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noteworthy

news from the university of toronto libraries

Fall 2018



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Cover image: Dust jacket from the yellowback edition of *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797–1851). Published by G. Routledge and Sons, London. 1882. Part of the De Monstris exhibition. Details on page 15. Above: Library Book Room volunteers receive their Arbor Awards. Story on page 6.

WELCOME TO THE FALL 2018 issue of *Noteworthy*. Recently I travelled to China to visit a university library and deliver a speech. I have had occasion previously to tour the libraries of Chinese academic institutions, and this time I was struck by the growth and change since my last visit. Not surprisingly, my Chinese colleagues, like other librarians around the world, are experiencing rapid evolution.

In my talk titled *Whither Libraries: Will They Wither or Thrive*, I explored the profound metamorphosis of libraries around world and expanded upon Harvard University Librarian Robert Darnton's four stages of information. Darnton identifies these as the advent of writing; of the codex; of the printing press; and of the current digital information



age, with the emergence of the internet. Yet, no sooner had we arrived in the fourth age, than a fifth age emerged: the age of artificial intelligence (AI).

We are now moving towards a potential future where we relinquish most of the direct consumption of information, and have AI summarize, interpret, and even use information to make decisions for us. This age can either be intimidating or hopeful, depending on how we see it. I believe AI provides enormous opportunity for libraries—and for human kind.

With the addition of the 1481 Caxton Cicero, U of T Libraries' collection has surpassed 15 million volumes. Our data centres have expanded to more than 550 servers housing more than 1.5 petabytes (one million gigabytes) of data. It has become increasingly difficult to sift through all this information, and now libraries face

a daunting task. Artificial intelligence, guided by expert librarians and archivists, may be part of the solution.

Recently, Neil Romanosky, Associate Chief Librarian for Science Research & Information, convened a UTL AI Interest Group to explore what the AI era will mean for our libraries. The possibilities are endless. For example, AI may elevate the effectiveness of libraries to assist researchers with more complex projects, and publish that same research with AI-assisted crowd-sourced review. In essence, libraries can become full research partners.

With that said, we are still barely in the fourth age of information. Our users continue to rely upon the analog versions of data packets we call books and the physical spaces that house them. Staying ahead of the curve is important at U of T Libraries. The Gerstein Science Information Centre, which Romanosky heads, is no stranger to this.

The Gerstein library recently celebrated its first year in the Gerstein + MADLab foray into virtual reality (VR). The library is assisting cross-disciplinary researchers applying VR to their field by providing the latest tools and sharing expertise in their test lab. With the help of donors, the U of T Libraries can continue to expand upon these and other exciting paths.

Thank you for your interest in the University of Toronto Libraries. I look forward to your continued partnership with us, as we adapt to this age and journey to the next. I hope you enjoy this issue of *Noteworthy*.

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COLLECTIONS



Fifteen Million and Counting: the 1481 Caxton Cicero

AFTER MONTHS OF ANTICIPATION, staff and donors gathered at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library on April 23, UN World Book Day. P.J. Carefoote, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, presented one of the most important acquisitions in the library's history, the 1481 Caxton Cicero.

The Fisher Library has long been recognized as one of the foremost repositories for the English cultural and linguistic heritage of Canada. Its collections cover a broad spectrum of materials from the great Shakespeare folios of the seventeenth century to the reflective realism and humour of Austen, the Brontës, and Dickens in the nineteenth. Joyce, Yeats, and Lawrence share precious space with

Canadians Montgomery, Callaghan, Cohen and Atwood.

The one piece missing from the incredible jigsaw of English literature was an incunabulum, a work printed before the sixteenth century. Now, thanks to the generous support of donors led by the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, a work of the first English printer, William Caxton (ca. 1422–1491), anchors the library's English language collection. This volume, one of the only thirteen complete copies known in existence, is believed to be the oldest English language printed book in Canada, and a stunning example of fifteenth-century typography.

In 1481, Caxton printed the first English translation of Cicero's *De senectute* (On Old Age) and *De amicitia* (On Friendship) which,

combined with Giovane Buonaccorso da Montemagno's essay *De vera nobilitate* (On True Nobility), form the volume acquired by the library. Over the course of his career, Caxton is believed to have printed more than one hundred works, and is credited with having made an important contribution towards the standardization of the English language. To mark the importance of the acquisition, the 1481 Caxton Cicero has been designated as the University of Toronto Libraries' fifteen-millionth volume. As the oldest printed book in English in Canada, this news garnered national media attention.

