



Winter 2013

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photo courtesy of E. Vessellus

Old homestead north of Ninga, Manitoba

The days are slowly getting longer...but the days don't seem long enough to get all our work done.

Program Renewal is ongoing. Find out about how the Library & Information Technology Program at Red River College is going to be changing for the future. You can also be apart of this change by volunteering for the Advisory Committee.

Renovations and changes. The Brooklands School Learning Commons Library has reopened in a new and improved space. Check it out!

Accessibility in the library. There are many resources available to help us make our libraries accessible to everyone.

Find out about the Spring Workshop! Save the date and come join us!

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Message from the MALT President



Catherine and Lexi in a winter wonderland.

Catherine Taylor

MALT President

A winter hello! If January is getting you down, I offer some advice. Put on your parka and get out there. If nothing else, the weather is invigorating.

Or if cabin fever is your problem, then why not take a vacation to Brandon? (Unless you already live there, in which case you might want to pick someplace warmer). On March 15, MALT will be at the Western Manitoba Regional Library hosting a continuing education workshop. We're getting the final details worked out but we have a preview in

this newsletter. Not only will this be a great day of learning and connecting with other Library Technicians, it is also my hometown! I'm looking forward to seeing family, friends and hopefully lots of you, too.

As we look forward to spring, I'd also like to look back and acknowledge the hard work and enthusiasm that Elizabeth Stregger has brought to MALT over the last three years, first as Vice President and then as Treasurer. Elizabeth has decided to leave her position a few months shy of its official end date and we will miss her insightful contributions, her level head and her knitting. I also want to say a big thank you to Diana Saunders who will be filling in as interim Treasurer.

MALT Executive

President:	Catherine Taylor
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Secretary:	Fatima De Melo
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We're on the Web!

See us online at:

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

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Background photograph in the MALT logo courtesy of H. K. Mustard.

Library & Information Technology Program Renewal

*by Diana Saunders
2nd Year Student
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The idea for this piece came about from the desire to learn how the Library & Information Technology (LIT) program has changed since the program renewal process began. The concept was to compare the LIT program as it was in 2009-2011 to the current 2011-2013 program. It was immediately unclear what the changes were and what was happening with the process so I decided to look into it further. It came as no surprise to me that there are many policies and procedures involved in order for proposed changes to become realities. It seemed though that, apart from some substantial course content and title changes, things were at a standstill since the report was finalized. In the end I did gain some understanding and clarity. This article is the result.

In 2010, the dean and chair requested a program renewal to address the changing needs in the field of library and information technology. In an effort to respond to those changing needs, the program renewal process addressed seven major areas—resources, articulation agreements, recruitment, curriculum, program structure, practicum, and marketing—the outcome of which is a five-year program renewal plan². The previous program renewal was done approximately ten years ago. For background on the process see Larry Partap's article in the MALT Newsletter¹. The process has proceeded as follows:

September 2010: Environmental Scan provided information about ten similar programs offered in colleges and universities locally and nationally.

November 2010: Industry Occupational Analysis using the DACUM process was facilitated involving twelve practitioners in the LIT field. Identification of emerging and retiring industry trends was also included.

December 2010: Graduate Skills and Abilities Workshop and Gap Analysis based on the faculty's

assessment of what would constitute realistic learning expectations for all graduates.

February 2011: Graduate Focus Group session with graduates from the program.

February & May 2011: Graduate Profile developed during a faculty workshop. A set of outcome statements that described the essential and enduring skills and abilities expected of a program graduate.

March & May 2011: Program Renewal Vision and Goals Workshop resulted in a vision statement, goals, and strategies for the renewal of the program.

June 2011: Five-Year Program Renewal Plan articulated the actions and timelines required to attain the vision and meet the goals for program renewal.

June 2011: Final Report² completed by Sandra Sukhan, Curriculum Consultant at Red River College (RRC), outlining the Program Renewal process and plan in detail.

