

# FOCUS *on Global Resources*

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This issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* reports on the recent activities of **CIFNAL**: Collectif international des fonds documentaires en langue française, or the Collaborative initiative for French language collections. CIFNAL is one of the newest collaborative partnerships of the Global Resources Network, formally constituted in 2007.

CIFNAL is engaged in important work on behalf of its members and CRL, providing and enhancing access to critical source materials in the French language, including contemporary scholarly journals (via *CAIRN*, a partnership of the Bibliothèque nationale de France and various publishing houses in France and Belgium), popular texts from the streets of 19th century France (in collaboration with ARTFL and the Médiathèque de l'agglomération troyenne), and manuscripts and documents from the greatest thinkers and writers of the Enlightenment. These projects are described by CIFNAL Chair

*continued on next page*

On page 1: *The Last Ring of Robespierre's tail*. From the "Pamphlets and Periodicals of the French Revolution of 1848" e-collection.

*continued from page 1*

Dominique Coulombe, Sarah Sussman, and Susanne Roberts in the first three articles.

More importantly, perhaps, is the work of CIFNAL in building collaborative relationships with francophone institutions outside of North America and France. Consistent with the GRN's principles of fair and equitable exchange of knowledge and capacity-building in partner institutions, CIFNAL has embarked on numerous partnerships with organizations in Algeria, Morocco, Burundi, and the French-speaking Caribbean. The final two articles in this issue spotlight the challenges—and opportunities—of collaboration with our network of partners overseas.

The Center for Research Libraries has long supported acquisition of francophone research resources, with intensive collections in French literature, history, and social sciences. CRL and the Global Resources Network's partnership with CIFNAL promises to extend those collection activities into the 21st century.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.  
*President*

## CIFNAL's Début: Launching the Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections

**Dominique Coulombe**

*Brown University*

*CIFNAL Chair*



The first CIFNAL conference was held in August 2008 in the Grande Bibliothèque de Montréal. Photo by Dick Hacken.

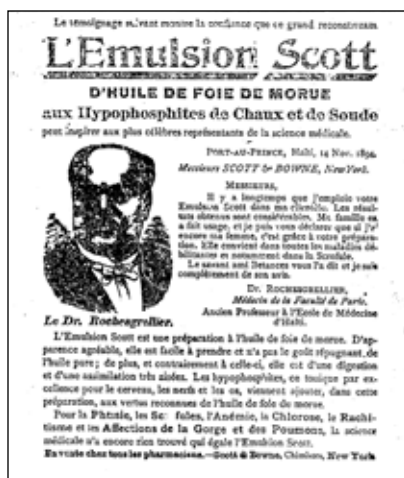
CIFNAL: Collectif international des fonds documentaires en langue française, or the Collaborative initiative for French language collections, is a new and important effort to enhance international cooperation among academic and research libraries which manage, preserve, and provide access to French language collections in North America and French-speaking countries. CIFNAL recently joined the Global Resources Network (GRN) programs operating and being administered at CRL—the German-North American Resources Partnership (GNARP), Cooperative African Newspapers Project (AFRINUL), Digital South Asia Library (DSAL), and Latin Americanist Research Resources Project (LARRP). The CIFNAL membership consists of 26 libraries and nine individuals from Africa, Europe, and North America. In addition to the projects outlined in this article, it features a bilingual Web site, in English and French, and a workspace for members.

CIFNAL chose the venue offered by the Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes (AIFBD) to hold its first annual meeting as a GRN initiative. Formed in 2004, the AIFBD represents librarians and information specialists from French-speaking countries worldwide. It held its first Congress in August 2008 in Montréal. With its rich francophone heritage and beautifully designed public and academic libraries, the city of Montréal offered the ideal setting for this gathering.

Jeffrey Larson coordinated CIFNAL's participation with Réjean Savard, President of AIFBD. CIFNAL members Sebastian Hierl, Birdie McLennan, Sarah Sussman, and Sarah G. Wenzel presented papers, most of which focused on CIFNAL projects. CIFNAL Chair Dominique Coulombe moderated one session, and Jeffrey Larson was one of two distinguished speakers who spoke at the closing session of the Congress.

