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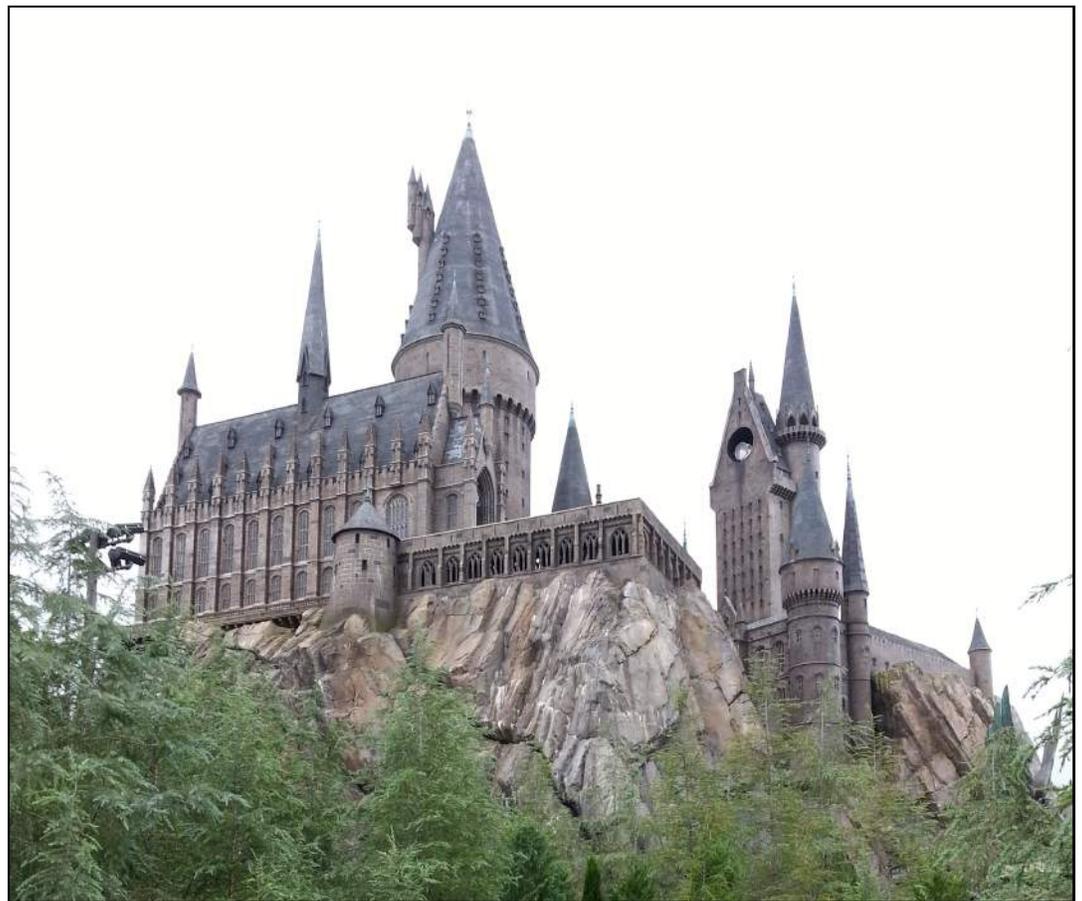


photo courtesy of D. Wessellus

*Can't get away to the 'real' Hogwarts this summer?
Try getting away in your favourite book instead! (Universal Studios, Florida)*

Summer has finally arrived! Time to get away to the lake, go on vacation, or simply enjoy hanging out in the backyard or park.

Where We Work showcases the Children's Hospital Family Libraries.

See the winners of the 2012/2013 MALT Awards.

Check out the Tech Toolbox to find out some of the resources from the CLA Conference.

Geller on Giller. Read Marilee Geller's review of Margaret Atwood's Giller Award winning novel, *Alias Grace*.

We would like to welcome Breanne Mitenko to the MALT Executive. Read her bio on the MALT website or in the Fall Newsletter.

