NRC·CNRC
Institute for Research in Construction

Bringing quality to the built environment

inFIRE Conference 2009

From Research to Practice: Role of the Fire Library

Conference Program

Conseil national de recherches Canada
National Research Council Canada
Canada

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Institute for Research in Construction

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inFIRE Conference 2009

From Research to Practice: Role of the Fire Library

Conference Program

SUNDAY, MAY 24

6:00pm – 8:00pm Reception at the Marriott Residence Inn Hotel, Lady Carleton Room (all attendees and speakers)

Note: conference will be held at: National Research Council, Institute for Research in Construction, Building M-20, 1200 Montreal Road, Ottawa, ON. (12 minute cab ride from hotel) See map on last page.

MONDAY, MAY 25 (Session Chair: Sue Marsh, NFPA)

8:15am – 8:45am Arrival and Registration

9:00am – 9:05am Conference opening and introduction – Sue Marsh, NFPA, inFIRE Chair

9:05am – 10:00am Welcome and overview of NRC-IRC's Fire Research Program – Russ Thomas, Director, NRC Fire Research Program

10:00am – 11:15am "Who I am and what I do" roundtable
3 minutes each to introduce yourself, your library, and your major work-related issues of the past year.

BREAK

11:35am –12:30pm "Behind the Clang of the Fire-Gong: Posing Historic Research Questions Illuminating the Nineteenth Century American Fire Experience", Paul Schneider Independent Historical Research & Writing, U.S.A.

On a gusty Sunday afternoon in July 1841, the prosperous village of Waterford, New York was gutted by a fire which destroyed 128 businesses, dwellings, and structures "…about half of the taxable property." This was not the first disastrous conflagration to endanger Waterford's viability. Eight years earlier in 1833 a "ruinous" fire consumed "almost the entire part of the town, upon which our extensive mechanical and manufacturing operations were carried on,… " Even the most casual, uncritical perusal of local histories of 19th century America reveals similar catastrophic fire events ultimately defining many communities.

This paper poses historical research questions aimed at guiding an exploration of the 19th century fire experience in the United States. I tentatively theorize that during a period of intense national growth and expansion, there existed a dynamic intersection of development, urbanization, industrialization, fire loss and the protective and preventive measures taken to reduce the risks of fire loss. Within this intersection, for example, how did fire fighting techniques, equipment innovations, training, and understanding of fire dynamics originate and evolve? Examining such questions can offer insights into the development of modern fire science and protection strategies.

LUNCH

MONDAY, MAY 25 (Continued on next page)

MONDAY, MAY 25 (Continued)

1:45pm – 2:45pm "When Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, or How Would You React During a Fire Evacuation?" Dr. Guylène Proulx, Senior Research Officer, NRC Institute for Research in Construction. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Proulx will present new research findings on the response of people when facing a fire. She will discuss how this information can be factored into risk analysis, building design and operation. Typical occupant response in a fire will be reviewed with an emphasis on the importance of safety training and the development of emergency action plans. Experiences of the people who escaped the World Trade Center on 9-11 and the Station Nightclub fire in 2003 will serve to illustrate the factors that can help or hinder survival.

2:45pm – 3:45pm "Meeting Fire Service Field Staff Instructors' Dynamic Information Needs", Lian Ruan, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, U.S.A

Comprehensive training for today's firefighters becomes a must if firefighters are to respond to emergency incidents effectively and safely. Firefighters are required to learn three key areas of knowledge (cognitive), skills (psychomotor) and affective (attitude) during their training. This presentation will discuss how a doctoral study is being designed to investigate fire service instructors' information seeking and sharing behaviors, especially those of selected field staff instructors of the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is hoped that the study and its findings will inform information professionals about field staff instructors' information seeking and sharing behaviors so they can be more responsive in key areas, such as information services, user training and collection development.

BREAK and tour of NRC-IRC library and group photo

4:30pm until dinner Free time for networking, following-up on questions/issues raised during the morning roundtable, or return to your hotel for rest and rejuvenation.

