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Our Philosophy

Vision
Librarians Without Borders (LWB) envisions a global society where all people have equal access to information resources.

Mission
Librarians Without Borders (LWB) is a non-profit organization that strives to improve access to information resources regardless of language, geography, or religion, by forming partnerships with community organizations in developing regions.

Values
LWB holds a core set of values that form the basis of our existence and steer our activities:

- Libraries have a fundamental role as defenders of intellectual freedom and providers of equal access to information.
- Access to information is vital in supporting learning and literacy, reducing poverty, empowering citizens, and building healthy, strong communities.
- We do not draw cultural or linguistic boundaries – diversity is embraced; we will work with our partners in their own cultural context and in their own languages.
- Our efforts are enhanced by working collaboratively, internally as well as externally with the domestic and international community, to further our mutual goals.

Fiscal Year Change
At the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December 2012, LWB’s Board announced the change of the fiscal year from the original period (10/1 - 9/30) to a new annual period (5/1 - 4/30) that is better aligned with the academic calendar. As a result, whereas previous AGMs have occurred (in December) after the conclusion of a full fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30), the 2012 AGM will occur (in July) after the conclusion of a truncated fiscal year (10/1/11 - 4/30/12). In 2013 and thereafter, AGMs will occur (in July) after the conclusion of full fiscal years of the new period (5/1 - 4/30).

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facebook.com/librarianswithoutborders

Slideshare
slideshare.net/LibrariansWithoutBorders
Our People

Board of Directors

Catherine Johnson
Robert Kalnins
Anthony Molaro
Heather Moulaison
Cabot Yu

Executive Officers

Co-Executive Directors

Mark Gelsomino
Melanie Sellar

Membership Director

Erika Heesen

Secretary

Laura George

Treasurer

Nalini Battu

Committee Liaisons

Carolyn Doi (McGill University)
Leanna Jantzi (University of British Columbia)
Mark Gelsomino (University of Ottawa)
Mark Gelsomino (University of Toronto)
Amy Paterson (Dalhousie University)
Erin Walker (University of Western Ontario)

Committee Executive Officers

Dalhousie University

Heather Buchanan (Co-Chair)
Jane Willwerth (Co-Chair)
Jeanna Greene
Kevin Hartford
Leah Rae
Whitney Spencer
McGill University
Rebecca Burbank (Co-Chair)
Emily McHugh (Co-Chair)
Xenia Kurguzova (Shadow Co-Chair)
Katherine van der Linden (Shadow Co-Chair)
Caroline Baab
Amanda Oliver
Laurel Stokes

University of Ottawa
Isabelle Camiré (Co-Chair)
Mariane Léonard (Co-Chair)
Luc Cusson
Tina Gervais
Lisa Grierson
Liz Marasse
Simon Pelletier
Rebecca Ross
Katie Skidmore
Sophie Tilignier

University of Toronto
Melissa Bell (Co-Chair)
Melody Tacit (Co-Chair)
Alyssa Beaudoin
Katie Cuyler
Catherine Falls
Book Gardhouse
Tracy Munusami
Kim Parry
Laura Sorbara

University of Western Ontario
Darcy Crum (Co-Chair)
Danielle Dawe (Co-Chair)
Nicole Gibson (Past Co-Chair)
Jessica Moodie (Past Co-Chair)
Kevin Davidson
Nariel Davis
Eva Gavaris
Joanna Kerr
Travis Kinnear
Sean McCoy
Stephanie Osley
Katrina Ross
Laura Samulenok
Alexandria Stalteri
Program Teams

Guatemala Asturias Team

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Doi</td>
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<td>Carmen Ho</td>
<td>(Assistant Program Co-ordinator)</td>
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<td>Stephanie Osley</td>
<td>(Assistant Program Co-ordinator)</td>
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<td>Carolyn Doi</td>
<td>(LWB Executive Team)</td>
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<td>Mark Gelsomino</td>
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<td>Nicole Radzikowski</td>
<td>(Cape Breton Regional Library)</td>
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<td>Rebecca Burbank</td>
<td>(McGill University LWB Committee)</td>
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<td>Xenia Kurguzova</td>
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<td>Laura Sanders</td>
<td>(McGill University LWB Committee)</td>
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<td>Megan Fitzgibbons</td>
<td>(McGill University Library)</td>
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<td>Beth Goslett</td>
<td>(Ottawa Public Library)</td>
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<td>Charlotte Stretch</td>
<td>(University of Illinois LIS Program)</td>
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<td>Isabelle Camiré</td>
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<td>Caitlin Marshall</td>
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<td>Monica Gagne</td>
<td>(University of Western Ontario LWB Committee)</td>
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<td>Shannon Marrinan</td>
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<td>Stephanie Osley</td>
<td>(University of Western Ontario LWB Committee)</td>
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Libraries Across Africa Ghana Team

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Sellar</td>
<td>(Program Manager)</td>
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<td>(LWB Executive Team)</td>
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<td>Laura George</td>
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<td>Rebecca Ross</td>
<td>(University of Ottawa)</td>
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Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Members and Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

Since the organization-wide strategic re-evaluation and re-focusing effort undertaken throughout 2009-10, it has become customary to use this message as an opportunity to recap these decisions, the strategic objectives that emerged, and the tactical efforts undertaken to achieve them. This gives us a chance to reflect on the impressive accomplishments of the past year, and to see how they connect with and realize these underlying core objectives.

