

NLA News

Fall 2008

Welcome Message

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Welcome to the 2nd issue of the Nunavut Library Association News! I would like to start out the newsletter by once again thanking Leigh Ann Cumming for taking on the role of compiler, editor, and general making-this-happen-er.

I know a number of Nunavut librarians had the opportunity to travel to various library conferences earlier this year, so it is my hope that in this issue, we will get to read about some colleagues' professional development experiences over the past year. My favourite thing about being a librarian has always been the diversity of our field – how there are so many different types of jobs and duties that fall under the category of librarian. The same can be said for professional development opportunities – there is such a range of professional development opportunities that can be pursued outside of our day to day work that can help to enhance that day to day work. Of course we don't all have the chance to travel to other cities and go to conferences or workshops, but professional development can take many forms and not all of them require a budget – you can sit on a library association committee, you can sign up for distance courses or participate in audio or online workshops, you can start reading library journals to keep on top of trends and activities related to your work, or you can join a list-serv and participate in group discussions with other librarians in similar situations or with similar interests. And so I encourage everyone to explore those extra experiences that will make us better at what we do.

Rae-Lynne Aramburo
Nunavut Arctic College
Iqaluit

NUNAVUT ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASE

<http://ned.nunavut.ca>

The Nunavut Environmental Database (NED) contains descriptions of more than 21,700 publications and research projects about Nunavut. The database covers all subjects, not just the environment.

NED contains two different types of records: those that describe publications and those that describe research projects. Publication records contain citations, abstracts, detailed subject and geographic indexing terms, links to libraries that hold the publications, and links to publications that are available online.

Research project records describe research projects conducted in Nunavut since 1990, and are based on information collected by the Nunavut Research Institute, the Nunavut Department of Environment, the Nunavut Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Central and Arctic Region of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

In addition to covering Nunavut and the adjacent waters, NED also describes publications that are about the old Northwest Territories as a whole, the Canadian Arctic as a whole and the circumpolar North as a whole.

NED does not yet include all publications about Nunavut, so you should consult other sources of information if you want to do a comprehensive search.

CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASE

<http://www.aina.ucalgary.ca/chbd>

The Circumpolar Health Bibliographic Database (CHBD) contains more than 4000 records describing publications about all aspects of human health in the circumpolar region. The database is a project of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Team in Circumpolar Chronic Disease Prevention.

The CHBD describes publications about public health, medicine and human biology. All types of publications, both peer-reviewed and grey literature, are included. The CHBD doesn't include as much peer-reviewed circumpolar health literature as PubMed, but it has better (although still incomplete) coverage of grey literature.

The CHBD is a new database and is currently far from comprehensive. The database was initially created using records from ASTIS, a database that covers primarily northern Canada. It will take several years to improve the CHBD's coverage of the non-Canadian parts of the circumpolar region.

Ross Goodwin, ASTIS
Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary

Report on Partnership Retreat Toronto Aug. 19-20, 2008

Carol Rigby attended the Partnership's annual "retreat" to represent the Nunavut Library Association.

The group sat down for two intensive days around the Ontario Library Association (OLA) board table. The first day of the meeting was largely devoted to discussions of the Education Institute (EI), its presentation, purpose, marketing, etc. Data was given out on course enrolment and usage. There was some concern that it appears even though more courses are being offered, fewer are being signed up for, and there isn't a high rate of return enrolment (people taking more than one course). There were questions whether this had to do with EI duplicating professional development opportunities that may be available elsewhere, problems with the delivery methods and timing, or lack of marketing. A cost-saving measure taken this year was the decision not to print a glossy full catalogue of the EI offerings. Instead, PDFs of monthly brochures will be sent out electronically, and all of the associations were encouraged to publicise these to promote the courses.

The group also discussed the EI website in relation to the Partnership website, as both are undergoing some development. A new delivery option coming soon will be "EI-to-Go," a packaging of delivered courses that can be accessed on the website, e.g. as a podcast. This option might greatly expand access to EI courses, since it would help get around problems of time zone of delivery, and would also make courses available at the learner's convenience for those who might be working in rural, remote, small or special libraries with staff time constraints.