Our colleagues were particularly interested to hear about current and prospective digital projects. Sarah Sussman discussed the various stages of her work with the digital collection of the [Bibliothèque bleue de Troyes](#) (*Cf. article page 5 of this newsletter*). CIFNAL member Matthew Loving made a presentation on the [Digital Library of the Caribbean](#) (dLOC). The collaborative model of the dLOC project emphasizes open access to digital resources and provides the technical infrastructure to support collections created by multiple partners. Once tested, this model could be applied to small-scale projects for digitizing and featuring historical or cultural content in French language collections in Europe or Africa.

Following up on this meeting, Claude Potts and Matthew Loving prepared a memorandum of agreement with Brooke Wooldridge, the Coordinator of dLOC, which was endorsed by the CIFNAL Steering Committee. The memorandum outlines some concrete steps for the involvement of CIFNAL in routine and complex activities such



A compound of cod liver oil and phosphates advertised in Haiti's *Le Courrier* newspaper, Sept 9, 1902.

as translations, participation in collection management decisions, and relations with libraries and research institutes in the French Caribbean. Matthew Loving will take the lead as CIFNAL project coordinator on this initiative for a two-year term. The convergence of the dLOC's objective to increase its content on the Francophone Caribbean region and the GRN's goal to "expand the depth, breadth, quantity, range of formats, and variety of international information resources not currently available to North American students and scholars" holds the promise of future project planning to further enrich and complement the work of the Latin American Microform Project (LAMP) and Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP).

Also of great interest to our colleagues was the negotiation of consortial agreements for electronics products. Following the Montréal meeting, CRL negotiated a licensing agreement for the dictionary *Le Grand Robert Online* on behalf of CIFNAL. Sebastian Hierl facilitated the conclusion of a consortial agreement with CAIRN, a collection of French and Belgian scholarly journals. Sarah Wenzel also reached a consortial agreement with Oxford University Press for the *Electronic Enlightenment*.

Two ambitious projects that bridge the past with the future and focus on scholarly resources have been initiated by CIFNAL members. One of the projects, led by Ceres Birkhead at the University of Utah, centers on identifying, locating, and publicizing the existence of major sets of microfilm pertaining to the history, culture, language, and literature of France and francophone countries. The other project, under the direction of Susanne Roberts at Yale, focuses on regional and local French research resources; an assessment of North American library coverage of regional and local French research resources, including publications of learned societies, local institutions, and associations; and specialized publishers. Several AIFBD participants gave Roberts some excellent feedback and suggestions for continuing her work on this important project. (Cf. article page 7 of this newsletter.)

The AIFBD Congress provided a lively forum for discussing and clarifying the linguistic and geographic scope of CIFNAL's membership and activities. As a new organization with a still-evolving mission, the feedback we received from colleagues in other French-speaking countries was a key factor in shaping our identity and in determining our boundaries. The original name abbreviated as CIFNAL—*Collaborative Initiative for French and North American Libraries/Initiative de collaboration entre les bibliothèques françaises et nord-américaines*—did not clearly convey the association's intention and desire to include the francophone community outside of North America and France in our project. As a result, the Steering Committee proposed to change the name to: *CIFNAL: Collectif international des fonds documentaires en langue française / Collaborative initiative for French language collections*. The membership unanimously voted in December to adopt this change.

The administrative and operational support CIFNAL receives from CRL has been an important factor in the growth of the organization in the past few months. The expansion and synergies generated from the AIFBD meeting have been quite gratifying, as well as the prospect of entering a new partnership that could lead to collaboration with area studies projects. While we are aware of the challenges that lie ahead, CIFNAL is poised to continue increasing its visibility, reaching out to new partners, advancing current projects, and launching new initiatives in support of scholarship in French and francophone studies.

We welcome inquiries about our activities and projects, suggestions for areas of collaboration, and are looking forward to receiving the support of enthusiastic colleagues in various regions of the world who seek to enhance access to French language resources. ♦



## The Bibliothèque Bleue Online— CIFNAL's First Collaborative Project

Sarah Sussman  
Stanford University



A Bibliothèque bleue publication on the fables and life of Aesop (Baudet, Troyes).

