It happened in a library that’s so cool!
NEW RESEARCH HELP DESK

The Library team at Georgian College decided to tackle the challenge of creating better flow and usable space within their Library. This year, the team move their Research Service desk from the middle of the Library to the front. Their new location is now visible from the main entrance and is across from the Customer Service desk. This has created better referral flow for student and faculty between these two service desks. Their former space in the centre of the library is temporarily being used by students with their own devices. Using their Desktracker software to create an electronic form, they are conducting a survey to see what patrons would like to see this space used for. They are hoping to reach at least 700 students (10% of Barrie’s FTE).
Seneca Archives is a new service of Seneca Libraries located at the Markham Campus. The Archives’ resources consist of a physical repository of Seneca’s records of long-term value and is open to all Seneca faculty, staff, students and alumni. The Archives can also be accessed online through its Access to Memory page – a growing online database featuring thousands of digitized photos and archival descriptions.

Seneca’s 50th anniversary commemorative book, *Seneca 50: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, chronicles milestone moments at Seneca over the last five decades. The book was written by English and Liberal Studies professor Tom Bartsiokas, who conducted research for the better part of a year at Seneca Archives. Mr. Bartsiokas’ research was aided by Seneca Libraries Archivist Sean Hayes, who carefully curated and restored all of the historical images featured within the publication.
INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEARNING CENTRE.

The Algonquin College Library, Peer Tutoring and Student Learning Centre have been preparing for their new space in the soon-to-be-completed Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Learning Centre. The new building will expand study space and provide a brighter, more welcoming learning space. It will have a self-serve check out system and include additional library help desks integrated throughout multiple floors of the new Centre. It will include a new Presentation Studio where students can practice, as well as a new Digital Literacy Lab that will provide students with information literacy and digital literacy skills. The new building will also provide a great new space for Peer Tutoring and the Student Learning Centre. Everyone at Algonquin College is excitedly anticipating this new learning space.
Northern College Campus Libraries in Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Haileybury and Moosonee held grand openings of their new makerspace called The Creative Outlet (TCO). Both rooms combined offer students, staff and faculty access to Alienware PCs, 3D printers, a desktop CNC milling machine, GoPro cameras, HTC Vive and Oculus Rift virtual reality headsets, Microsoft HoloLens augmented reality units, electronics kits, camcorders, green screen, teleprompter, lighting, and a full complement of all necessary software to experiment, design, and prototype their creations. In addition to makerspaces in each of their Campus Libraries, they are on their way to having a fully equipped audio/video editing studio at their Timmins campus.
BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

Once a month college staff and faculty at Confederation College meet at lunch for a fun and thought-provoking dialogue and discussion. To join, folks sign up and are provided a copy of the book of the month. Titles are selected by library and staff from the Centre for Policy and Research. Currently we average approximately 25 members per meeting both from the Thunder Bay Campus and our regional campuses. Folks in the region join via Centra. The one rule at Book Club is it is a safe place where participants can ask respectful questions without fear or judgment. The team tackles tough subjects and facilitates them in a manner that allows everyone to learn and grow. This is one of the many “actions” the team are involved with which directly relate to reconciliation and 94 “Calls to Action” from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Series Example:

**Negahneewin Reading Series: A collaboration of the Paterson Library Commons and the Centre for Policy and Research in Indigenous Learning**

- This series celebrates the work of Indigenous community leaders who sat down with representatives of Confederation College in the 1980s to propose the Negahneewin Institute. These people saw a future at Confederation where intercultural education would be a priority for everyone here, whether faculty, staff or administration, Indigenous and non-Indigenous. They dreamed of a space where authentic conversations and genuine relationships would be the fabric of a vibrant learning community.

- The books in this series have been chosen with this vision in mind. They are written by Indigenous writers from across Turtle Island—from the verdant west coast to the rugged forests of Northwestern Ontario, from the arid Southwest to the icy Arctic. The authors are women and men of varied experiences and varied literary styles. Their subjects are contemporary and historic. Some are widely known and widely accepted while others are controversial.
This year, Library and Media Services at Fanshawe College, in collaboration with the Centre for Research and Innovation and the Centre for Academic Excellence, successfully launched an institutional repository named FIRST (Fanshawe Innovation, Research, Scholarship and Teaching). FIRST promotes collaboration and open access to academic, professional, and creative achievements of the Fanshawe community. Administrators, Faculty and Support Staff have all been invited to submit their research to this website. Contributors have reported that the uploading process is easy and the website is very user friendly. FIRST can track real-time readership and provides this information geographically on a world map.
On October 4, the Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), the Library Learning Centre and the Centre for Academic English launched a new collaborative initiative called The 1st Six. The initiative aims to connect students with the academic support services available on campus in the sixth week of their programs. This is the optimal time for students to reflect on their course achievement and study habits, and recognize areas for support and improvement. The project team set up six tables on the Progress Campus Bridge, inviting students to work with a learning strategist in two to three minute intensive sessions to learn about time management, test preparation and note-taking, and other skills. Adaptive technologists showed students how to use technology effectively and tutors helped students with English language and math skills. The event was a success with the team interacting with more than 470 students, indicating significant interest in the event. The College is planning expanded offerings through the coming year at all campuses.
The team at Niagara College are pleased to announce the opening of the Exploratory at the NOTL Campus Library & Learning Commons (LLC). The Exploratory is a digital media lab and makerspace for students, faculty, and staff to access various types of technology and software that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. Users are not expected to know how to use the software or equipment but can use this space as an opportunity to play! The Exploratory has the software and equipment to film, record audio, edit video, design graphics, create prototypes with a 3D printer, and so much more. The Exploratory will soon be mirrored at the Welland Campus LLC too.
**TECH TALK/NEW MARKETING**