We began with the question: how do we ensure that LWB continues to achieve its degree of positive impact -- or an even greater one -- year after year? These challenges of long term sustainability and scalability were the primary concerns taken up by the LWB Board and Executive in the latter part of 2009, and this has continued through 2012.

Reflecting upon the successes of our student members, it quickly became clear that the answer to this question was already before us. Comprising LWB’s ‘boots on the ground’, our Student Committees have proven to be a renewable source of dedicated volunteers that are as capable as they are motivated. Indeed, we believed the best way to sustain and also grow the capacity of LWB to fulfill its mission, was through the empowerment and cultivation of our existing Committees, as well as the fostering of new Student Committees. Recognizing that this student-based service learning model would also uniquely distinguish LWB from like-minded organizations, the proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Board.

To realize this vision of a network of Student Committees engaged through service learning and supported and empowered by professional librarians via LWB International, we worked with the Executive Team to develop a set of key strategic objectives: fostering community, enabling collaboration, integrating with curriculum, and raising capital.

The goal of community is core amongst these objectives. Being a geographically dispersed organization of local Student Committees and a far flung Executive, it is important to LWB to provide venues where all members can meet together, explore ideas, share in successes, plan and organize, all while growing a base of institutional memory. The online LWB Community, launched last year, has begun to provide this persistent community to sustain the efforts of LWB as our volunteer membership turns over from year-to-year, and as the organization as a whole scales through the addition of new projects and members.

We also recognized that collaboration in organization-wide projects is another vehicle to scale the impact of the work of our Student Committees, as well as fold in the expertise of our professional members. Such projects can, by their nature, enable members to undertake initiatives that might be too large in scope to accomplish by any single group. And, by leveraging the institutional memory of the community and executive, can open the door to projects that are too long in time scale to be accomplished in a single academic year, or even the tenure of any one LIS student cohort. Last year saw the introduction of the first such long-term project, in the form of the Asturias service learning trip to Guatemala. This year, we carried the project into its third year through our second organization-wide collaborative effort at Asturias, involving 8 students from amongst 4 of the LWB Students Committees and another LIS school, as well as 5 professional members and LWB Executives. We also expanded our collaborative efforts this year through the introduction of our second long-term project, this time in Ghana, through our new partnership with Libraries Across Africa (LAA).
The objective of curriculum integration is one that evolved last year as a natural consequence of our renewed service learning focus. Under pressure from governmental and industrial sources to encourage experiential learning amongst academic institutions, service learning has emerged as a significant component of their mission. It is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development. By aligning our mission in this way, we open the opportunity to merge the work of students in our Committees with their LIS curriculum. The students thereby gain additional benefit from their participation with LWB, and the organization gains access to a new realm of granting opportunities and collaborative operations. This year, several students took a first step in this direction by integrating their efforts on the LWB-wide Ghana projects into their LIS programs through independent study course work.

The raising of capital is a perennial challenge for any philanthropic organization. The LWB Executive and Board are now well poised to pursue this in a significant organization-wide fashion. Starting in 2011, we began exploring avenues with corporate sponsors to raise funds to fuel collaborative projects, amplify student efforts via fund-matching, and eventually offer student scholarships and executive stipends. The first experiment with corporate sponsorship during the 2011 Asturias project was quite successful, and was repeated again this year during the 2012 Asturias service trip. This year also saw our first foray into grant writing space through our application to the Better World Books LEAP grant program. Our Haiti project application made the final shortlist of 9 candidates, and finished in 2nd during the online competition.

Going forward, we anticipate continued efforts to build community and collaborative opportunities, while pivoting to a greater focus on curriculum integration and capital needs. The latter will be supported via more outward directed efforts: evangelizing our accomplishments in the media and building on our messaging capacity to attract new partners and donors. The ultimate goal being the ability to solicit significant sponsorship at the organization-wide level through Executive fundraising efforts, and distributing the proceeds amongst the Committees to multiply their potency. It is apparent now that funding for Executive positions will be central to the ability of the organization to continue to grow the scale of our operations. We anticipate leveraging our unique service learning model to pursue granting opportunities amongst academic and governmental sources in this regard.

Finally, we would like to welcome Anthony Molaro and Heather Moulaison, two new Board Members elected at the last AGM. Anthony is an Associate Dean at Prairie State College in Illinois, and Heather is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri. We also welcome back Robert Kalmnis, who has been re-appointed to the Board for his second term. The remaining Board Members, Cabot Yu and Catherine Johnson, will be completing the second half of their first terms in the coming year.

Thank you to all for your excellent work in 2012. It's been another phenomenal year!

Sincerely Yours,

Catherine Johnson
Robert Kalmnis
Anthony Molaro
Heather Moulaison
Cabot Yu
Message from the Co-Executive Directors

Dear Members and Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

This year, as they say, was short but sweet! Short because a fiscal year change enacted in 2011 means we’re reporting on just seven months of work, and sweet because we smoothly continued on all of the strategic directions laid down in 2010. In our annual report, you will read about our efforts to address information access inequities worldwide through our programs -- all of which are sustained by our focus on building community, fostering collaboration, integrating curriculum, and raising capital.

