

YU Library News

for York U faculty

Winter 2008 edition

[YORK U LIBRARIES HOME](#)



Top Story: Synergies at York University Puts York Journals Online

The goal of the Synergies Project is to provide services and infrastructure to migrate social sciences and humanities research to the digital realm, thereby increasing access to Canadian SSH research.

> [Read more](#)



Research & Teaching

What can Library Data Services Do For You?

If you need numbers - especially social sciences data or statistics. Contact Library Data Services to see what's available to you as a researcher.

> [Read more](#)

Putting Steacie on Facebook

Read about an initiative that hopes to make the Steacie Science and Engineering Library more visible and convenient for students to access.

> [Read more](#)



Collections

Online Music Streaming Holdings at YUL

Online music streaming holdings are surpassing in-library holdings. Find out some highlights of the collections.

> [Read more](#)

Digital Image Collections

York's Libraries are the gateway to excellent collections of digital images. Find out where they are, and what you can do with them.

> [Read more](#)



Services

Profile: Gladys Fung, Resource Sharing

Meet a long-time member of the Libraries' Resource Sharing Department and read about her role in providing this important service to York faculty.

> [Read more](#)

Bronfman Library Celebrates 1 Millionth Visitor

Read about the one millionth visitor to the Bronfman Library this fall.

> [Read more](#)



About the Libraries

Improved Storage Environment for York's Archives

York's Archives has a dedicated space that allows for more efficient processing of donations and increased storage for archival holdings.

> [Read more](#)

"Who's New" at the Libraries

Meet the new additions to the Libraries team.

> [Read more](#)

Dates & Reminders

» **February 18, 2008:** Family Day holiday. Central Square portion of Scott Library is open - study spaces and computer access areas only. Other sections of Scott and other York Libraries are closed.

» Participate in some of the Winter 08 [Research Frontiers Series](#) seminars designed to help faculty and graduate students keep up with new web technologies.

» Take a look at some links to "[cool tools](#)" for scholars.

» See an overview of tools for [finding digital images](#) on the internet.

» Find out about the recent [YorkWrites reception](#) to celebrate authors' achievements.

» Plan to attend a RefWorks workshop on **February 7 or 19**. Details on the Libraries [RefWorks](#) webpage.

» Consult the [Guide to Finding Primary Sources](#) for such English language primary sources (primarily in the social sciences and humanities) as autobiographies, letters, photographs and audio-visual materials.

» Read about [RACER](#) - York's integrated interface to interlibrary loan.

» [Print this newsletter](#) (PDF)

The Synergies Initiative at York University

It has been observed that much of Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research is available in print only and hence cannot be accessed via the internet, which greatly diminishes its visibility and decreases its potential global impact.

The goal of the Synergies project is to directly address this issue. By providing services and infrastructure to migrate SSH research to the digital realm, access to Canadian SSH research will be greatly increased. “*Synergies* will not only bring that research into the mainstream of worldwide research discourse but also it will legitimize online publication in Social Sciences and Humanities.” http://www.synergiescanada.org/index_en.html

The Synergies project is not intended to be a large scale digitization project. Rather, funded by a 14 million dollar Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant, these funds will go to building technical infrastructure with no provisions for digitization. The intent is to create a national network of institutions that will use software tools to encourage and help SSH researchers build the online publication of their scholarly output into their workflow.

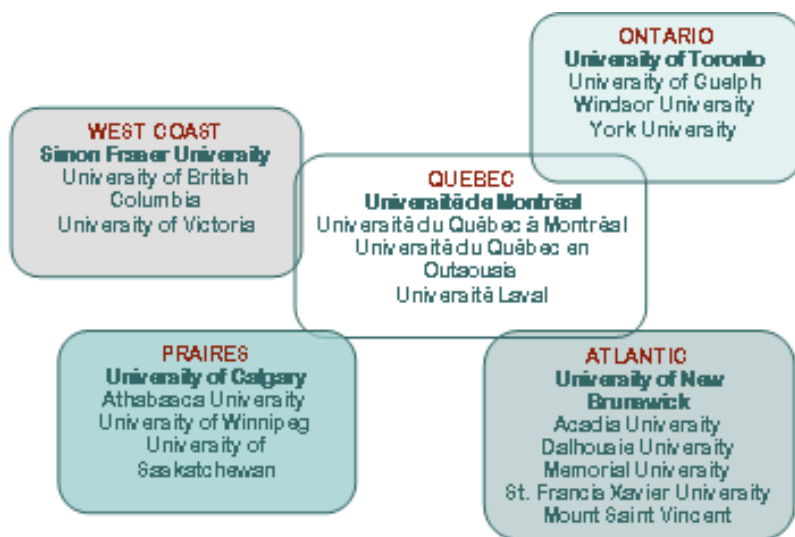


Figure 1 – Synergies Partners organized by region

This national infrastructure consists of 21 Canadian university partners divided into five regional nodes. York University participates in the Ontario node. (See Figure 1)

Each partner institution is expected to contribute to the creation of a national infrastructure by implementing and supporting at least one of the following software packages:

- Open Journal Systems (OJS)
- DSpace
- Open Conference Systems (OCS)
- Érudit

At York University, we are supporting Open Journal Systems, DSpace and Open Conference Systems. The goal is to use these software programs to collect and disseminate SSH research.

