Concordia University Library's
23rd Annual
Research Forum

Loyola Jesuit Hall and Conference Centre
April 25, 2025

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8:30	9:00	Registration
9:00	9:15	**Welcome** **Amy Buckland – University Librarian**
9:15	10:15	**Keynote Address** **Sophie Montreuil - L'Acfas, les bibliothèques et la recherche : une alliance au profit de la communauté scientifique**
10:15	10:35	**Finding Solutions to Dysfunctions in Libraries: A Scoping Review**
10:35	11:05	**Break (30 min.)**
11:05	11:25	**Opening the Door for Assessment: Using Open Data to Evaluate Read and Publish Agreements**
11:25	11:45	**Sustainable Open Access in Quebec and Canada? The Impact of Plan S on FRQ-Funded Researchers**
11:45	12:05	**Law Journals and Open Access: Where Do We Stand?**
12:05	13:05	**Lunch (1 hour)**
13:05	13:25	**Supporting global equity in documentary heritage with a free, minimal computing solution for creating sustainable and accessible digital exhibitions: The case of Zulima**
13:25	13:45	**What's the point in (a) history? One local librarian's journey into an institution's past**
13:45	13:55	**Break (10 min.)**
13:55	14:15	**Practice-based and archival research for the preservation of early electroacoustic music history**
14:15	14:35	**Special Collections as Bridges to Community, Education and Research**
14:35	14:55	**Break (20 min.)**
14:55	15:15	**Quantitative Methods for Assessing eBook Frontlist Use at a University Library**
15:15	15:35	**From Highs and Lows to New Insights: Academic Librarians in Collective Agreements**
15:35	15:45	**Break (10 min.)**
15:45	16:05	**A Case Study for Community Building in an Academic Library Context - The Evolution of the Fibre Arts Technology Club (FAT club) Before, During and After COVID: Building Community through Creativity and Healing**

16:05	16:25	**Visual Media at Concordia University: Managing Physical Media Collections for Film Studies in the Digital Age**
16:25	16:35	**Closing remarks** **Pat Riva - Associate University Librarian**

Keynote Address
L'Acfas, les bibliothèques et la recherche : une alliance au profit de la communauté scientifique

Sophie Montreuil, Executive Director, Acfas

Sophie Montreuil holds a Masters from the Université de Montréal and a doctorate and post-doc from McGill University. She is the Executive Director of Acfas as of December 2019, having been first Director of Research then part of the higher administration at Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. She currently or has recently served on the boards of several organizations and she chaired the Board of the Cegep du Vieux-Montréal for a six-year term. She has co-edited several collections, including *Faire connaissance : 100 ans de sciences en français*, published in 2023 by the Éditions Cardinal for the 100th anniversary of Acfas. In 2023, she was named to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre des Palmes académiques, and, in 2024, became a mentor for the Trudeau Foundation.

Finding Solutions to Dysfunctions in Libraries: A Scoping Review

Éthel Gamache, Subject and Reference Librarian, Concordia University Library
Patrick R. Labelle, Research Librarian, University of Ottawa

Library dysfunction can manifest itself as a series of internal issues within libraries such as communication inefficiencies and management shortcomings that can affect work environment, employees and, consequently, services. The issue of library dysfunction has been discussed widely in the literature and it seemed fitting to conduct a scoping review to better understand the operational challenges that libraries face along with proposed solutions that can improve or address some of these ongoing issues. This presentation will explore scoping review methodology from a social sciences perspective. It will outline the process itself, including the development of an exhaustive search strategy, its peer-review, its adaptation for various other databases along with its implementation. The presentation will also highlight how Covidence, an online tool that facilitates certain steps of a review project, was used to manage various phases such as duplicate removal, initial screening of titles and abstracts, full-text review, and data extraction. The presentation will address hiring of graduate research assistants along with their training and how a team of four was able to collaborate effectively on this project. Finally, preliminary findings from the review will be presented. Data around types of dysfunctions along with proposed solutions will be extracted to provide an overview of current research on this topic. Acknowledgment is given to the Concordia Library Research Grant 2023-2024 for supporting this research endeavour.

Opening the Door for Assessment: Using Open Data to Evaluate Read and Publish Agreements

Melissa Moreau, MISt Student, McGill University

The open access movement has shaped current models of scholarly dissemination. With a growing number of Canadian funders (e.g., Tri-Agency, Fonds de recherche du Québec) adopting open access mandates,

academic libraries are playing an increasingly active role in supporting scholars as they navigate these requirements. In the last decade, read and publish agreements, which package together library subscription fees and author article processing charges (APCs), have become an increasingly common model for open access publishing.