Before launching into some highlights of the year, we would like to recognize everyone who supported our programs and initiatives. Whether you led a program or committee, donated money large or small to our successful librarian stipend fundraising campaign, attended an event in-person, or simply liked our Facebook page, your contribution was valuable and made a difference. Thank you.

Building community across our geographically-dispersed organization remained a priority for us as we continued to foster the digital channels launched last year: our online LWB. Community for internal communication and institutional memory building, our varied social media channels for sharing news widely, and a regularly emailed member e-newsletter. No matter where you like to be online, we tried to reach you there.

In the face-to-face world, we supported the launch of a new committee at the University of Ottawa, hosted our first unConference in Toronto, and continued our (now) annual satellite social at a library-science conference, held again this year (and hosted by our new uOttawa committee) to coincide with the Canadian Library Association.

Channeling our energies into collaborative projects was another strategic directive in which we continued to invest significant effort. For the first time in our history, we had two organization-wide programs running -- Guatemala and Ghana -- and we also launched a new process to allow others to pitch project ideas to us (see our website).

We are now three years into our partnership with Asturias Academy in Guatemala and have completed our third service trip, sending another 11 volunteer librarians (including eight students from five institutions) this past May. We would like to highlight two milestones this year in the evolution of our work with Asturias. First, LWB successfully sponsored a librarian to work in Guatemala to mentor a native Guatemalan. And, second, LWB began working with that librarian to launch circulation software which will increase student access to books and positively impact literacy development. You can read in more detail about this program further on in the Annual Report.

Last year, we reported on the start-up of our partnership with Libraries Across Africa (LAA) in Ghana, and now our initial work is underway in four priority areas. We are examining library space issues, emerging forms of collection development, potential student audiences for the library, and approaches for supporting a culture of reading. Library space recommendations were presented in May to LAA and all of the other recommendations will be delivered to LAA as we complete our investigations by the end of August 2012.

Our student volunteers were encouraged and supported by LWB to pursue this Ghana work curricularly, and so for the first time, we have two students enrolled in reading courses. This is the ideal scenario: dedicated time and space in the curriculum with faculty member mentorship leading to greater learning
for the student and greater benefits for our community partner. LWB extends special thanks to Dr. Louise Spiteri (Dalhousie, School of Information Management), Dr. Lynne Bowker (Ottawa, School of Information Studies), and Tony Horava (Ottawa, School of Information Studies) for supporting LWB students in this work.

Long-term, our goal is to cultivate more curricular opportunities for students to engage in this experiential, service-based learning. This could take the form of individual reading courses, group special topics courses, or a multi-institution credit course. Notably, this year many of our students have embraced the service-learning imperative, and are presenting and writing about their LWB work in the context of this model. Students and faculty members, if you have an interest in integrating LWB with your coursework please contact us.

Finally, critical as it is to any non-profit, there is our strategic need to raise capital to both sustain and scale our work. This year we met our goal of budget neutrality, and also increased and diversified our fundraising toolset by successfully executing our first micro-fundraising campaign, by applying for our first project grant, and by securing another corporate sponsorship commitment. Building a stable financial future is a major priority of LWB in 2012 and beyond.

In the pages that follow, you will learn more about our work this past fiscal year. As you read, keep in mind all of these accomplishments are the result of the hard work of many great people. We are lucky to have such a passionate team of dedicated volunteers: thanks to all of you.

Warmest regards,

Mark Gelsomino
Melanie Sellar
LWB Service Learning Afield

LWB in Guatemala

Summary

For a third year, LWB has partnered with the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy to promote literacy and a love of reading in the community of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. The Academy is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for K-12 children in the region, especially those whose families might otherwise struggle to send them to school. They provide a unique curriculum focused on creating opportunities for growth in critical thinking, social consciousness and information literacy, while teaching basic curriculum subjects such as math, literature and sciences. Recently, a new class was added to the schedule: weekly Library time where students receive assistance with assignments, participate in Library programs and are given a chance to explore new books.

This year marked the third annual service trip to Guatemala, with LWB sending 13 volunteers to the Asturias Academy in May. Students from McGill University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto, the University of Ottawa and the University of Illinois participated in the trip, along with professional LWB members from Montreal, Nova Scotia, Ottawa, and Saskatoon. The trip gave volunteers a better understanding of education and literacy in Guatemala, while offering project support and strengthening international relationships.

Most importantly, we were able to develop several projects that have been in development throughout the 2011 – 2012 year. We set these objectives for the 2011-12 academic year in partnership with Asturias founder and director, Jorge Chojolán, leading to a four distinct projects taken on by our teams -- more on these in a moment.
Librarian Stipend Fund

One of the biggest priorities was to provide on-site support and expertise at the Academy throughout the school year. This resulted in a call for an MLS accredited librarian to stay for a year-long term at the school, working with students and staff on a daily basis in order to promote the Library and develop local knowledge of the Library. LWB offered to provide a stipend for the position, ensuring that the volunteer would have the financial support to remain at the school for an extended period. Thanks to the support of many individual donors and organizations, we reached our target goal of $3300 – enough to provide room, board and living expenses for eight months in Guatemala. An LWB-funded Librarian is now working at the school until October 2013, collaborating with LWB on year-long projects, and offering much needed on-the ground support. Guest posts from the Librarian are currently being featured on the Guatemala blog.

