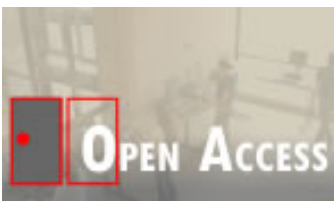


Top Story: What's the Buzz About Open Access?

Find out about open access: barrier-free publication of digital content that provides greater visibility of research and higher citation impact.

> [Read more](#)



YORKwrites

Mark your calendars for the YORKwrites reception and find out about this initiative to recognize York authors.

> [Read more](#)

Blogs at the York University Libraries

Keep track of the latest developments in the Libraries via blogs compiled and maintained by York librarians.

> [Read more](#)

Canadian Research Knowledge Network Update

This important nation-wide library consortium has broadened access to digital social sciences and humanities content.

> [Read more](#)



New Electronic Resources Blog

Now you have an easy way to keep track of new online journal and database acquisitions.

> [Read more](#)

eBooks Update

Take a look at some recent ebooks acquisitions by the Libraries.

> [Read more](#)



Library Service Quality Survey

York's results in this round of the survey have improved overall.

> [Read more](#)

New Welcome Services Desk at Scott Library

The newly reconfigured Welcome Services desk is your first stop for assistance.

> [Read more](#)



Scott Library Study Space Gets a Makeover

Major renovations at Scott Library increase and improve study spaces.

> [Read more](#)

"Who's New" at the Libraries

Meet the librarians who have joined the Libraries team this year.

> [Read more](#)



Dates & Reminders

» **October 20:** send publication updates to [YORKWrites](#)

» **November 7:** [YORKwrites](#) reception

» Notify Circulation Services of items for your Winter Term **course reserve** collections. Use the relevant online forms – all on the [Reserves](#) information page.

» Remind graduate students about the comfortable, quiet **Graduate Student Reading Room** (fourth floor Scott Library). Door access code changes weekly - on the [Graduate Students](#) page.

» Librarians can provide an "[information literacy](#)" Winter Term class on finding/evaluating library/Internet information. [Contact the relevant library](#) asap.

» Let us know about **books or other materials** you would like to see in our collections. Contact your [liaison librarian](#) or use the [Suggestions for Purchase](#) online form.

» Participate in some of the [Research Frontier Series](#) seminars designed to help faculty and graduate students keep up with new web technologies

» Find out more about the [Libraries' Strategic Plan 2007-2011](#).

What's the Buzz about Open Access?

Open access is the barrier-free access to digital content, whether research publications or data. According to Peter Suber, a well-known OA advocate, open access removes “price barriers” (such as subscription fees) and “permission barriers” (which can include copyright and licensing restrictions) to “royalty-free literature” (i.e. scholarly works created free by authors), making them available with “minimal use restrictions” (e.g. author attribution). (Peter Suber, [Open Access Overview](#)).

Open access in its purest sense would allow users to copy, download, print, distribute, crawl for indexing or repurpose content for legitimate use while giving authors attribution rights and control over the integrity of their work.

Electronic journals are now mainstream. However, until recently web versions of journals have merely perpetuated the print publishing paradigm while controlling access through subscriber authentication. Now, recent developments in open access journals provide alternatives which embrace the peer review required by authors for certification purposes while also making the case for wider dissemination of research. Researchers may choose to publish in an open access journal or publish in a subscription-based journal while retaining author rights to self-archive their work on personal websites or deposit in institutional or disciplinary repositories. Examples of such repositories are the Social Science Research Network ([SSRN](#)), Research Papers in Economics ([RePec](#)) and the [Canadian institutional repositories](#).

