

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: Blending Tradition with Digital Technology

metlib2013 | Amsterdam | May 7, 2013
Judith Hare | Halifax Public Libraries

The Location: Halifax, Nova Scotia



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- 390,096 residents; largest population center in Atlantic Canada
- Amalgamation of urban, suburban and rural communities covering 5,490 km² (2,119 sq mi)
- Halifax Public Libraries has 14 branches, Books by Mail and Home Delivery services
- 2012-13 Library usage:
 - Circulation: 4,719,424
 - In-person Visits: 2,349,961
 - Website Visits: 1,598,585

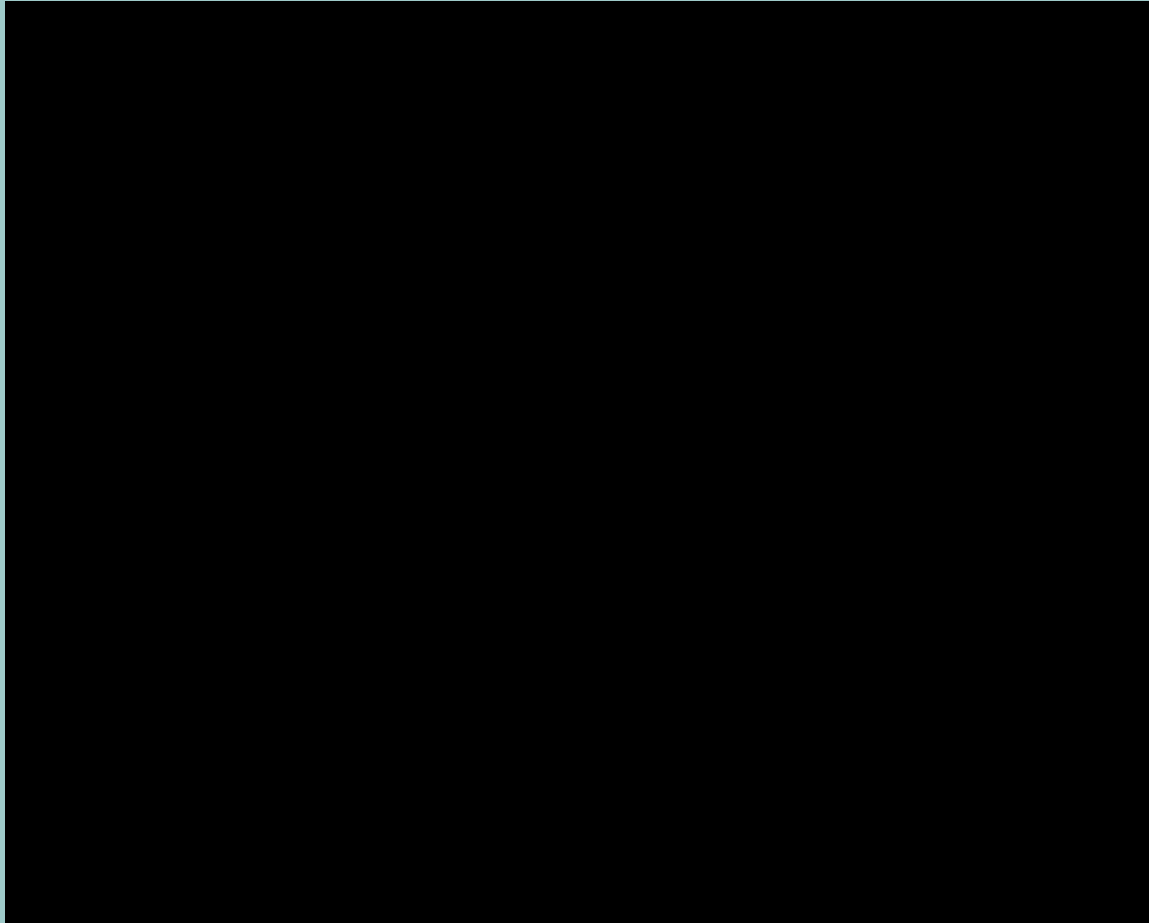
The Project: Halifax Central Library

- 108,000 square feet in 5 levels
- \$55 million budget funded by federal, provincial and municipal governments plus fundraising campaign
- Prime downtown location
- Building to LEED gold standard
- Architects: schimdt hammer lassen (Denmark) and Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd. (Halifax)
- Opening 2014