Bibliothèque bleue is the name given to the small chapbooks printed on blue paper and sold by itinerant vendors in France from the 17th until the early 19th centuries. CIFNAL's first project focuses on creating a searchable digital library of these books. It is a collaborative effort, bringing together ARTFL (University of Chicago), the Médiathèque de l'agglomération troyenne (MAT), and CIFNAL. Currently, only ARTFL and CIFNAL are actively participating, but we hope to revive contacts with the MAT in the future. The activities of the Bibliothèque bleue project are threefold: scanning a selection of the "Bibliothèque bleue" books, processing the texts using double keying and tagging, and incorporating the corpus of materials into ARTFL's searchable database.

Aimed at a popular audience, the chapbooks contain simplified versions of histories and tales, songs, works of piety, and advice manuals. In France, they were the specialty of several provincial towns, the most important being Troyes, where the genre was born in the early 17th century by the printer-bookseller Nicolas Oudot. As the historian Robert Mandrou noted, their interest lies in their ability to "recreate French popular culture during the Ancien Régime." (Mandrou 1964, 17). Because the Bibliothèque bleue is so closely associated with the city of Troyes and its history, it is not surprising that the Médiathèque de l'agglomération troyenne (MAT, Municipal library of Troyes and its region) has one of the most important collections of works of this genre. Its collection contains more than 2,500 works, almost 700 of which were printed in Troyes. When we started this project, the MAT had already digitized much of this collection in image format.

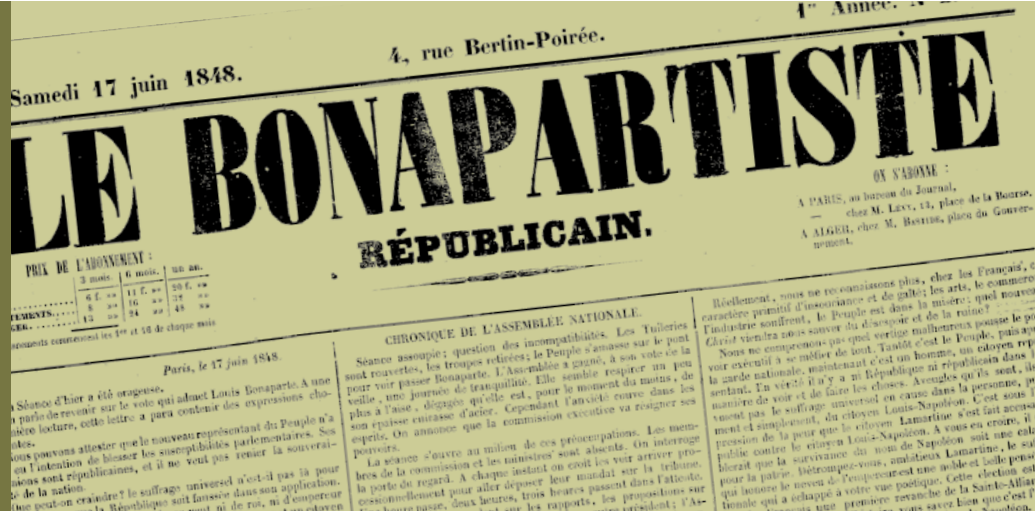
The origins of this project occurred at the 2005 ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago. Since the objectives of CIFNAL include collaboration and resource-sharing, we took this opportunity to meet with the directors of ARTFL, the French digital text library based at the University of Chicago, to discuss possibly collaborative projects. The identification of the Bibliothèque bleue corpus at the MAT as a possible candidate for a digital project emerged from this meeting, and it was decided to contact the director. The MAT welcomed our proposal, and its then-director, M. Thierry Delcourt, offered ARTFL/CIFNAL the image files of some 300 Bibliothèque bleue texts from their library, which ARTFL then sent to an outside vendor to be double-keyed and tagged using TEI-Lite. Once ARTFL received the text files back from the vendor, it constructed a public Web site for researchers to search the texts of the Bibliothèque bleue using PhiloLogic. The ARTFL Web site also contains links to the original MAT images, so that researchers can see the physical format of the chapbooks whose texts they are examining.

