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Editorial: Diverse Populations

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About the Author(s): Melissa McCarthy will be graduating in May of 2006 from the MLIS program at the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She served as DJIM's Editorial Chair in 2004-05 and as Co-Chair in 2005-06. Melissa is interested in archival work, special libraries, and university librarianship, with a particular interest in the history of the book.

Kenneth Allan is an upcoming graduate of the MLIS program at the School of Information Management at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. He wrote "Talking Through the Keys", an article that appeared in the first issue of DJIM in 2005, and was pleased to serve as Co-chair of the Executive Committee of DJIM during the 2005-2006 school year. A native of Alberta, Ken is interested in reference service, business information and online librarianship, in either public or academic library settings.

Diverse Populations

We are pleased to announce the first full issue of the *Dalhousie Journal of Information and Management*. Our inaugural theme is Diverse Populations, and we are fortunate to have received four high-quality papers, all from the School of Information Management.

Monique Woroniak's paper entitled "Public Libraries as Aids to Sense Making in Urban Aboriginal Populations" focuses on the greater role that public libraries could and should play in the lives of Canada's aboriginal peoples. Amidst the constant flood of information dealing with America, we applaud the exploration of a specifically Canadian environment. The paper is intriguing in its discussion of urban aboriginal people rather than those living on reserves, and of the current lack of aboriginal cultural referents in the urban environment. It analyzes ways in which aboriginal culture can be honoured and provides an example of how this can be accomplished.

Debra Mann's "Adaptive Technologies for Individuals with Visual Impairments: Scholarly and Consumer Perspectives" focuses primarily on a Canadian situation as well. In its examination

of the role of the Internet in bringing resources to people with visual impairments, the paper also integrates global trends. It explores recent technological advances in providing service to this group and maps out areas which still need improvement. We tend to think of diverse populations as constituting different ethnic groups, and this paper is a refreshing reminder that some of the most underserved populations do not fit this mold.

Robin Illsley's "South African Public Libraries after Apartheid" is a must-read for anyone with an interest in languages, cultures, and ethnic integration. South Africa is a country whose citizens hail from several different linguistic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds, but it is also a country that has been torn by apartheid. The author suggests how South Africa's public libraries can help to heal the breach among citizens of all different backgrounds by honouring their diversity. The paper examines efforts to date, describes areas of need, and presents a hopeful view of a happier and more integrated South African society in future.

Our final paper, by Deborah Hicks, examines change in libraries and the diverse needs of library users. "Google: Submit or Resist: Is There a Third Way?" explores the debate over whether librarians should hold on to their traditional roles as gatekeepers of information or change to meet the needs of modern library users. The paper also proposes a third way in which librarians can continue to meet the needs of users in the future.

While these papers are primarily library-focused, we wish to emphasize that our issues' themes will continue to be accessible to students in all five of the Faculty of Management's schools. In future, we look forward to receiving and publishing submissions from the other schools, using DJIM to promote further co-operation between all the schools in the Faculty of Management, and putting the spirit of "Management Without Borders" into action through this journal.