International News

Edited by Gayle Graham, AHIP

Editor’s note: This month we welcome incoming International News columnist, Gayle Graham, AHIP, Library Service, Nova Scotia Provincial Health–Halifax, Canada. Learn more about Gayle in this month’s Member Spotlight (blog/member-spotlight-gayle-graham,-ahip).
Hospital Library Partners with National Library of Australia to Combine and Expand Historical Digital Repositories

Funded by the 2015 Health Libraries Australia (HLA)/Medical Director Health Informatics Innovation Award, library staff at Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD) developed the CCLHD Archive and Resource E-library (CARE) (goo.gl/cCqT2L). The collection contains over 800 records of journal articles and historical material. As existing collections were rediscovered during major hospital renovations, CCLHD staff and volunteers identified former hospital staff and buildings to preserve their historical significance.

During the project, staff discovered that CARE records are compatible with Trove (http://trove.nla.gov.au), an existing digital archive of Australian newspaper content hosted by the National Library of Australia (NLA). Trove already contained many historical newspaper articles about hospitals, which appeals to a wider audience beyond public libraries.

CARE holdings have been added to the Trove database. Future plans for CARE include linking to all local newspapers, as well as the databases made available to all Australians through NLA. Read the full story (http://www.alia.org.au/sites/default/files/HLA%20News-Autumn2016.pdf).

Cochrane Special Collection Addresses Health Needs of Refugees in Europe

Cochrane, with the support of Evidence Aid, has assembled a special collection of systematic reviews on subjects relevant to the unique health concerns of refugees and asylum seekers. As the influx of this demographic in Europe faces challenges in integrating into new cultures and health care systems, they may face long-term social and health problems as a result. Globally, international migration is expected to rise from 215 million to 400 million by 2050.

The topics covered (http://www.cochranelibrary.com/app/content/special-collections/article/?doi=10.1002/(ISSN)14651858(CAT)EvidenceAidFreeaccesstoreviews(VI)SC000046) in the special collection's systematic reviews include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, skin infections, sexual and physical violence, tuberculosis, and vaccination. Cochrane has also formed a migrant health subgroup to address migrant health issues on an ongoing basis. Read the full story (http://canada.cochrane.org/news/special-collection-health-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-europe).

Canadian Student Launches High-Impact Book Drive for East Africa

Chris Janssen, a student at Western University in Ontario, Canada, began collecting and selling unwanted textbooks at his local campus to raise funds for university events. During a trip to Rwanda to teach a course, he noticed a drastic shortage of books in the university, which resulted in students sharing single photocopies of pre-1980 publications. Upon his return to Canada, the scope of his book drive, Textbooks for Change (http://textbooksforchange.ca), was expanded to address the problem.

To date, 25 university campuses in Ontario are involved in supplying textbooks, and Textbooks for Change has contributed 52,000 textbooks to academic libraries in East Africa. The project meets a dire need and is highly valued, as evidenced by feedback from the dean of Addis Ababa University (the first benefactor): “Frankly speaking, 90 percent plus of the books cannot be found here. So you understand what it means to the people here.”
Textbooks for Change remains strongly committed to its goal of providing high-quality, affordable textbooks to students worldwide and seeks to expand its outreach to new regions. Read the full story (http://www.open-shelf.ca/160415-textbooks-for-change/).

Science Literacy Week Programming at McMaster University

In September of 2015, McMaster University's Thode Library began offering programs in honor of Science Literacy Week (http://scienceliteracy.ca) in collaboration with both internal and external partners. The team planned and promoted events that fostered “a connection to science that could have broader appeal.”

In addition to promoting existing events planned by university departments and clubs, the team at McMaster University planned and offered Lunch with Ted (http://www.lunchwithted.com), Science Trivia contests through Twitter, and trivia “arcade” games hosted on a WordPress site.

Each day, the Lunch with Ted talks were attended by ten to twenty people, and the arcade game was played by twenty to forty patrons. In addition, the library's Twitter account gained the highest number of new followers of the year as a result of Science Literacy Week activity.

Thode Library plans to celebrate Science Literacy Week again by offering programs in September 2016. Read the full story (http://www.open-shelf.ca/160315-science-literacy-week/).