Above, left to right: Chief Librarian Larry Alford; P.J. Carefoote; F. Michael Walsh, Chair, Friends of Fisher Steering Committee; Virginia Walsh; and University Archivist Loryl MacDonald.

CELEBRATE



meet our

GENEROUS DONORS

and

**DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS**

and

**RESEARCH-SAVVY
STUDENTS**

DEDICATION OF THE PHI KAPPA PI, SIGMA PI READING ROOM

As Hugh Anson-Cartwright and his brother Ronald Anson-Cartwright toured Robarts Library's second floor reading room, they were reminded that the room is a quiet zone. Although they were visiting in the summer, the wood-panelled study space was filled with students. Once outside, Ronald jested "So many rules! At Phi Kappa Pi, we only had one rule," and with a smile added, "There are no rules! We have a bagpiper today." Fifteen minutes later, a gentleman in a proud red kilt settled in the audience, bagpipe in hand.

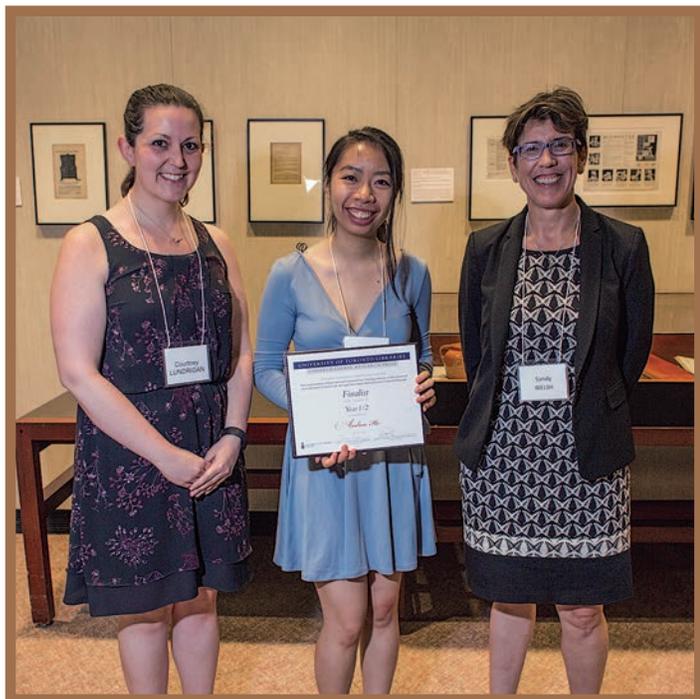
On August 23, members of the Phi Kappa Pi Buildings Limited and former fraternity brothers were welcomed by the University of Toronto Libraries to celebrate a generous donation to establish an endowment for the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Larry Alford, Chief Librarian, hosted the occasion to dedicate one of the most well-used study spaces on the campus as the Phi Kappa Pi, Sigma Pi Reading Room in honour of the gift. Hugh provided remarks on behalf of his brothers, and the Honourable Robert S. Montgomery, the most senior member of the fraternity, helped unveil the dedication plaque. Finally, the celebratory notes of a bagpiper filled the cavernous second floor portico to the delight of friends, family, and the fraternity, marking the end of the dedication ceremony.

The Fisher Library hosted a reception in its exhibition hall which is very familiar to Hugh Anson-Cartwright. An antiquarian book-seller, he proposed to his fellow directors of Phi Kappa Pi Buildings Limited that the company establish a fund to support the Fisher Library. As a member of the Friends of the Fisher, Anson-Cartwright understands the important role the library plays in preserving history and making it accessible to the community—at the University of Toronto and beyond.



Left: Piper Rory Sinclair welcomes guests. Above: University of Toronto counsel, Tad Brown, with Hugh Anson-Cartwright and Ronald Anson-Cartwright.

CELEBRATE



INFORMATION-SAVVY STUDENTS WIN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PRIZES

On May 31, the University of Toronto Libraries awarded six Undergraduate Research Prizes to students who showcased their effective and innovative use of information sources. In these information-saturated times, the competition encouraged students to search for and verify information effectively.