Open Journal Systems is an open source software package created by the Public Knowledge Project affiliated with Simon Fraser University. OJS facilitates the creation and hosting of electronic journals. York’s implementation of OJS is called York Digital Journals, and has been very well received by York faculty members. Currently, 14 York-affiliated journals are hosted live on the site, while others are in various states of development. York Digital Journals can be viewed on the library website at <http://www.library.yorku.ca/ojs>.

The Public Knowledge Project has also created Open Conference Systems, which is a software platform that manages both conference registration and conference proceedings. Although one conference was hosted last year, YUL has not officially launched its OCS services. YUL is currently in the process of upgrading OCS to its latest version which offers improved conference proceedings management.

Developed by MIT Libraries and Hewlett Packard, DSpace is an open source software platform used by educational, government, private, and commercial institutions. At York, we use DSpace software for our institutional repository. Titled YorkSpace, our institutional repository serves to manage, preserve, and disseminate the scholarly output of York University and its partners. Collecting scholarly output in YorkSpace provides increased visibility for York research which includes preferential ranking by Google. Our 800 items in YorkSpace are

accessed on average over 6000 times a month! In addition, YorkSpace is hosted in a secure computing environment and is committed to long term preservation. To view YorkSpace, visit <http://www.library.yorku.ca/dspace/>.

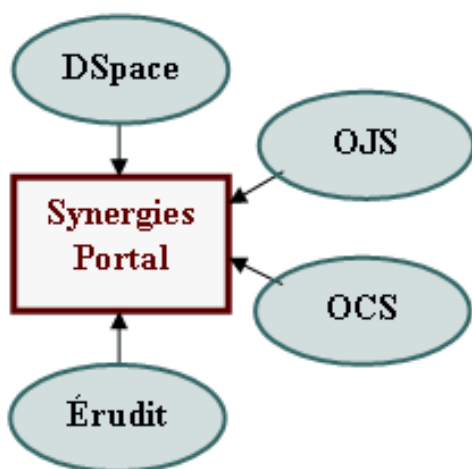


Figure 2 – Research collected by the Synergies Portal

In lieu of hosting scholarly journals via OJS, the Quebec Synergies node will be using the Érudit infrastructure. A consortium of Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and Université du Québec à Montréal, Érudit is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to produce and disseminate both backfiles and current issues of scholarly journals since 1998. Érudit currently hosts 47 journals and can be viewed at this site: <http://www.erudit.org/en/index.html>.

All the scholarly SSH data collected by the 21 institutions using the four approved software platforms (DSpace, OJS, OCS and Erudit) will be harvested by the Synergies project to create one massive portal for Canadian Social Science and Humanities research. (See Figure 2) Through the Synergies portal, researchers will be able to view scholarly data in colour with images, sound, moving images and multimedia.

The portal will be equipped with many special features such as automatic translation, the ability to track detailed citations and usage statistics, and the ability to search across a wide variety of sources using intelligent navigation and searching capabilities. The portal will also facilitate the creation of communities around areas of research by providing an area for researchers where they can configure pages to suit their needs. In addition, the Synergies portal will enable partnerships with consortia and will elevate the visibility of Canadian SSH research on a global level.

Currently, the 21 Synergies partners are hard at work building the infrastructure for online publication services at their own institutions. This network needs to be established to facilitate the transition of SSH research from the print to the digital domain. Version 1 of the Synergies portal itself is anticipated to be launched at the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Congress at Concordia University in Montréal, Saturday, May 29 to Saturday, June 5, 2010.

-- Andrea Kosavic, Librarian, Bibliographic Services

« [YULibrary News home](#)



What can Library Data Services do for you?

Have you ever needed to know:

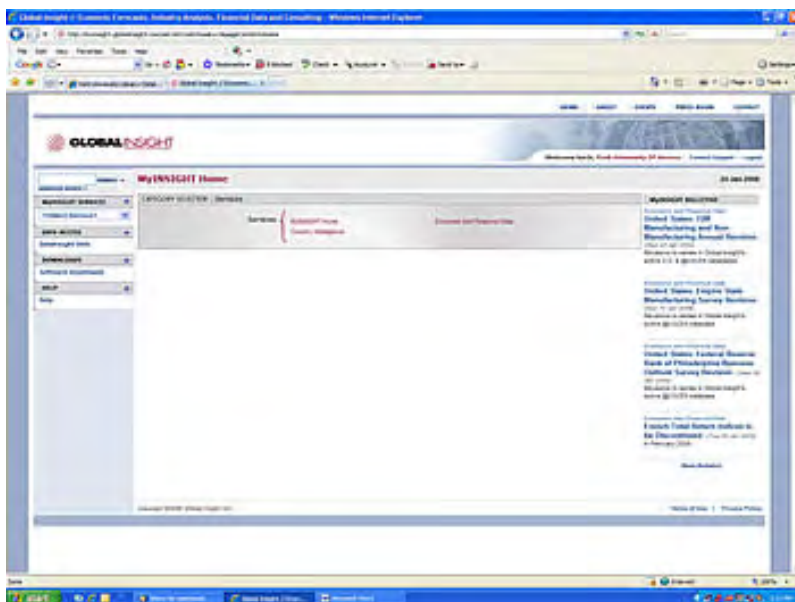
- The age and gender distribution of people who attended aerobics classes in Toronto?
- The opening and closing daily stock prices for 16,000 companies over a period of 2 years?
- Sources of data on labour markets in Canada for your students?