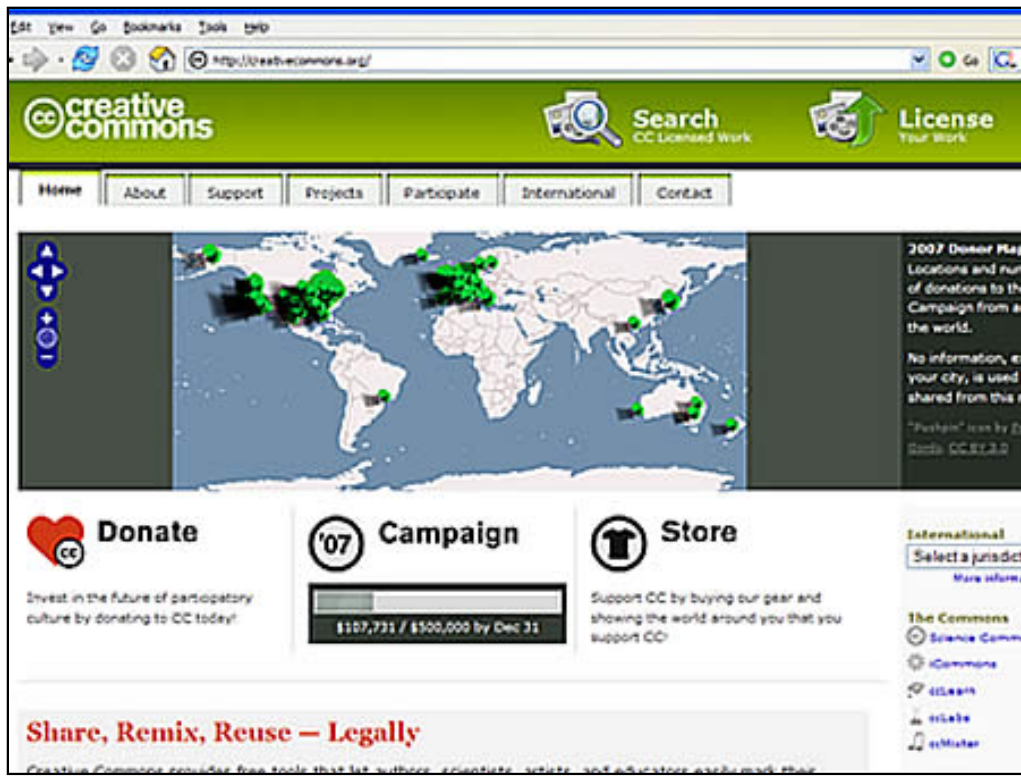
Creative Commons, a non-profit organization, provides free tools to allow authors, scientists, artists, and educators to easily mark their creative work with the freedoms they want it to carry. Authors may use one of several licenses developed by the [Creative Commons](#), such as transfer of non-exclusive rights to the publisher while retaining other key rights associated with the work. Over 250 open access journals in science and technology presently allow authors to use Creative Commons licenses.

A recent project of Creative Commons, [Science Commons](#) extends this philosophy to the sciences focusing on publications, licensing and data. The [SPARC Canadian Author Addendum](#) provides a balanced approach to copyright management allowing Canadian authors to retain author rights.



www.plos.org

(Cartoon included with thanks to Public Library of Science)



Open access has been shown by the [Opcit project](#) to provide greater visibility of research with higher citation impact. If open access journals or repositories adopt standards created by the Open Archives Initiative they will be searchable as one large archive irrespective of location. Search engines like [OAIster](#) and Google can search across these distributed archives as part of a global knowledge base, a boon to interdisciplinary areas not to mention the developing world. [DOAJ](#) is a directory of open access peer-reviewed journals with over 2600 entries. [OpenDOAR](#) is a directory of open access repositories. Both can be browsed by subject.

When the costs of dissemination in an electronic environment are only a fraction of print costs, it seems unconscionable for journal publishers to continue to charge extremely high prices for access. The good news is that scholarly publishing is in transition, and a number of new open access options are being offered.

- Some prominent publishers are now offering an open choice option for individual authors; they can make their articles available without access barriers on payment of a fee chargeable to grants or institutions. Author and institutional membership fees are not new to academic circles, although allowing universal access to research publications is a new approach.
- Some publishers provide free access to the electronic version while charging for print; others allow delayed open access after a specified period, generally ranging from 6 months to a year.
- Self-archiving on a website or in an institutional repository can provide increased exposure to a researcher's work without publication charges. Publishers' policies regarding copyright and self-archiving are available at [SHERPA/ROME0](#), courtesy of the University of Nottingham.
- [Journal Info](#) is an aid to researchers looking for a journal in which to publish, providing complete information on the journal including open access policies.

Steps are being taken by granting agencies in Europe and elsewhere around the world to ensure public access to publicly funded research. Some countries are considering legislatively mandating open access. In Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research has recently unveiled a new policy to promote public access to the results of research it funds. CIHR will require its researchers to ensure that their original research articles are freely available online within six months of publication. The policy is available online at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/34846.html>. A similar initiative from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) seems to have stalled after an initial consultation with researchers. However, we have come a long way since 2001 when Public Library of Science ([PLOS](#)) first garnered support from over 30,000 scientists who agreed to publish only in journals that offer open access six months after publication. During this time the open access movement has forged ahead and has become international in scope.

For more information on how you can provide open access to your research publications contact your York University [subject librarian](#).



Blogs At the York University Libraries

Blogs are among the best, fastest and most amusing ways to keep track of just about anything. Keeping track of what goes on at the York University Libraries is no different. There is a plethora of blogs created and maintained by librarians and library staff to keep you informed of all the latest developments, especially for new electronic resources.

Explore some of our great new blogs!