This growth necessitates standards for evaluating the impact and value of such initiatives. There is, however, little agreement on how these agreements should be assessed and limits on publisher-provided data stand in the way of building benchmarks across institutions and agreements. The aim of this research is to address that gap.

Illustrated using bibliometric data for two Canadian research institutions and the 2023 Wiley-CKRN Read and Publish Agreement, this presentation will propose a scholarly communications framework for assessing these programs at an institutional level using open data. Adapting Butler et al.'s methodology for assessing APC spending on a global scale, five years of article-level bibliometric data from OpenAlex have been merged with five years of journal-level data from Butler et al.'s open APC dataset, allowing for pre- and post-agreement comparisons across four dimensions of value: output, spending (including double-dip savings), dissemination, and collaboration. Notable preliminary findings for one institution indicate overall open access growth under the agreement and significant double dip savings.

The presentation will cover the development of this framework, the methods employed, findings for the two included institutions, and a discussion of future applications. By employing open data in this framework, the ultimate goal of this research is to provide libraries and institutions with a model for evaluating read and publish agreements that allows for collaborative and transparent assessment that is more in line with the movement such agreements are meant to serve.

Sustainable Open Access in Quebec and Canada? The Impact of Plan S on FRQ-Funded Researchers

Rachel Harris, Scholarly Publishing Librarian, Concordia University
Jessica Lange, Interim Associate Dean for Library Technology, McGill University Libraries
Pierre Lasou, Bibliothécaire - Communications savantes, Université Laval

Granting agencies play a key role in advancing sustainable open access (OA) scholarship globally and in Canada. Plan S, a European initiative by cOAlition S, has catalyzed global shifts towards immediate OA. Its relevance to Canada grew significantly in 2022 when Québec's granting agency, Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ), joined cOAlition S, mandating increased researcher compliance with open knowledge practices. This presentation builds on our previously published research to analyze the revised FRQ 2022 OA policy's impact on Québec researchers (Harris et al., 2024). As the Tri-Agency contemplates a similar policy shift, the research results are timely for sustainability concerns for researchers across Canada.

Our study examines OA publishing options for FRQ-funded researchers under its 2019 and 2022 policies to assess the impacts of Plan S. Using DOI registration data from Crossref, we extracted and analyzed FRQ-supported publications from 2020-2022. We also assessed the role of transformative agreements negotiated through the Canadian Research Knowledge Network in expanding OA pathways. Our findings show that self-archiving opportunities are reduced under the revised FRQ policy, pushing more researchers toward article processing charges (APCs). This shift raises concerns regarding the financial sustainability of OA publishing, particularly for researchers facing increased costs.

This presentation highlights findings, outlines the financial implications of APCs in an immediate OA environment, and briefly explores the diamond OA movement's potential. We underscore the need for

collaborative efforts among key stakeholders—funders in Quebec and Canada, institutions, and libraries—to address financial barriers and ensure an equitable transition to immediate OA for Canadian scholarship.

Law Journals and Open Access: Where Do We Stand?

Ana Rogers-Butterworth, Liaison Librarian, Nahum Gelber Law Library, McGill University Libraries
Melissa Moreau, MISt Student, McGill University

This presentation examines the open access (OA) practices and policy clarity of academic law journals in which Canadian legal researchers have published over the past ten years (2015-2024). The study explores the current policies of these journals, offering insights into the accessibility and transparency of legal scholarship. In 2023, following the implementation of a new OA policy by the Fonds de recherche du Québec, librarians supporting law faculty research in Quebec observed that law journals exhibited lower rates of policy transparency, OA publishing options, and peer review compared to academic journals in other disciplines. This prompted a larger review of over 300 law journals in order to establish how law journal policies compare against other disciplines and to better support legal researchers in publishing OA.

The data collected focuses on six research universities across Canada, selected based on criteria such as high research output, geographic diversity, and linguistic representation. These criteria ensure the inclusion of institutions from different regions of Canada, with representation from English-speaking, French-speaking, and bilingual institutions. By focusing on these universities, the study captures a broad and representative picture of academic legal publishing practices.