James Saunders, from Saunders Book Co., gave a presentation on marketing techniques, based on the development of their specialty book supply company. A brief presentation was also made by Ken Roberts, current president of CLA. He emphasized the need for CLA and the provincial/territorial organizations to work together, and the importance of CLA's national advocacy role. He reviewed the current state of CLA's finances (in deficit), the upcoming hiring of a replacement for the organization's Executive Director, and he outlined some directions in which CLA wanted to go in developing member services. He also mentioned the Human Resources summit being held by CLA in February '09, focusing on upcoming challenges in the library staffing world, and noted that the Partnership and CLA could play complementary roles in professional development and certification, with CLA focusing on the professional or technical accreditation of library staff, and the Partnership focusing on ongoing professional development.

The second day of meetings was given over to discussions on certification and tracking of professional development. The Certification Committee of the Partnership was constituted so that the issue of developing a nationally-recognized system of professional development certification could be given more

detailed attention. Such a system would likely be based on something similar to that used in Australia for librarians there. This would not be professional accreditation or degree certification, but rather a tracking and certification of individuals' ongoing efforts to stay current in their field. At present this is seen as voluntary system for Canadian librarians; further research and reports to come.

The Partnership's "Career Centre" on its website was also discussed and statistics were provided on use of the Job Board for job postings. The content for the rest of the Career Centre section was in need of a fresh pair of eyes to read through the site for copy & content editing. Carol volunteered to undertake that task, so a contribution by Nunavut was made to the overall effort.

A conference call was also held with the staff of the Partnership Journal, which has had a great deal of success online and is well-regarded in terms of open-source journals. Statistics on readership were presented. It was suggested that the journal could also be used as a marketing tool for EI courses. Anyone who would like to see the report submitted by Jennifer Richard on the progress of the journal can contact Carol for a copy.

The issue of funding and support for the smaller territorial library associations to attend Partnership meetings and participate in their activities was brought up as part of the general discussion at the meeting. It was decided in the course of the meetings that the August retreat would constitute the main meeting of the whole Partnership group, and that some supportive funding would continue to be provided for that meeting by the Ontario Library Association (OLA) to smaller associations such as the NWT and Nunavut. A second Partnership meeting will also continue to be held in conjunction with the OLA Superconference, usually held in late January/early February, as most associations tend to send someone to this conference anyway, but the responsibility of costs for attendance would largely be supported by the individual associations. The implication in future is that if the NLA wants to be represented at that second meeting, we would probably depend on anybody from the membership who happened to be going to that conference for their professional development to represent us.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Congress Report

Before the good feeling that comes from all the energy of a conference dissipates, I must report on IFLA 2008.

For me it started with a 2 day pre-conference for the Parliamentary Library and Research Division hosted in Ottawa by the Library of Parliament. It went like clockwork, thanks to the incredible organization of Library of Parliament staff. We shared workshops and made presentations with people from all over the world; on a Canadian panel with 2 others I spoke about working in a small, new legislature with consensus government. What is remarkable is that so many issues are similar, just on different scales. While in Nunavut we are concerned about slow connectivity dependent on satellites, the parliamentary librarian from Uganda has to factor in no phone lines to many villages and how to use cell phone technology to get information out. We got to see many of the in-house tools Library of Parliament staff have developed for information management and retrieval – if we could just clone them (staff & tools!). A session with Canadian parliamentarians about their information needs and how to deliver to them was daunting – they want information analysed and in short reports, emailed. It was also obvious they value libraries and researchers.

It was not all work and no play in Ottawa. We had our opening ceremony in the House of Commons chamber and what a feeling of awe to be sitting there. Our chance to paddle a canoe to Victoria Island was cancelled by lightning and rain but we did enjoy a First Nations cultural evening under canvas.