6:15pm Conference Dinner at The Courtyard Restaurant (21 George Street. 5-10 minute walk from hotel)

TUESDAY, MAY 26 (Session Chair: Laura Logan, Safety Engineering Labs)

8:30am – 8:45am: **Arrive at NRC**

9:00am – 10:00am "The IAFSS (International Association for Fire Safety Science) Digital Archive", Terry Fay, Hughes Associates, U.S.A.

IAFSS has moved from a print only provider of fire science content to an online provider. IAFSS has developed online searchable archives of its nearly 1,000 peer reviewed papers as well as the full collection of the Fire Research Notes (~1,000 notes) generated by the UK Fire Research Station. The talk will focus on the path taken, the resources and options available, and the potential of federated searches to provide access to content over multiple content providers.

10:00am – 11:00am Digitization Panel and Discussion: "Lessons Learned, Tips and Tricks".
Panelists: Sue Marsh, NFPA;
Lian Ruan, Illinois Fire Service Institute;
Terry Fay, Hughes Associates;
Ian Henderson, NRC-IRC

BREAK

11:20am – 12:00pm Discussion: federated search of inFIRE collections, and possible inFIRE / FORUM collaboration

LUNCH

1:00pm – 1:45pm Visit – NRC-IRC Fire Lab (5 min. walk)

2:00pm – 3:30pm Visit – CISTI (Canada's National Science Library). 5 min. walk from Fire Lab

DINNER ON YOUR OWN OR AS A GROUP

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 (Session Chair: Diana Robinson, NY State Office of Fire Prevention and Control)

8:30am – 8:45am **Arrive at NRC**

9:00am – 10:00am "Creating an Institutional Repository: The NRC Experience", Alison Ball, Manager, NRC e-Library, NRC Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information.

NRC recently developed and launched NPArC, the National Research Council Publications Archive. Alison will walk us through the development of this important tool for NRC researchers, and describe some of the challenges and lessons learned along the way.

10:00am – 10:45am "Citation Analysis Tools: The State of the Art", Ian Henderson, Information Specialist, NRC Institute for Research in Construction. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Have you ever wondered who is citing your researchers' papers and how often? Wouldn't it be great if you could be "alerted" every time one of their publications was cited, and by whom? Were you aware that an article published in "Journal of Fire Protection Engineering" averages 5 citations while one in "Fire and Materials" averages three times that many? Ian Henderson answers these questions and more, through a discussion of Scopus and Google Scholar. Elsevier's Scopus, the world's largest citation database of research literature, has changed the way researchers can organize and analyze citation information. Google Scholar offers similar options and may be one of the most important "free" tools on the web. Coverage will include citation analysis, journal impacts and the new wave of citation tools available for NRC-IRC researchers.

BREAK

11:00am – 12:00am "Aircraft Materials and Construction Familiarization – Fire and Impact Damage Hazard Awareness", Ron Gould, Technical Officer, NRC Institute for Aerospace Research, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The intact and damaged components collected into the Aircraft Specimen Library from advanced, retired and crashed aircraft serve as the physical aids to present the strengths and weaknesses of the materials and techniques employed in legacy and modern airframe designs.
Cockpit windshields and cabin windows are not the same thing. A fuselage looks the same from the outside but inside it changes from end-to-end and top-to-bottom. "Thermal acoustic insulation" is code for 'fire-break'. Round is strong and that's a problem. Welcome to the new world of "black metal" – composites break, cut, burn and bite differently. Very big committees design these machines – fire and crash mitigation are not at the top of their agendas. An aisle seat please.

LUNCH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 (Continued on next page)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 (Continued)

1:00pm – 2:00pm "International Road Tunnel Fire Detection Research Project", Dr. Ahmed Kashef, Senior Research Officer, NRC Institute for Research in Construction, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

In 1999, at the request of the Boston Fire Department and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Fire Protection Research Foundation initiated a project to explore the performance of fire detection systems in roadway tunnels. Phase I of the project was a review of the international literature on the topic; the report of this Phase was published in 2003. This report identified the needed scope of a research program with the following goals:

- Investigate the performance attributes of current fire detection technologies for roadway tunnel protection;
- Provide technical information/data for use in the development of performance criteria, guidelines and specifications for tunnel fire detection systems; and
- Provide technical data to help optimize technical specifications and installation requirements for applications.