These, and many, many others, are examples of the kinds of questions fielded by Walter Giesbrecht, York's data librarian. Walter's responsibility is to help faculty, staff, and students when they need data or statistics on a particular subject. He is the local contact for the [Data Liberation Initiative](#), a program of [Statistics Canada](#) that provides access to a wide variety of data and statistics that York faculty and students would otherwise have to pay for (In other words, don't pay for tables from [CANSIM](#)! We

subscribe to it!) In addition to Canadian datasets, Walter will attempt to locate data or statistics on any topic from any other place in the world, often working with Amanda Wakaruk (the librarian responsible for foreign and international government publications) and colleagues from other institutions in Canada and around the world.

A gateway to this world of data (besides dropping by with your request or sending it by email) is the [Statistical Sources](#) link on the [library home page](#); here you will find sources of data and statistics arranged by broad subject area, for both Canada and foreign sources. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but a way to satisfy the majority of questions that have come up over the years. Besides the resources available through the DLI, York Libraries also subscribe to a variety of commercial databases (e.g., [CRSP](#), [SourceOECD](#), [Global Insight](#), [World Development Indicators](#)) that provide literally millions of tables and time series.



YUL also subscribes to [ICPSR](#) (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research), a source for international surveys and polls that are useful for many disciplines. A recent subscription

York Authors and Artists Celebrated at Annual YORKwrites Reception

On November 7, 2007, York University Libraries and York University Bookstores hosted the University's second annual campus reception to recognize and celebrate the publication achievements of York faculty and other York community members. The event, in the second floor atrium of Scott Library, brought together about 150 attendees, including many of the authors and artists whose achievements were being celebrated. We were honoured to welcome as well Mario Sergio, our newly re-elected MPP for York West.

This year, YORKwrites organizers received over 800 notifications of books, articles, DVD's, CD's, and more this year, making the YORKwrites website listing the most comprehensive available anywhere on campus.

As the guests were enjoying some wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres (provided by the Underground), live jazz, and the company of their fellows, a number of speakers praised the accomplishments of York's authors and artists. President Shoukri congratulated our faculty members, graduate students, staff, and alumni who published this last year. In addition, Vice-Presidents Sheila Embleton (Academic) and Stan Shapson (Research and Innovation) each addressed those gathered. Their comments focussed on the important links between research and teaching, publishing and libraries, and publishing and university reputation.

Professor Seth Feldman (Faculty of Fine Arts) who spoke as a faculty member and author, reflected on the labours and satisfactions of producing a work, adding a note of humour to the remarks. As the event is under the formal sponsorship of both the Libraries and the Bookstores, Cynthia Archer (University Librarian) and Steven Glassman (Director, Bookstores and Printing Services) welcomed the attendees, noting the many York-authored works sold at the Bookstores or available for use through the Libraries. Their remarks also provided an opportunity to highlight the new Print on Demand publishing service offered by Printing Services, and the Libraries' York [Digital Journals](#) publishing service. To see some photos from the event,

to the [SDA Microdata Analysis and Subsetting](#) service (housed at the University of Toronto) provides online access to most Statistics Canada microdata files, as well as a selection of U.S. and international datasets. (SDA has not yet been fully incorporated into the YUL website; once it has been, a Research Seminar is being planned to allow faculty and students to fully utilize the service.) All of these data are, of course, licensed for use only for academic teaching and research purposes.



Besides answering individual questions from students and faculty, Walter is also available to give classes on data sources for both undergraduate and graduate courses (course instructors should contact him (walterg@yorku.ca, or ext. 77551), as well as act as a consultant on potential data sources for graduate and faculty research projects. Potential users of business and/or economics data should consult Elizabeth Watson (watson@yorku.ca) first; as the librarian responsible for Economics and business data sources, she can provide guidance in the use of specialized resources such as WRDS (Wharton Research Data Service) and Datastream that are only available at the Bronfman Business Library.

In short, if you need numbers (mostly social sciences data or statistics), Walter will be a key contact at the Libraries.

go to <http://www.yorku.ca/yorkwrit/yorkauthors.html>

By “publications”, the YORKwrites organizers mean not only books, but also chapters, articles, published conference papers, and other written works that York people would like their community to know about. The “publications” recognized were both print and non-print works: video and film productions, musical recordings, artistic works, dramatic and dance productions, all represented in the [YORKwrites](#) listing. While the vast majority of the publications recognized through this initiative are those of faculty, a number of publications by students (mainly graduate students), staff, and alumni are also in the listing.

So that the YORKwrites list of publications might be as up to date as possible, we invite members of the York community to advise us about any publication, but especially those from the last year. Use the online form on the [YORKwrites webpage](#), or send an email to yorkwrit@yorku.ca.

« [YULibrary News home](#)

Putting Steacie Library on Facebook

In September 2007, I started to plan Steacie Science & Engineering Library's official Facebook group. As a Facebook user who still considered himself fairly young, this sounded like great fun; as a library staff member, however, I found the experience to be more challenging.