The original funding for this project was generously offered by ARTFL itself. Their \$10,000 gift made possible the processing and inclusion of 116 texts to form a searchable Web site using ARTFL's PhiloLogic software. Moreover, ARTFL engaged graduate students to correct the texts by hand, since even careful keying resulted in some errors due to the poor quality of their original printing or the scanned image. To raise additional funding for this and other ARTFL projects, a group of self-selected sustaining members of ARTFL (SMARTFL) was formed. This membership class, which pays a higher level of annual membership dues, has the opportunity to decide how ARTFL should spend the additional monies that they provide. In 2008, SMARTFL members proposed adding the additional Bibliothèque bleue texts to the digital corpus. As a result, an additional 136 new texts will be added soon to the collection, and the expanded Bibliothèque bleue database will be released on ARTFL's new server. Additionally, the University of California, Berkeley, a CIFNAL member, has offered to have some of the Bibliothèque bleue works in the Bancroft Library digitized and added to the project. This is still in a planning phase, but it illustrates the ongoing nature of digital projects and of CIFNAL's partnership with ARTFL.

We welcome you to try out the [Bibliothèque bleue online project](#). ❖

## Selected French History and Culture Resources

Susanne Roberts  
Yale University Library



A June 17, 1848 issue of a pro-Bonaparte newspaper. From the “Pamphlets and Periodicals of the French Revolution of 1848” e-collection.

The collections of the Center for Research Libraries, combined with the holdings of other North American libraries as identified by two CIFNAL projects, provide a wealth of material for the study of French history and culture. The following article highlights particular collections and resources available to CRL and CIFNAL members, and focuses on CIFNAL's ongoing efforts to identify significant resources.

CRL's collection of francophone material is sizable, encompassing archival materials, monographs, manuscripts, dissertations, newspapers, serials, official gazettes, government publications, and a variety of other materials. The bulk of resources come from Europe, but also other areas such as northern and West Africa, Middle East, Caribbean, and South and Southeast Asia. Together, French language resources represent more than 10 percent of all items in CRL's online catalog.

Particularly strong is CRL's collection of French dissertations. With more than 125,000 doctoral dissertations produced in France, this represents the largest collection of francophone graduate theses outside of Europe. More than 8,600 entries list France as a subject (note: not all records have subject headings), covering all aspects of humanities, social science, and sciences. While a relatively minor percentage of the collection was produced in countries other than France, a great number of available dissertations deal with aspects of *le monde francophone*.

Newspapers and news collections abound: CRL holds more than 600 newspapers published in France and at least 250 from Africa. Some examples:

- [La Gazette de France](#), 1649–1660; 1774–1834. One of the oldest newspapers in France.
- [Collection on the Revolution of 1848 in France. Newspapers](#). Filmed from holdings of the British Library and others. Some are available online through a partnership with ARTFL.
- [Le Parisien Libéré](#), 1944–1986. Originally an organ of the French underground, now one of the largest papers in France.
- [Force ouvrière](#) (Paris) 1945–1966. Official weekly of the General Confederation of Labour-Workers' Force.
- [Le Courrier d'Afrique](#) (Kinshasa, Congo) 1943–1970. A significant independent newspaper from the Belgian Congo, important for the study of colonial affairs, nationalism, independence, and rebellion.

In addition there is an astonishing wealth of archival material on microform. Among French government archives, for example, one finds a variety of consular and diplo-

*Particularly strong is CRL's collection of French dissertations. With more than 125,000 doctoral dissertations produced in France, this represents the largest collection of francophone graduate theses outside of Europe.*

matic files from the French Foreign Ministry, including:

- France. Ministère des affaires étrangères. [Archives diplomatiques](#). Political correspondence on foreign relations with Great Britain.
- \_\_\_\_\_. [Archives diplomatiques: série B, relations commerciales](#), 1920–1939.
- \_\_\_\_\_. [Correspondance consulaire, Saint Jean d'Acre, 1787–1789](#). Correspondence on affairs with Turkey; 4 volumes.
- \_\_\_\_\_. [Correspondance commerciale, Bangkok](#), v. 1–9 (1857–1925).