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Message from the MALT President



MALT President Mikaela Oldenkamp

Welcome to the summer newsletter and my first message as your new MALT President!

If we haven't met yet, allow me to introduce myself. I grew up in Winnipeg, Melita, and Souris. I completed a Bachelor of Arts in music at Brandon University. Then I moved back to Winnipeg to attend RRC in the class of 2011. I have been working at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Music Library at the University of Manitoba for nearly two years. These days I'm dabbling in gardening and enjoying being close enough to work that I can bike.

MALT has another great executive this year. Candice (Membership Coordinator) and Lisa (Communications Coordinator) remain with us from last year. Darren and Diana, our 2011-13 RRC student representatives, are now on the board as Newsletter Editor and Treasurer. Breanne is our newest board member as Secretary – we look forward to working with her! A big thank you to last year's executive, especially to Eric, Fatima, Elizabeth and Catherine who have completed their terms (or a few years more!) and deserve a break. I know that we are in good stead with the leadership and guidance that they have provided. The position of Vice President is still open. Please consider submitting your name!

Looking forward, RRC will have a new intake of students in the fall and MALT will welcome two new student representatives. Stay tuned for the MALT Survey this fall and the 2014 Manitoba Libraries Conference next spring. We look forward to working with you and fulfilling our mission to the library community across the province.

On behalf of MALT I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

MALT Executive

President:	Mikaela Oldenkamp
Past President:	Catherine Taylor
Vice President:	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary:	Breanne Mitenko
Treasurer:	Diana Saunders
Communications Coordinator:	Lisa Zvanovec
Membership Coordinator:	Candice Phillips
Newsletter Editor:	Darren Wesselius
RRC Library Technician	<i>Vacant</i>
Program Representatives:	<i>Vacant</i>

We're on the Web!

See us online at:

<http://malt.mb.ca/>

Find us on [Facebook!](#)



Contact us at: malt.mb.ca@gmail.com

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CLA 2013 National Conference and Trade Show Winnipeg, May 29 – June 1

By Mikaela Oldenkamp

I was pleased to take part in the CLA 2013 Conference in Winnipeg as the MALT delegate. Over four days I attended two keynote addresses, ten sessions, one meeting, four social events, and took out one living library “book”.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Cory Doctorow and Rebecca MacKinnon were the opening and closing keynote speakers, respectively. Both were engaging speakers. Cory's take home message was simply this: stop buying books with DRM. Rebecca discussed internet security and the role of government in the internet. The internet can be a tool used for grass roots rights, but it can also be used by the government for surveillance. It is difficult to find a balance between democratic ideals and the need for security.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Library Technician Perceptions on Preparedness in Alberta

Norene James, Curriculum Coordinator, MacEwan University and Katherine Koch, Head, Coutts Library, University of Alberta

Feedback was gathered from recent graduates of MacEwan's library technician program to find out if they were prepared for the workplace and how they are adapting to the workplace. There were many positive statistics: nearly 94% of respondents are employed as a library technician, 80% are in a permanent position (full or part time), and 63% found full time work. The majority of respondents are working in public libraries.

MacEwan grads are finding that they are well-versed in traditional library skills but would like improved skills in children's programming, new technology, budgeting, and technical services skills. These grads are working in welcoming workplaces, but they desire more performance feedback and career development.

At the end of the presentation we were asked, “How do we increase the awareness of the value of hiring a library technician?” What do you think?



What's Going on in Manitoba School Libraries?

Vivianne Fogarty, Teacher Librarian, Pembina Trails School Division and Jo-Anne Gibson, Teacher Librarian, Acadia Junior High and Joyce Riddell, Teacher Librarian, St. John's Ravenscourt and MSLA

I was surprised to learn how varied the library staffing plans are across Manitoba school divisions. Some Winnipeg school divisions use enrollment formulas to determine teacher librarian and library technician positions. Some Winnipeg school divisions only hire library technicians. Others decide on a school by school basis. Most rural and northern divisions have library technicians, clerks or volunteers.

