

PLG Toronto Chapter Receives Intellectual Freedom Award

"...the #freedaleaskey collection [is] a web document, and social media archive containing news coverage, conversations, and letters of support surrounding the lawsuits filed by the Edwin Mellen Press against McMaster University's Dale Askey. These lawsuits, filed in June 2012, center around a 2010 blog post that Dale made criticizing the quality of scholarship published by the Press.

This archive stands as an important document in exposing and preserving this case in the public memory, and helping to ensure that this particular instance of aggressive legal action in the service of squelching free speech can serve as a teachable moment for anyone who values the intellectual freedom of librarians. The fact that it was made by librarians and archivists, using the traditional tools of librarians and archivists, stands as a testament to how important it is to preserve not just these documents, but our right to continue to do what we do..."

From introduction by Steve Marks, President of OLITA
(Ontario Library and Information Technology Association)



Anna St. Onge (left) and Nick Ruest (right) accept the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award on behalf of PLG GTA at Ontario Library Association Super Conference

Photo from Ontario Library Association [Flickr](#)

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PLG Toronto Chapter Receives Intellectual Freedom Award (continued)

The PLG GTA was incredibly honoured to receive the [Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award](#) from the Ontario Library Association for the #freedaleaskey Collection, a collection of public statements, publicly available press releases, blog posts, letters of support, online comments and more ephemeral elements related to the #freedaleaskey campaign that developed as a response to court proceedings filed by publisher Herbert W. Richardson and the Edwin Mellen Press against academic librarian Dale Askey in June 2012 and his employer McMaster University.

To be clear, it is our firm opinion that Dale Askey deserves this award more than we do. His unwillingness to back down, his continued defence of academic freedom and freedom of expression, against what we consider a strategic lawsuit against participation by Herbert Richardson and the Edwin Mellen Press was, and is, absolutely inspiring. But, if he can't have it, we might as well explain why we have done what we have done. The heart of the matter is this: *we did this because we believe this is what we are supposed to do.*

We believe that as a profession, both as librarians and archivists, we cannot, as Brien Brothman has cautioned, "abstain from cultural awareness and criticism"; to do so would be, in his words, "tantamount to professional irresponsibility."¹ We started documenting, capturing and preserving what we saw happening online because we felt it was an important moment in time for our profession, and we didn't want to lose evidence of the wave of support that rose to Dale Askey's defence.

We are deeply humbled by this award and the public recognition of our work. We will view it as encouragement from our peers to continue to advocate on behalf of the profession and our shared values of freedom of expression and public access to information.

¹ Brien Brothman, "Orders of Value: Probing the Theoretical Terms of Archival Practice" *Archivaria* 32 (1991): pp.78-100; p. 92.

- From Progressive Librarians Guild Toronto Area Chapter's [blog](#)

Introducing *Progressive Librarian's* New Book Review Editor

Michael E. Matthews is the new book review editor. He works at Northwestern State University of Louisiana as the Head of Serials, Media and Interlibrary Loan. He welcomes writers to review recently published and out-of-print books that deserve greater recognition among the PL readership. He especially encourages reviewers to challenge works produced by the LIS establishment and to boldly interrogate the "conventional wisdoms" that define librarianship as a primarily technical field immune from the claims of cultural, political and social contexts. Please email him at matthewsm@nsula.edu with your ideas for future reviews, appraisals of current titles, or whimsically articulate denunciations of the status quo.

Red All Over: Political and Countercultural Printshops of the S.F. Bay Area

Thursday, April 3, 2014 6:00-8:00 PM; all programs free.
Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch
100 Larkin Street (at Grove) [\(415\) 557-4277](tel:(415)557-4277), <http://www.sfpl.org>

Join archivist, author, and art historian Lincoln Cushing at the San Francisco Public Library for an exciting slide lecture: **“Red All Over: Political and Countercultural Printshops of the S.F. Bay Area.”**

Every movement needs a voice, and ever since Gutenberg systematized the concept of movable type radicals have put ink to paper to create multiples of inflammatory documents. Come and learn more about the discontents, troublemakers, poets, organizers, and visionaries who set up shop in the S.F. Bay Area from the 1960s to present. Presented by the Marjorie G. and Carl W. Stern Book Arts & Special Collections Center of the San Francisco Public Library and the American Printing History Association’s NorCal Chapter.

For a directory of these hotbeds of democratic dissent see:
<http://www.docspopuli.org/articles/BayAreaRadicalShops.html>



Jane Norling running Multilith
1250, People’s Press, 1971

PLG Member to Present at PLA Conference

PLG Member Joel Nichols, Branch Manager and Children’s Librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia, will be giving a presentation at the Public Library Association Conference in Indianapolis on Friday, March 14 entitled “Queer and Genderqueer Library Services to Kids: Beyond Rainbow Family Storytimes”. The description of the presentation is as follows:

While many librarians serve gay, lesbian, transgender or otherwise queer families with programs and materials, many of us also offer programs and readers' advisory service mired in gendered and heterosexist expectations about what is and isn't appropriate for boys and girls. For many LGBTQ parents and children, these are offensive and even damaging. This presentation presents a radical solution: queer library services to everybody, not just library services to queer people.

For more information on the conference, as well as time and location for this session, visit:
<http://www.placonference.org/>

CFP: Gender and Sexuality Colloquium

**CFP: Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium
The University of Toronto
October 18, 2014**

Gender and sexuality are two of the critical organizing axes of contemporary life. Alongside and intersecting with race, class, nation, and others, they constitute the ways through which we make ourselves known to ourselves and to one another: as men, women, or one of the 58 new gender options offered by Facebook, and as lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, and all the other varied and ever-changing linguistic markers of preferences of physical and emotional intimacy. Just as legal studies, the hard and social sciences, philosophy and literature, information studies is a discourse called to respond to the challenges posed by critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. Perhaps more than any other discipline, information studies confronts the theoretical with the material. How do both the “the archive” and the archive organize, and how are they organized by, gender and sexuality? From the collections we build to the access tools we design to the histories we collect, catalog, and preserve, information studies theorists and practitioners are always engaged in the projects of making and being made.

We invite proposals to join and extend these conversations during a one-day colloquium to be held at the University of Toronto on October 18, 2014. Presentations will consist of individual papers organized around themes that emerge from the submissions. Proposals are due **May 1, 2014**.

For more information, please visit <http://litwinbooks.com/2014colloquium.php>

Have an update you'd like to see included in next month's bulletin?

Send it to sarahbarriage@gmail.com