Subject and Collections Blogs

- **New Electronic Resources at York University Libraries:** keeping up with new online journal and database acquisitions, maintained by Associate University Librarian Catherine Davidson (<http://yulcollections.wordpress.com/>) and read the in depth [article](#) in this newsletter)
- **New Books @ the Steacie Science and Engineering Library,** a blog featuring new books at Steacie, maintained by Steacie staff. (<http://steacie.wordpress.com/>)
- **Between 4'33" and 4 ¾ in.:** a music collections blog maintained by librarians Rob van der Blik and Stacy Allison-Cassin (<http://www.yorku.ca/yul/music/blog>)
- **Pages of the Past,** a History blog maintained by librarian Norda Majekodunmi (<http://www.yorku.ca/yul/hist/blog/>)
- **York Computer Science and Engineering,** maintained by librarian John Dupuis (<http://www.yorku.ca/yul/cse/>)

Other Blogs by York Librarians

- **The Bib Blog** on cataloguing and metadata, maintained by York University Libraries Bibliographic Services (<http://www.yorku.ca/yul/bibserv/blog/>)
- **The FRBR Blog,** a blog on Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records by web librarian William Denton (<http://www.frbr.org/>)
- **Confessions of a Science Librarian** by Steacie Librarian John Dupuis (<http://jdupuis.blogspot.com>)

If you're interested in joining the blogging revolution, check out your favourite library blog and drop the author a line or just contact John Dupuis at jdupuis@yorku.ca.

A couple of great resources to explore other blogs by academics are:

- The Academic Blog Portal (http://www.academicblogs.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)
- The Around the Web page at InsideHigherEd (http://insidehighered.com/around_the_web)

— Article by John Dupuis, Head, Steacie Science and Engineering Library

Research Frontier Series:

Keeping up with the cutting edge of technology

In the past year or two there has been a lot of discussion about a new generation of web technologies and their applications in the academic setting. Wikipedia, blogs, Flickr, RSS feeds, Facebook, Google Scholar ...these tools are changing the way many of us research, teach and learn. Of course, many of these technologies also present critical thinking challenges.

For the second year in a row, the Libraries are hosting the **Research Frontier Series** to help faculty and graduate students keep up with these technologies. The series runs throughout the academic year. Nine sessions are being offered this year:

- » Google Unleashed
- » Citation Data: Uses & Abuses
- » Digital Copyright
- » Picturing the Web: Searching & Using Images from the Internet
- » Making Information Come to You: The Power of RSS Feeds
- » Social Networking: An Academic Role?
- » Evolutions in Scholarly Publishing
- » Behind the Scenes of Search Engines
- » Using Archives for Research

The sessions are intended to provide a mix of practical how-to and critical discussion. You can just show up — sign up is not necessary. For more details, please visit:

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/ResearchAndInstruction/research-frontiers-series.en>

...or contact librarian Mark Robertson at markr@yorku.ca.

YORKwrites 2007 – Celebrating York’s Authors

Mark your calendars for the second annual Celebration of York Authors. York University Libraries and York University Bookstores, as part of the campus **YORKwrites** initiative, are hosting a reception to recognize and celebrate the publication achievements of York faculty and the York community at large. The YORKwrites reception will take place as follows:

Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2007 4-6pm

Location: Scott Library - Second Floor Atrium

To ensure that the list of York publications from the last year is as complete as possible, we invite York’s resident authors to send a note to yorkwrit@yorku.ca advising us of your recent publications – or use the online form on the [YORKwrites webpage](#) to submit updates. Also available on the YORKwrites website is a list of publications that will be celebrated at the event. Please submit any updates or omissions by October 20, 2007 in order for us to be able to profile your work at the event.

We wish to note that “publications” include books, chapters, articles, published conference papers, and other written works that you, as a York author, would like the community to know about, as well as non-print publication: video or film productions, musical recordings, artistic works, dramatic or dance productions, and so on. YORKWrites aims to showcase and celebrate the breadth of York scholarly, scientific, professional, and creative publication, the proud culmination of much hard work across the University. While the vast majority of the publications recognized through this initiative will inevitably be those of faculty, we also wish to include the publications of students (notably our graduate students), staff, and alumni.

YORKwrites is an initiative of the Libraries and the Bookstores and is presented in collaboration with sponsors and the generous support of many departments across campus, including the Offices of the Vice-President Academic and Vice-President Research & Innovation.

YORKwrites website

"**YORKwrites** -- and films, paints, sculptures, choreographers, composes, etc. -- and York University recognizes the achievements in publication and creation of its faculty and other members of the York community.

York University is proud of the immense scholarly, scientific, professional, and creative output of its faculty and other York community authors and creators!" (excerpt from the website)

Through the [YORKwrites](#) website, you can find out about

- » author/creator recognition events
- » York related book/media launches, openings
- » recent York-authored/created works

You can also notify the York community of your recent publication or completed creative work.



Canadian Research Knowledge Network Update

The [Canadian Research Knowledge Network](#) (CRKN) is an important nation-wide library consortium that has been instrumental in broadening access to social sciences and humanities (SSH) content in digital form. [You may recall that CRKN was preceded by the former Canadian National Site License Program (CNSLP). Launched in 2001, CNSLP was a project supported by CFI, provincial and university funds and directed to expanding science, technology and medicine (STM) electronic content (primarily ejournals).] We have reported on earlier phases of the CRKN social sciences and humanities expansion efforts in [previous newsletters](#).

