- How are we STILL managing through a pandemic?
- Carleton University: Beyond Resettlement: Exploring the History of the Ugandan Asian Community in Exile
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A PANDEMIC UPDATE, WE'RE STILL GOING

In the last issue of M Magazine we outlined some of the changes that had taken place in the Library to manage through the pandemic in a way that would continue to meet the needs of our vast community. Well, here we are again and we have continued to evolve our services in ways to keep our people safe and to support studies and research.

Capacity
Guidance from public health in the province as well as the university has shaped what we’re doing and as we have done throughout, we’ve made health and safety the top priority. Our building is considered an instructional space like a classroom so we follow the same rules as classrooms.

In September 2021, we opened all our floors and our book stacks and increased our capacity to just about a thousand visitors. As context for what that means, prior to doing all the work that we did to establish safe distancing, we had about 2400 seats. With this level of seating in mind, we are still reserving our space for Carleton students and faculty and staff.

In building safety
Visitors must show their proof of screening and that they've checked into the Library at our welcome desk right as they enter. Masks must be worn at all times including in our study rooms because all space that visitors come into is considered a public space. No food is allowed, although drinks are on a sip it and remask basis.

As mentioned above, our furniture is all distanced and seating marked as available or not using stickers. Our study rooms have capacity limits that allow for safe distancing as well. Under the current requirements, we do have to make sure that students maintain distancing.

Ambassadors from the university and Library staff roam occasionally to make sure that for the most part we’re maintaining a safe environment for our staff and for our students.

Curbside pickup and scan on demand
We’re continuing our contactless curbside pickup and scan on demand services. We heard from the community that there are still people who are not comfortable coming into the library or who can’t come into the library and these services are ones we are happy to provide to give these people access to the resources they need.

Building access
Our hours are not what they were before the pandemic because of how much of a personnel effort it is to maintain a safe environment. We have increased hours slightly around the end of term exam times to give our community access to the study space.

HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access
We have had to end the emergency temporary access now that we have opened our book stacks.
CARLETON LIBRARY RECEIVES FUNDING FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE STORIES DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Carleton University was recently granted funding as part of UCLA Library’s Modern Endangered Archives Program for a project that will lead to the digitization and preservation of 359 DVDs containing 700 hours of interviews with elderly Palestinian refugees recorded between 2009 and 2015 in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Elusive voices: Preserving the stories of elderly Palestinian refugees is lead by Chris Trainor, Head, Archives & Special Collections, MacOdrum Library and Laura Madokoro, Department of History, Carleton University and Hicham Kayed, AL-JANA in Lebanon.

It will be undertaken by the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (AL-JANA) in Beirut, Lebanon, which works with marginalized communities and produces resources for children and youth. This project will ensure the preservation of the memories of refugee elders, which are becoming increasingly elusive, and will enable AL-JANA to advance its core mandate.

“Our part in the project is offering up support and liaising with Al-JANA,” says Chris Trainor. “Our staff here will be providing workshops on archival practices and being on hand for supporting the work being done with the interviews.”

The work is being done in Lebanon and at this stage of the project the work is to look into the feasibility of the complete preservation of the materials with the hope of more funding for the complete digitization of the records.

“While it has taken a lot of time and effort to get to this stage, it has been a wonderful project to be a part of. Our takeaway with this project is being able to support the community,” says Chris. “There will not be any records that we end up with at the end, it is an opportunity for us to be able to use our experience to help preserve generational knowledge.”
ASIAN UGANDA CONFERENCE

We are excited to announce Dr. Shezan Muhammedi as a Researcher In-Residence at Carleton Library.

Dr. Muhammedi has been appointed as a Researcher In-Residence for his background and expertise in the resettlement of Ugandan Asian refugees in Canada. Carleton Library is home to the Uganda Collection, a unique archive that provides insight into the expulsion and subsequent resettlement of over 7,000 Ugandan Asian refugees in Canada.

To commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the resettlement of Ugandan Asian refugees in Canada, a joint academic and community-based conference will be held in November 2022 at Carleton University. Beyond Resettlement: Exploring the History of the Ugandan Asian Community in Exile aims to yield insights on the Ugandan Asian experience in Africa, Canada and elsewhere in the diaspora and to consider the nature of being a racialized refugee community in 1970s Canada and beyond. With this framework, the conference intends to broaden understandings of the refugee resettlement experience in Canada and will therefore be of interest to scholars, policymakers and various refugee and migrant communities.

The four themes of the conference are:

Routes/Roots in East Africa: Life in East Africa and Interrogating the Colonial Sandwich
The Expulsion Order and A Warm Welcome? (Re)Settling and Early Experiences of Life in Canada among East African Asians
Investigating the Legacy: Understanding the Ugandan Asian Refugee Resettlement Initiative, Impacts, and Further Migration from East Africa
Home and Homeland: Explorations of Transnationalism amongst the Ugandan Asian Refugee Diaspora in Canada and Beyond

The Researcher In-Residence appointment will allow Dr. Muhammedi to take a leadership role in coordinating the creation, planning, and budgeting the conference as Co-Chair of the Conference Sub-committee. As part of this work, Dr. Muhammedi will liaise with internal and external members and conduct research to aid in discussions, and decision-making around garnering more archival donations to grow the Uganda Collection and supporting the development of the 2022 conference.