The award judging panel evaluated each submission based on where the student sought information, what resources were used, and how they chose the information sources incorporated in their submissions. All submissions were from U of T coursework from the spring 2017 to winter 2018 terms.

These invaluable research skills are required for scholarship excellence at the University of Toronto, and demonstrated the winners' understanding of what it means to be information literate in the twenty-first century. The University of

Toronto Libraries congratulates all 2018 Undergraduate Research Prize recipients: Evelyn Hayes, third year Arts & Science student, Woodsworth College; Andrea Ho, second year Arts & Science student, Trinity College; Katya Smirnova, third year Kinesiology & Physical Education student; Jaya Thirugnanasampanthan, third year Arts & Science student, Victoria College; An Li Tsang, second year Arts & Science student, University College; and Kelsey Wiseman, a fourth year Arts & Science student, Trinity College.



ROBERTS LIBRARY BOOK ROOM VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AN ARBOR AWARD

Every Tuesday morning, rolling wheels rumble as book trucks fan out in Roberts Library. Crowds mill about and the chatting of book lovers blends with the buzz in the building as browsers and study-weary students cross paths. The book sale is back.

For twelve years, dedicated volunteers sorted, appraised and

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stored tens of thousands of books, selling them nearly every week during the fall and winter terms. Through their passion for the word and their love of the library, the Robarts Library Book Room volunteers have raised thousands of dollars in support of the University of Toronto Libraries and reintroduced countless many more readers to their gently used books. This year, the University recognized the volunteers with a 2018 Arbor Award.

On October 15, the University celebrated award recipients at the historic Carlu in downtown Toronto. Founded in 1989, the Arbor Awards recognize volunteers from across the university, and as far away as Singapore, for their selfless desire to give back to the University. On this occasion, the Robarts Library Book Room volunteers stood out as they made their way onto the stage. To the boisterous laughter of the hosts and audience, Ross Petras, the group's leader, handed Chancellor Rose Patten a framed photograph of Wiebe Smythe, the late book room co-founder. As the group settled on-stage between President Meric Gertler and the Chancellor, dedicated student volunteer, Skye Constable, cheered them on. When asked why they volunteer, Petras emphatically said "It's fun! Besides supporting the library we love, there is no better reason for us to come back than enjoying what we do."

Robarts Library Book Room volunteers who received an Arbor Award are Julia Antonoff, Tessa Bishop, Vera Cheng, Rita Hillawi,

Sylvia Lovegren, Margaret Meloche, Ross Petras, Michael Rosenstock, Theresa Ryan, and Josy Visscher. Student volunteer Skye Constable also contributed greatly to the sales.

LAUNCH OF THE CHANCELLORS' CIRCLE OF BENEFACTORS

For more than one hundred and fifty years, the growth of the University of Toronto has been made possible by the patronage of donors. To honour its leading supporters, the University of Toronto has launched the Chancellors' Circle of Benefactors, a recognition society for donors of \$5-million or more. The University of Toronto Libraries can count multiple supporters among this group, including the late Russell Morrison and his wife, Katherine Morrison. Over the years their generous gifts have led the revitalization of Robarts Library and the development of the Robarts Common, which is slated to open in 2020.

Members of the Chancellors' Circle of Benefactors were celebrated on May 22 with the unveiling of a new donor wall in the ground floor rotunda of Simcoe Hall. This was followed by dinner in the Governing Council Chamber, where Professor Martin Friedland, author of *The University of Toronto: A History*, spoke on the history of philanthropy at the University of Toronto.



Cookery, Forgery, Theory and Artistry: All at the Fisher

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES AT THE OPENING OF MIXED MESSAGES

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library celebrated the generous gift of a sizeable collection of cookbooks and related culinary ephemera by Mary Williamson with a major exhibition on Canadian culinary culture, which opened on May 24. Turnout was excellent, and guests at the opening for *Mixed Messages: Making and Shaping Culinary Culture in Canada* were treated to a variety of delicacies, including a strawberry-laden Victoria sponge cake to mark the occasion.

Curated by Nathalie Cooke (McGill), Irina Mihalache (U of T Faculty of

Information), Liz Ridolfo (Fisher Library) and Master of Museum Studies students Sadie MacDonald and Cassandra Curtis, the exhibition used a remarkable collection of culinary material to show the development of culinary culture in Canada as a series of conversations and interactions between different groups, with varying amounts of agency and power over time. Themes like culinary spokespersons, flavours and appropriation, recipe competitions and the history of domestic science were familiar to those who shaped the culture. As well, the curators were quick to note the influence of those not represented directly in the exhibition.