Library Lending

The Academy hopes to increase access to the Library collection by introducing a lending program at the school. The current practice of allowing in-library use only meets their current needs, but does not allow students to continue reading at home, and does not offer families the opportunity to access books as well. Throughout the 2011-2012 year, LWB students explored integrated library system (ILS) options for the Asturias, which operates primarily in Spanish, on a limited budget, and with inconsistent Internet access. A number of options are being assessed and tested by a team of LWB volunteers throughout the summer of 2012. We hope to introduce a system in fall 2012 and work with the Librarian to promote the lending to students throughout the upcoming school year.
**Curriculum Support**

LWB student members also worked throughout the 2011 – 2012 year to focus on how the Library can support the Academy curriculum and learning goals. During the service trip, several volunteers worked one-on-one with Asturias teachers to uncover particular challenges faced by students as well as programming that could support teaching and learning. Based on these conversations, LWB produced a document entitled *Library Programming for Asturias Academy* that included recommendations for promoting reading and information skills, accompanied by specific programs and handouts. The programs covered two areas: integration with assignments and academic reading, and programs to promote leisure reading.

**Collection Development**

Year-long student committee fundraising efforts allowed LWB to purchase books for the Asturias collection in the areas of science, personal narrative, reference, history and human rights. We also brought some materials to start a small graphic novel collection, which has been very popular with students. While some books were purchased in Canada, acquisitions efforts this year were focused on supporting Guatemalan publishers and authors. LWB volunteers visited Editorial Librerías Piedra Santa in Guatemala City on the first day of the service trip, where we learned about the publishing industry in Central America and selected more than 100 books to add to the Asturias collection. Piedra Santa is one of the only publishers that is owned and operated in Guatemala that also features Guatemalan authors and content.

**Promoting the Library**

The Asturias Library is relatively new, having opened its doors in January 2011. Students are still getting used to the new space and learning how to use it. As a way to increase awareness within the school, LWB volunteers planned and hosted a “Library Day” at the school during the service trip. The day long festivity featured interactive Library activities such as a scavenger hunt and theatre games. Older students were invited to learn about book maintenance and repair and all students were invited to explore the new books in the Library. The day was deemed a success due to positive feedback from students and teachers alike. The Academy has opted to implement the “Library Day” on a monthly basis.
The last year has been a fruitful one focused on long term support, sustainability, and program development, thanks to hard work by our many LWB volunteers!

Asturias Service Trip 2012 in Numbers

- 8 LIS graduate students
- 4 Canadian universities
- 1 American university
- 5 professional librarians and LWB Executives
- 1 Program manager
- 2 Program coordinators
- 10 days in Guatemala
- 4+ project teams
- 8 months of preparation

Asturias–LWB Partnership in Numbers

- 4 year partnership (2009 – present)
- 1 Librarian supported by LWB
- 1 native Guatemalan helped in training
- 51 LWB volunteers involved in service trips
- 300 low-income indigenous Asturias students impacted yearly
- 100+ LWB volunteers involved in remote planning & support
- 3 service trips completed
- 1 service trip in planning
- 6000+ visitors reading our blog posts

Guatemala Service Trip Photostream

http://www.flickr.com/photos/librarians-without-borders/collections/72157629709521804/

Guatemala Project Blog

http://lwb-online.org/?cat=27
LWB in Ghana

Summary

Like LWB, the mission of Libraries Across Africa (LAA) is to empower individuals through access to information. Founded by a team of architects, computer engineers and anthropologists at Rice University (Texas), they seek to achieve this mission by building and deploying a network of physical libraries with significant digital components across Africa. LWB began cultivating a partnership with LAA in May 2011, and we recruited our first team members in January 2012.

We are lending our LIS expertise to assist in shaping the nature of the library and defining the role of the librarian(s) for LAA’s pilot facility in Ghana, which will also serve as a model for subsequent libraries across the continent. Our work is both conceptual and practical. We are evaluating aspects of their proposed library model and, in the process, also contributing additional ideas for how these libraries might work. Our recommendations are helping to shape their pilot library in Accra, Ghana.

From our discussions with LAA last autumn, we identified areas of research that would most benefit their work. As our partnership with LAA evolves and the library takes greater shape, our questions are evolving, with these topics serving as the initial set:

- Cultivating a reading culture in regions with low-emergent literacy
- Literacy in mother-tongue languages and its place in the library
- Use of ICTs to promote and facilitate reading skills in the developing world
- Printing-on-demand: opportunities and challenges
- E-readers as technology leapfrogging: can it work?
- Representing indigenous/traditional knowledge in libraries
- Community generated collections through e-channels

Implementation

In late 2011, LWB students were formally offered the opportunity to investigate these topics. We proposed that their work would take the form of research by looking at reports, case studies, in-kind operations, best practices, etc., and by interviewing and liaising with community members (which we subsequently discovered would need Institutional Research Board approval.)
Ideally the students would pursue these investigations through curricular options such as reading courses or independent studies, which would provide dedicated time and space for their work, but we also invited students to participate extra-curricularly alongside professional librarians.

Two library science students have so far been able to exercise the curricular option: Whitney Spencer at Dalhousie University (Halifax) and Rebecca Ross at the University of Ottawa. LWB extends special thanks to Dr. Louise Spiteri (Dalhousie, School of Information Management), Dr. Lynne Bowker (Ottawa, School of Information Studies), and Tony Horava (Ottawa, School of Information Studies) for supporting this form of international, experiential learning.