The Manitoba School Library Association is a Special Area Group of Educators (SAGE) under the Manitoba Teacher's Society (MTS). MTS requires that SAGE groups have 60% teacher membership. MSLA has about 140 members but it is hard to get 60% teachers – and they don't want to alienate school library technicians.

The presenters spoke about what they would like to see for all Manitoba school libraries:

Libraries Consultant at Manitoba Education

A new learning document

Consistent staffing province-wide

Same access to resources for every student no matter where they live

Full time, open libraries

Beyond Bars: The Library's Role in Reintegrating Former Inmates Back into the Community

Jenice Batiforra, Librarian, Manitoba Library Association and Kirsten Wurmman, Librarian, Manitoba Library Association and Kim Parry, Librarian, Manitoba Library Association

You may have seen an ad in the previous MALT newsletter to volunteer for the Manitoba Library Association Prison Library Committee. At this session I learned about what this committee is currently doing in the community and would like to do in the future. The committee has been involved with the Winnipeg Remand Centre and Women's Correctional Centre. They have partnered with the Elizabeth Fry and John Howard Societies. Once a week the committee and volunteers offer an open library at the Remand Centre. They would



Where We Work Children's Hospital Family Libraries

by Catherine Taylor, Theresa Szkwarek
& Kate McKee

Coming to the hospital can be daunting for anyone, let alone a child who may not understand what's happening. The Child Life Department at Children's Hospital strives to help alleviate the stress and anxiety of hospitalization on children and their families through preparing the children for medical procedures, normalizing the environment and allowing children lots of opportunities to play. They also offer a closed-circuit television station, a Humour Program with clowns Hubert and Onri, Music Therapy, pet visits, and Manitoba's TLC (Teens Living with Cancer) support group.

Since 1988, library services have been part of this team of caring individuals who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of sick children and their families.



The Family Information Library:

The Family
Information
Library (FIL) is
resource for

pediatric patients and their families, medical and allied health staff, and the community-at-large. FIL provides books, pamphlets and DVDs with child health information that is up-to-date, accurate and suitable for the layperson. We also have a fax machine, photocopier, scanner, printer and two computers with Internet access for families to use.

We support the staff at Children's Hospital by acting as the distribution centre for pamphlets and patient education materials, and by providing literature searches and document delivery. FIL participated in the Autism Society of Manitoba conference in 2012. A poster presentation called Reading to Heal: Books to Help Children and Teens through Grief and Loss was presented at the Annual Hospital and Palliative Manitoba Conference in September 2012 and at the Pediatric Health Care Conference in April 2013.

The Children's Book Corner Library:

The Book Corner (BC) provides children and teens in hospital with books, DVDs and magazines. This gives the patients choice, diversion, and entertainment. We provide one-on-one

Storytimes and our dedicated volunteers take Book and DVD carts to patients on the wards. We also produce a quarterly newsletter called Trunkslime, featuring our mascot Trunks the Elephant, which is full of games, trivia and colouring pages.

Family-Centred Care:

The libraries at the Children's Hospital play a role in the hospital mandate to provide family-centred care. The FIL accomplishes this by enabling families to become better-informed members of the health care team so they can participate more fully in the care of their children. In order for this to happen in the most complete way, parents and caregivers need to be educated about their children's health. FIL provides child health information suitable for the layperson in a non-threatening environment. This also helps to open the lines of communication between the family and health care provider. When patients and their families are active participants in the health care process, outcomes can improve.

The Book Corner provides patients with the normalizing option of choosing age appropriate reading material and DVDs, and providing reading-related activities for recreation, stimulation, humour and diversion during the stressful time of hospitalization. BC also supports the Hospital Schoolroom by providing developmentally appropriate materials for the school curriculum while patients are in hospital.

Volunteers:

The BC circulated more than 9,000 books, DVDs and magazines in 2012, which is a record number! An important reason for this is the support we receive from our dependable volunteers. Library volunteers provide patients and families with access to our resources through the book and DVD cart services to patients on the wards. They also assist library staff with cleaning and shelving books, processing items for cataloguing, putting together patient information packages and keeping track of lost or missing items. We currently have three volunteers working in FIL and fourteen in BC. They are an integral part of the services the library provides.