The presentation will detail the decision-making process behind journal inclusion and collection, which was based both on publishing data collected from Web of Science and OpenAlex and university research office reports. The researchers will also discuss the type of information collected about each journal and the OA policies consulted in making these decisions, such as those established by Plan S and the FRQ. Researchers also tracked the number of journals included in OA policy tools, such as Jisc Open Policy Finder and DOAJ, and the type of editorial review. This data informs the broader landscape of legal publishing and highlights unique insights into the current state of OA practices.

Preliminary findings highlight significant variation in OA practices, with some journals demonstrating clear, inclusive policies, while others maintain restrictive or opaque models. The goal of this research is to provide actionable insights for scholars, editors, librarians, and institutions seeking to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in legal academic publishing, and more broadly, the Access to Justice movement.

Supporting global equity in documentary heritage with a free, minimal computing solution for creating sustainable and accessible digital exhibitions: The case of Zulima

Francisco Berrizbeitia, Developer, Concordia University Library
Mariana Libertad Suárez, Professor, Pontificia Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Pamela Carson, Web Services Librarian, Concordia University Library

Dr. Mariana Libertad Suárez, a Venezuelan university professor, is dedicated to researching Latin American women writers from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who are absent from the literary canon. She has amassed a significant amount of information about early women writers from Venezuela, including

primary-source out-of-copyright texts and manuscripts, correspondence, and images. This collection includes priceless items about Zulima (pseudonym for Lina López de Aramburu), the first female Venezuelan playwright and one of the first female Venezuelan authors. However, Venezuela is in crisis and over 7.7 million Venezuelans have left in recent years, contributing to the largest recorded refugee crisis in the Americas (UNHCR, 2025). Libertad Suárez left Venezuela due to the ongoing socio-political and economic crisis there and has brought this archive with her to Spain.

Worldwide, memory institutions continue to work on making their collections available online. While the Global North has both national and international repositories for digital cultural heritage (e.g., Europeana, Canadiana, the Digital Public Library of America, among others) and countless memory institutions, the Global South is comparatively underserved. While UNESCO highlights the importance of safeguarding documentary heritage, no tangible assistance is apparently available for people wanting to catalogue and/or digitize collections aside from several funded projects at memory institutions (UNESCO, 2024) and guidance on low-tech digitization (UNESCO, 2021).

The Zulima collection is but one example of digital cultural heritage at risk. There is no memory institution in Venezuela to safely hold the collection. The software generally used to create digital collections either is expensive or requires technical expertise to set up and maintain. To make this collection accessible to future researchers it needs to be online, preferably in a structured data format that is machine readable, and which offers the highest chance of being discoverable.

The objective of this project is to make the Zulima collection discoverable and fully accessible in a way that requires no cost, minimal labour, and limited ongoing maintenance. This model would be available for re-use in other projects as well.

1. To expand on the existing SWALLOW software (Camlot, Neugebauer, & Berrizbeitia, 2020) to make it suitable for cataloguing collections with similar constraints.
2. To support the creation of minimal digital collection websites that use only JavaScript, local data, standards-based HTML and CSS to create a self-contained, sustainable website that can be hosted anywhere.
3. To create machine-readable, linked data from the cataloguing data and make it available on Wikidata for both creating Wikipedia pages and for data harvesting.
4. To find suitable and sustainable options for hosting digital assets from the collection.

Our hypothesis is that cataloguing the Zulima collection, creating a collection website and exporting the data to Wikidata will increase the visibility and discoverability of this author's works online. We will test this by re-asking the pre-test questions in Google and chatbots to see if results include Zulima. Over time, we would like to see if citations of works in the collection increase and if more information is added by others to Wikipedia once the seeds are planted.

What's the point in (a) history? One local librarian's journey into an institution's past

Mary Hague-Yearl, Head Librarian, Osler Library of the History of Medicine (on sabbatical)

The Osler Library of the History of Medicine opened in McGill's Medical Faculty in May 1929. The library's history and formation, however, extend back decades earlier. In this talk, I will share observations from archival documents that provide a behind-the-scenes look at how the library came together: from early book purchases and personal correspondence about book collecting, to discussions with McGill administrators about the building of the library. I will present items attesting to Osler's ideas about his project alongside the library's administrative record in order to address questions about vision, legacy, and the important role that librarians play as curators (broadly conceived).

This paper will be informative and explorative. It comes out of research I am doing into the history of the library and questions that endure about how best to approach institutional history. As we look forward to celebrations of our centenary, how will we present our past? How does one tell an institutional history in a way that is informative, engaging, and that challenges us to use the positive parts of legacy for inspiration, the difficult parts of legacy for reflection and correction?