**Tech Talk** introduced students to the technologies offered by the George Brown Library. The team setup a technology kiosk outside the library entrances and staff members demonstrated a variety of technologies such as iPads, Mac Book Pro, SLSR cameras, etc. About 300 students stopped by the booths and also participated in a survey about their use of technology.

**Marketing Improvements** were introduced in the library this year. The team at George Brown Library made these improvements by making their poster designs more vibrant and eye catching to students.
The Library team at Durham College hosted a Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP). During this event, students could get a head start on their writing assignments by dropping by for some quick tips or staying all night to finish a paper with help from Writing Specialists. Study Skills Specialists were on hand to provide exam preparation strategies and Library Technician/Reference Librarian was available to provide help with specific research topics/research skills. Staff reported students were lined up early to get in, and the buzz lasted all night with 92 students receiving writing and study skills help and 145 pledges received at the “Fight Procrastination” booth. They also had a great turnout for their yoga session and mindfulness meditation. Overall, LNAP was a huge success.
The library team at Fleming College, Sutherland Campus opened faculty swing space to their colleagues in Health Sciences who were looking for a temporary home during a renovation. This allowed their team the opportunity to build a closer relationship with a number of their faculty which they plan to nurture after they move on to their permanent offices post renovations. When swing space become available again, the library team plans to take advantage of these by building two additional group study rooms, one of which will be equipped with new teleconferencing and team collaboration equipment. In addition, one of these swing spaces will be turned into a workshop room with wired and mobile technology to allow the Library and other service departments to deliver IL workshops.
ACCREDITATION REPOSITORY DEVELOPMENT

This year we completed a pilot project and received institutional approval to proceed with a Conestoga wide Accreditation Repository system, initiated, developed, launched and “owned” by the Library. It will include a new position for 2018-2019.

The Library has built the repository system and associated processes so that all degree teaching faculty will collect their student samples and curriculum documents in the same way across the College. The objects/items will all be collected/received by the library and indexed into the repository (custom built in share point). In preparation for accreditations, we will assist with a curation process and set-up of an accreditation library which accreditors will be able to use both on and off site to search, sort, and review at their leisure. We will also begin to build mechanisms for professional accreditations for degrees. There is future (longer term) potential for institutional accreditations as well. This project was a great way to demonstrate and apply the amazing technological and metadata skills of library staff in a very new way and solve a big problem for our College.
The Cambrian College library team in partnership with their First Generation Advisory Program (FGEN) opened a Zen Den for their students. They took an old storage/AV equipment room in the library and turned it into a relaxing lounge room for students. The room has bean bag chairs, SAD lamps, desks and tables for working alone or in groups, games, puzzles, whiteboards and leisure reading materials. They painted the room soothing colours, hung an outdoors-themed mural, and have regular lamps in the room for more relaxing lighting. The fluorescent light covers were also replaced with plastic sheets printed with a sky and cloud pattern to minimize the harshness of the lighting. The room has been extremely popular with students and was featured on CBC Morning North.
NEW POSITION - INDIGENOUS RESOURCES OFFICER

The Sault College Library introduced a new position that is quite unique, Library Technician and Indigenous Resources Officer. The position does regular library tech roles such as serials, collection development, reference and instruction. Added to this, this person is working to embed Indigenous knowledge throughout the college. She has already started reading groups on Indigenous topics and, this coming year, she will be collaborating with the Dean of Indigenous Studies to work with Faculty to embed Indigenous awareness, knowledge, relations to programs and history into curriculum.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW LEADER

In December 2016 and after 17 years, Lynne Bentley retired as Director of Humber Libraries. The search then began for a new leader for this team.

In August 2017, the team welcomed Cynthia McKeich as their new Director of Humber Libraries. The team reported they are pleased to have new leadership to help them move forward and wanted to share this news. Cynthia reported she is thrilled to be at Humber and equally thrilled to be identified as “cool”!

Cynthia McKeich
Director of Humber Libraries