Guests viewed the exhibited books, magazines and pamphlets; listened to oral histories; smelled scent cubes containing different food aromas; and tested mechanical culinary tools like beaters and choppers for themselves.

In their remarks, the curators thanked Ms. Williamson for her generous donation, and acknowledged many other women, some of whom are no longer with us, who generously shared their time and material with the curators and their students to help them create a fuller picture of the experience of participating in this shared culture in the past. The extensive culinary collection remains at the Fisher library as a

COMMUNITY

permanent resource on culinary history and related cultural subjects.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL JOHN SELTZER AND MARK SELTZER MEMORIAL LECTURE

On September 19, with fifteen minutes remaining, Nick Wilding, Professor of History at Georgia State University, asked the audience, “Should I continue or leave time for questions?” “Continue on!” was one reply, with the rest of the crowd murmuring agreement.

Wilding’s talk, entitled ‘Forging the Moon’, told the sensational story of the Galileo forgeries. Unlike the art world where forgery is rampant, it was long thought by dealers, collectors and scholars that forgery of historical books was too challenging to succeed. Wilding debunked that myth as he talked about his experience detecting forgeries of Galileo’s historically important and highly valuable *Sidereus Nuncius*.

As multiple copies came to market during a brief period, a near impossible occurrence for early modern historical books, Professor Wilding became suspicious and started digging. This brought him to a captivating real-life tale of intrigue and theft that reached into the Vatican.



The enterprising forger was Marino Massimo de Caro, former director of the Girolamini Library in Naples. He is suspected to have leveraged modern photopolymer printing to simulate raised-letter printing based on photographed images of various copies of the *Sidereus* available online and in rare book libraries. With forged copies in hand, he would then use his relationships to trade, sell or pilfer authentic books from the shelves of dealers, libraries and even the Vatican. But forgeries inevitably leave a trail.

Telltale signs of this forgery include the way the printing software translated flat,

two-dimensional ink stains left by the messier block-printing process to three-dimensional raised ink. All the forged Galileo copies had this flaw. Books that were verified through provenance research did not.

Legal proceedings related to the forgeries continue to unfold in Italy. Despite the inconclusive ending of the story, Professor Wilding’s talk was enlightening and challenged assumptions about what can be forged and how. It was a fitting kick-off to the 2018–19 Friends of the Fisher Library lecture season.

This annual lecture is generously endowed by Mrs. R. Dorene Seltzer.

MANY MCLUHANS AT THE FISHER LIBRARY

When Andrew McLuhan started cataloguing the library of his late grandfather, media theorist Marshall McLuhan, he found that the effort was not simply administrative. The books and their marginal notes revealed the thought processes of his grandfather, and by extension his own father, Eric McLuhan, the then owner of the McLuhan library.

On September 21, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library hosted *Many McLuhans: A Symposium* to celebrate the addition of Marshall McLuhan’s work to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Co-organized by the McLuhan Centre for



COMMUNITY



Culture and Technology at the Faculty of Information, and supported by Library and Archives Canada, the symposium about the founder of the Toronto School of Communication Theory drew attendees from across North America.

Speakers included Michael McLuhan, Andrew McLuhan's uncle, as well as U of T professors and speakers from other universities, such as keynote speaker John Durham Peters from Yale. Professor Peters challenged the way the audience should think about Marshall McLuhan, noting his work reflects his times. And he argued for the importance of continued preservation and scholarly inquiry.

For Peters, libraries act as buffers of knowledge against oblivion—individual pieces connecting to store memory, the way synapses work in the brain. In the absence of linkages, memories fail and disappear, along with the experiences and lessons they bring. For this reason, through the donor support of Henry and Cathy Rodrigues, it is fitting that Marshall McLuhan's 6000 volume working library now resides at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

Andrew McLuhan estimates that nearly two-thirds of the annotations in the Marshall McLuhan Library did not make it

into published works. With McLuhan's working library residing in the collections of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, students and researchers are now able to discover more about Marshall McLuhan and his theories.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL ALEXANDER C. PATHY LECTURE ON THE BOOK ARTS

For more than twenty-five years, Wesley Bates has been engraving wood for printing. His artwork adorns galleries across Canada and complements stories told by many writers, including renowned poet Wendell Berry. On October 10, he spoke to a near-capacity crowd on the history of wood engraving and how it can change our understanding of books in a talk entitled *The Colour in Black and White*.