Looking back to 1951



Where we are Going



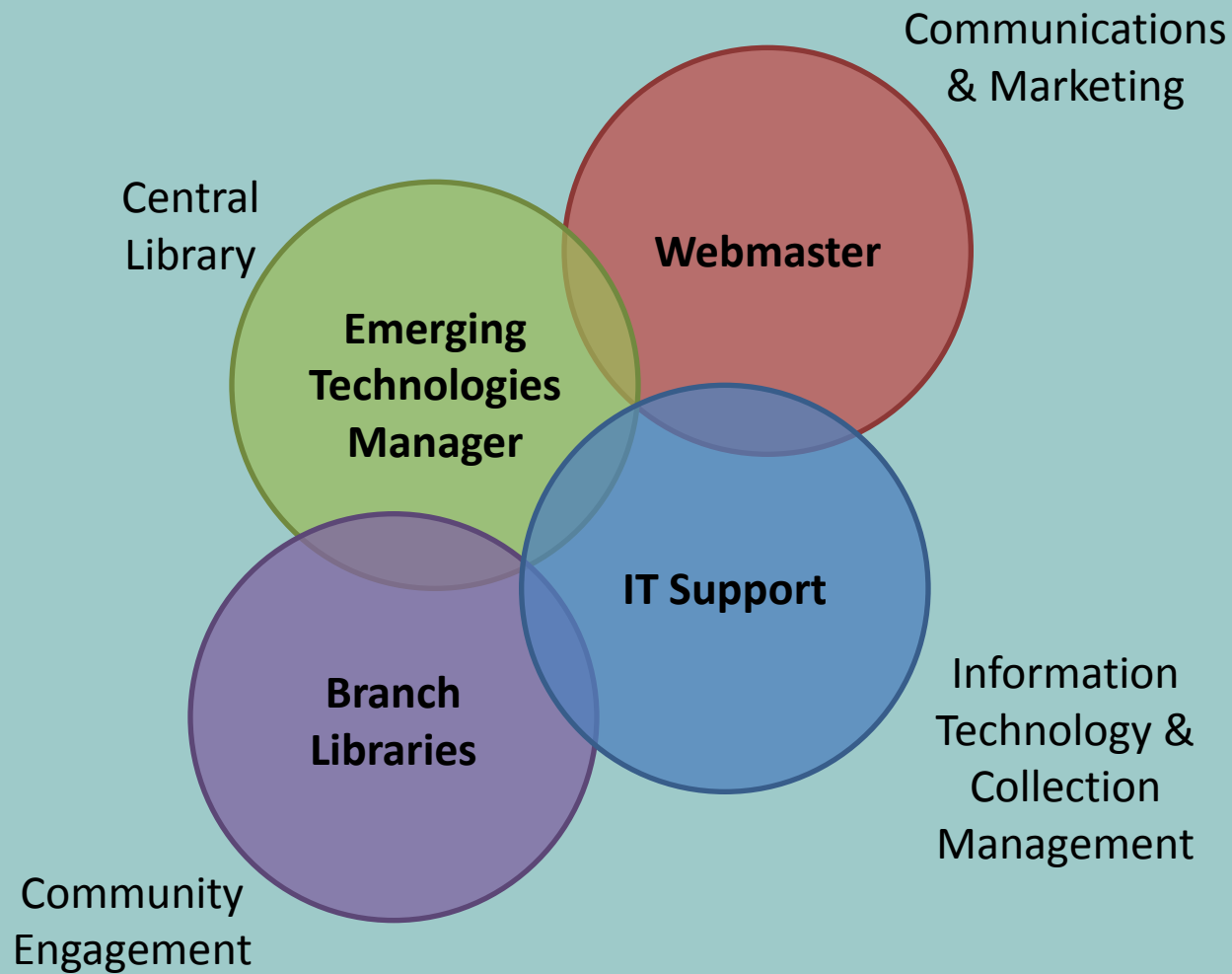
The Impact of Technology

- Permeates every aspect of library service
- Changes the way we design and use physical spaces
- Extends the library's reach beyond the physical building
- Attracts a whole new demographic of tech-savvy people
- Builds the library's image as a forward-thinking, relevant, innovative community hub
- Enhances the quality of core services
- Has altered the way we experience and conduct our lives

Technology can't be ignored and never stops changing

Impacts: Technology Teams

- New staff competencies
- Disappearing workrooms
- Fewer offices
- Smaller workstations
- Smaller service desks
- Shared work spaces



Design Challenges

- Old and new media have to be accommodated
- Books are still with us but physical collections are receding
- Technology rapidly changes. Desktop computers but also tablets, laptops, 3D printers, mobile devices and ???
- Reading, research and study are not the only activities to be accommodated
- Need flexible spaces for unforeseen activities

Design Challenges

- The way people want to use the library is changing
- Teen spaces are no longer an “add-on” but a core service
- Universal accessibility is mandatory