CRL has acquired comprehensive sets of such noted microform series as *French Drama*, *French Books 1601–1700*, *Eighteenth Century French Literature*, and *Ouvrages sur Voltaire, 1788–1826*. CRL also possesses extensive documentation of the French revolution, including materials such as *French Revolution, critical and historical literature* and *Pamphlets and periodicals relating to the French Revolution of 1848*. Finally, CRL has acquired microfilms of manuscripts such as:

- [Li roman de la Poire](#). Bibliothèque Nationale MSS, Français 7995
- [Roman de Tristan en prose](#). From the original in the Bibliothèque nationale de France.
- Riccoboni, M. (François), 1707–1772. [Les indes chantantes](#). From the series: *French play manuscripts from the Bibliothèque nationale*.

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In 2007, CIFNAL initiated a project to identify and publicize microform collections pertaining to the history, culture, language, and literature of France and francophone countries. Members of the project have collaborated to bring together a list of important resources, which is maintained on the CIFNAL site as a wiki.

Resources are grouped in categories, for example:

- Philosophy and psychology: [Le Rousseauisme](#) (Paris: Microéditions Hachette, 1976).
- General resources: [Archives biographiques françaises](#) (London: Bowker-Saur, 1988–1990).
- Religion: [The Catholic Reformation, including French diocesan catechisms, 1615–1900](#) (Leiden, The Netherlands: Inter Documentation, 1987– ).
- Social sciences: [French Exploration of Africa](#) (Paris: Microéditions Hachette, 1972).
- Fine arts: [Index photographique de l'art en France](#) (München; New York: K.G. Saur, 1979–).
- Literature: [Nicolas de Bonneville et le Cercle social, 1787–1800](#) (Paris: Microéditions Hachette, 1976).
- History: [Les Enquêtes des préfets de l'empire](#) (Montrouge, France: Microéditions Hachette, 1975).

The list includes sets but not journals; each title has links to OCLC records to identify holding libraries.

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Another CIFNAL project aims to assess North American library coverage of regional and local French research resources, including publications of learned societies, archival inventories, and periodicals. Still developing a methodology, the effort has surveyed learned societies publications for Languedoc and Brittany. Using the OCLC database, one can identify North American holdings for major serial publications



of the principal societies of these regions. For example, both the Fédération des sociétés académiques et savantes Languedoc-Pyrénées-Gascogne and the Fédération historique du Languedoc méditerranéen et du Roussillon publish the proceedings of their Congrès d'études; both series are held by 13 North American libraries. For Brittany, the Société d'histoire et d'archéologie de Bretagne's *Archives historiques de Bretagne* are held by 21 libraries while its *Bulletin*, subsequently *Mémoires*, is held by only 12. Predictably the society publications for smaller regions (e.g., Finistère, Ille-et-Vilaine) are held by fewer libraries.

Among the difficulties in using WorldCat for this research is the inability to get an accurate picture of whether North American libraries have full coverage of these serial publications because detailed holdings records are often unavailable.

French regional and local learned societies and their publications are easily identified via the Web site of the [Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques](#). Some digitization projects are underway; notably, the French national library has digitized [36 periodicals published between 1750 and 1914 by 29 learned societies of the Aquitaine and Lorraine regions](#). ♦♦

## Collection Spotlight: Fairy tales at the University of Colorado, Boulder

**Alison Hicks**

Humanities Reference and Instruction  
Librarian

University of Colorado, Boulder



*Pranksters' Journal*. From the "Pamphlets and Periodicals of the French Revolution of 1848" e-collection.

Cannibalism, sex, violence . . . Ironically, the princess did not live happily ever after in Charles Perrault's 1697 version of *Sleeping Beauty*. Instead, she and her two children named Dawn and Day (Aurore and Jour) were almost killed as the evil Queen Mother turned upon them. If Walt Disney knew of this French version, one can understand why he left this part out of the 1959 movie for children, even though it is relatively tame in comparison to earlier versions that show how the Princess was impregnated by the Prince in her sleep and woke up after she gave birth to twins.