Currently, we are in the middle of Phase III. This phase differs in that under CFI, provincial and university funding will once again support the initiative as a result of a successful CFI grant application process earlier this year. An initial call to identify potential electronic content went out to 67 institutions across Canada. This resulted in a list of 260 products which were, in turn, winnowed down to 49. RFP vendor bids will be accepted until October 25, 2007. This will be followed by a license negotiating phase. We look forward to reporting the outcome of this important initiative in our next newsletter.



— Article by Catherine Davidson, Associate University Librarian, Collections.
If you have questions or comments about this article, contact Catherine at cdavids@yorku.ca.



eBooks Update

In our [Spring 2006 newsletter](#), we assured you that we remain committed to building print collections while simultaneously investigating the potential for ebook acquisitions. That philosophy continues to guide our approach to ebooks today. We are keen to learn more about the various interfaces and functionalities that different providers offer. In the past, our purchases have included the bundle approach (e.g. Oxford Scholarship Online) while more recently, we have purchased individual titles in response to demand. The electronic version of a title makes sense as an added copy – we continue to buy the print but will consider whether an ebook should/could be the added copy (also saving on valuable shelf space).

Some recent acquisitions of note:

- **Canadian Electronic Library** consists of two collections of note totalling over 5,000 titles:
 - [Canadian Public Policy Collection](#)
 - [Canadian Health Research Collection](#)

The screenshot shows the 'York University - Canadian Health Research Collection' website. The page is titled 'Medicine' and displays a list of four ebooks. Each entry includes a thumbnail, title, page count, and metadata such as contributor, publisher, date, and subjects. The interface includes a search bar, navigation links, and a sidebar with subject categories.

Title	Pages	Contributor	Publisher	Date	Subjects
10 étapes vers un cadre commun de production de rapports sur les temps d'attente	16	Conseil canadien de la santé	Conseil canadien de la santé	2005	Hospitals - Waiting lists - Canada, Medical care - Canada, Hôpitaux - Listes d'attente - Canada, Santé publique - Canada
10 Steps to a Common Framework for Reporting on Wait Times	14	Health Council of Canada	Health Council of Canada	2005	Hospitals - Waiting lists - Canada, Health services accessibility - Canada, Medical statistics - Canada
The 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care and Medical and Diagnostic Equipment Funding	18	Saskatchewan Health	Saskatchewan Health	2005	Medical care - Saskatchewan, Medical care, Cost of - Saskatchewan, Health planning - Saskatchewan
2003 Canadian Health Accreditation Report	113	Canadian Council on Health Services Ass	Canadian Council on Health Services Ass	2004	

- [Royal Society of Chemistry eBook Collection](#)

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- ▶ Copyright Year
- ▶ A-Z Index

Tools

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RSC eBook Collection

Welcome to the RSC eBook Collection, our expanding online reference library containing more than 700 high quality, chemical science books published by the RSC!



To start browsing the Collection use the quick search box below. Access to over 40 years of world class scientific information is just a click away.

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RSC quicklinks

I want information on:

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Information for:

Select a role

I am interested in:

Select a product

Biology in Focus

themes at the chem/biol interface

See how Journal RSS Feeds are evolving

New Titles



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Copyright: 2007
Ian Hornsey



Concepts of Chemical Engineering 4 Chemists
Copyright: 2007
Stefaan Simons

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- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Religion

SUBSCRIBER

York University

"a must-have online resource" Library Journal's verdict



Welcome to Oxford Scholarship Online

Oxford Scholarship Online is a cross-searchable library containing the full text of over 1,350 Oxford books in the areas of Economics and Finance, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion. Specialty-commissioned abstracts and keywords are available at book and chapter level, and up to 200 new and recently-published books are added each year.

▶ **Latest News** 22.01.07 **Oxford University Press announces major expansion of publishing new scholarly monographs online**
From September 2007 scholars and students will have unvalued access to online monographs in the core areas of: Biology, Business/Management, Classics, History, Maths, Linguistics, Literature, Physics and Psychology - in addition to the current list of available subjects: Economic and Finance, Philosophy, Political Science and Religion. [Read the full press release here](#)

— Article by Catherine Davidson, Associate University Librarian, Collections.
If you have questions or comments about this article, contact Catherine at cdavids@yorku.ca.



New Electronic Resources Blog

We strive to keep you informed and current about new electronic resources acquired by York University Libraries. This September, we launched a new Electronic Resources blog, accessible from our homepage (<http://www.library.yorku.ca/>) and also directly via <http://yulcollections.wordpress.com/>.