I began by surveying other academic libraries' Facebook groups to discover what made them successful. Most of the academic library groups featured library photos and contact information, and were administered by librarians eager to interact with students. The librarians posted public messages, invited students to contribute suggestions and comments, made general announcements about events at their libraries, and initiated discussion topics. But little else happened: most of these groups seemed, despite their membership numbers, to be actively populated largely only by their creators. This was not surprising, as groups on Facebook are not typically used for active discussion; joining groups is a way of fleshing out your virtual identity. For my part, I am a member of the group "I Love Audrey Hepburn!", but I never post to it, or even visit it; it just sits there in my list of groups to say I enjoy her movies. Many other librarians who had launched Facebook groups had received little feedback from students, which made perfect sense to me, since I used Facebook to connect with friends, not to do actual academic work. After all, the main Facebook page refers to it as a "social utility". I went to Facebook recreationally, to take a break from work, and got the impression that most other users did the same.

I concluded that a library's presence on Facebook seemed to be valuable more as a public relations device. Having a Facebook presence demonstrates that we are "going where our students are", that we care about keeping current and being relevant to students. This led me to wonder: if we must go where our students are, then where do we draw the line? Why are we not in World of Warcraft? Or, for that matter, the local pub? There are no right answers here; the best we can do is think about these issues, try things, and see what happens.

A Facebook presence makes libraries more visible and convenient for students to access; and not just more convenient, but more comfortable. Sending an anonymous instant message to a reference librarian and visiting a library's website are both less threatening than walking up to the Reference desk in person. Being on Facebook takes this a step further, because instead of students stepping into our (virtual) space, we are stepping into theirs, putting librarians and students on a more equal footing with each other than in any other environment, which I believe is a good thing.

Cool Tools for Scholars

Social Bookmarking -- keep track of your Internet articles & bookmarks

Del.icio.us

2collab

Connotea

Bibliography Tools -- format your footnotes and bibliographies on the go

RefWorks

Zotero

CiteULike

Landmarks Citation Machine

Collaborative Document Creation & Publishing

-- collaborate on creating word processing & presentation documents

Google Docs

Zoho

Slideshare

Lulu

WriteRoom

Ulteo

Social Networks -- Just like Facebook, but somewhat more serious

LinkedIn

Nature Network

Facebook

Blogs & Blog Communities about Academia

Inside Higher Ed Blog U

The Chronicle Brainstorm

http://scienceblogs.com

Nature Network Blogs & Nature Blogs

RSS & Blog Readers - Help you to keep track of all those wonderful academic blogs!

Google Reader

BlogLines

Netvibes

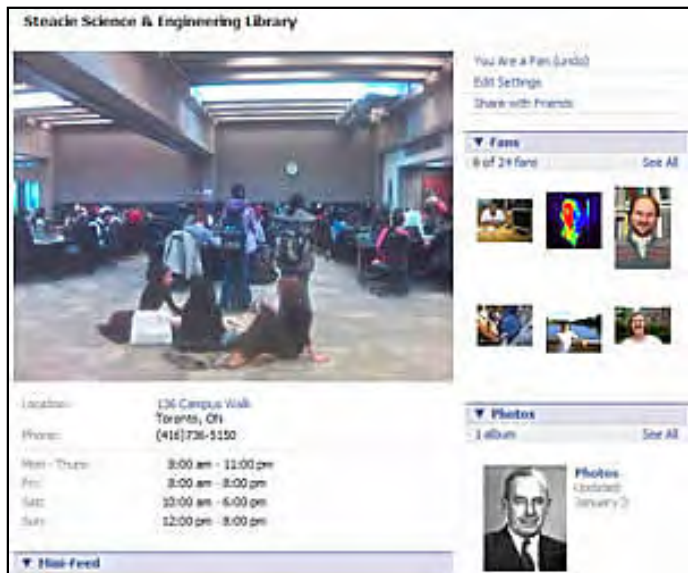
Pageflakes

Other Cool Stuff

Journal of Visualized Experiments

SciVee.tv

Scintilla



Our launch was postponed until January 2008, by which time Facebook had launched Facebook pages, which are like profiles for non-individuals. We decided that a page would be more appropriate than a group, so we created a page, instead. Steacie now has 41 “fans”, which is fairly good, being our early days. You can be one, too: search for “Steacie” on Facebook and you will find us at the top of the list.

-- Ricardo Laskaris, Steacie Reference Assistant

[PostGenomic](#)

Some Academic Wikis -- See how others have used wikis for their research work

[Useful Chemistry](#)

[Information Technology and Politics Wiki](#)

[Database](#)

[Digital Humanities Wiki](#)

[Carleton Confluence](#)

« [YULibrary News home](#)

Online Music Streaming Holdings at YUL

Online music streaming holdings are surpassing in-library collections, but who's counting?

The move to online collections is gathering momentum in the area of sound recordings, with several new subscriptions bringing the total of online music available to the York community to about 27,000 albums, or, if we go by the new method of counting, about 400,000 tracks. These are collections aimed at educational institutions, largely covering traditional areas in music curricula such as classical, jazz and world musics, so you won't find the Rolling Stones or Nirvana (and you won't find the Beatles legitimately available anywhere on the internet, at least until they are licensed). However, there is a wealth of smaller, independent labels, of whose output we do own significant portions in either LP or CD format, but for which now the complete catalogues are available online. All of these collections have interfaces that allow instructors to create playlists or link into the database, a real asset for online teaching modules.