Dr. Muhammedi also holds an Adjunct Research Professor appointment in the Department of History at Carleton University and works for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada as a Policy Analyst.

Dr. Shezan Muhammedi, Researcher In-Residence at Carleton Library
THE CARLETON LIBRARY SERIES IS BEING BROUGHT TO LIFE DIGITALLY

From its beginnings in 1963 with the appearance of “Lord Durham’s Report,” the first book in the newly formed Carleton Library Series, the Series has gone on to become the most important Canadian initiative to make available classic non-fiction Canadian documents and books in printed form. Published by McGill-Queen’s University Press for the past ten years, the Series now includes some 220 titles in various fields related to Canada’s past. Candidates for inclusion in the Series are selected by a distinguished editorial board made up of scholars at Carleton University.

Given the importance of the titles in the Series to Canadian intellectual and cultural life, McGill-Queen’s University Press has decided to commit resources to digitize the entire Series, making it available as e-books. Titles in the Series currently out of stock will also be digitized and made available in both printed form and as e-books. The Press is undertaking this bold digitization initiative of the Series because it believes that keeping major Canadian historical and social sciences works available serves the missions of Carleton, McGill, and Queen’s universities to disseminate scholarship widely to scholars, students, and educated general readers.

The Carleton Library Series has published over 230 works relating to Canadian history, politics, society, economics, geography, and other related fields.

Some of these titles include:
- Catharine Parr Traill’s The Female Emigrant’s Guide: Cooking with a Canadian Classic Nathalie Cooke and Fiona Lucas eds.
- Inventing Canada Suzanne Zeller
- The Fighting Newfoundlander G. W. L. Nicholson
- Beardmore: The Viking Hoax that Rewrote History Douglas Hunter
- Tug of War Jocelyn Wills

But you can find a list of titles that are part of the Carleton Library Series at carleton.ca/cls/books

STROOPWAFFLES, THE LIBRARY TWITTER CAT

If you have not been following our Twitter account throughout the pandemic, beyond the capacity updates, there is one other thing you may have missed. He is orange and fuzzy and likes to lay on people as they try to get work done from home.

His name is Stroopwaffles (although the other people in my house like to call him Waffles) and over the past 20 months, he has become the unofficial Library cat. From time to time, he has been known to make appearances on the Library Twitter and Instagram feed, and we now thought it time to bring him into online magazine form too.
Because, well, because why not?
3D PRINTER COMES TO THE BOOK ARTS LAB

Our 3D printer is now up and running and accepting webform requests. All students, faculty and staff in the Carleton University community are welcome to use this service.

The 3D printer, which used to be a part of the Discover Centre, is now a part of the Book Arts Lab offerings, giving them both the newest and the oldest print technology on campus.

As part of the preparations for the 3D lab, Larry Thompson, Master Printer in the Book Arts Lab, made sure to run many test products along with the student staff in the Research Support Services group to ensure they’d be able to handle any kinds of requests from the Carleton community before opening.

Take a look at some of the work that has come out of the printer so far...
We catch up with Kayla Dold, a long time student employee at the Library and star of many of our videos and campaigns on where she is now and how the Library has helped her.

**When did you first begin using the library?**
I started using the library when I was in my first year of the Bachelor of Humanities and Biology program. At first, I only used online sources to write lab reports and research papers. Gradually, I screwed up the courage to explore the building itself.

Retrospectively, though I'd used public libraries all my life, I think I experienced some institutional anxiety when confronted with an academic library for the first time. I had no experience using a library in-person for academic work; my high school had a Learning Commons with computers, but no physical collections. I knew how to use a search engine to find academic journal articles and that the library website was probably my best bet, but I wasn't comfortable using the physical collection or entering the building like it was my public library. Of course, I got as far as the Starbucks, but for the first couple months, that was it!

Eventually I started studying in the library because I liked being near the books—they made me feel studious as I as I texted my friends to complain about readings. By the end of my first year, I was studying and writing papers in the library. I gained a vague idea of where different collections and services were based on their proximity to my favourite study places (shout out to the desks on the third floor that were next to the music collection). While I almost exclusively used electronic resources my first year, being in the building, I gradually started taking advantage of the physical collection. I continued to study and write in the library using both electronic and physical collections, and the rest is history.