Students at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), a CINFAL member, can now study these differences for themselves thanks to the extensive fairy tale collection housed in the University Libraries [Special Collections](#) Department. Encompassing French, German, English, and Italian fairy tales, the collection includes a large number of 17th–20th century editions by Perrault, Madame d'Aulnoy, and Madame d'Auneuil, as well as the Brothers Grimm and the Italian Straparola. The two stars of the collection are, undoubtedly, a 1700 Dutch edition of Charles Perrault's *Histoires ou Contes du temps passé*, and the unique 1697–98 first edition volume one of Madame d'Aulnoy *Contes des Fées*. The collection also contains several other 17th and 18th century masterpieces; notably, Perrault's 1695 *Griseldi* and Madame d'Aulnoy's beautifully illustrated *Histoire d'Hypolite* (1764), important because it includes the first literary French fairy tale, *L'île de la Félicité*, and the first edition of the 41 volumes of the *Cabinet des Fées* (1784–89). Italian and German fairy tales are well represented too; the collection possesses Straparola's *Le Tredici Piacevolissime Notte* (1608), as well as the Brothers Grimm *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* editions of 1857 and 1886.

Many of these volumes form part of the Emily Wood Epsteen Collection of 19th and early 20th century children's fiction and nonfiction. Epsteen was a faculty member at CU in the 1920s and 1930s and the Dean of Women in 1923. Several other books, including many of the older editions, have been donated by Jacques Barchilon, Professor Emeritus of French and Italian at CU, who is one of the important pioneers of French fairy tale scholarship. Founding Editor in 1987 of the scholarly journal *Marvels and Tales*, originally *Merveilles et Contes*, Barchilon also edited several collections of fairy tales. Throughout the years Professor Barchilon's donations and expertise enabled CU Special Collections to expand the collection further. It is in honor of Professor Barchilon that an exhibition of fairy tales at CU Boulder will be on display in May 2009.

The fairy tales are used as part of several undergraduate classes in the College of Arts & Sciences. Expecting this to be an easy course, students are often amazed to see

how the original European fairy tales differ from the sanitized versions they learned as children. Over the semester, students look at how historical events, cultural circumstances, and literary movements have changed the fairy tales over time. In the courses, they read the fairy tales from Marxist or Oedipal viewpoints and consider the psychoanalytical and gender issues in the tales. They also learn how these tales are part of a worldwide context of popular tradition through such important reference works as *The Types of International Folktales*. Later in the semester, these classes visit Special Collections to study the original versions in detail. Students then give presentations on a specific aspect of the collection. Student presentations have sometimes focused on the book as an artefact, such as an examination of fairy tale books with fake covers in order to avoid censors or the 1930s Italian editions of *Pinocchio* in North Africa with distinct fascist overtones to examine the role of fairy tales in propaganda.

The collection is also being used as one of the libraries' projects in the digital humanities. Inspired by Project Bamboo, which aims to advance humanities research "through the development of shared technology services," five of the tales were scanned and made OCR searchable to form a preliminary digital collection to accompany the exhibition. By looking at these three versions of *Puss in Boots* and two versions of *Sleeping Beauty*, one can compare and contrast the stories and see how the different European versions are related. The digital collection will be used by future undergraduate classes and, if it proves popular, will be expanded. The project will explore how the library can support teaching and research by providing digitized resources in the humanities. Digital resources related to the humanities are developing rapidly, and although there is no mysterious cat in a pair of boots or a young, handsome prince magically gifted to help us, a future beckons and librarians must continue to be aware of these trends. ❖

## CIFNAL Partner Collaboration: Three Case Studies



Detail from map of Algeria.

Victor Hugo, the iconic French poet and author, once observed that “All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come.” The recent creation of the CIFNAL association of French-language scholars, as illustrated in the following case studies, exemplify the enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and converging interests of an idea whose time has come.