From Ottawa we were shuttled to the main IFLA conference in Quebec City. There were approximately 4000 people at the 5 day congress. Some sessions were translated into 6 languages. Sessions had international scope and I attended ones about government information, literacy, copyright and library design as well as a couple of thought provoking plenary talks. I was pleased that my paper *Ikajarutit: Delivering Legislative Library Services in an Aboriginal Language Environment (Nunavut, Canada)* was well received as part of a session about “Challenges of communicating in a parliamentary environment” and once that was done I could relax a little more. In another session Sharon Rankin presented a paper about Canadian Inuit newspapers and periodicals. If anyone is interested it can be found on Monday, Aug. 11 16:00 hrs. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm> or I have an e-copy. My paper can be found at the same site Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 8:30.

All participants at the conference were given a copy of Library and Archives Canada’s publication *Reaching Out: Innovation in Canadian Libraries*. It includes an article by Carol and Rae-Lynne “A catalogue in a multilingual, multi-script environment: the experience of Nunavut’s library partnership”. So considering our small size I think Nunavut librarians had considerable input into the Canadian content of IFLA 2008.

As parliamentary librarians we were wonderfully hosted in Quebec by Philippe Sauvageau, Librarian for the National Assembly of Quebec. We had special tours

of the Assembly library, a brief explanation of their exhibit of modern book binding from the exhibit curator (no books bound with seal skin but one with fish skin and another with inlay of shark skin) and knowledgeable tours of the impressive Assembly building. We were also superbly wined and dined at the parliamentary restaurant on two occasions. I needed to do all that walking on the couple of free evenings!

This was the first IFLA conference of my career and different from what I had imagined IFLA was; it has evolved from a senior library executives rendezvous. There were participants from all levels and kinds of libraries. There was much to be learned from the poster sessions, the exhibitors (more European than CLA or OLA), and the people one stood next to waiting in the internet café line-up. We even talked (shouted?) some shop on the dance floor! There was also lots of encouragement to become active in IFLA, which I had never considered before.

I would like to thank the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for supporting this professional development opportunity. Dare I mention that 2009 is in Milan?

Yvonne Earle
September 2008

New Graduate Certificate in Library Sector Leadership at the University of Victoria

The University of Victoria has just announced it will be offering a Graduate Professional Certificate in Library Sector Leadership which has been designed for mid-career librarians. This five course, part-time graduate program is a partnership with the School of Public Administration, the Division of Continuing Studies and the University of Victoria Libraries.

For more information, please visit the following website at:
<http://publicadmin.uvic.ca/gradcerts/library.htm>

or contact the School of Public Administration Academic Administrative Officer
Tel: (250) 721-8054

E-mail: mpaadmin@uvic.ca

From: **CACUL Discussion Group** (cacul-l@listserv.unb.ca) on behalf of
Inba Kehoe on August 7, 2008

Submitted by Leigh Ann Cumming,
Nunavut Arctic College, Cambridge Bay

Myra's Marathon

On behalf of the Nunavut Library Association I helped organize Myra's Marathon in Iqaluit on July 19.

Myra Rodrigues is a visually impaired woman who has used the CNIB library since the age of four. In her 66th year between her 2007 & 2008 birthdays Myra decided to celebrate retirement and to raise funds for the CNIB library by walking a half marathon in every province and territory. In other locales she could piggy back on a marathon that was already organized but in Nunavut that was not possible so she contacted three people (friends of friends – Romeyn Stevenson, Lynn Peplinski & me) and we created her walk at Sylvia Grinnell Park.

It was a perfect day, sunny but with enough breeze to keep the mossies manageable. We had done our advertising, put up posters, been on CBC and found five fast walking guides. We had oranges, water and trail mix as rewards for a loop finished and conveniently there was a washroom at the turnaround point.

Rae-Lynne and Carolyn were guides for two of her 5km loops and the pace they set did us proud! In the south, on pavement Myra power-walks events like the New York marathon but she did not have to slow too much up here. Caramel, Myra's young seeing-eye dog and a city slicker, managed 10 k on gravel road loping beside a young participant on her bike.

It was great that about 20 people came to do various loops (two did the whole thing, several did more than one)). We had good financial support too; some people have mailed or used the web to make donations but others gave me money. Myra, with Caramel wearing her new kamiik zipper pull on her harness, delivered those contributions (\$540) the next week to the CNIB. They will be used for building the Canadian content in their library collection.