In no particular order these are the items on the agenda for the Program Renewal as laid out in the final report²:

- 1) **Advocate for resources** such as program specific software, professional development for faculty, and additional human resource needs based on program renewal.
- 2) Explore **articulation agreements** with other post-secondary institutions and organizations, for example, University of Manitoba/Winnipeg.
- 3) Develop and/or improve **recruitment** process, for example, recommend a shift to a yearly intake of twenty students and conduct informational sessions for potential students.
- 4) Update **curriculum** and evaluation practices to ensure that the skills and abilities of graduates meet industry's requirements for a new technician. Since the final report there have been

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notable improvements in title and content to eight courses.

- 5) Redesign the **program structure** to meet the training needs for specialization in various sectors of the library field.
- 6) **Practicum** improvements and/or changes such as more work placement options including RRC Library as an ongoing option.
- 7) **Marketing:** Improving the promotion of the program by, for example, reaching out to different communities and keeping promotional materials up to date. The program webpage has recently been updated and is indicative of recent course title and content changes.

Members of the Program Advisory Committee received a copy of the final report and a meeting was held on December 11, 2012. The committee meeting previous to this was in March 2010. Yes, that was a long time and Larry Partap does feel remiss that there was not a substantial meeting before then, nonetheless, progress is being made and the next meeting is scheduled for February 2013. Calls will go out to more professionals in the field inviting them to contribute to the committee proceedings. The next step will be for Brian Rountree (LIT instructor), Tabitha Nordby (LIT instructor), Diane Livingston (Program Coordinator) and the Chair of the Creative Arts Department to consider the input received and work out a plan and a timeline. Decisions will be made based on resources, budget, bottom-line education goals, class structure and so on. Next, most of the items proposed in the plan must be approved by the Senior Academic Committee and then the chair is authorized to proceed with the program renewal plan.

These changes cannot and will not happen overnight. There are many factors and sometimes obstacles that may hinder the process and need to be taken into consideration. For example, some changes will require more instructors which will mean more strain on the budget. The online program must be considered whenever any changes are made even to a course title. Timing must be considered for

example, it would not be ideal for some changes to be made midterm or in the second year.

As part of the Creative Arts Department at RRC the LIT program is one of seven to nine programs three of which are 'out front and flashy'. Unfortunately, LIT is not one of them. So another reality to consider is that if funding is on a per capita basis, how does LIT compare to the other programs? The current intake for LIT is 28 students with 2 instructors; Graphic Design has 125 students and 8 instructors.

Another matter is Larry Partap's recent retirement from RRC. When I first learned that he would be retiring in January 2013 I was concerned for the continuing progress of this renewal plan. It was evident to me that Larry cared and was always doing his best. It remains to be seen where LIT will be on the new chair's agenda but hopefully the program renewal will not be put on hold. Fresh eyes can be a good thing.

Of course this is a piecemeal process and some of these changes will take much time and effort but hopefully we can keep the ball rolling. All those involved are responding positively to the report and the Program Advisory Committee will continue to meet on a more regular basis. The plan is to renew the program over the next five-year period which will likely bring us to 2016/17.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone who spoke openly and willingly about this process: Larry Partap (Chair, Creative Arts), Tabitha Nordby (LIT Instructor), Brian Rountree (LIT Instructor), and Diane Livingston (Program Coordinator). If there are any errors in this article they are mine and I take full responsibility for them.

References

- 1 L. Partap. "Library & Information Program Renewal." *Manitoba Association of Library Technicians Newsletter* Winter 2011. Vol. 33, No. 1. Web. <<http://malt.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Vol.-33-No.-1-Winter-2011.pdf>>.
- 2 S. Sukhan. *Library and Information Technology Program: Curriculum Validation--Program Renewal Final Report*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Red River College, 2011. Print.



Where We Work Brooklands School Learning Commons Library

Winnipeg, Manitoba
by Teresa Armstrong



photo courtesy of T. Armstrong

Brooklands School Learning Commons Library

Brooklands School is an elementary school located in North West Winnipeg. The school is situated in the middle of the Brooklands neighbourhood and is home to approximately 150 students. There was once a public library next to the school, but it was closed down several years ago due to lack of funding and community involvement. The school library is the only library most students have access to.

For many years Brooklands Library was a small but well used space in the heart of the school building. At 841 square feet, the school library was overflowing with materials and students browsing, reading, writing and researching. A change was needed to improve its functionality.