Simultaneous to building our local team, LWB began reaching out to the Ghanaian library community. We are thankful to our colleagues from a range of academic and public organizations in Ghana who have been willing to serve as community consultants remotely and who were willing to meet with LAA during a site visit last November to talk about libraries in Ghana and the LAA model. The Ghana Library Association also tabled the initiative at its Fall 2011 meeting for introduction and discussion.

“I would say it is a great thing to build libraries in Ghana, unfortunately a number of them are almost immediately closed because the thinking is that buildings, books and computers are all that is needed for a library to be built. I am therefore glad that you have contacted [the Ghana Library Association] because it shows you are already planning to succeed. The library will be welcomed by Ghanaians especially since you have involved the Association from the start.”

-- A Ghanaian academic librarian and member of Ghana Library Association

In January 2012 LWB held our kick-off orientation for the Ghana program. Katie Plocheck, Libraries Across Africa’s Director of Research and Marketing, joined us and provided an introduction to their organization and their developing library model. She also shared with us the results of their fact-finding trip to Accra, which included meetings with several librarians introduced by LWB.

Descriptions of LWB’s current areas of investigation follow. In addition to these formally articulated investigations, we respond to other questions and needs from LAA as they arise and as we are able to take on.
i. Emerging Forms of Collection Development
Examine various new technologies such as e-readers, community generated e-collections, and opportunities and challenges of print on demand, in the context of Ghanaian society.

Rebecca Ross (University of Ottawa)

ii. Cultivating a Culture of Reading
Examine the status of reading in Ghana, and then look at how best practices for fostering a reading culture could be applied in a Ghanaian context.

Amanda Oliver and Emily McHugh (McGill University)

iii. Student Users Analysis
Examine and describe the three potential student markets of the pilot library in Accra with the goal of customizing resources and services to their needs, interests, and aspirations.

Laura George, Erika Heesen and Melanie Sellar (LWB Executives)

iv. Libraries as Space
Examine available literature on library design and the use of space to promote the best experience and use of a library, particularly within an African context.

Whitney Spencer (Dalhousie University)
Progress

The Library as Space work of Whitney Spencer was completed in April 2012, and meetings were held with LAA in May to discuss some of her space recommendations, a few of which are described in brief below:

*Build zones into the design. Zones are invisible but cleverly designed to catch the noisier people at the front of the library and let those who have come for more serious pursuits to have a quiet place at the back.*

*There should be enough room for at least one of the following: a large indoor meeting room, a row of small study rooms or cubicles, and one larger group study room along the back wall. This will help promote zoning, as well as encouraging larger groups to come and use the library.*

*An annex: this may not be necessary at the outset, but as the collection (in all of its forms and with all of its related devices) grows, LAA should consider a small annex to hold any extra parts of the collection – including the potential book printer – that will not fit in the hub or anchor.*

Libraries Across Africa – LWB Partnership in Numbers

- 1 year partnership (2011- present)
- 3 Canadian Universities (Dalhousie, Ottawa, McGill)
- 7 LWB Team Members (2011 - present)
- 4 Ghanaian Librarians serving as community consultants
- 2 Graduate Students in Reading Courses
- 2 Faculty Mentors of Student Research
- 1 Introduction at the Ghana Library Association Meeting

Ghana Program Blog

[http://lwb-online.org/?cat=42](http://lwb-online.org/?cat=42)
LWB Events at Home

Canadian Library Association

LWB continued our new tradition of a satellite social at an LIS annual conference. We once again chose to meet up at the Canadian Library Association, held this year in Ottawa, Ontario. A group of twenty enjoyed food, socializing, and conversations about our recent service trip to Guatemala and emerging work in Ghana. Special thanks to our LWB uOttawa Committee for their hospitality and for organizing the event.

Innovations from the Margins

On May 11th, LWB hosted its first ‘unconference’ at the University of Toronto’s iSchool featuring four diverse speakers. Stephen Abram, VP Strategic Partnerships and Markets for Gale Cengage, discussed what it takes to be an innovator. Katherine Palmer, Director of Planning, Policy, and E-Services at the Toronto Public Library, spoke about her experiences volunteering with a public library in Indonesia following the 2004 tsunami. Mike McCaffrey, a lecturer at the University of Toronto’s iSchool discussed government documentation and the lack of legal recognition for civil societies with no formal status. And, children’s book author Helaine Becker shared her experience mobilizing the Airlift to LA project, an initiative to fill the shelves of school libraries in inner-city Los Angeles with books donated by Canadian authors and publishers.

All of the speakers were well received, and while they all talked about very different subjects, the theme of “Innovation from the Margins” was well represented by each. Following the speaker presentations, attendees were invited to engage in informal discussion and debate about theme of the night, providing much inspiration about the differences that libraries make here and abroad.
Ontario Library Association

This past February, at the largest annual gathering of librarians in Canada, the Ontario Library Association (OLA) SuperConference in Toronto, Co-Chair of LWB-Toronto Student Committee, Melissa Bell, presented a poster session entitled: Librarians without Borders in Guatemala: Building and Sustaining a School Library in a Developing Country. It was one of the best received posters, and, thanks to our Communications Specialist, Carla Wintersgill, also served as one of the “clues” for an OLA scavenger hunt.

