients. Five hundred and seventy-one of the cards we gave out were activated and used to borrow 6,875 items. Spurred on by the TAL card, the SARIN group has determined to carry on with our own inter-institutional delivery system supplementing the government courier and a plan has been worked out to include Medicine Hat College in the loop. Also, there is discussion of expediting ILLs within Lethbridge which we have never done before because there was no reliable courier system. Buchanan Library is also thrilled about the possibilities Ariel software and equipment will provide us for digital document delivery.

LCC sponsored the Alberta Services to Students' Conference here and the only librarian other than myself at it was Steve Schafer, Athabasca University. He and I were discussing that librarians might want to have a greater presence at this conference because it is all about services to students.

Four Buchanan Library support staff attended the AALT conference at RDC. They really found it worthwhile and because they know the organizer, there is a chance it might be at our facility next May (don't hold your breath!). We employed more of our term employees longer into May and June to give them time to prepare for the transition to Endeavor, which now won't happen until January.

Y2K workshops for staff to be proactive about this issue with their work and home Pcs was offered by the Computer Services department here at LCC. We were given a DOS boot disk for the time clocks and an explanatory handout so that in the case of our home computers we could make the changes ourselves.

That's it for now from the sunny south, a full fifteen degrees C at 11:00 a.m. on May 28th! (where did May go?) Have a great summer!!

Kathy Lea

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

Greetings from the Vera Bracken Library at Medicine Hat College. In March, the college library was renamed in honour of a 90-year old educator in Medicine Hat. We're thrilled to have the new name, as Mrs. Bracken is a neat lady - full of wonderful stories of her past as a grade one teacher, lifelong educator, and strong supported of the college. A big celebration was held the day of the name change and in May the library staff invited Vera back to have tea with them and to tour "her" library.

Although Vera Bracken didn't personally donate funds to the library, it is hoped that this renaming will bring a focus to the foundation's goal of raising $3 million to renovate and enlarge the library and to add to the technology on campus. Joanne Mokry and Keith Walker serve on the internal cabinet, which is doing some fun activities to get the staff and faculty involved in this major capital campaign.

On May 17 the Innopac system was turned on for the first time at circulation and at the OPAC stations. As with any major change, there have been some challenges in adjusting to the new procedures, but we are pleased to be able to have such a dynamic system. We have worked very closely with the University of Lethbridge library on this project as a joint venture using the Knowledge Network funding. In August, the system switches to a Web-based one and we will add acquisitions, AV bookings, and interlibrary loans to the system. Joanne Mokry returns from her maternity leave on July 5, in time to help lead us into all of these new ventures.

Over the past year a great deal of effort has gone into making the new Open Learning Centre a success. It is located in renovated space on the second floor of the library and has been responsible in great measure for a 25% increase in gate count figures. The library gained more than increased traffic though, as we were able to convert some cafeteria space into a quiet study hall - now we have a place for students to go to when they complain that the library staff laugh too much!

The Knowledge Network and Open Learning Centre funding also allowed the library to replace the Internet Workroom stations with brand new computers. The smell of new plastic has taken over from the traditional smell of dusty books!

Hope you all have a pleasant summer.

Keith Walker

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

I am pleased to announce that Ross Thrasher has been appointed as my replacement, effective August 16, 1999. Ross is currently at the University of Calgary, and brings extensive academic experience from such institutions as East Kootenay Community College, Ryerson, and The University of the Pacific. I know you shall enjoy working with Ross when he takes over.

Madeleine Lefebvre

NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NAIT Library staff have been focusing on Knowledge Networks projects during the past several months. We were very excited to receive approval for the following projects:

- A new integrated library system (status: the Request for Proposal should be issued very soon).
- Improvements to student access for information searching and retrieval, including: upgrade to our building's network infrastructure; increase in the number of computer workstations for student access; provision of Ethernet wired carrels for students with laptops; replacement of old student access computers and terminals; computer workstations and printers on satellite campuses. (status: this project will be completed by the end of August, 1999)
- A virtual reference project, in collaboration with Grant MacEwan Community College and Red Deer College. The project objective is to develop and implement new ways of providing reference service to accommodate users who are not physically present in the library as well as to assist users anywhere to effectively access electronically a wide range of information resources. (status: Valerie Footz was hired at the end of March and is splitting her time between NAIT and GMCC)
- An outreach project to help those members of the NAIT community who most need it to bridge the technology gap and attain a level of comfort with the virtual library. (status: to be implemented in conjunction with the new integrated library system)
- An information blueprint project to provide the library with data that will aid us to meet the NAIT community's future information needs in all formats. (status: Liz Pegoraro will begin work on this project in the next couple of months)