The Osler Library is somewhat unique in that the original collection was carefully curated: Osler thought about what he wanted his library to be, he selected its contents with care and discrimination. He articulated his vision in memoranda, in correspondence, and in print. This provides a unique opportunity to interrogate the original collection. To borrow from Osler's own words, what does his library say about "his fancies and foibles, his strength and weakness, his prejudices and preferences"?

As we approach the 100th anniversary of our opening, we think it important to delve into the library's history: not only Osler's prejudices and preferences, but also those of the librarians who have overseen its collection development and activities for the past 100 years.

Practice-based and archival research for the preservation of early electroacoustic music history

Ezra J. Teboul, Postdoctoral researcher, Ingenium Museums and Carleton University, Master of Information Studies student, McGill University

This presentation summarizes the main takeaways from two parallel preservation projects in the context of early electroacoustic musical instruments: one, housed at the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology, looks at what exactly made Hugh Le Caine's 1945-1948 electronic sackbut instrument special. Was it the first modular synthesizer? If not, what was it, exactly? The second, supported by McGill University's Center for Interdisciplinary Music, Media and Technology (CIRMMT), is a digital emulation of Gordon Mumma's "cybersonic" instruments for the 1966 composition "Mesa," which accompanied a Merce Cunningham Dance Company performance titled "Places." In both cases, the objective is access: new materials are created which make these unique historical artifacts and their accompanying context legible to the public (artists and audiences alike). I highlight how reverse engineering both the sackbut and the cybersonic instruments requires distinct relationships to archives: on one hand, Le Caine's tone is optimistic yet accurate and descriptive, requiring mostly technical experimentation to obtain results which sound like original recordings. On the other hand, the conflicting information offered in various contexts by Mumma places more responsibility on the archivist and researcher to interpret directions. I conclude by discussing these interpretations directly inform technical decisions in the re-engineering of emulations for access: in one case, a new copy of the Sackbut for the Ingenium Museums, and in the other, a digital program freely downloadable for anyone who may wish to reperform "Mesa" or "Places." In doing so, I highlight the shifting boundaries between archival, engineering, and scholarly work in the making legible and accessible of electroacoustic music history.

Special Collections as Bridges to Community, Education and Research

Octavian Sopt, Senior Documentation Technician, Rare Books and Special Collections, McGill University Libraries.

In my presentation, I will focus on describing the social and educational impact that special collections can have on both the academic and non-academic communities. I will use at least one case study from McGill University, in which I was directly involved, revolving around a collection of Japanese prints (specifically ukiyo-e) and other related material, including books. This particular case study is important because there is growing interest in this collection, from professors arranging class visits and full lectures involving this material, to organizing public events, including public lectures and exhibitions, that have drawn a large crowd to the Rare Books and Special Collections Department.

Special collections, such as the one mentioned above, have the power to attract academic interest and offer research opportunities, due to several factors: presence of publisher's seals, censorship seals (the prints were made in Edo Period Japan), color, color blends, types of dye used, stylistic aspects, multiple functions of the print (cultural or entertainment value, but also promotional material advertising kabuki theatres or the garment industry, for example). This particular collection also appeals to lovers of Japanese and East Asian culture who might not come from an academic background, and to the broader public in general.

Therefore, this case study proves that special collections, if promoted in the right circumstances and to the appropriate audiences, have the power to garner a lot of attention, a lot of interest, and are, at the end of the day, used. One of the most important actions that a book collection can undergo is to be used, appreciated and valued, for academic or non-academic purposes. This kind of exposure also has outreach potential, which of course is very important for libraries. Any curator would accept opportunities for external funding to support acquisition in certain fields and collections.

Quantitative Methods for Assessing eBook Frontlist Use at a University Library

Emma Clarke, Electronic Resources Coordinator, Concordia University Library
Meredith Giffin, Collections Coordinator, Concordia University Library

Multiple approaches to electronic and print book collection development are employed by academic libraries, including individual title selection, approval plans, demand-driven acquisition, and evidence-based acquisition. These purchasing models may be analyzed in varied ways to assess the relevance, usage, and cost of titles acquired. However, comparatively little has been disseminated on evaluating thematic eBook collections or annual frontlist purchases using these criteria or comparing this method of acquisition to other means of purchasing eBooks.