The planning for a new library began in May 2012. We decided to move the library into what was the music room to accommodate all the activity the library was accustomed to. The new space would now offer 1483 square feet. Research on other Learning Commons was conducted and it was decided that this model would be best to serve our school community. Over the next month, we drew floor plans, received quotes for new furniture and shelving, chose colours

and brainstormed how the space could be used. Certain elements in the room lent themselves easily to a new Learning Commons Library: a walled off room in the back would double as storage for supplies and the professional collection, as well as a space for students who need a quiet work environment; a sink and counter in the corner would become a repair station and craft area; the current risers would transform into a cozy reading area with bean bags and cushions. At the beginning of June 2012, the library was closed to begin packing the collection of approximately 7,500 books. The boxes were labeled and stacked, awaiting the pending move for September.

Renovations began in July and lasted for three months. New carpet was laid throughout the room and over the risers. A drop ceiling was installed with brighter lighting and the library shelves and walls were given a fresh coat of paint. The circulation desk, magazine stands, tables, chairs, and OPAC station were moved and reassembled. Once the painted shelves were in place the collection was unpacked and returned to its home. After sorting, shifting, shelf reading, and shifting again, the room was ready!

On October 8th, the "Learning Commons Library" was opened to staff, students, and the community. Even though it is staffed part-time, the room is used on a daily basis for various programs and activities. Each class has one or more library periods where children come in to choose library books for the week. A group of students called Library Helpers volunteer once or twice a week in decorating the library. Students in Grade 4 and 5 work once a school cycle with younger students on the school laptops during Tech Buddies. A Community Reading Circle meets on Tuesday afternoons where neighbourhood residents, seniors, and Elders read one-on-one with the same student every week. In the evenings the Commons is used by parent groups for



Tech Toolbox Accessibility Resources

by Catherine Taylor

“Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.”

- Lady Bird Johnson

Libraries work hard to be available to everyone but unfortunately, sometimes interest isn't the only entrance requirement. Barriers to accessing the library or gaining employment in a library include facilities that create physical barriers; not enough staff to provide assistance; lack of assistive technologies; policies and procedures that aren't flexible; attitudes and assumptions; and a lack of funding to provide services.

This is an issue that I've encountered first hand as a Library Technician who has worked in two hospital libraries. Patients using the hospital library often have clearly visible challenges. But barriers to accessibility can occur in any library setting and disabilities are often hidden. [One in seven Canadians](#) are living with cognitive, mental or emotional illness; learning and/or developmental difficulties; or physical disabilities that affect hearing, vision, speech or mobility. Accessibility is an issue that affects us all.

Thanks to Denise Weir from the [Public Library Services Branch](#) for providing an extensive list of resources. The PLSB works to ensure that all Manitobans have access to public library services.

Legislation, Policies and Standards

Public Library Services branch created the [Municipal and Regional Public Library Standards and Guidelines](#) document, which includes accessibility recommendations.

Accessibility legislation was implemented in Ontario in 2005 and there are plenty of policies available on the Internet. The [Huntsville Public Library](#) and [Toronto Public Library](#) are examples. Many academic libraries, such as [Ryerson University](#) and the [University of Guelph](#), also share their policies online.

See also:

[Manitoba Public Libraries Act](#)

[Manitoba Human Rights Code](#)

[Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

For Employers

Employers can make use of the following [questionnaires](#) from the Public Service Commission of Canada to determine accommodation needs. Industry Canada also provides a [workplace accommodation tool kit](#) on assistive technologies.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada provides employment subsidies through the [Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities](#) on an ongoing basis and makes [research and reports](#) on disability in Canada available on their website.

The National Disability Awareness Employment Month provided an awareness raising video – [A Hire Awareness](#) – on the benefits of employing persons with disabilities that provides a useful introduction.

For Library Staff

The Canadian Library Association has two relevant interest groups: [Library Services to Individuals with Print Disabilities](#) and [Library and Information Services for Older People](#).

The [Ontario Library Service](#) provides links on a variety of accessibility topics, as does the [Ontario Library Association](#).