Some recent posts of interest

[Psychiatry Online](#) (includes DSM-IV Library, Textbooks, Journals and APA Guideline)

Want to keep on top of calls for papers for conferences and scholarly journals? [Papers Invited](#) is the database for you. It includes detailed information and deadlines about calls for papers for forthcoming conferences and special issues of scholarly journals. These calls for papers are issued by professional bodies, journal editors and other conference organizers in all disciplines and from all over the world. Thus, the database serves as an alerting service for researchers, scholars and students that are seeking opportunities to present and publish their research.

[CSA Illustrata: Natural Sciences](#)

[Encyclopedia of Islam](#)

[Classical Scores Library](#)

[Theatre in Video](#)

[DRAM – Database of Recorded Music](#)

[HAPI – Health and Psychosocial Instruments](#)

[Index to Jewish Periodicals](#)

[Making of the Modern World](#)

[Periodicals Archive Online](#)

[Mass Observation Online](#)

[Compendex](#)

We encourage you to bookmark our new eResources blog and/or set up an RSS feed ([what is this?](#)).

— Article by Catherine Davidson, Associate University Librarian, Collections.
If you have questions or comments about this article, contact Catherine at cdavids@yorku.ca.

LibQUAL+ Survey 2007 on Perceptions of Library Service

In the 2007 Winter Term, the Libraries invited faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students to complete the 2007 version of the LibQUAL+ survey. If you were among the 879 individuals who completed this survey, we thank you again for your time and thoughtful comments.

LibQUAL+ is a standardized survey that is used widely in North American academic libraries (and beyond) to measure library users' perceptions of their library service. Because we have run the survey before at York, most recently in 2004, we are able to see not only this year's results, but to compare them to the 2004 York results: we are clearly perceived to have improved. Because this year we joined a consortium of other Canadian academic libraries, we are also able to compare York results with the aggregated results of other institutional groupings in the consortium: we have room for further improvement.

Most respondents were evaluating their experience of Scott Library:

- About 80% of respondents identified Scott Library as the library they primarily use
- about 15% identified the Steacie Science & Engineering Library
- the remaining 5% of responses concerned the Bronfman, Frost, and Law Libraries

The 22 core questions of the survey measure three library service quality dimensions: "affect of service" (satisfaction with interactions with library personnel), "library as place" (adequacy of study space), and "information control" (adequacy of print collections, online resources, and access to them). Each question asks respondents to rate (a) the minimum level of service that they would consider acceptable, (b) the level of service that they would consider desirable, and (c) the level of service that they perceive themselves to be receiving currently. The higher the "perceived" ratings are in relation to the "minimum" and "desired" ratings, the better. An "adequacy gap", where a "perceived" rating is lower than a "minimum" rating, and which is indicated in red on a radar graph, indicates an area with room for improvement. Service is perceived as at least adequate where the "perceived" level of service exceeds the "minimum" level, and this is indicated in blue on a radar graph.

A New Strategic Plan for the Libraries: Open Doors, Open Minds

From summer 2006 to summer 2007, York University Libraries carried out a full strategic planning process to guide its detailed planning for the next five years. Our [Strategic Plan 2007-2011: Open Doors, Open Minds](#) was developed upon a consideration of other York University planning documents, especially the University Academic Plan, and of current trends in academic libraries generally. It was also based on extensive consultations with members of the York University community: graduate and undergraduate students, faculty members, librarians, University Administration, and library staff.

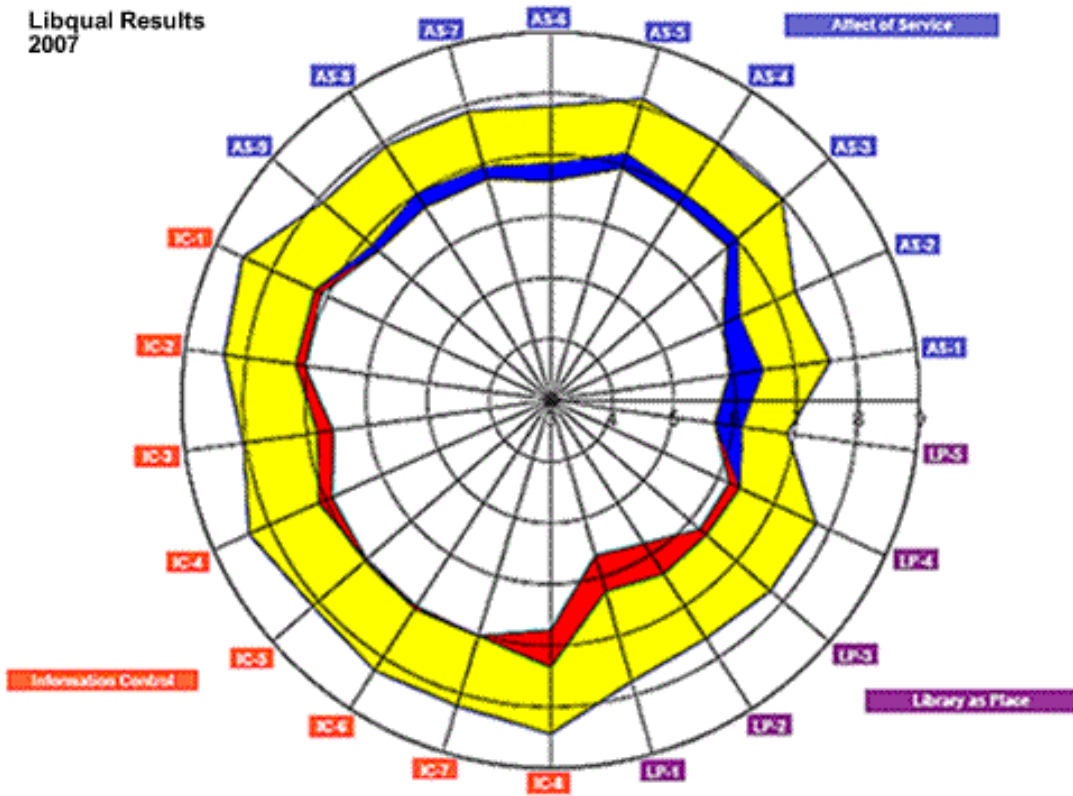
The strategic plan consists of 40 strategies that will support important goals under four general themes:

- » Cultivating excellent research collections
- » Advancing research, teaching, and learning
- » Creating vibrant library spaces for research and discovery
- » Building a responsive and innovative learning organization

Over the course of the Fall 2007 term, the Libraries are deciding upon the key actions to embark upon in order to further each strategy.

We invite all members of the York University community to read our plan and share any comments with us. We are pleased with our plan and motivated by our goals for enhancing library services at York University.

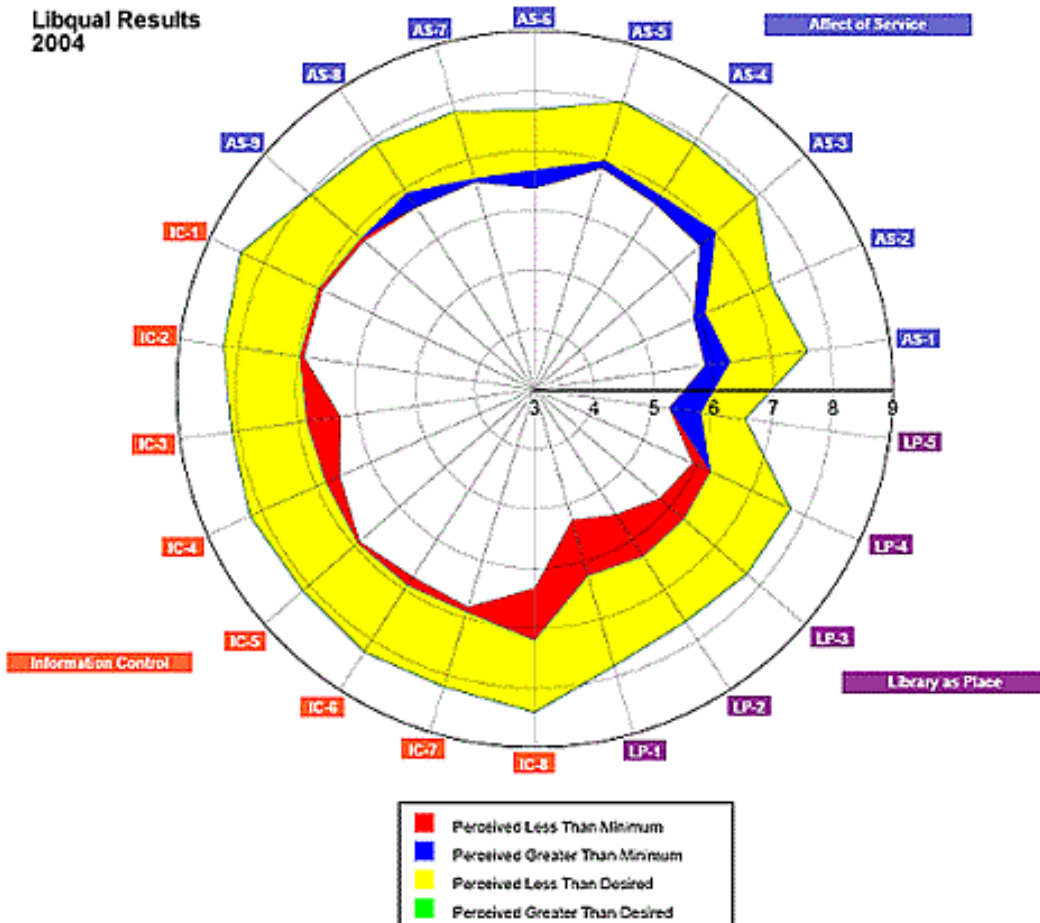
**Libqual Results
2007**



Research and reference assistance

York's 2007 results are more positive than results in 2004. Overall, faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students felt that their library service is better in all three areas (interactions, facilities, collections) than in 2004. There are fewer "adequacy gaps" and in almost all of the 22 core questions the "perceived" mean scores were higher in 2007 for all three respondent groups than they were in 2004. Visually, less red and more blue is seen in the 2007 radar graph than in the 2004 graph.