**You have been both an undergraduate and graduate student at Carleton – were your experiences using the library different with each degree?**
I started studying for my Bachelors degree September 2014, finishing in June 2019. I then started my Masters of Arts in political science, which I just completed this fall, 2021. Anyone with a general sense of time will realize that means I was blissfully free to use the library during my undergraduate degree but less so during my masters, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So, in short, yes, my experiences were different for pandemic-related reasons; however, they were also, subtly similar.

During my undergraduate degree, I transitioned from relying almost exclusively on online sources to the physical collection. This is in large part due to the nature of my program. I completed my biology requirements early and abroad. My last two years were devoted to the humanities, during which I studied books and essays published – and available for free through the library – as physical copies. I therefore became reliant on the library’s physical collection and interlibrary loan. I started my MA with similar practices.

Things became more difficult when public spaces closed. I researched texts, it turns out, that were difficult to physically source, let alone access online. Once up and running, I took full advantage of scan-on-demand and curbside pick-up, but there was a period during my research when instead of sourcing primary research materials, I used the library to learn more about digital tools that could help me manage my research. I used a lot of online subject guides and instructional videos to learn about citation management and digital humanities. Without library instructions on how to use Zotero, I don’t know where I’d be. Actually, I do; I’d still be typing my thesis bibliography.

Overall, my experience using the library shifted from providing research materials in my undergraduate degree to providing useful tools for facilitating and managing my research during my masters. Yet, my experience was consistent in other ways. In both degrees (and despite a pandemic), the library served as point zero for my research needs. The library played an important role in my research agenda. It remained the place I went to, physically or virtually, to address research-related questions, concerns, and curiosities.
I worked in Research Support Services, which was a department I did not know anything about before my friend started working there. She told me that was where the librarians worked, and I thought, cool! Sounds good. In my time there, I learnt just how much labour and collaboration it takes to present the wrinkly-free version of the library students and faculty see when they walk through the stacks or browse the collection online.

For example, I remember being surprised by how many people were involved with tasks like selection and maintenance of the physical collection. Before working at the library, I worked in a small public library with a full-time staff of about 12 people. There, this work was the responsibility of one. At Carleton, it is a collaborative process that involves multiple departments that have way more than 12 employees. I looked at selection and maintenance at Carleton like the first time I looked at a skyscraper, with awe, but mostly with a sore neck.

All this to say that the functioning of an academic library involves more people, effort, and expertise than I think the average member of the wider academic community appreciates. I learnt that the academic library is an institution with its own procedures whose function depends on the collaboration between employees in and across the library, consultation in university departments and with faculty.
You are now in your first year of a Masters of Information Studies to become a librarian. Did we influence your decision to pursue this career?

Absolutely. Prior to working in Research Support Services, I only had the vaguest idea of what an academic librarian did. Once I started working in the department, and learnt more about their responsibilities, the profession became more and more enticing to me. I love to do research and I love to teach, and as of right now, I primarily think of myself as an academic. Academic librarianship offers the best of both in an academic environment; the outreach and teaching element of the profession is attractive to me as an educator, while curation, knowledge organization, and information systems management are attractive to me as a researcher.

Additionally, my experience working in the library has revealed the political dimensions of knowledge organization. Academic librarians are in the position to determine what are and are not valuable research materials, perspectives, art, and so on, through their knowledge organization practices. Therefore, I don’t only see academic librarianship as a profession that satisfies what I like to do. I also see it as platform to effect change in environments like the university experiencing a cultural reckoning—a reconsideration of who we consider authoritative researchers, storytellers, and artists. Therefore, the political theorist in me is attracted to academic librarianship for the role it can play in diversifying cannons, historical narratives, and authoritative voices. Without my experience working for and with academic librarians, I would not have been exposed to a profession that seems to align with my interests—be they educational, research-oriented, or political—so well.

What impact do you hope to make on the library world when you graduate?

I might have let the cat out of the bag prematurely above! I hope to use my knowledge organization practices to help diversify authority in the academic disciplines I love (... and sometimes love to hate), specifically philosophy, political theory, and intellectual history.

Additionally, since academic librarianship operates at the intersection of library services and the wider university research community, I hope to continue working with both graduate and undergraduate students. One day, I was at work in Research Support Services and a PhD student from my academic department came in. He was so excited; he said, ‘Kayla! Did you know this was here!? ’ and I replied, ‘Um, yes... I work here?’ . This was a third year PhD student who had only recently discovered the merits of Research Support Services. The fact that there are, not only undergraduate students, but graduate students who do not know about these services blows my mind.

Knowledge organization is only one piece of the puzzle; we need mutually constructive relationships with the wider university community to be effective information specialists. I hope that once I graduate, I can contribute to building these university-wide relationships because I see them as integral to ethical and beneficial knowledge production both in the library and society at large. You can take the political theorist out of the library, but I guess you can’t take the library out of the political theorist!
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

We could talk about our collection or we could show you, and when you have a collection as varied and wonderful as our Archives and Special Collections one is, we thought it might be a nice opportunity to get to show you some of the older and unique pieces we have.