This is what we have:



Smithsonian Global Sound: through this we have another complete run of Folkways records, including PDFs of all of the original hand-typed liner note essays, the 217 LP African Music Library, an ethnographic project from the 1950s documenting folk music of South Africa (we have the original LPs with a very elaborate classification system presented through colour-coded index cards), and access to material collected on the South Asian subcontinent from the Archive Research Centre for Ethnomusicology (ARCE). Also included are the Cook, Dyer-Bennet, Fast Folk, Monitor, and Paredon labels, which include a variety of world, folk, and even sound effects libraries.

New library catalogue features: Permalinks and exporting to RefWorks

Last fall two new features were added to the library catalogue: "permalinks" and an easy way to export citation information to RefWorks.

A permalink (short for "permanent link") is a stable address for something on the web, a URL that will always work. A permalink to a catalogue entry for a book is a link you can use to get directly to that book without reproducing a search. You can send it by email, store it in RefWorks, or put it on a reading list.

Look for the grey "Permanent Link" button at the top or bottom of the page when you're looking at a book in the catalogue. Click on the button and you'll see a URL that you can copy and paste. It will always lead you directly to the book you've found.

Permanent Link

The other new feature is also one of the grey buttons: "Export to RefWorks," the web-based citation manager. (Look on the library home page under Help with Research for help on signing up with and using RefWorks.) You can automatically send all of the citation information about books right into RefWorks.

Export to RefWorks

Use the "mark this record to Print/Capture" checkboxes in search results or on a book's catalogue page to tell the system you want to export the information. Then click on the Export to RefWorks button, and click on it twice more on subsequent pages. That will take you to RefWorks (you may need to log in) and your citation information will be saved.

Permalinks to journal articles are more difficult than permalinks to books, and will be covered in the next issue; until then, look on our web site or ask a librarian!

Naxos Fantasy Jazz Library: we now have the Original Jazz Classics series online, which includes portions, or in some cases complete runs, of the seminal Debut, Prestige, Riverside, Stax, Volt, Specialty, Pablo catalogues. Notable titles: complete Riverside recordings of Thelonious Monk ... Bill Evans ... Wes Montgomery.

DRAM (Database of Recorded American Music): we now have the entire New World Records, which "preserves neglected treasures of the past and nurtures the creative future of American music," Albany Records, CRI, Deep Listening, and the curiously named Mutable Music.



Naxos Music Online: the largest collection, with over 18,000 CDs, representing the entire Naxos, Marco Polo and Da Capo catalogues, not to mention LyricChord and Wergo. There are also a number of somewhat idiosyncratic subcollections of music that no one has ever heard of, but these could be useful for the study of the marginal, or simply as sources of amusement.

HUNGAROTON CLASSIC
HCD11001 BARTOK: A Kékszakállú herceg vára (Bluebeard's Castle)

BELA BARTOK
A Kékszakállú herceg vára (Bluebeard's Castle), BB 62

- 01. Megkértünk - Ime lassad (Here we are now. Now at last you see) (Bluebeard, Judith) 00:30
- 02. Nagy csukott ajtókat látok (Ah, I see seven great shut doorways) (Judith, Bluebeard) 04:21
- 03. Jaj! - Mit látsz? (1. Ajtó) (Woe! What seest thou? (Door 1)) (Judith, Bluebeard) 03:40
- 04. Mit látsz? - Száz kegyetlen szörnyű fegyver (2. Ajtó) (What seest thou? Piles of cruel arms and armour (Door 2)) (Bluebeard, Judith) 03:46
- 05. O be sok kincs! (3. Ajtó) (Mountains of gold (Door 3)) (Judith, Bluebeard) 01:46
- 06. Oh! Virágok! (4. Ajtó) (Ah! Tender flowers! (Door 4)) (Judith, Bluebeard) 03:43
- 07. Nézd, hogy derül már a váram (5. Ajtó) (Look, my castle gleams and brightens (Door 5)) (Bluebeard, Judith) 04:45
- 08. Nem akarom (Two more doors) (Judith, Bluebeard) 01:12
- 09. Csendes fehér társát látok (5. Ajtó) (I can see a sheet of water (Door 5)) (Judith, Bluebeard) 05:09
- 10. Mondd meg nekem, Kékszakállú (Tell me, tell me, dearest Bluebeard) (Judith, Bluebeard) 02:25
- 11. Tudom, tudom, Kékszakállú (Now I know it all oh, Bluebeard!) (Judith)

Classical Music Library: a selection of small classical labels such as Arabesque, CBC, Bridge, Mode, Nimbus, and a smattering of titles from the larger labels such as EMI and Hyperion.

A note on listening: people often complain that listening to music streamed over the internet into their computers with their little "multimedia" speakers is not the same as listening to a CD on a real sound system, but by hooking up your computer to a home stereo system you're able to get what's called "near CD" quality sound, save for a few blips every now and then when the network gets congested or your computer can't handle the processing ... but these problems are bound to iron themselves out.