Poster Abstract: For two years, Librarians Without Borders has worked in partnership with the Asturias Academy in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala to develop a school library for underprivileged Guatemalan children. In April 2011, 27 members of LWB (most of whom were Canadian LIS students) travelled to Quetzaltenango to support the newly-built library by contributing their skills in the areas of cataloguing, collection development, information literacy programming, and knowledge management. This poster will tell the story of our 2011 trip to Guatemala, illustrating what we did, what we learned, and what we took away from the experience that will stay with us throughout our library careers.

LWB in Media

In Publication


In Presentation

Guatemala Service Learning, l'Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec - Quebec Library Association, School of Information Studies, McGill University, September 2011. Presented by Rebecca Burbank, Emily McHugh, and Amanda Oliver.


In Press

International Research and Development Month: Carolyn Doi and Librarians Without Borders. University of Saskatchewan Library News Blog, February 2012. [blogs.usask.ca/library/2012/02/international_research_and_dev.html]


Librarians Without Borders Back on the Ground in Guatemala. LISNews. April 2012. [lisnews.org/librarians_withoutBorders_back_on_the_ground_in_guatemala_astroias_library_project_1]

Testimonials

“I had the enriching and illuminating opportunity of presenting a poster... about Librarians Without Borders’ 2011 service-learning trip to Guatemala. I was delighted and humbled by the number of librarians who wanted to talk to me about Librarians Without Borders. Lots of people spoke about their desire to get involved with the organization, and it was thrilling to see how much support there is in our profession for the kind of work that LWB does.”

Melissa Bell  
University of Toronto MIS Student

“We can never repay you, but know that you are cultivating a love of reading in Guatemalan students. We hope you take with you in your hearts a sense that you have done something good, not only for our students, but for the whole of Guatemala, you have made a difference.”

Jorge Chojolán  
Founder and Director  
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

“Librarians Without Borders does a good job [in Guatemala]. I was really impressed with how organized and how many different individuals were working towards that one thing. It’s really powerful, because you have a lot of opportunities to investigate how reading is going, what the materials are, if they are actually working, and how we can make it a... better experience for Guatemalans. In my work, working in international development, it has always been a good experience. I think that both parties get a lot out of it... I’m glad to see more people in... volunteer opportunities. It’s good to see the exchange going back and forth. It starts with a drop in the ocean -- a small library-- but it makes a difference.”

Nicholas Newlin  
LWB Sponsored Librarian  
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

“When Shannon Marrinan and Monica Gagne first began the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at Western last September, they understood there would be opportunities to apply their theoretical knowledge through experiential learning. Little did they know, just eight months later, they’d be on the ground in Guatemala joining Librarians Without Borders (LWB) volunteers from across Canada in a literacy project for children and adults.”

Paul Mayne  
‘Students Share Love of Books Across Borders’  
Western News, May 10th 2012

“Being involved in LWB has given us many great opportunities to have a direct impact in the field of international librarianship through sustainable and collaborative partnerships. It has helped us to become more aware of international librarianship issues, and has furthered our interest in the field. Our experiences through LWB have been a complement to the work we are doing now in Bangalore.”

Jennifer Ford and Nariel Davis  
University of Western Ontario LIS Students

“I think it is really great to be able to work with organizations like Librarians Without Borders, because they bring so much experience and are very highly educated. Also, when we have these kinds of visits and exchanges, they are able to learn a lot from us, in terms of what the culture is like here in Guatemala, and how that presents challenges. They do not just bring resources, provide books, and raise money for projects like this. They offer solutions in terms of the bigger picture of how to change the culture to get students reading.”

Noah Steinberg-Di Stefano  
Director of Development  
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy
Student Committees

Dalhousie University

Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

Our LWB-Dalhousie Committee was happy to once again contribute to the Asturias Academy in Guatemala. Throughout the year they held various events to raise funds in order to contribute to the Librarian Stipend, allowing the library that LWB and the Academy have worked so hard to develop to bloom under the guidance of the volunteer Librarian.

Information Without Borders Conference 2012

The Committee once again participated in the Information Without Borders Conference in Halifax to raise money and awareness on the organization and access needs in developing countries. This year’s fundraiser was a large success and they acquired art donations for future fundraising events. Hosting a table at this conference has benefited and enhanced LWB-Dalhousie’s profile in the Atlantic provinces -- particularly when a speaker like Leslie Chan mention LWB’s work during his session. Thank you to the IWB Conference committee for their support.

McGill University

The LWB-McGill Committee was very active throughout the 2011 – 2012 year. Members were involved in LWB projects, local projects, fundraising and awareness activities.

Libraries Across Africa Program: Accra, Ghana

LWB-McGill also played a part in the Libraries Across Africa project, in collaboration with students from other committees. Students Emily McHugh and Amanda Oliver began working on a literature review that is looking at the cultivation of reading cultures, and specifically barriers to reading culture in Ghana. They will present their recommendations to our partner in August 2012.