Funding:

We receive core funding from Children's Hospital Foundation and are very lucky to have received major donations from St. John's Ravenscourt, Children of the Earth School, Winnipeg Free Press, Scholastic, and various other community and corporate donors.

We Love the Children's Hospital Family Libraries!

The libraries are staffed by two part-time Library Technicians, Kate and Theresa, and a full-time Library Coordinator, Catherine, who is currently filling in for Emma Robin during her maternity leave. We love working here! No two days are ever alike, the job is diverse



MALT Awards for 2012/2013

Library Technician of the Year

Recipient: Teresa Armstrong, Brooklands & Stephenson School Libraries

Nominated by: Kim Johnston-Rempel



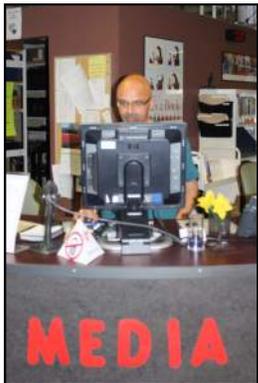
Teresa is an integral part of the life Brooklands and Stephenson Schools. In the library, she has raised funds, redesigned and renovated the physical space, created stunning bulletin board displays, and actively promoted a love of reading to students and staff alike.

But Teresa's influence at her schools extends far outside the library. Within the school, she has coached gymnastics and soccer, started a monthly soup club, run a composting program, and hosted baby showers for new moms in the building. Teresa has also provided an opportunity for family members to be involved by facilitating a Grandparents Reading Circle. Finally, within the library community, she has sat on school-based and divisional literacy committees.

Library Support Worker of the Year

Recipient: Bruce Locken, Red River College

Nominated by: Howard R. Engel



We were pleased to present Bruce with this award in recognition of his excellence in customer service, efficiency, cheerfulness and great sense of humour. Over his 25-year career at RRC, Bruce has worked hard to develop excellent relationships with faculty and staff, who have come to rely on him for their media bookings and his trouble shooting expertise.

Bruce is also well known for his charitable efforts. He annually dons his daffodil hat and vest to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society during their Daffodil Days campaign, and he coordinates one or more Christmas Cheer Board hampers.

It was clear from Howard's nomination letter, and by the number of staff and friends who attended the awards ceremony, that Bruce's hard work and positive attitude are truly appreciated!

Rising Star

Recipient: Tara Watt, Marion & Dr. D.W. Penner School Libraries

Nominated by: Christine Lussier, Ross Cathers and Ken Bartel



One look at Tara's amazing displays and you'll understand why she was nominated for this award. Her creativity clearly plays a big part in her success, not only in designing imaginative displays and organizing interactive events, but also by managing

to do all of it on a small budget and with limited resources. She has rejuvenated the library and made it the place to be.

Tara has also been an active part of the Professional Learning Network for small school library assistants, where she collaborates with colleagues and shares ideas. Since graduating from RRC in 2009, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the students and staff at her schools, and has shown true leadership in the profession.



Congratulations to the RRC Library & Information Technology winners!

Library and Information Technology (Diploma) Gold Medalist - **Miranda Forrest**

Library and Information Technology Endowment Award - **Jennifer Borgfjord McLeod**

Betty Andrich Memorial 2nd Year Awards - **Diana Saunders / Darren Wesselius**

Betty Andrich Memorial Exit Award - **Diana Saunders**

Manitoba Library Association Award - **Amanda Gajausky**

PAR Excellence E. Q. Award - **Ebony Novakowski**





Tech Toolbox

CLA Conference Links

by Mikaela Oldenkamp

Have a mini-conference at your desk by exploring these resources about presenters and topics from the 2013 CLA National Conference and Tradeshow.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The [Conference website](#) has slideshows and documents from the sessions as provided by the presenters.