Digital Image Collections

How many library users are aware that the library is the gateway to many excellent collections of digital images? The Libraries currently make available free of charge to the York community several subscription image databases that provide:

- Access to images that are not available elsewhere
- Advanced and simultaneous searching across a wide range of collections
- Sophisticated software tools that enhance use of the images
- Descriptive metadata and cataloguing for each image
- Images that have been rights-cleared for educational use

Digital image databases available through the libraries' website are: ARTstor, CAMIO (OCLC's Catalog of Art Museum Images Online) and Corbis Images for Education: Historical Collection.

What is [ARTstor](#)?

- A digital library of images, their associated information, and software tools designed to enhance teaching, learning, and scholarship
- Contains approximately 400,000 images from a wide range of cultures and time periods, including images of architecture, painting, prints, drawings, sculpture, decorative arts, design, archaeological and anthropological objects
- Terms and conditions of use allow: searching and browsing across all of ARTstor collections, using images and text online, creation of portfolios of images, and making use of content in ARTstor for presentations and lectures, course reserves, classroom handouts, student presentations and papers, and research projects.

What can you do with ARTstor?

- Browse content by collections, classification, or geography
- Search content by keyword or advanced search
- Sort search results by date, creator or title
- View images and image data
- Zoom in on and pan images for greater detail
- Print and save images and related data to other hardware (e.g. CD, memory stick, hard drive)
- Create groups of images for later retrieval and presentation
- Organize image groups into shared folders
- Direct other ARTstor users to images or image groups
- Upload personal images and sound files to the ARTstor platform
- Export images and image groups to ARTstor's Offline Image Viewer (OIV) presentation tool
- Save citations for images or image groups, and email or print these, as well as export them directly into RefWorks or a text file

There are currently three levels of access in ARTstor:

- Unregistered user: search and browse for images, analyze, save, print data and images, view contents of public shared folders
- Registered user: save image groups, add personal notes, register to view contents of

Finding Digital Images on the Internet

It has often been argued that the Internet is a visual medium, but the real visual potential of the Web is only just starting to emerge.

Many of us are familiar with search digital image search engines like [Google Images](#) or [Yahoo Images](#). These are powerful tools that find images mostly by searching text adjacent to images on the Web.

If it's photography you are looking for you may also want to try [Flickr](#). Flickr is a free website photographers use to share and organize their photographs. In November 2007 Flickr surpassed 2 billion photos and it is used by amateurs and professionals alike. Contributors organize their pictures and form communities of users with shared visual interests using group pools and keywords as tags.

In some ways Flickr is better at searching visual content because Flickr users describe photographic content with tags. The real frontier of image searching is now "Content Based Image Retrieval (CBIR)" which attempts to search images using visual characteristics like colour or shape rather than descriptive phrases. These tools are still experimental but you can try them out at sites like [Retrievr](#) or [Colr](#).

In December 2007 the York University Libraries offered a workshop entitled "Picturing the Web". Check the [Research Frontier Series](#) listings for more workshops on cutting edge technologies.

-- Mark Robertson, Librarian, Reference

- password-protected shared folders, download the Offline image viewer
- Instructor privileges: create shared folders, add instructor commentary, create personal collection

What is [CAMIO](#)?

- Provides high-quality art images for works of art from around the world contributed and described by leading museums
- Ranging from 3000 BC to the present, the content includes about 95,000 works of art – photographs, paintings, sculpture, jewellery and costumes, textiles and architecture – plus audio, video and media
- Difficult to find contemporary art is one of its strengths
- All content is rights-cleared for educational use

What can you do with CAMIO?

- Browse content by contributing museum or work type
- Search content by keyword or advanced search
- Sort search results
- View images and image data
- Zoom in on and pan images for greater detail
- View compound objects
- Save and publish images for course lectures, posting to web sites, or emailing

What is the [Corbis Images for Education: Historical Collection](#)?

- Provides access to over 400,000 of Corbis' most popular historical, fine art, nature and science images
- Makes available many of history's most famous photographs
- Images have been rights-cleared for learning-related applications

What can you do with Corbis Images for Education: Historical Collection?

- Browse content in the following galleries: Iconic images, Art, Biography, Science, Heritage, Arts & Entertainment, History, World at War
- Search content by keyword or advanced search which allows searching by photographer, date, location or descriptors
- Download images for non-commercial and educational purposes

To access these digital image collections simply use **Find eResources by title** on the [Libraries website](#). For specific details regarding use, see terms and conditions for each individual databank. For more on search tools and techniques for online digital images, see sidebar at right..

-- Mary Kandiuk, Librarian, Reference

Profile: Gladys Fung, Resource Sharing Assistant

Gladys Fung has been a member of the Libraries' Resource Sharing department staff for 18 of her 28 years at York University. Resource Sharing supplements the resources of the York University Libraries by making available research materials from other libraries, organizations and document delivery services to York faculty, students and staff. Here, she tells us about her work.

YUL News: *What are your responsibilities as a Resource Sharing Assistant, and how do you contribute to the Resource Sharing department's activities?*

GF: My job is to support the academic research needs of York faculty and graduate students, as the primary users of interlibrary loan services, by locating and requesting research materials from libraries around the world as quickly and efficiently as possible. My particular focus is on the borrowing of requested materials. The Libraries borrow books, newspapers, journals, theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, archival papers, manuscripts, microfiche etc. from libraries worldwide. All interlibrary loan requests by York patrons are routed through RACER (see sidebar).