We have much to report in the people news department:
- Nicki Zazula and Cindy Thierstein had beautiful baby daughters and are enjoying their maternity leaves. We have welcomed Sharna Luiken to cover for both Nicki and Cindy during their absence.
- Alison Nussbaumer has left for the University of Saskatchewan and we wish her all the best in her new management position. Recruitment to Alison's position of Coordinator, Access Services is underway.
- Susan Fahy is heading to a life of adventure as a librarian in the United Arab Emirates at the end of July. We'll miss you, Susan!
- We look forward to welcoming Darlene Weber, who will join us in mid-June as a part-time reference librarian/cataloguer of electronic resources.

Helga Kinnaird

PORTAGE COLLEGE

On March 1, 1999, Alberta Vocational College, Lac La Biche, changed its name to PORTAGE COLLEGE. All staff phone numbers and fax numbers stayed the same. E-mails are name@portage.ab.ca.

Through a summer grant from CLA and the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions program, we hope to hire a summer library science student to identify and annotate materials related to Aboriginal Studies

in our collection.

We have finally finished annotating all 1600 of our videos, so all videos now have full MARC records with annotations. This might help other libraries on MultiLis.

Cheers,
Jim Carter

RED DEER COLLEGE

We look forward to an exciting summer this year with the infusion of Knowledge Network funding to the library. Funny how more money can create more work!

The Collaborative part of the Knowledge Network funding will be used to support a new Web Services/Virtual Reference Librarian. We are happy to welcome Sherry Crowther to RDC, June 21st. Along with the duties she will assume with Grant MacEwan and NAIT in developing a virtual reference service, she will be collaborating with RDC faculty to facilitate and encourage Web use for instruction. Through teaching of Information Literacy and encouraging effective Web use for instruction we hope to develop a report with instructors promoting the library's expertise in this area and demonstrate proactive support for learning at RDC.

With the rest of "our" money we are renovating the library to accommodate the new Information Commons prototype. A major bookmove is underway and construction has begun on a new office area. Computers will be installed in July and it is our hope to be up and running in August. The Information Commons will provide an interactive Library Instruction Lab, word processing and production software, and access to databases, the Internet and Library catalogue. Later development will include integrated learning modules, tutoring and interactive learning opportunities. We are very excited about the realities and possibilities of this project.

In other breaking news...we have implemented The Alberta Library's reciprocal borrowers card. Application rates have been high and TAL cards are flying out

the door in the hands of some very satisfied customers. We have replaced the Central Alberta Library Card project with the TAL card and the transition has been very smooth.

As usual, technology is tossing a few challenges our way. The college recently installed a firewall which ground the ILL department to a halt. We have had to bypass both Ariel and AVISO for the short term until Computer Services can find a solution to our problem. The brightest idea to date is to move the equipment to the other end of the college in order to bypass the firewall! We have squashed this method as it gives a whole new meaning to Document Delivery (it would take longer to get from CS than from the National Library) and await further brainwaves.

All of this leads to our never-ending quest to balance our collection. The introduction of the Information Commons and the improved availability, affordability and sustainability of electronic source have led us, more forcefully than ever, to the conclusion that we need to look at new ways of doing business. Over the summer, we will be looking at moving from CD-ROM to Web-based electronic resources as well as replacing print reference sources with their electronic counterpart.

We will let you know how it all went in the fall!

Charlene Jones

SOUTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sait will begin construction of a new building that will include the library this fall. Demolition of an existing building north of Heritage Hall will begin on August 1 and completion will be in August, 2001. Cost estimates for the 350,000-square foot building is $50 million. In addition to the library, the building will house the Learning Skills Centre, media production, bookstore, computer store, cafe, and student lounge. Electronic classrooms in the building will boast the campus

classroom space by 15 percent.
A proposal for a new campus department called the Center for Learning Systems may link the library with other services such as curriculum development, media production, TEP (Technology Enhancement Project, laptop program delivery), ACCESS Technology (distance learning program), and the Teaching Learning Centre (instructor skills).

Report writing equipment and services will be added to the library student computer lab. These include a color printer, plastic laminator and spiral bindery.

This summer Zahina will complete her term as library team leader and Tom Skinner will complete his term with the Knowledge Centre (new building) planning team and return to his position as library team leader. Zahina Iqbal will continue at SAIT Library as our new distance learning services librarian.

A general library services survey and a specific Webcat survey are currently underway.

Dave Weber

ANNOUNCING

The online version
of the
AACL Newsletter
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