I was pleased to be able to have NLA involved and Myra was delighted with all our efforts and hospitality.

Yvonne



Myra's Marathon - The photo is after the last loop. Myra is on the left next to Rae-Lynne.

What's Up with Our Members?

Carol Rigby – I am busy this fall. In addition to my ongoing contract doing original cataloguing for the Legislative Library, I have also taken on a small project for the Department of Education's Curriculum Development Division office in Iqaluit. They have requested that I turn a collection of curriculum documents and curriculum development materials into a resource centre for their use. At the moment, this will involve organising the materials and preparing a spreadsheet shelflist to document the holdings and will probably later include developing some browsing guides to help users find materials.

Leigh Ann Cumming – I have started back to the library at Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay working Tuesday and Thursday evenings. I expect to be busy with the addition of the Health Careers Access Year to the campus programs. The day job with Health and Social Services has been keeping me occupied developing resources for the staff, doing research and helping out with projects in Iqaluit.

Polar Libraries Colloquy

This past June, I had the opportunity to attend the Polar Libraries Colloquy in Edmonton, and also present a paper while I was there. I am still not exactly sure what a “colloquy” is, but I did learn about a number of interesting resources and initiatives!

The Polar Libraries Colloquy (PLC) was formed in the early 1970’s (then known as the Northern Libraries Colloquy) to bring together librarians and others with a common interest in collections of polar information and related services. The association is international in scope and holds gatherings every other year, alternating between North American and European locations. I found that the conference and the association are largely made up of academic and special library folks, but the Colloquy is open to any interested individual or institution. If you aren’t sure whether you would like to be a member or not, there are ways you can find out about the group and also participate without becoming a member. The Colloquy administers an email discussion group (“pollib-L”), for those interested in polar libraries and polar bibliographic databases. The PLC also produces a newsletter, the *Polar Libraries Bulletin*, twice a year, which is available online through the PLC’s website. The website is also a great jumping off point for all other PLC information, including a link to the PLC blog, a Polar and Cold Regions Library Resources Directory, and also online, full-text versions of PLC proceedings from recent conferences. The website address is: <http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/polarweb/plc/default.asp>

As for my conference experience, this was actually my second PLC. My first was in Ottawa in 2004 and at that event, I expected to be surrounded by librarians who, like me, work in northern locations, with northern people. Instead, I remember being surprised at the number of participants and presentations focused on polar information and resources housed in southern institutions. That is why, at this conference, I was motivated to give a presentation from the perspective of a librarian who is actually located in a polar region. The topic was Currents of Change: the Future of Polar Information, so I decided to focus my presentation and paper on the “polar information” that is most often used by and relevant to my library patrons: publications produced in Nunavut about Nunavut. So I described five main publishing organizations in Nunavut, past and present – the Inuit Cultural Institute, the Nunavut Literacy Council, the Nunavut Teaching and Learning Centre, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Nunavut Bilingual Education Society. The descriptions were then followed by a discussion about notable characteristics common to all of the publishers, and about the importance of their publications. The information I gathered was from interviewing knowledgeable northerners involved with each of these publishing operations.

So I tried to do my part to share what I know about polar information, and in return I learned about some other interesting initiatives relating to the Arctic and the Antarctic, from updates on the International Polar Year and the University of the Arctic, to the development of digitization projects. One presentation that I

particularly enjoyed hearing was about a new web resource called “Caninuit: a comprehensive bibliography of Canadian Inuit periodicals”. You can access this website at <http://www.libris.ca/inuit/go.exe>, and use it to find annotated information about the magazines, journals, newspapers and newsletters of Canadian Inuit communities and people.

Rae-Lynne Aramburo
Nunavut Arctic College
Iqaluit

A note from the John Ayaruaq Library (Rankin Inlet)

Hello!

Thank you for inviting us to contribute to the NLA newsletter.

We just had an evening at our library with the family of John Ayaruaq. It was a way for new people in town to learn why our library is named after him. Twenty-one members of the Ayaruaq family came: two daughters and one son and lots of grandchildren, great or great-great or great-great-great or great-great-great-great grandchildren were gathered around their ancestor’s picture. John Ayaruaq would have turned 102 years old on Oct. 10. It was like a birthday party for him, as well as a family reunion!