Concordia Library purchases thematic eBook frontlists annually for a wide range of academic disciplines from multiple providers. We have begun applying a holistic approach to assessing these collections: elements such as total frontlist cost, title count, average cost-per-title, unique title requests, the percentage of frontlist titles used, longitudinal use data and a closer analysis of individual title usage are all considered. This strategy provides a richer understanding of eBook collection usage and avoids reliance on year-to-year usage of any given frontlist, or the overall collection, as a primary measure of use, which can result in a perception of overall value despite few titles being used. We aim to investigate comparative usage within and across subject areas and platforms, and to determine which may be providing the best value, both to users and in the context of the library's budget.

In our presentation we will elaborate on this holistic strategy of eBook frontlist usage analysis, provide data examples from our assessments, and discuss how it may inform our eBooks acquisition strategies.

From Highs and Lows to New Insights: Academic Librarians in Collective Agreements

Ruby Lindsay, Health Sciences Librarian, University of Saskatchewan
Jordan Pedersen, Research & Scholarship Librarian, University of Guelph

This work-in-progress presentation analyzes the current conditions of librarian labour via an analysis of Collective Agreements (CA) in Canadian university libraries. This research project follows in the footsteps of Highs and Lows: An Examination of Academic Librarians' Collective Agreements by Harrington and Gerolami, published a decade ago. While that chapter focused on a subset of 15 universities across Canada, we are expanding the analysis to include a broader range of universities.
In this project we are asking two main questions:
- How are academic librarians and their work represented in collective agreements?
- How has that representation changed over time?
We will share the results of our literature review, the decisions we have made about which universities to include in the analysis, and our plan for the future of this research and why we think it is timely and important. We will also share the challenges of this type of work, including Collective Agreement interpretation versus labour conditions in practice, and the availability of historical agreements.

A Case Study for Community Building in an Academic Library Context - The Evolution of the Fibre Arts Technology Club (FAT club) Before, During and After COVID: Building Community through Creativity and Healing

Ariana Hipsagh, Technology Sandbox Technician, Webster Library, Concordia University

This presentation explores how the Fibre Arts Technology Club (FAT Club) at Concordia University promotes community engagement, creativity, and healing by integrating traditional fibre arts with technology. Since its founding in 2018, FAT Club has introduced tools like a motorized 3D-printed circular sock knitting machine (2019) and a mechanical punchcard knitting machine (2022), which pays homage to early computing. During COVID-19, FAT Club offered a necessary social connection and continues to promote inclusivity, skill-building, and sustainability. Key milestones include the Mending Matters course (2023) and the 2024 Christmas auction.

FAT Club highlights the role of academic libraries in lifelong learning, research, and social responsibility. By offering creative spaces and access to technology, libraries enhance student engagement, retention, and community development. This case study demonstrates how library-based initiatives encourage innovation, sustainability, and resilience in academic settings.

Significance FAT Club exemplifies how academic libraries serve as hubs for lifelong learning, social responsibility, and innovation. By fostering creativity, mental wellness, and sustainability, the club provides a scalable model for post-pandemic academic spaces. Community engagement initiatives like FAT Club strengthen libraries' roles as vital institutions supporting academic excellence and societal connection.

Visual Media at Concordia University: Managing Physical Media Collections for Film Studies in the Digital Age

Hélène Brousseau, Digital Media and Visual Resources Librarian, Concordia University
Kathleen Botter, Systems Librarian, Concordia University
Andréa Harland, Access & Delivery Services Librarian, Concordia University

In December 2021, a joint agreement was signed between Concordia Library and the Faculty of Fine Arts (FOFA) to transfer the responsibility for the Visual Collections Repository (VCR) film collection to

Concordia Library. The project aimed to transfer responsibility for acquisition and cataloguing to the Library and to establish a partnership for the management of the film collection for Film Studies classes through collaborative workflows, while maintaining physical access to the collection at the VCR.

This project had many phases including the cataloguing of the existing VCR collection, providing access to it in Sofia, as well as developing a new circulation system for audiovisual resources and an improved screening lists management system. An unexpected outcome of the project was the reaffirmation of the continued importance of physical media in teaching film.

In this presentation we will focus on the management aspects of the project, briefly review how access was provided, and discuss some of the workflows that were developed particularly relating to the film screening needs of the faculty and give some insight on how faculty at the School of Cinema access the collection. Additionally, we plan to use this project as a case study to explore the enduring role of physical audiovisual media in cinema studies instruction, even as educational institutions increasingly adopt streaming options. To support this analysis, we will present highlights of our literature search and interviews with faculty members and staff supporting needs from the School of Cinema. We will present the results of this work at the Forum.

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