YUL News: *Take us through your typical day in Resource Sharing. How do you assist York's faculty with their research and teaching needs?*

GF: I work in an open office area with a small group of colleagues, dealing with patrons at the counter, on the phone or email, and discussing borrowing aspects of requests as necessary. I also provide information assistance daily at the Info Desk on the second floor of Scott.

When a faculty member or graduate student makes an online request for materials through interlibrary loan via RACER, I review it for completeness, noting any special instructions or deadlines specified by the requester. I also deal with special requests e.g. manuscripts, some of which can be difficult to obtain.

I check first to see if the material is in the York system. If we don't have it, I check other sources – print, online databases, individual library catalogues and online bibliographic utilities (OCLC, Amicus). If the standard verification/location resources are exhausted I can send a "blind" request to a supplier if I have some sense of where it might be located, based on their other holdings.

Throughout the day I advise on item availability and available options for interlibrary loan.

YUL News: *What do you like best about your Resource Sharing work?*

Expressions of Appreciation

"I had to call upon the detective skills of the librarians in Resource Sharing. I put in orders every week and every week the photocopies and books arrived in gratifying numbers....the staff and librarians found everything I needed. They were indefatigable, accurate and fast. I couldn't have done my work, in these two very different areas, without them....I feel very fortunate to have this resource working on my behalf whenever I need it."

-- J. N., Associate Professor

"I owe a great debt to [staff] at Scott Library who helped me procure the sources, as they have done so now for many years. They are... Gladys Fung...Without them, those library books or articles from Princeton, Berkeley, or Göttingen would never have arrived."

-- M.K., Distinguished Research Professor

"We express our gratitude to...Gladys Fung for her patience and ingenuity in tracking down difficult-to-find materials through interlibrary loan."

--S.E., retired faculty

RACER - Rapid Access to Collections by Electronic Requesting – is the Ontario universities' interlibrary loan management system that allows registered users to search for items in all Canadian university libraries (as well as some major US research collections) using a single search interface, and to conveniently place borrowing requests for items not found in the York University Libraries' catalogue. Even if a title cannot be located in the RACER catalogues, users can submit a request in RACER using the Blank Request Form.

To use RACER, York faculty, staff and students must pre-register (two steps: York University Library authentication and RACER end user registration).

To begin the registration process, click on the "End User Registration Form for First Time



Gladys at her desk

GF: The best part of this job is that it's detective work. For some of the tougher requests, I clarify users' requirements, analyze problems and think creatively to locate the requested materials. Before computers, we consulted many print sources to find requested items. Now, with online resources, it's both easier and more difficult; easier because more resources are available and accessible; more difficult because our patrons know about, and ask for, many more materials, and we search through many more resources on a daily basis. I enjoy a happy and encouraging work environment here and am able to maintain a healthy work/life balance.

Users" on the [RACER Interlibrary Loan](#) page. From here, users can also [Search RACER and submit Requests](#), access [Instructions for submitting Requests](#), and consult a list of [RACER Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#).

YUL News: *What's your biggest challenge in the work?*

GF: The electronic world has changed what we do so much. Expectations for turnaround time are higher now. Though we try, it isn't always possible to obtain materials quite as quickly as people expect them. But a user's appreciation when you are able to fill their request is worth more than anything (see sidebar, above).

YUL News: *Do you have any interesting stories about providing resource sharing services?*

GF: Yes! Some years ago, we requested a foreign dissertation that had to be purchased for us. The item finally arrived – but four years after the student who requested it had graduated! Another time, we ordered hundreds of microfilms; the box was stopped at the border and searched. When we received it, all the films had been unwound from their reels and mixed up together. What a job putting all that back in order!

YUL News: *What's the furthest or most "exotic" library an item has ever had to come from?*

GF: Two items: one was a map we were able to obtain from Iran, and the other was a doctoral thesis from an African library, the only such item that I've seen in 18 years.

YUL News: *What are your interests outside work?*

GF: I'm an active fitness participant (on my lunch hour you'll find me at one of the York fitness centres), and have been an avid tennis player for the past 25 years. Another passion is travelling – I've been to Europe, Japan, Taiwan, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and there are a lot of places I still want to visit. I enjoy the food, the people and their culture.



Peter F. Bronfman Business Library Celebrates its Millionth Visitor

On September 5, 2007, the Peter F. Bronfman Business Library received its millionth visitor. This “history,” as it happened, was made by student Ian Milligan, in his first year of the Ph.D. Program in History, and on his first visit to the Bronfman Library, where he came to find some business books for his history research — a lively illustration of the interdisciplinarity of York University. Elizabeth Watson, Head of the Bronfman Library, presented Mr. Milligan with Seymour Schulich’s best-selling new book, *Get Smarter: Life and Business Lessons for the 20-to-40-Year-Old* (Key Porter Books, 2007).

Cynthia Archer, University Librarian, remarked that “when the Bronfman Library was opened it set a new benchmark for library buildings. The design is graceful and beautiful while meeting the many varied needs of students at York; group study, wired study, silent study, connections to collections around the globe, and great staff. I extend my congratulations to Ian for his good fortune in being the one-millionth person to use this wonderful resource. He is now part of the York University Library family and we formally invite him to join us at our holiday reception in December.”