Lycée Jean-Baptiste: Limbé, Haiti

Early in 2011, McGill students were approached by Education Professor Beverly Baker to develop a library collection for the Lycee Jean Baptiste in Limbe, Haiti. This led to a call for French or Creole books in the winter of 2011 and collaboration with the McGill Book Sale. Later, students developed a larger project proposal collaboratively with Beverly and LWB International to partner more directly with the Lycee to develop a new, separate library space within the school, and provide on the ground Library expertise. Development of this project will depend on fundraising and grant funding in the upcoming year.
Asturias Academy Library Program: Xela, Guatemala

As in years before, LWB-McGill stayed an active contributor to the Guatemala Project by supporting fundraising, service, and research efforts in collaboration with other LWB members. Fundraising efforts throughout the year allowed McGill to donate to the Asturias Librarian Stipend Fund as well as the Asturias Collection Development fund. Students purchased science, history, fiction and biography books from the Montreal bookstore Las Americas, which were delivered to Asturias during the Guatemala service trip. LWB-McGill members Megan Fitzgibbon, Rebecca Burbank and Laura Sanders also participated in a year-long curriculum support project, which culminated in creation of an information literacy program that included custom lesson plans, activities and resource lists for the Asturias Academy. In May, 2012 two members (Xenia Kurgusova, Megan Fitzgibbon) travelled to Guatemala to participate in field work at the Asturias Academy.

Fall Semester Activities

• Committee social, Thompson House Graduate Centre
• Bake Sale at the Education Building, McGill University
• Librarians Without Borders/Special Libraries Association Social at Il Motore
• Presentation for McGill Alumni Association, School of Information Studies, McGill University
• Presentation for L'association des Bibliothécaires du Québec (ABQLA): “Guatemala Service Learning”

Winter Semester Activities

• Invited Speaker: Valli Fraser-Celin
• Bake Sale at the Education Building, McGill University
• Presentation at the Education Graduate Student Society Conference: “Service Learning in Action”
• Year End Social

University of Ottawa

Congratulations to our uOttawa group! Their first year as a LWB Student Committee was a great one, and the inaugural team worked hard to make LWB a permanent fixture at the school.

The first ever uOttawa event was a free movie night in the Agora of the University Centre. The group presented three short documentaries detailing literacy efforts in the developing world: Mark Farahani’s Story, Remote Access : Distant Libraries of the World, and Libraries Across Africa.
In January, Tina Gervais and Isabelle Camiré worked the door at a Battledecks event held by the Canadian Library Association Government Network. Donations were received in excess of $190.00. Many thanks to Cabot Yu, LWB Board Member and Canadian government librarian, for arranging the event and inviting LWB to attend.

In March, the group hosted its first unconference with more than 30 people attending at the venerable Royal Oak in downtown Ottawa. Isabelle Camiré and Mariane Léonard hosted the event and spoke of LWB’s efforts in Guatemala. Susan Mints, Executive Director of Village Link Tanzania spoke of her experiences building a community hub and literacy centre in Ikolo, Tanzania. Michelle Kay of the education-based charity SchoolBox introduced the crowd to her work building schools in Central America.

Finally, Isabelle Camiré and Mariane Léonard concluded the inaugural year by traveling to Guatemala with eleven other LWB members from all over Canada and the United States.

The group has met with great enthusiasm on campus and uOttawa faculty have approached us to talk about how to further and deepen our partnership.

University of Toronto

Our U of T group had a highly successful year. They created and printed an LWB calendar featuring faculty, students and staff of the University of Toronto’s iSchool. All copies rapidly sold out and the public feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It was a well done, professional looking product that no doubt bolstered LWB’s on-campus reputation.

In December, our Committee Co-Chairs, Melissa Bell and Melody Tacit, met with the directors of the Blackstone Foundation, an organization that is in the process of creating an Afro-centric library in Toronto’s Rexdale community. This meeting was successful in establishing a partnership between the Committee and the Blackstone Foundation, and we hope that this partnership will be continued and further developed next year.

In February, Melissa Bell, presented a poster at the Ontario Library Association annual conference detailing LWB’s 2011 service-learning trip to Guatemala. It was one of the best received posters -- thanks to our Communications Specialist, Carla Wintersgill -- and served as one of the “clues” for an OLA scavenger hunt.
In March U of T planned and hosted a well-attended speaking event featuring Felicia Christmas from the Blackstone Foundation. LWB-Toronto Committee members Carmen Ho and Brittany Medeiros spoke at the event about the 2011 trip to Guatemala, and our Libraries Across Africa work.

Finally, in May, along with eleven other LWB members from across Canada and the United States, U of T students Caitlin Marshall and Carmen Ho travelled to Guatemala in support of the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy.

The feeling amongst the U of T committee is that after three years, LWB has cemented its presence at the school. Attendance at meetings is growing and community groups are actively seeking out partnerships.

**University of Western Ontario**

**Miguel Angel Asturias Academy: Guatemala**

The Western committee lent its support to the Guatemala project, directing fundraising proceeds to the Asturias Stipend fund, working on library curriculum, and contributing to the library-lending model proposal. Two Western committee members, Monica Gagne and Shannon Marrinan, participated in the service learning trip to Asturias this past May.

**Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Public Library: Ontario**

Our Western committee focused much of their efforts this year on their continuing partnership with the Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Public Library. Committee members travelled to the library three times in November and December to assist with cataloguing and speed the transition to a searchable online catalogue to better integrate with other locations within the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS). The committee also supported the re-opening of the library to mark First Nations Libraries Week, and developed library programs for teens and seniors.