The project was initiated in 2005 and included seven distinct tasks, including modeling and full-scale testing, carried out by the National Research Council of Canada and Hughes Associates, Inc..

2:00pm – 2:30pm "Is Your Fire Safety Library Fire Safe?", Dr. John M. (Jack) Watts, Director, Fire Safety Institute, U.S.A.

Ten years ago at the inFIRE meeting in Montour Falls information was presented about a new NFPA standard on fire protection of cultural resources that included libraries and library collections. The document has matured into the 2009 Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties – Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship. This presentation will update you on the NFPA standards process, the NFPA Committee on Protection of Cultural Resources, and the current content of NFPA 909.

2:30pm – 3:00pm "Fire Safety in the Library of Congress", Dr. John M. (Jack) Watts, Director, Fire Safety Institute, U.S.A.

The US Library of Congress has recognized its responsibility to protect our heritage from fire. A recent study of their facilities included development of an indexing approach to evaluation of fire safety for their diverse collections. The LOC Fire Risk Index is a tool for the identification of fire risk levels in a variety of different library use spaces. It provides an efficient approach to assessment of the relative level of fire safety in diverse locations.

BREAK

3:15pm – 4:15pm Discussion – "Should inFIRE publish in the fire literature?"
What are the issues that pervade and invade information science and fire safety? Does the fire safety science community need documentation of modern resources? Will examples of internet searches on fire safety promote more efficient research? How can inFIRE influence better use of information sources and resources available to enhance fire safety? Will publication in a technical journal help "legitimize" inFIRE?

DINNER ON YOUR OWN OR AS A GROUP

THURSDAY, MAY 28

8:30am – 10:30am Visit – Canada's Library of Parliament (meet outside hotel at 8:15am)

RETURN TO NRC. BREAK

11:00am – 12:00am "Basic Applications of Google Earth in the Fire Community" Laura Logan, Information Specialist, Safety Engineering Laboratories, Inc, U.S.A.

Google Earth is an application that allows users to view and manipulate a virtual globe. This virtual globe includes satellite imagery and topographical data. Users can also apply their own data to the globe and create representations of that data as appropriate. Applications for the fire community include visualization of statistics, examination and recreation of fire scenes, and real time graphic representation of wildfires.

In this presentation we will explore the basics of using Google Earth to look up information and locations, find existing data, and demonstrate how beginners can use their own data to create maps and present information. We will also look at some more advanced examples of data representation and discuss the skills needed to create those maps.

LUNCH

1:30pm – 5:00pm Visit – NRC Fire Facilities in Almonte.

CONFERENCE ENDS

FRIDAY, MAY 29

inFIRE Executive Committee meeting

Google Maps Canada

Directions to National Research Council (Montreal Road Campus)

1200 Montreal Rd, Ottawa, ON (613) 993-1231
11.1 km – about **12 mins**

Residence Inn Ottawa Downtown
161 Laurier av W, Ottawa, ON - (613) 231-2020

1.	Head **northeast** on **Laurier Ave. W** toward **Elgin St**	go 0.4 km total 0.4 km
2.	Continue on **Laurier Bridge**	go 0.2 km total 0.6 km
3.	Turn **right** at **Nicholas St** About 1 min	go 1.0 km total 1.5 km
4.	Take the **417 East Hwy** ramp About 1 min	go 1.3 km total 2.9 km
6.	Continue on **174 E** (Keep left, don't go to Montreal!) About 1 min	go 2.0 km total 8.2 km
7.	Take the **Blair Rd.** exit	go 0.4 km total 8.6 km
8.	**Turn right onto Blair Rd.**	go 2.0 km total 10.6 km
9.	Turn **left** at **Montreal Rd.** **The Research Council is on the right, keep right, go down ramp.** About 1 min	go 0.5 km total 11.1 km

National Research Council (Montreal Road Campus)
1200 Montreal Rd, Ottawa, ON (613) 993-1231

Note: When you turn into the NRC campus from Montreal Road, you will come to a traffic circle. Go half-way around it, into the parking lot in front of building M-20. Enter the building through the main entrance.

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