- Physical buildings must be environmentally sustainable
- Social space a growing need

... but the Value of Physical Space Endures

“Paradoxically, the more virtual the organization, the more its people need to meet in person”

Charles Handy, Harvard Business Review, June 2000

Traditional values of the public library as a safe welcoming comfortable, accessible space remains.

On-line Services

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THE AuthorSTAGE

Readings and Talks

	<p>Author: Andrew Westoll Book: <i>The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary: A Canadian Story of Resilience and Recovery</i> Duration: 53:20 Date: November 2012</p>
	<p>Author: Leo McKay Jr. Book: <i>Twenty-Six</i> Duration: 01:19:44 Date: October 2012</p>
	<p>Author: Dave Bidini Book: <i>Writing Gordon Lightfoot: The Man, the Music, & the World in 1972</i> Duration: 01:16:55 Date: May 2012</p>
	<p>Author: Helen Humphreys Book: <i>The Reinvention of Love</i> Duration: 42:03 Date: April 2012</p>
	<p>Author: Ami McKay Book: <i>The Virgin Cure</i> Duration: 01:02:46 Date: December 2011</p>
	<p>Author: Kelley Armstrong Book: <i>Spell Bound</i> Duration: 57:21 Date: November 2011</p>
	<p>Author: Cathy Ostlere</p>