As you might be interested in knowing who John Ayaruaq was, here are a few lines quoted from *Eskimo Magazine vol. 84, Fall-Winter 1970*:

To the west of Hudson Bay, who has not known John Ayaruaq? A nomad like his parents, he became familiar early with every aspect of the Chesterfield Inlet topography, where he had mostly lived. Barely an adult, circumstances led him often over long distances, north, south or west. His precocious maturity was strikingly evident. His quick eye and will to serve, his cleverness and an incomparable flair for the right course of action made him reach his destination as though led by an infallible compass – a right precious gift in a country where few land marks are apparent.

His gift for orientation made him a successful hunter and a perfectly reliable guide. John Ayaruaq was a true leader and a passionate advocate for his fellow Inuit. When a nickel mine opened in Rankin in 1956, attracting suddenly more than 600 people from many different regions, it was urgent to find a local leader.

John Ayaruaq was the exact right man for the job. He was elected and accepted as representative of the native population, the responsibility of which he bore till his decease. His numerous contacts with Inuit of the north, the south, the west, as well as his

long sojourn here and there, had made him familiar with the names and faces of all, and even with the peculiarities of dialect and aspirations of different groups. Moreover his long contacts with the outside world during his illness gave him a passing good knowledge of the white man's language and mentality. As a result, he was delegated to Ottawa and elsewhere for conferences, always in the interest of those whom he represented. His advice and counsel were precious and assured him of the esteem of all.

John Ayaruaq had to face lots of crowds, journalists and photographers on his trips down south. But he was never intimidated, saying that "the flash bulbs of photographers were less dangerous than a meeting with a polar bear!"

Though stricken by tuberculosis and suffering injuries from a bad plane accident, John Ayaruaq took time to write his autobiography by the end of his life. It was the first book written by an Inuk in Inuktitut syllabic (1959), a first-hand testimony of the Inuit traditional way of life.

So to name our library after him was a great honour. His picture is hung high in the library, overlooking all the users and hopefully inspiring them to follow his steps.

Submitted by

Fabienne Theytaz

Rankin Inlet

Photo from the library's evening with the family of John Ayaruaq



Back Row - Robert Kinak, Marina Thompson, Michelle Sammurtok, Danielle Sammurtok, Cindy Sammurtok, Johnny Ayaruaq, Hannah Beniot, Cecelia Ayaruaq, Delilah Palvialok, Delsie Palvialok, Lisa Beniot

Middle Row - Rhonda Aliyak, Jolene Ayaruaq, Joanne Putulik, Crystal Sammurtok

Front Row - Karina Kinak, Ted Kinak, David Kinak

Photo courtesy of Lisa Benoit

Presenting the NLA Logos

Designed by Keith Morrison, Cambridge Bay



Up and Coming

November

All Saint's Day	1
TD Canadian Children's Book Week	15 - 22
Remembrance Day	11

December

Eid al-Adha	8
International Children's Day of Broadcasting	9
International Human Rights Day	10
Winter Solstice	21
Hanukah (begins sundown)	21
Christmas	25
Boxing Day	26
Kwanzaa	26
Islamic New Year	29
New Year's Eve	31

January

New Year's Day	1
Sir John A. Macdonald Day	11
Family Literacy Day	27

February

Ground Hog Day	2
Valentine's Day	14
National Flag Day of Canada	15
Heritage Day	19

March

St. Patrick's Day	17
World Poetry Day	21

April

April Fool's Day	1
Hans Christian Andersen's Birthday	2
Passover (begins sundown)	8

Good Friday	10
Easter	12
Earth Day	22
<u>May</u>	
Mother's Day	10
<u>June</u>	
Father's Day	21
National Aboriginal Day	
Summer Solstice	
<u>July</u>	
Canada Day	1
Nunavut Day	9



Need a laugh?
Check out
<http://www.ifla.org/l/humour/humour.htm>

Share your news, a favourite website, a special program with your library colleagues for the next issue of the newsletter. E-mail Leigh Ann at leighcumming@hotmail.com .