[Search](#) #clawpg13 to see tweets from conference attendees.

Anybody can become a member of the Library Technicians and Assistants Network whether or not they are CLA members. Contact the CLA office at membership@cla.ca to join the network.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Read about [Cory Doctorow](#). He is also co-editor of [this blog](#).

Rebecca MacKinnon is the author of [Consent of the Networked](#). Watch her [TED talk](#) to get an idea of her keynote address.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

The Manitoba Library Association Prison Library Committee would like CLA to have a statement like the [ALA Prisoner's Right to Read](#).

Check out [IX Maps](#) to see the route data packets take. It's often through the US – even from one Canadian website to another.

See how the dominance of social networks has changed at the [world map of social networks](#). As Rebecca MacKinnon pointed out, Facebook has the third highest “population” after China and India.

Robert K. Logan, who collaborated with Marshall McLuhan, proposed a new type of book in [this paper](#).

This [indigenous studies research tool](#) links to electronic resources.

The [Continuing Education Certificate](#) program lets you track your professional development and receive a certificate for your achievements. This program is run by the Partnership (of provincial library associations).

This [Bookfinder application](#) won the CLA/OCLC Award for Innovative Technology. Ryerson University library patrons searching for items can see exactly where they are in the stacks.



MALT is partnering with MSLA for the SAGE conference this year!

This year's conference is called Connecting Through Literacy and will be held on Friday, October 25th, 2013. It is a joint conference, with sessions being held at both St. Paul's High School (2200 Grant Ave.) and Shaftesbury High School (2240 Grant Ave.) Registration is open now and includes a 1 year personal membership to MALT! Presenters include Kathy Schrock and Dean Shareski from Discovery Education, authors Anita Daher and Colleen Nelson, and many more! This is a great PD opportunity for school library technicians!

For schedule, session information, and registration, visit: <http://www.connectingthroughliteracy.ca>



Book Talk

Alias Grace

by Margaret Atwood

review by Marilee Geller

Margaret Atwood is one of Canada's best known writers. Her novels range from speculative fiction to historical fiction to contemporary fiction. The one thing they have in common is the beauty of the writing. Perhaps because she is also a poet, her prose contains beautiful language and has a wonderful sense of rhythm and flow.

Alias Grace is a historical novel. It is based on an actual murder that took place in Upper Canada (Ontario) in 1843. Thomas Kinnear and his pregnant housekeeper and mistress, Nancy Montgomery, were murdered and found in the basement of his farmhouse. His other servants Grace Marks and James McDermott were tried and convicted for the crime. McDermott was hanged. Grace Marks was also sentenced to be hanged, but at the last minute was given a life sentence instead (partly based on the fact that she was only 16 years old). After spending thirty years in prison, Grace was pardoned and never heard of again. It was believed that she had gone to New York State.

Atwood takes those bare facts and weaves a story using some contemporary sources such as letters and newspaper articles, and her imagining of what could have happened. She has Grace tell the story in her own words to a young doctor from the United States, Simon Jordan, who is hoping to gain recognition so that he can open his own private asylum and work with the insane and mentally ill. A group of reformers hired him to write a report that they hope to use in their efforts to have Grace pardoned. Grace spent some time in an asylum and many believe her to be insane.

Grace herself is an enigma. Grace's story and her relationship with Dr Jordan are at the heart of the novel. Grace and Dr Jordan narrate most of the story. Grace claims that she has no memory of the murders and doesn't know if she participated in them or not. As she tells her story we never know what is really true. Dr Jordan thinks that he can help her regain her memory, if she truly can not remember what happened. He is an interesting and flawed character. This change of narration also adds to the feeling of not knowing what is true.

Grace had only one good friend during her time in Toronto, Mary Whitney. But she came to a sad end and Grace

conjures up her presence for help and guidance when she is troubled. She chooses Mary's name as her alias when she and McDermott run away to the US following the murders. Mary is a very interesting character and provides a foil to Grace. Her character allows Atwood to bring other ideas such as democracy and equality into the story. All of the characters are very human, and rooted in their time with its social mores and scientific beliefs.