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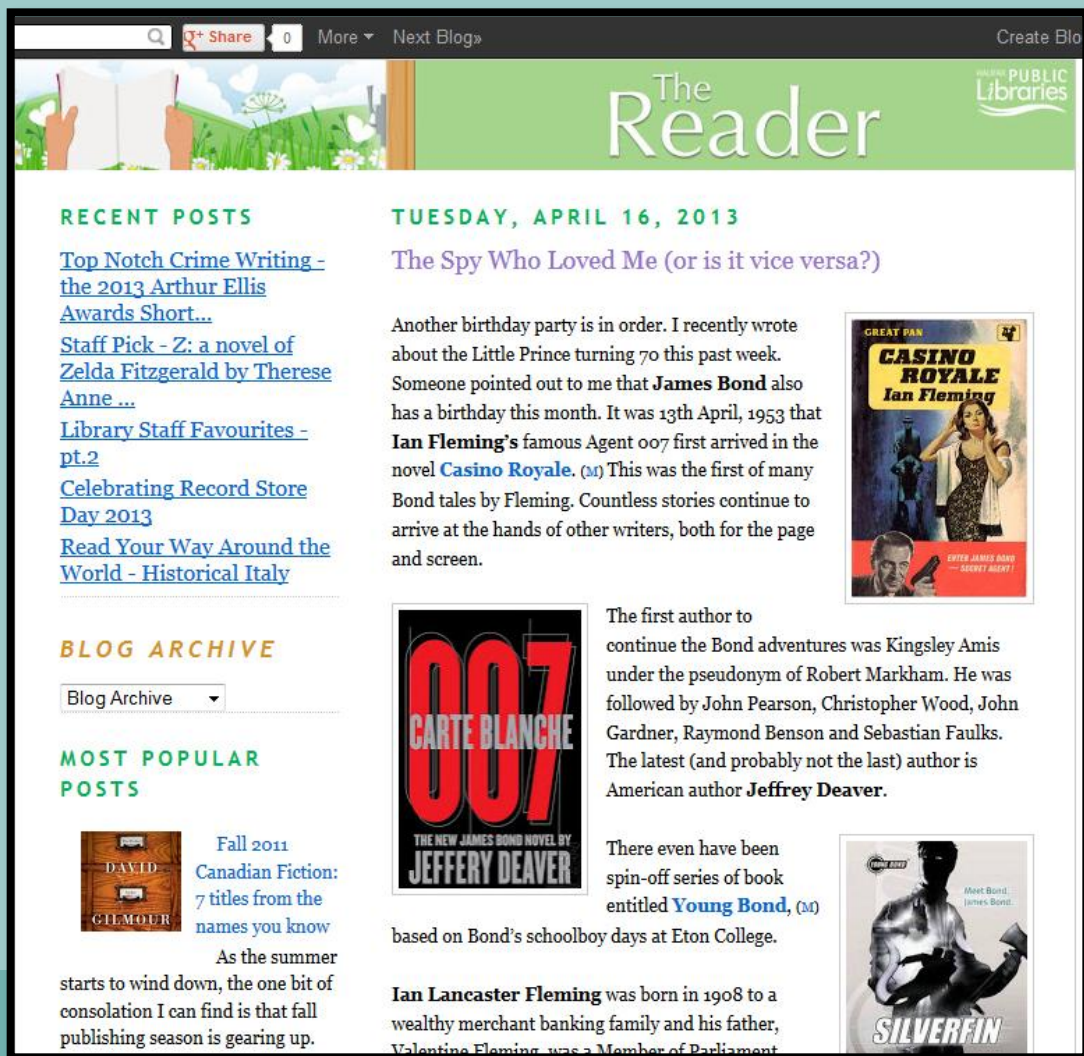
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK, APRIL 21-27

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Fall 2011 Canadian Fiction: 7 titles from the names you know

As the summer starts to wind down, the one bit of consolation I can find is that fall publishing season is gearing up.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013


[The Spy Who Loved Me \(or is it vice versa?\)](#)

Another birthday party is in order. I recently wrote about the Little Prince turning 70 this past week. Someone pointed out to me that **James Bond** also has a birthday this month. It was 13th April, 1953 that **Ian Fleming's** famous Agent 007 first arrived in the novel **Casino Royale**. (M) This was the first of many Bond tales by Fleming. Countless stories continue to arrive at the hands of other writers, both for the page and screen.