When Bates reads, he sees beyond the story. The contrast of dark and light between the words, font style and size, even how the paper reflects light—all these interact with the reader's eye. For Bates, this balance of 'colour' is critically important in creating a comfortable visual experience. This is where his skills come into play.

Traditionally, wood engraving was the de facto method for illustrating books. An artist shaves away at a block of sturdy wood

to create desired images. Bates explained that the wood engraver thinks of the same lines and textures as any other artist but in reverse and carves the wood to create the background instead of the foreground. Unlike text that is coloured black, "the real colour of wood engraving is white." In relief printing, Bates explained, "it is the white that creates the image, and that's why it's the perfect complement to text. Opposites attract."

The Friends of the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library were given the opportunity to experience wood engraving artistry, while browsing an array of Wesley Bates's artwork. And now for many attendees, the next time they flip through a book, sometimes too quickly to read, they will understand what they are looking for. It is the colour of the pages. The colour in black and white.

This annual lecture is generously endowed by Alexander Pathy.

Miss a lecture?

To hear all of our past lectures visit the 'Listen to Lectures' page of the Fisher Library website at <http://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/audio>.

Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library Events

HONG KONG AND THE GOLD MOUNTAIN DREAM

Situated perfectly between the sending and receiving regions of Chinese workers, Hong Kong was a major hub for shipping supplies, as well as receiving monies. It was also a place of transit ultimately for the remains of Chinese nationals, destined for home after their demise in gold mining operations from countries around the world. Many of their grieving relatives never even knew where their family members perished.

Professor Elizabeth Sinn's talk at the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library's second Bernard H. K. Luk Memorial Lecture in Hong Kong Studies, highlighted Hong Kong's influence as an "in-between place" during Chinese migration to various gold mining operations around the world during the latter part of the nineteenth century. The University of Hong Kong professor, and author of *Pacific Crossing: California Gold, Chinese Migration, and the Making of Hong Kong*, shared many valuable insights at the well-attended talk. In her research, Professor Sinn discovered that families often knew their relatives had gone to the "Gold Mountain" (金山) for work, but it was a non-specific term. "Gold Mountain" referred to a variety of places around the world with gold mining operations, including California, Australia and British Columbia. Many families would never know where their loved ones actually found work, or where their lives ended.

The lecture continued the exploration of the heavily storied history of Canada and Hong Kong, and honoured Professor Bernard Luk's work on Hong Kong culture and history. The May 10 event was co-organized by the York Centre for Asian Research and sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto); the Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese



Canadian Studies; and the Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs. For many, including event speaker the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, it is a memory that's not to be forgotten, and is representative of the history the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library strives to preserve and share.

CANTONESE LYRIC COMPOSITION

As winter settles in, Disney's *Frozen* is a sure bet on the kids' rerun list. The blockbuster 2013 release broke global box office records, owing partly to the studio's ability to localize their films. How is something as complex as translation achieved? This past summer, the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library invited Chris Shum Wai Chung, award-winning lyricist, to share his creative process in writing Cantonese lyrics, including the *Frozen* song *Let It Go*.

As part of the Hong Kong Seminar Series, the June 19 presentation on *Lyric Composition for Cantonese Songs and Musicals* explored Cantonese songs and culture. Chung highlighted the role of craftsman-

ship in writing lyrics, requiring familiarity with poetic devices, years of experience and, of course, musical talent.

For the Cantonese version of *Let It Go*, he had to grapple not only with composing meaningful lyrics, but also with following the spirit of the original, while matching an existing melody and pre-determined animations. To achieve this, he wrote a new set of lyrics that captured the moment instead of trying to translate the English original. The theme changed from discovering the inner-self to lamenting the character's restrictions. The title *Let It Go* changed to "冰心鎖", or *Locked Frozen Heart*, representing the heroine's lamentation of being trapped and her final realization of freedom.

Supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto), the lyric composition session was followed by Professor Jessica Tsui-yan Li's discussion of history and trends in Cantonese song and culture. Attendees learned of the significant effort required to write a hit song, even for something as seemingly simple as a children's animated musical.



Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library's Highlights

EMPTINESS: CANADIAN MOUNTAINS IN CHINESE WATER INK PAINTING EXHIBITION

The Canadian wilderness is a muse to many artists—the comforting solitude being the subject of many paint brushes. On Dr. Wang Zhiqiang's canvasses, the Canadian wilderness is the same familiar subject, depicted through a whole new stroke.

On April 4, the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library hosted a ceremony and reception on the official opening of the water-ink painting exhibition, *Emptiness: Canadian Mountains in Chinese Water Ink* by Dr. Wang, a professor at Nanjing Xiaozhuang University and a visiting scholar in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto.

His works reflect a contemporary artistic expression, founded on concepts and values derived from his own traditional cultural heritage, while incorporating both Chinese and western aesthetic visions. A native of

Nanjing, China, Dr. Wang trained at the Department of Fine Arts of Nanjing Normal University.

Julie Hannaford, Deputy Chief Librarian and Professor Andre Schmid, Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, spoke at the event. Accompanied by a live guqin stringed instrument performance, Dr. Wang demonstrated his painting and calligraphy techniques, creating a beautiful image of majestic Canadian mountains.

The exhibition ran until April 25.

KIM THÚY LAUNCHES NEW BOOK

The University of Toronto Libraries supports the work of Canadian authors, and attentively builds our Canadiana collections. Our holdings include drafts, research notes, and correspondence of Canadian authors such as Margaret Atwood, Gwendolyn MacEwen, Leonard Cohen and Lawrence Hill. As part of our interest in building

awareness of this aspect of our collection development efforts, on May 7 the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library helped launch one of this year's most anticipated novels, Kim Thúy's *Vi*.

Kim Thúy was born in Saigon in 1968 and left Vietnam at the age of ten during the boat people migration, settling with her family in Quebec. In her talk, she discussed how her latest novel explores the lives, loves and struggles of Vietnamese refugees as they reinvent themselves in new lands.

Celebrating Asian Canadian heritage, the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library co-sponsored Kim Thúy's talk at the Munk School of Global Affairs. Other University and community partners included the Asian Canadian Writer's Workshop, Vietnamese Canadian Students Association and Penguin Random House Canada.

Above: Dr. Wang Zhiqiang demonstrates his painting technique.

COLLABORATION

Expanding the Possibilities: Working Together



KEEP@DOWNSVIEW RECEIVES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

The Keep@Downsview is the culmination of the collaborative work of more than 40 staff at a host of departments spanning five institutions. The result: a high-density storage and preservation facility located at the University of Toronto's Downsview campus.

Recently, the Ontario Council of University Libraries recognized the project with an Outstanding Contribution Award as an “excellent example of how collaboration can help ensure the preservation of the scholarly record for future generations.”

The partners are U of T, the University of Ottawa, Western University, McMaster University and Queen's University. The Keep@Downsview allows for the long-term preservation and access to more than five million volumes at the new facility with additional flexibility to grow, as the need arises. The project was supported by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Productivity and Innovation Fund as a unique way for universities to cut costs by sharing resources, while maintaining high quality collections for students and researchers.

HEALTHY INDOORS & OUTSIDE: GREEN SPACES & MENTAL WELLNESS TALK & WORKSHOP

There is an increasing focus on the importance of student mental health. Just as the warmer weather approached, the Gerstein Science Information Centre, working as a hub to bring people together to engage on relevant topics, organized a workshop called *Healthy Indoors & Outside: Green Spaces & Mental Wellness* in spring 2018.

U of T Master of Public Health alum Nadha Hassen discussed her research on indicators of high quality green urban spaces to promote health and cultural inclusion. Her talk was followed by a practical workshop by another U of T alum, Emily Kinnon, Learn-to-Camp Coordinator at Rouge National Urban Park, who demonstrated how to fully experience the great natural spaces of Canada.

As a natural meeting place for ideas and community engagement, the library helps bring people together to discuss topics, such as student mental health, and other issues of relevance to the U of T community.

Left: Interior of the high-density storage and preservation facility in Downsview. Right: Emily Kinnon answers questions about camping at Gerstein.

COLLABORATION



BRINGING VIRTUAL WORLDS TO LIFE AT GERSTEIN + MADLAB

When Ontario Institute for Studies in Education PhD candidate Paul Alexander needed to better understand how virtual reality (VR) might improve teaching, he reached out to the one place he knew could help him: the Gerstein + MADLab studio at the Gerstein Science Information Centre.