David Clink, Circulation Coordinator, and Elizabeth Watson, Head, with Ph.D. History student Ian Milligan



The Peter F. Bronfman Business Library, which opened in September 2004, is located in the Seymour Schulich Building and supports York’s business programs, including those of the Schulich School of Business. The library is named in honour of Peter F. Bronfman, the great Canadian industrialist who died in 1996.

The home page of the Peter F. Bronfman Business Library is: <http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/BG/index.htm>.

The home page of York University Libraries is: <http://www.library.yorku.ca>.

Archives Storage Space Protects Collections for Future Generations

Did you know? York's Clara Thomas Archives, one of Canada's finest university archival collections, now has an updated 10,000 square foot storage facility in the basement of Central Square to house its growing collections. Acquiring and preparing this storage space has been a long process, planning for which began as far back as 2004. The acquisition was motivated primarily by the fact that archival document storage was nearing capacity in the Scott Library and additional space was needed if there was to be growth in acquisitions. As well, for the long-term preservation of York's valuable archival collections, the space had to be built with advanced environmental controls. Work on the "new" space began in 2005 and continued through most of 2006, with the Archives moving their collections shortly thereafter. Because this facility is not open to the public, we asked University Archivist Michael Moir to show us around and let us take some photos.



So what's new in this storage space? Take a tour:

The boxy, open space has mobile shelving installed to provide greater and more intensive use of space than was available in the old Scott archival storage rooms.



The facility allows several efficiencies in document processing. It contains a staging area for materials being processed, so that Archives staff have direct access to the materials arriving on skids and in boxes and may more easily identify and process them. University Archivist Michael Moir observes: "Prior to relocation we had to move records between the Library's first floor, where the boxes were stored, and the third floor Archives vault for processing, which was not very efficient."

The space has improved climate controls for long term preservation of important and often unique documents, as well as a fire suppression system. To safeguard the collections, the room is kept at constant cool temperature, low humidity, and positive air pressure. The walls are painted white to minimize the need for harsh lighting and the paint and floor sealant used were special low-emission varieties. For security, the room is alarmed with motion detectors monitored on a 24 hour basis.

Facts and figures

The storage space contains archival material in many media within York's traditional collecting areas of Canadian history, the fine arts, Canadian literature, women's studies and the multicultural imagination. Examples include 1 ¼ million photos, prints and negatives from the Toronto Telegram, the correspondence of author Margaret Laurence, audio and video tapes of the Mariposa Folk Festival, films of the Rhombus Media group, and a collection of records around Desh Pardesh, the arts festival organized by a South Asian visual arts collective. The whole Clara Thomas archival collection currently stretches along almost 5,000 linear meters of shelving, of which about 800 linear meters are York University records.

What benefits accrue to York's faculty, students and staff?

The goal of keeping the University's expanding archival holdings on campus for easier and more efficient access by researchers argued for expansion on campus rather than moving to an external facility.

Michael Moir notes that "the space supports growth in our acquisition activities, which are occurring at a rate of 2 or 3 times more on an annual basis than we were doing previously. Had we not acquired the additional space, we would have been facing a situation where we could have no longer acquired additional records, for example, the Mariposa records which represent approximately 100 linear meters of material.

The increased space allows faculty and graduate students, when working with organizations or individuals that have papers still in the private domain, to enter into a dialogue with Archives to bring significant items into an environment where they can ensure preservation and allow subsequent research. The relocation also supports the Libraries' efforts to allocate more student space in Scott Library.

What's the third floor space being used for?

Researchers will continue to use the comfortable and "groovy" Archives reading room on the third floor of Scott Library (yes, those are indeed real [Eero Saarinen](#) tulip chairs), where Archives staff are able to provide secure access to unique and irreplaceable documents. Researchers are often asked to don soft white gloves when handling photographs and fragile documents.



The third floor storage areas are being focused on special collections of rare published material acquired by Archives since the 1960s. Michael Moir applauds University Librarian Cynthia Archer's support for developing special collections with a Canadian/ North American focus.

Examples of current Canadian-related holdings range from a 16th century map of the Americas, to limited-edition books by small Canadian publishers. Other very special items include a 15th century *Book of Hours* and fine examples of the art of bookmaking during the early 20th century.

What's in store for future archival collections?

Michael Moir is thinking ahead to what York's faculty and students will need over the next few decades. "With the generational change in university faculty, there is an emergence of new areas of research. It's incumbent upon the Archives to develop research collections that support not only existing areas of faculty and student research needs, but also areas of new knowledge which will represent future needs."

He cautions, however, that at the current rate of archival acquisition, yet more storage space built to archival standards will need to be developed before too many years.



"Who's New" at the York University Libraries

Scott Reference Librarian

Norda Bell Majekodunmi has accepted a continuing appointment as Reference Librarian in the Scott Library Reference Department. Not a newcomer to York, she first joined the Libraries in 2004 on a contractually limited basis. Norda has collection/liaison responsibility for the School of Social Work, and continues to liaise with the Department of History until Librarian Tom Scott returns from sabbatical in March.

Executive Officer

Glenn Cumming has joined the Libraries as Executive Officer. He comes to us from the Osgoode Professional Development Program where he was Associate Director, Finance and Administration. Glenn's earlier work experience includes positions in the aerospace industry, Ontario Hydro, Shell Canada and theBank of Nova Scotia.