### Documenting Academic Web Portal Design in Algeria: An Unexpected CIFNAL Collaboration

**Richard Hacken**

*European Studies Bibliographer*

*Brigham Young University*

When members of the CRL-backed Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections (CIFNAL) were invited to meet with an international association of francophone librarians and archivists—the “Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes” (AIFBD)—in Montreal last August at an IFLA preconference meeting in Québec City, little did we know what a gold mine of collaboration it would be. Much more than just a “preconference,” the [AIFBD meetings](#) led to meaningful discussions about all aspects of francophone librarianship (and a veritable celebration of the same). Information professionals from France and French Canada were there in number, as might be expected. But their counterparts from other parts of the world were also richly represented, from Ivory Coast to the Belgian coast, from Senegal to Switzerland, from the Caribbean to the Congo. A contingent from North Africa was also present—from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt. As with many conferences, the meetings were professionally valuable, but the additional goal of networking took place before and after the meetings.

When the AIFBD organizers planned the Montreal meetings, they had the foresight to arrange for a six-hour catamaran cruise to Québec City for those traveling on to the IFLA meetings. It was in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, therefore, aboard a floating francophone festival, that I first met and talked with Ridda Laouar. Ridda is a “Maître de conférence” (roughly equivalent to the rank of Associate Professor) in the Computer Science Department at the University of Tébessa in Algeria. Despite our obvious differences, we soon discovered common interests in areas of online information. Ridda is involved in the design of an academic web portal, a network of scholarly workstations, for the university library in Tébessa; I am a webmaster and librarian who sees a coming cyber-age that will involve the type of research platform

that Ridda is currently crafting: a single-stop, customized research environment that can provide easy access to a multiplicity of documents, databases, and digital tools.

The scholarly holdings of teaching and research institutions in Algeria, while meager, are extensively underutilized due partially to a lack of online tools. It is imperative to put technologies into play that are within the means of Algerian institutions and that can maximize access to local and remote information sources.

Ridda and I agreed to work together as a transatlantic team toward an article on the design of the library web portal he is helping to conceptualize and implement. His skills and experience in computer science and my own language capabilities are combining to produce an English-language article. In Tébessa, meanwhile, the emphasis is on digitizing local resources (articles, theses, and so forth) for inclusion in the portal. Future plans include the integration of the local portal into the Algerian nationwide network: *Réseau régional inter bibliothèques universitaires (RIBU)*.

## Technical Aid to the National Library Association of Burundi

**Jeffry Larson**

*Yale University Library*

Last year, when I announced on BiblioDoc the participation of CIFNAL members at the upcoming congress of the l'Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes (AIBFD) in Montreal, I received an email response from Aimé-Joël Nimubona, a young librarian in the médiathèque of the Centre Culturel Français, a French government facility in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. Nimubona also is the public relations officer of the Association des Bibliothécaires, Archivistes et Documentalistes du Burundi (ABADBU).

He was unable to attend the Montreal congress in August, he informed me, but was eager to reach out to colleagues and solicit their help in developing ABADBU, his national professional association. ABADBU was recently formed to foster the development of archives and library services in Burundi. One of its missions is to encourage its government to preserve documents for a national archive. Burundi has one of the lowest gross domestic products in the world and is recovering from years of civil conflict. Its school enrollment and literacy rates are low.

In his messages to me Nimubona sought support for ABADBU activities—any kind of support. Since all funds at my disposal are dedicated to adding to Yale Library collections, I consulted colleagues and supervisors about providing in-kind technical support for the development of an ABADBU Web site, which would facilitate professional communications among its members. The plan received approval and Nimubona was receptive to the idea and appreciative.

Student assistants were employed initially to build the Web site, but with mixed results and many stops and starts. Eventually Dick Hacken, a colleague in the Brigham Young Library, offered his services and, sooner than expected, produced categories or “tabs” on the [ABADBU Web site](#). Although still “under construction,” parts of the Web site are functioning as intended and contain relevant information.

Meantime, [Mr. Nimubona](#) is still seeking aid of any sort—material, financial, or internships—for the ABADBU. Please email him directly if you or your institution can help.