As with much of Atwood's writing, the ideas presented in this book resonate with current events. Today in Canada the government is planning changes to the laws regarding those who are determined to be not criminally responsible for a crime due to mental illness. These changes will make it more difficult for these people to be released following treatment. It is interesting to consider how much or how little we have progressed in our treatment of the mentally ill.

Marilee Geller is a Winnipeg book lover who is currently blogging her way through the Giller prize winners. You can read the full version of this Book Talk, as well as her other posts, at <http://gellerongiller.blogspot.ca/>

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and interesting, and knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of the children and their families is incredibly rewarding.

Contact:

We are open Monday to Friday, 9:30 to 5:00. For more information or to access resources, contact us at:

Tel: 204-787-1012 Fax: 204-787-1965

Email: ctaylor4@hsc.mb.ca



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like to offer an in-between space: a place to read, meet and reconnect. They would like to connect inmates with life-affirming stories.

Shocking statistics about inmates in prisons were presented. For example, 57% have no high school diploma, yet prison libraries encounter difficulties with space, funding, and subject-limiting policies. There is a library role in corrections – being involved in the correctional plan, providing information skills as parole approaches, and orienting people to the public library once they are released.

ALA has a Prisoner's Right to Read document, and the committee would like to see CLA write one too.

CLA Battle Decks

This was the most lively session I attended, which was a nice pick-me-up for early Saturday morning. Five participants and one volunteer spoke for seven minutes based on random PowerPoint slides. We had a few good laughs! The winner was Melissa Fraser-Arnott, a PhD Candidate at San José State University, who had a remarkably coherent talk despite the improvisation.

MEETING

The **Library Technicians and Assistants Network (LTAN)** met on Friday morning. Attendees were from across Canada and included students, library technicians, and program coordinators. CLA approved the LTAN proposal to have a task force on library technician program accreditation. A task force needs to be formed to move forward on this proposal.

We discussed the possibility of financial help for a library technician to attend the CLA conference but this may be more difficult than it seems as networks can't hold funds.

SAIT is undergoing a program renewal so they asked for some ideas on library technician technology skills.

SOCIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The **First Timers Breakfast** was a chance to get some tips for conference-going and meet other first timers. At my table there were students from U of T and Dalhousie, librarians from Ontario, and a representative from the Border Regional Library. CLA Executive members came around to greet each table before we headed off to the opening ceremonies.

MALT was one of the sponsors of the **All-delegates Social** and several executive members were able to

attend. The social was held at the Millennium Library which proved to be an elegant venue. The hors d'oeuvres were delightful and we were serenaded by a string ensemble.

The **LTAN Social** was held Saturday evening. Thirteen people attended and a good time was had by all! Attendees included MALT executive members, RRC grads from the last two years and an RRC instructor. A library technician from Ottawa and one from Edmonton rounded out our gathering and provided some cross-Canada networking.

LIVING LIBRARY

I "checked out" Katherine Koch, a librarian at the University of Alberta. We discussed, among other things, the power of introverts. It was nice to compare notes with Katherine on getting involved yet asking for the things I need to lead like time for preparation. I hope to keep this in mind as I go forth as the MALT president.

Thank you to MALT for paying my registration fee and to the University of Manitoba for allowing me to be out of the office to attend the conference. It was an excellent opportunity to connect with the library community and be exposed to new ideas.

WANTED

or

MALT Vice President

MALT is seeking a committed and enthusiastic person to serve as Vice President.

The Vice President:

- Is responsible for chairing the planning committee for activities, workshops and meetings
- Acts as one of MALT's representatives on the joint library conference planning committee
- Is in charge of nominations for the Executive for the AGM
- President-elect
- Can live anywhere in Manitoba

The term of the position is until May 2015.

REWARDS:

- Work with a great group of people
- Connect with Library Technicians across the province
- Make a difference in the Manitoba library community

Please email malt.mb.ca@gmail.com to find out more.