The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies developed [Library Accessibility – What You Need to Know Tipsheets](#) to help libraries recognize and manage accessibility issues.

Manitoba Resources

[Vision Impaired Resource Network](#)

[Manitoba Disabilities Issues Office](#)

[Manitoba Human Rights Commission](#)

[Society for Manitobans with Disabilities](#)

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different information sessions. Bi-monthly, Brooklands alumni from St. James Collegiate come to read and play with Kindergarten and grade one students. Wiggle Giggle Munch, an early childhood literacy



photo courtesy of T. Armstrong

The Community Reading Circle busy sharing books

program, will be launching for community members with children who are not yet in school.

Students enjoy coming into our new space to listen to stories, choose and read different materials, and deepen their appreciation for literacy in fun and meaningful ways. Sometimes, you can hear students playing, working, and learning all the way down the hall!

Currently, we are still working towards achieving our initial goal of providing an educational and inviting space for the Brooklands School community with new, flexible furniture and cozy, home like surroundings. More fundraising is still needed to purchase tables and shelving. However, the library is no longer a cramped and awkward space. There is enough room to accommodate classrooms of students and different groups of people who can use the space during the day and at night. The Learning Commons Library at Brooklands School is an integral part of the building that meets the educational and physical needs of staff and students, while also servicing the community at large.



Out On the Ranges!



photo courtesy of L. Zvanovec

Lisa and Jordan

Congratulations to **Lisa Zvanovec** (*class of 2011*) & **Jordan Romas** on their engagement!

Have some news you want to share with the Library community? Send your news to malt.mb.ca@gmail.com. with the subject line 'Out On the Ranges' and let old classmates or co-workers know what's going on in your world!

**Manitoba Association of
Library Technicians**

on **Facebook**



<http://www.facebook.com/malt.mb.ca>

Library Technicians in Canada

on **Facebook**



<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2295803362>

RRC advisory committee for the LIT program



We are looking for individuals interested in serving on the Red River College advisory committee for the Library + Information Technology program. The

Committee "advises the College in the planning and evaluating of matters pertaining to the program." Members of the advisory committee are responsible for attending two meetings a year. The meetings usually take place between 11 am and 1 pm, with a lunch provided. Further details about the advisory committee can be found as Policy A18 at <http://www.rrc.mb.ca/index.php?pid=726>. To offer your services, or to learn more about the advisory committee, please contact Diane Livingston, program co-ordinator, at 204-949-8309 or dlivingston@rrc.ca.



Where We Work

Tell us about the library you work in.

Send us a brief description and some pictures of your library and you could be featured in the next MALT newsletter!

Check what's new on our website!



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Please send comments, thoughts
& suggestions to
malt.mb.ca@gmail.com.



Manitoba Association of
Library Technicians



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CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Friday, March 15, 2013 in the Western Manitoba Regional Library
710 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB

PROGRAM

9:30 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 11:45 **Introduction to RDA**

This session will give a broad overview of the new standard as well as helpful illustrations of where it differs from AACR2. It is intended for public service staff who need to be able to understand the catalogue and make basic changes to records.

Presenter: TBA

12:00 – 1:45 **Lunch and a Tour of the New ACC Campus**

Overlooking the scenic Assiniboine River valley, Assiniboine Community College's growing North Hill Campus is a heritage site with two of three building phases completed to date. Attendees will have lunch in the Manitoba Institute of Culinary Arts, a beautifully restored facility, which includes an expansive, state-of-the-art kitchen and a culinary theater. The informal tour will then cross the picturesque grounds to the Len Evans Centre for Trades and Technology, a \$45 million structure in which trades and apprenticeship programs enjoy both modern machine shops and historical preservation. The stately Parkland Building, which will be home to the third and final phase of the college's relocation including the library, will be the last stop on the tour guided by the ACC Library staff.

The cost for lunch is \$10 and participants must pre-register. Those who do not wish to attend are invited to explore Brandon's diverse downtown restaurant scene.

2:00 – 3:45 **Technology Strategies**

Cloud Computing Demystified

When something new comes along everyone wants to know what it is and what it will mean in our professional and personal lives. Join Carol for an exploration of "cloud computing" and how it is impacting libraries and individuals now and in the future.