## CIFNAL—A Great Venue for Informal Learning



## Chip Stewart

*City College Libraries/CUNY*

CIFNAL (Collaborative Initiative for French Language Collections) provides a professional and congenial setting for anyone interested in French language collections and library resources. CIFNAL relies upon organizational memberships for its financial and administrative support, but welcomes the participation of interested individuals, who wish to contribute to meetings and projects and keep current with the latest developments.

As an individual member, I have benefited from making the acquaintance of many colleagues who also select French information resources for libraries. Thanks to the relatively lively activity of the CIFNAL listserv, I became aware of the Association internationale francophone des bibliothécaires et documentalistes (AIFBD), a new international organization of francophone librarians, and was able to attend their first conference in Montreal. This proved an even greater opportunity to establish further contacts with several French and Québécois librarians.

Through these new contacts and my participation in CIFNAL I have gained increasing knowledge of the issues currently facing French books and periodicals. For example, the discussion of digitization efforts on both sides of the Atlantic confirmed that we face the same challenges in adapting to the new technologies and there are considerable opportunities for joint projects and for sharing our expertise.

What I like best about CIFNAL is the opportunity it provides for meeting with fellow professionals from both the U.S. and abroad—offering the chance to personalize a subject discipline that often has the feel of being distant and at times unreal.

In addition to the listserv, CIFNAL's administrative support by the Center for Research Libraries also enables a web-based collaborative work space for sharing lists, links, and project status information. All of this provides for a friendly learning environment for deepening exposure and expertise around the topic of French language materials. ♦

## CIFNAL Member Spotlight

**Lamyaa Belmekki**

*Ecole des Sciences de l'Information,  
Morocco*

**Dominique Coulombe**

*Brown University*

Detail from map of Morocco.

### Information Sciences Education in Morocco: *Give them roots, give them wings*

Founded in 1974, the Ecole des Sciences de l'Information (ESI) is the only Moroccan institution which trains information science specialists. Its creation was prompted by a survey conducted by the Centre National de Documentation in 1971, in which the lack of a professional standard for information management qualifications was noted. When it was founded, ESI had set for itself the objective “to form professionals in special libraries, archival management and library sciences who have the competencies needed to work with collection management, processing, and dissemination of scientific and technical information.”<sup>1</sup>

As part of its international relations initiatives, ESI has concluded cooperative agreements with national and international educational programs and organizations, including partnerships with organizations in francophone countries (France, Senegal, Canada, Belgium) and other countries such as Sweden, Spain, Denmark, the United States, and Great Britain.

Collaborative agreements with educational institutions in francophone countries include the Ecole de Bibliothéconomie et des Sciences de l'Information in Montréal (Canada), the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (France), and the Ecole de Bibliothécaires, Archivistes et Documentalistes de l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Sénégal). These agreements provide ESI and the institutions in other countries with a structure to facilitate collaborative work, undertake shared research projects, and exchange faculty, students, and documentation.

Innovation in curriculum development and in research is a major concern of ESI's administrators and faculty. To meet this goal, in 2005 ESI initiated a program which involves new information professionals (employed in the public or private sector) in the development of the curriculum and the overseeing of research projects. ESI defined a list of expected competencies nation-wide in the various domains of information sciences. It called on Moroccan information specialists who possess the competencies to create these modules working with permanent faculty. These professionals are expected to utilize their own work experience and case studies in the teaching of their subject specialties to reinforce the theoretical concepts covered by permanent faculty. This approach has been successful and is congruent with ESI's desire to emphasize the practical applications of the curriculum. It enables ESI to enrich the modules it offers to students and to develop its research and development component. Using my knowledge and practical experience as Information Specialist in the private sector,

<sup>1</sup>AKESBI, R. Le métier d'informatiste : crise d'identité, crise d'image ? Mémoire de fin d'études. Rabat, ESI, 2003.

I have had the opportunity to participate in this program with Professor Mouna Benslimane. My contributions to the module on competitive intelligence focused on strategic awareness practices and assessment of intelligence tracking of strategic information. The learning experience of the ESI students has been greatly enhanced by my ability to share my knowledge of competitive intelligence services.

The involvement of recent graduates in the curriculum is a new but very successful venture for ESI. Through the implementation of the project, the school administration is constantly adding a fresh perspective to its program. ❖

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