**Libqual Results
2004**



Could it be that the expectations of our users have simply become lower over time? This seems unlikely given that for almost all 22 core questions across all respondent groups, the “minimum” and “desired” scores were also higher in 2007 than in 2004.

While the numerical LibQUAL+ scores do not tell us what may have improved in our users’ eyes, the 2007 survey responses included some 448 comments that give some sense of what our library users like or do not like. These comments mention a number of improvements we have made since 2004: the renovation of the Steacie Science & Engineering Library, the creation of the Graduate Student Reading Room, the liberalizing of some circulation policies, the establishment of courtesy due date alerts on book loans, the expansion of our e-resources, the development of the Find it @York service, and so on. There were many positive comments about the helpfulness of our staff.

The largest number of non-positive comments concerned such areas as the quality and quantity of study spaces, the adequacy of our electronic and print resources, the quality of our book collection management, and the quality of our website.

When we compare our general results with the aggregated general results of our peer libraries in CARL (the Canadian Association of Research Libraries — comprised of about 30 of Canada’s largest university and other research libraries) and in OCUL (the Ontario Council of University Libraries — comprised of all the Ontario university libraries), we see that in the aggregate, other libraries are perceived by their users as providing better service than York library users perceive that they are receiving at York.

The major differences in results are in the “information control” (i.e., perceived adequacy of collections, access to online materials, website information) and “library as place” parts of the survey. The new Libraries strategic plan identifies the goal of enhanced print collections. We know from other measures that there is much pressure on our book collection: there are fewer books per student, for example, at York than at most university libraries. We also know that we need to make improvements to our website (we have recently hired a Web Librarian to lead change in this area). Importantly for our “library as place” scores, we know from gate counts that our libraries at York are much more heavily visited by our students and faculty than are the libraries at other institutions and we know that we have a lower number of study spaces in relation to the campus population than at most other universities. We have been taking some steps to address this problem: this summer, for example we added added and upgraded many study spaces in Scott Library (see the [article](#) on our summer 2007 renovations).

LibQUAL+ has become a valuable assessment tool for the Libraries. Through your survey responses, we can see clearly that you believe we have improved and you have indicated for us some key areas in which to focus future efforts. Thank you!



A More Welcoming Entry to Scott Library

For many years, Scott Library's doors were watched from the nearby desk that was grimly labelled "Exit Control." The staff at the desk watched (and still watch) the entering and leaving of Scott Library, discouraging the occasional pizza delivery and the "borrowing" of books not checked out.

These days, however, under the leadership of John Thomson, Manager, Library Facilities, and Lorraine Toth, Facilities Supervisor, the desk staff are aiming to do that with a friendlier face. More importantly, they are also providing a number of services that make people's use of the library a little easier, some that have always been provided, and some new services.



The desk has been reconfigured for a more approachable appearance and the new signs being made will say "Welcome Services."

The Welcome Services desk is a first and visible contact point for a number of library users' needs - see the list at right.

Welcome Services

Ask the Welcome Services desk staff for assistance with the following:

- » Directional Information
- » Building & Facilities Concerns
- » Library Security Concerns
- » Printer/Photocopier Concerns
- » Guest Computer Accounts
- » Library Lost & Found
- » Print/Copy on Research Account
- » Change for Photocopiers/Printers
- » Suggestions & Complaints
- » Part-Time Job Application Drop-Off
- » Group Study Room Queries
- » Emergencies

New and Noteworthy

There is a telephone on each floor of Scott Library that calls directly to the Welcome Services Desk and library users are invited to use these phones to report problems and emergencies.



Scott Library Study Space Gets a Makeover

During the summer, the Libraries undertook renovations in Scott Library to increase shelving capacity and increase and improve student study space. Part of the third floor collection was removed while the shelving was being replaced, but various contingency measures put into place by the Libraries ensured that few were inconvenienced and the collection was back in place by Labour Day. To date, only a few features remain to be installed to complete the renovations.

The new spaces are already being heavily used. Where formerly there were only a few outlets to plug in a laptop and no wired connections, now there is power and an Ethernet connection at every seat in both the first floor reading room (about 160 spaces) and on the third floor (about 220 spaces).

First floor

The changes made in the main "Central Square" reading room substantially reflect the recommendations of student focus groups.



A wood and glass "portal" reduces the noise between the foyer and the reading room, and an electronic sound suppression system is being installed to reduce ambient noise. The old carrels that dominated the reading room were replaced with chairs and tables equipped with reading lamps, electrical and Ethernet connections, plus some new (wired) carrels, and the area has a large visual art installation created by students in the Faculty of Fine Arts.