**FCT School for the Blind: Nigeria**

Since 2010, the Western committee has supported the FCT School for the Blind in Jabi-Abuja, Nigeria. This spring, the committee fundraised to purchase a selection of tactile maps for the school from Tactile Vision.

**2012 FIMS Student Conference**

In June 2012, Darcy Crum, Sarah Isbister and Monica Gagne delivered a session entitled “Librarians Without Borders - Service Learning in the Field of Librarianship” which introduced the work of LWB as a whole and highlighted the Western committee’s local projects.
Membership

Overview

The membership of Librarians Without Borders has continued to grow, as individuals join in our goal to address information resource inequality across the globe. We continue to augment our ranks at an increasing rate, adding some 134 new members in only 6 months (vs. 173 over the previous 12 month period). This brings our total to 1,241 worldwide members spread across 75 different countries. Amongst these new members, we welcomed individuals from 5 countries new to LWB’s membership: Estonia, Italy, Jamaica, Morocco and Pakistan.

While the majority of our new members come to us via the internet, many have also joined us due to the efforts of our Student Committees at LIS schools across Canada. We have continued to engage with our members through the re-establishment of the LWB Newsletter, and envision a more connected and involved membership as we move forward as an organization.

Worldwide Distribution

Our members are spread across many different countries:

- Canada
- USA
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia
- S. America
- Other
- Indonesia
- Norway
- New Zealand
- Netherlands
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Vietnam
- U.A.E.
- U.K.
- U.S.A.
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Trinidad
- Uganda
- Tahiti
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Mali
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Fiji Islands
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- Iran
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Jamaica
- Poland
- Portugal
- Rep. of Korea
- Scotland
- Serbia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Swaziland
- Canada
- USA
- Europe
- Africa
- Asia
- Australia
- S. America
- Other

45%
34%
11%
3%
5%
6%
1%

LWB International Summary

This year (FY2012) LWB International met the goal of achieving budget neutrality as set out last year. Revenues covered over 99% of expenses, which is an increase over the FY2011 figure of 83%, and the FY2010 figure of 12%. Raising significantly more capital will be a central focus for LWB-International in FY2013. Note that some financial activities described elsewhere in the Annual Report did not fall completely within FY2012, and will appear in subsequent Annual Reports as appropriate (e.g. Guatemala’s 2012 corporate sponsorship).

Organization–Wide Summary

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<th>Transfers (in $)</th>
<th>Expenses (in $)</th>
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LWB International Breakdown

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<td>NET CHANGE</td>
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Special Recognition

Organizational and Individual Donors

Auryn Inc.
Canadian Manda Group
Centaur Theater
David's Tea
Erika Heesen
Kids Can Press
Marymount College, Sociology and Education 140 “The Home, School, and Community”
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
Ottawa Public Library, Centennial Teen Advisory Group (led by Andrea Gowing)
OwlKids
PM Press
Penguin Group
Regina O'Melveny
Scholastic Books Canada
Special Libraries Association, Eastern Chapter
The Word Bookstore
Thomas Allen & Sons
Thompson House
Toronto Public Library, North York Central Library, Society and Recreation Department
Tundra Books
University of Saskatchewan, Education and Music Library Staff
Victoria van der Linden
University Partners

Dalhousie University - School of Information Management
McGill University - School of Information Studies
University of Ottawa – School of Information Studies
University of Toronto - Faculty of Information
University of Western Ontario - Faculty of Information and Media Studies

Project and Event Partners

Adriana Rossini, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto
Andrea Banks-Demuth, Flight Centre-Business Services, Ottawa
Association of Canadian Archivists, Dalhousie Student Chapter
Canadian Library Association
Christian Yaw Kofi, Ghana Library Association and University of Cape Coast
Dona Margarita and Family, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
Dr. Beverly Baker, Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill University
Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
Dr. Louise Spiteri, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University
Educentro Piedra Santa, Publisher, Bookstore, and Educational Centre, Guatemala
Embassy of Canada in Guatemala, Consular Section
Entretien Teekva, Montreal
FCT School for the Blind in Nigeria
Georges de la Roche, Guatemalan Ambassador to Canada
Gerald Jean Baptiste, School Director, Lycee Jean-Baptiste Cineas, Haiti
Helaine Becker, Children and Young Adult Author
Hopeful Sign Online Magazine
Information Without Borders Conference, Dalhousie University
Katherine Palmer, Director of Planning, Policy, and E-Services, Toronto Public Library
Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Public Library

Libraries Across Africa

Lycee Jean-Baptiste Cineas, Haiti

Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, Guatemala

Mike McCaffrey, Lecturer, University of Toronto iSchool

Nicholas Newlin, LWB-funded Librarian at the Asturias Academy Library, Guatemala

Professor A.A. Alemna, Librarian and Library School Faculty Member, University of Ghana

SchoolBox

Special Libraries Association, McGill University Committee

Starbucks

Stephen Abram, VP Strategic Partnerships and Markets, Gale Cengage

The Blackstone Foundation Library, Toronto

Tony Horava, School of Information Studies and University Library, University of Ottawa

Toronto Public Library, Communications, Programming and Customer Engagement Department

Quebec Library Association (ABQLA), College and Research Libraries Section

Valentina Bannerman, University Librarian, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana

Valli Fraser-Celin, Southern African Wildlife College

Village Link Tanzania