Fall 2018 marks one year since the Gerstein Science Information Centre and the Mobile Application Development Lab's (MADLab) first foray into the brave new world of VR. The Gerstein + MADLab studio has quickly become a go-to campus hub for VR experimentation—from computer science students trying out VR apps, to a venue for nursing faculty and Faculty of Information graduate students to simulate workshops.

PhD candidate Paul Alexander praises the benefits of this type of studio availability, access, and staff technical expertise, allowing people to explore “what quality VR is like...before potentially committing time and/or money to education, research, or development.” The studio is ideal for testing

different menu types in a virtual learning environment. These experiments informed his research and development of a novel annotation menu for teacher education.

Through a two-tier VR service, U of T students, staff, and faculty can use 3D technology that gives users a sense of being fully immersed in simulated environments. Gerstein's borrowing service also allows users to bring home Google Cardboard headsets to view VR apps and videos on smartphones or a 360-degree camera to create VR videos.

Users who want to take VR to the next level, can use the MADLab's VR studio. This space is equipped with sophisticated equipment like an HTC Vive headset and hand controls that simulate the sense of touch, as well as a powerful computer with VR design and editing software. For PhD candidates like Alexander and countless other researchers breaking the boundaries between tech and our society, the studio is an invaluable resource that helps shape the future role of libraries in our community.

For more about these VR services, visit: <http://uoft.me/virtualreality>.

Above: Paul Alexander in the MADLab's VR studio.

F FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

Let Us Welcome You!

The 'Friends' organization was founded in 1984 to bring together those who are committed to strengthening the Library's outstanding collections and dedicated to encouraging a greater awareness of the Library's resources. We encourage you to join the Friends and support the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Benefits include invitations to lectures and special events, and the Friends' newsletter, *The Halcyon*. Evening lectures are designed to appeal to the interests of the Friends and to highlight the special collections of the Library. Catalogues of exhibitions displayed in the Fisher Library are available upon request.



FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:
<http://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/donations/friends> or call 416-978-3600.

YOUR SUPPORT

Exhibitions & Events



De Monstris: An Exhibition of Monsters and the Wonders of Human Imagination.

17 September–21 December, 2018 • Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

This exhibition features early books and manuscripts on the European culture of writing about monsters and monstrosity.

The 100th Anniversary of Poland's Regained Independence

15 October–20 December, 2018 • Robarts Library, 1st Floor Exhibition Area

Many people are unaware that Poland ceased to exist for 123 years. This display will include posters, materials from the University of Toronto Libraries' collections, and artifacts from individuals who served during World War I.

Nature on the Page: The Print and Manuscript Culture of Victorian Natural History

28 January–26 April, 2019 • Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

This exhibition will showcase both the collecting and manuscript practices of naturalists and how books, in some instances, encased the specimens themselves. A special focus here is women practitioners of natural history—as authors of and contributors to published works, and as artists and collectors.

Celebrating 15 Years of Creative Writing at the University of Toronto

27 March–23 April, 2019 • Robarts Library, 2nd Floor Exhibition Area

The bulk of this exhibit will be books written by graduates of the MA program in English in the Field of Creative Writing, as well as by the mentors and faculty members associated with the program. Their work includes collections of poetry, novels, short fiction, plays, creative nonfiction, and scholarly monographs, with many prize-winning works among them.

Showcase Your Work: U of T Libraries Graduate Student Exhibition Competition

14 January–2 March, 2019 • Robarts Library, 1st Floor Exhibition Area

Displays in this exhibition are based on papers written by the winners of this competition: *Concussions: The 'Impact' of Injury*; *Finding Hama: On the Identification of a Forgotten Queen Buried in the Nimrud Tombs*; and *Applications of Artificial Neural Networks in Health Care Organizational Decision-making*.

On Display: Monthly Highlights

Continuous • Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, 2nd Floor

These mini exhibits feature highlights from the Fisher collections not related to the main exhibition, including recent acquisitions or small curated exhibitions around a theme. Material rotates monthly, so there is always something new to see.

Above: Image from Olaus Magnus (1490–1557). *Historia de gentibus septentrionalibus*. Rome: Giovanni Maria Viotti, 1555.

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