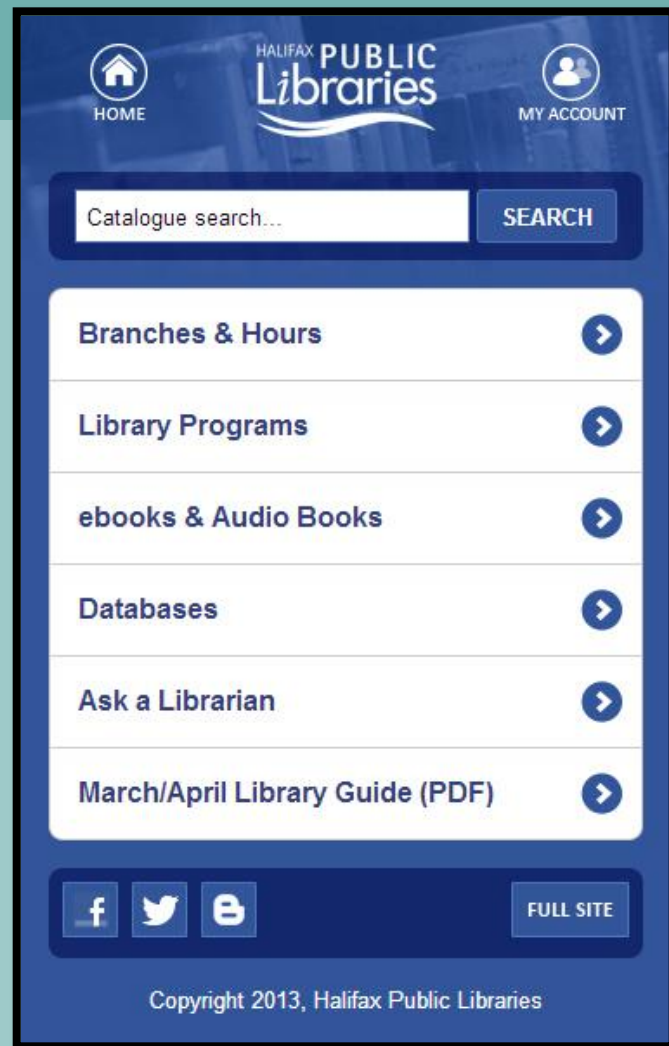


The first author to continue the Bond adventures was Kingsley Amis under the pseudonym of Robert Markham. He was followed by John Pearson, Christopher Wood, John Gardner, Raymond Benson and Sebastian Faulks. The latest (and probably not the last) author is American author **Jeffrey Deaver**.

There even have been spin-off series of book entitled **Young Bond**, (M) based on Bond's schoolboy days at Eton College.



Ian Lancaster Fleming was born in 1908 to a wealthy merchant banking family and his father, Valentine Fleming, was a Member of Parliament



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Level 2 - Teen Space



Level 2 - Childrens' Space



Level 3 - First Nations Circle



Level 4 - Local History



Level 5 - Halifax Living Room



Statistics Snapshot: The Beginning of a Trend

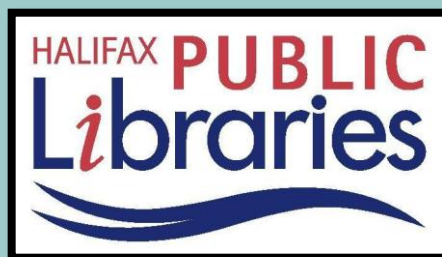
	2011-12	2012-13	% change
In-Person Visits	2,332,740	2,349,961	+1.1%
Website Visits	1,468,334	1,598,585	+8.9%
Circulation	4,875,328	4,719,424	-3.2%
Computer Bookings	578,857	610,443	+5.5%
Wireless Connections	100,239	134,659	+34.3%

Digital use is growing; traditional use is declining.

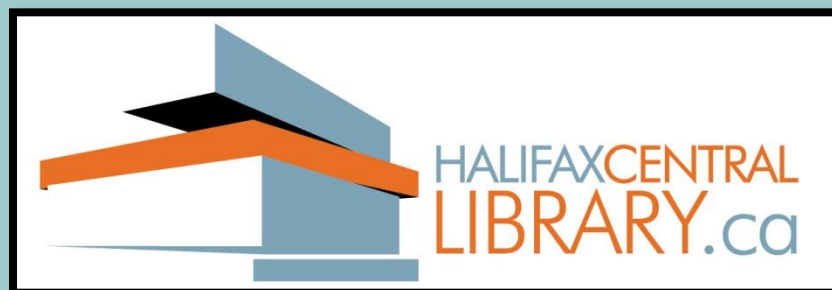
Final Thoughts

- **Virtual services** will be integrated but integration is not seamless
- **Emerging technologies** will become more dominant
- **Physical spaces** are essential for new purposes beyond traditional service
- All **core traditional services** have been changed by technology
- The library still has a **vital role** in bridging the digital divide

Questions?



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