Googling the Good Stuff

Let's face it, libraries are rarely the public's first choice when looking for information. "Just Google it" has become a phrase we're all too familiar with. How do we compete with that? Instead of trying to compete, let's embrace it and show our patrons how to use Google to it's fullest! This session will set you on the path to becoming a Google master.

Presenter: Carol Cooke is the Health Sciences Centre Librarian/Health Sciences Libraries Web Services Librarian with the University of Manitoba. She is responsible for coordinating the creation and maintenance of the Libraries website; developing specialized local databases; and providing reference services and training for faculty, staff and students at the U of M Bannatyne Campus and the Health Sciences Centre. Despite being terrified of public speaking early on in her career, one of the things she likes best these days is talking with people about technology and it's effect on libraries and our lives.

4:00 – 5:00 **Author Reading**

Award winning teen and juvenile author Anita Daher presentations are always dynamic, informative and fun. Whether you are in a school or public library, have kids at home or just love the genre, you'll have a great time with Anita. Come and discover your next favourite author!

Presenter: Anita Daher <http://www.anitadaher.com/index.html>



CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Friday, March 15, 2013 in the Western Manitoba Regional Library
710 Rosser Avenue, Brandon, MB

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

City/Town:

Postal Code:

Telephone (*business*):

Telephone (*home*):

Email:

We are extending member pricing to Manitoba library association members.

- MALT MLA MSLA MAHIP
 Other:

Advance payment by cash, cheque or PayPal is required.

Cheque to be addressed to: **Manitoba Association of Library Technicians**

Mail this form with payment to:

**Manitoba Association of Library Technicians,
Box 1872, Winnipeg MB R3C 3R1**

Registration must be received by **March 8th, 2013.**

Seating is limited, so register early!

	Member	Non-Member
Full registration (both sessions)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80
Half Day (Morning)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Half Day (Afternoon)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Lunch and tour of the new ACC campus	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
Author Reading	FREE!	FREE!

I am enclosing a MALT/MLA registration form in order to take advantage of the member pricing.



Manitoba Library Association

The Manitoba Library Association is seeking a Conference Chair for the 2014 Manitoba Libraries Conference, to be held May 12-14, 2014 in Winnipeg, MB.

The Manitoba Association of Library Technicians (MALT), the Manitoba Library Association (MLA), Public Library Services (a branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism), the Manitoba School Library Association (MSLA), Manitoba Library Trustees Association (MLTA), Manitoba Library Consortium Inc., Manitoba Association of Health Information Providers (MAHIP) and the Association for Manitoba Archives (AMA) **are pleased to announce the Manitoba Libraries Conference 2014, taking place May 12 - 14, 2014 at the Delta Hotel Winnipeg.**

The Manitoba Libraries Conference provides library, information and archives professionals from across the province and from neighboring provinces and states with the opportunity to participate in an exciting learning and networking event. The conference regularly draws speakers from across the country to present on current issues and new and exciting projects happening in our institutions.

The Manitoba Library Association is seeking a Conference Chair for the 2014 Manitoba Libraries Conference, to be held May 12th-14th, 2014 in Winnipeg, MB.

The Conference Chair is responsible for the overall planning of the conference, and oversees both the conference and program planning processes.

Responsibilities include:

- recruiting members of the Conference Planning Committee
- scheduling and chairing monthly meetings of the Planning Committee (meetings are more frequent as conference date nears);
- with the assistance of the Events Coordinator and Treasurer, ensuring that appropriate facilities are booked and contracts signed;
- ensuring that appropriate liaisons with participating Manitoba library associations are maintained;
- ensuring that all planning deadlines are met;
- scheduling and chairing a post-conference wrap-up meeting, and coordinating the writing of a final conference report to present to participating Manitoba library associations.

Time commitment is moderate to heavy in the year leading up to the conference.

This is your opportunity to work with outstanding colleagues from across Manitoba, gain valuable experience in event planning, organizing, financial management, and teamwork and give back to the library and information community.

If you are interested in applying for this exciting opportunity please contact the Manitoba Library Association at manitobalibrary@gmail.com.