The public-use computers that were scattered about the first floor foyer area were brought together (with computers added) into a newly created room that is much quieter than the foyer.

The Circulation and Welcome Services (formerly Exit Control) service counters have been reconfigured to make them more friendly and approachable.

In both the first and third floor spaces, the walls have been repainted, lighting has been upgraded to energy saving and "daylight" quality, and new carpet tiles have been installed.

Students Have Their Say

When asked what they like about the new space, students (and staff) comments are very positive.

"More table / desk space for students"
 "Paintings seem to brighten up the study area"
 "The most important improvement is more desk space"
 "I will likely spend more time in the Scott library because of these renovations"
 "Renovations such as these should be attempted on other floors"

--Trinley G., Kinesiology and Health Science

"The new cubicles are much bigger"
 "More tables / cubicles"
 "The outlets actually work on all cubicles"
 "The most important improvement is bigger/more cubicles [carrels] and tables"
 "I will likely spend more time in the Scott library because of these renovations as there are more seats"

--Nav, third year English major

"I like the fact there are more outlets for laptop use"
 "The late night opening hours of the first floor"
 "The seats are more comfortable"
 "The lamps are a great idea"
 "The most important improvement is more plugs for laptops"

--Laxshana N., second year Kinesiology major

Third Floor

On the third floor, the Libraries were able to improve and add study spaces and greatly increase the shelving to hold our growing book collection. This work was made possible with the generous assistance of the family of W.P. Scott, after whom Scott Library is named, and in honour of whom a part of the third floor has been dedicated.



About 10,000 linear feet of static shelving was replaced, in a smaller footprint, with 20,000 linear feet of mobile shelving.

The very old non-wired tables and carrels were removed in favour of about 220 upgraded and additional study spaces at comfortable new tables and carrels with reading lamps and electrical and Ethernet connections.

Even as the new tables were being installed this fall, students were sitting in every available seat reading and working at their laptops, many commenting on the immense improvement (see sidebar, right).

"There are different study tables and areas to choose from"
"The most important improvement is the new tables"

--Berna E., first year Psychology major

"More plugs for laptops and more study tables"
"The most important improvement is more plugs for laptops"
"I will definitely spend more time in the Scott library because of these renovations"

--Dmitry, second year student

"It's more open and comfortable"
"The improvements in lighting are wonderful"
"The most important improvement is better lighting"

--Bryan P., York staff



“Who’s New” at the Libraries

Here is your brief guide to the new librarians joining the York University Libraries team this year.

Haiyun Cao joins the Libraries’ team as Bibliographic Services Librarian. Haiyun graduated in library science at McGill University, and also has a Masters of Engineering in Computer Science and Engineering from Harbin Institute of Technology, China. Her background experience includes teaching computer science, research on OCR software for digitized manuscripts, project management for World Bank projects, and an appointment as Digital Project Metadata librarian at the University of Florida in Gainesville working on original cataloguing and in metadata harvesting projects.

Sarah Coysh joins the Libraries as the E-Learning Librarian. Sarah has a B.A. in French and Music, B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees from Queen’s University, as well as her MIST from the University of Toronto. Sarah is not entirely new to York: she has been providing reference services part-time at Frost Library during the past year. Sarah’s office location and home department are in Frost Library.

William Denton is the Web Librarian and also a reference librarian at the Peter F. Bronfman Business Library. Bill has a B.Sc. in Mathematics from Trinity College and a Master of Information Science, both from the University of Toronto. Bill comes to York with experience as Web Librarian for Toronto Public Library, Taxonomy and Metadata Specialist at the Hospital for Sick Children and a Senior Programmer from the Canadian telecommunications company Allstream. In these positions he contributed to website development, developed online thesauri, and served as webmaster.

Rajiv Nariani has been appointed as Science Librarian at the Steacie Science & Engineering Library. Rajiv has a B.Sc. in Microbiology from Kolhapur University, India, an M.Sc. in Dairy Microbiology from the National Dairy Research Institute, India, a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from York University, as well as his MIST from the University of Toronto. Previous to his appointment as Science Librarian, Rajiv was employed as a Reference Assistant at the Steacie Library.

Administrative Changes

Elizabeth Watson has accepted a five-year term as Head, Peter F. Bronfman Business Library beginning September 1, 2007. Elizabeth has served as Head of York’s business library, in its various forms, since 1992.

John Dupuis has accepted a five-year term as Head, Steacie Science and Engineering Library beginning September 1, 2007. John has been a librarian at Steacie since 2000 and served as Acting Head during 2005-2006.

The Libraries extend heartfelt thanks to **Leila Fernandez** for her contributions as Head of Steacie Science & Engineering Library. During her five year tenure the Libraries have seen the completion of renovations to the Steacie Library, a successful Engineering accreditation, and the introduction of electronic reserves.