In 1967, many new people were hired at the Douglas Library. Three new librarians arrived in February alone. Miss Diana Blake, a former member of the Douglas Circulation staff, now a B.L.S. from McGill, was put in charge of library administration services. Mr. Ted Phillips, a peripatetic American with degrees from the University of New Mexico and the University of Denver, most recently having worked in Kansas and California, came as Assistant (later to be Associate) Chief Librarian. And Miss Virginia Parker, who had degrees from Tulane and Louisiana, arrived as Chief Medical Librarian from her former post at the Texas Medical Centre in Houston.

Mr. Redmond liked to hire people with good educational qualifications, and the new staff members in Reference were no exception. Mr. R. Charles Ellsworth was hired as Head of the Research and Reference Division. A graduate of Columbia, St. John’s College, Annapolis, and the University of Uppsala, Sweden, he was also a candidate for the Ph.D. in Library Science at the University of Chicago. Also hired in Reference was Miss Eve Albrich, a native of Hungary, who had a Ph.D. from Erlangen, West Germany. Completing the Reference staff were the ever-helpful Mrs. Eleanor Robertson, who had worked in the library since 1928, and Dr. Steve Mohan, now a graduate of the University of Toronto library school, who had returned to work in the Reference and Research Division in the fall of 1966. There was now a reference librarian on duty in the Douglas Library from 8:45 a.m. until 10 at night (by the way, normal working hours for anyone not working an evening shift were 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour for lunch, usually 12 to 1, and there was no such thing as flextime or banked time in those days).

That year Mrs. Beatrice (Trixie) Walls moved from Periodicals to the Chemical Engineering Library in Dupuis Hall, where in fact she stayed until December 1989. And Mrs. Helen Brunton left the Medical Library, whose name was officially changed in 1967 to the Health Sciences Library, to take over as supervisor of the Reserve and Reading Room on the third floor of the Douglas Library.

In July Mr. Peter Dickson (now working in Collections) and in September Miss Margaret Clark joined the staff at Circulation, which was ably run by Mrs. Elinor Humphries, assisted by Mr. David Wang, and by Mrs. Christine LeClaire as Stack Supervisor. The loan period had changed for bound journals to one week. For monographs it remained at one week for undergrads, but graduate students were allowed a one-month loan, and faculty had four months. An electric charging machine was brought in at this time, with four different dates, the three mentioned above, plus a date for items sent to the bindery. (The electric charging machine was abandoned several years later, to be replaced by computer sign-outs; date-stamping is now done by hand.)

New arrivals to Acquisitions included Miss Bonnie Brooks (now of Stauffer I.L.L.), Miss Lynda McGlynn (now Lynda Johnston of Cataloguing) in July, and Mr. Antonio Frazao in August. In the fall, Mrs. Doris McKnight and Mrs. Margaret Webster (mother of Jim Webster of Special Collections) joined the staff of Cataloguing.
I also was one of the new arrivals, as my first full-time (as opposed to temporary summer employment) job at the Douglas Library was in 1967. It came about as an indirect result of the Arab-Israeli War in June of that year. Contracts with External Aid for my newlywed husband and me to go to Tunisia were cancelled, and we found ourselves unemployed and in Kingston. I never did go to Tunisia, although, ironically, I did go to Israel a few years later.

Seeking employment, I went this time to the Administration Offices of the Douglas Library. Here I was told by Diana Blake that Acquisitions was looking for someone to search French language orders, among others. I was also told that the head of the Order Department, Mr. Peter Girard, was originally from France. As I had just received a Master's degree in French, I went boldly to Mr. Girard's office, and said, in French, that I was interested in the job. The process of hiring new people was much less complicated than it became a few years later; in fact it took all of about fifteen minutes, and I started work the following Monday. My pay this time was just under $4,000 (yes, that's annually, full-time).

My work was based in the part of the old library on the main floor designated for many years as the bibliography room. Located across from Peter Girard's office (which later became David Wang's office), it contained a very international group of people, including a Scottish girl with whom I'm still in contact, who had come for the year of practical experience needed under the British system before becoming a librarian. It was on the whole a transient group of professors' wives etc., with the one exception of Tony Frazao, who would stay in a similar position from 1967 to 1996.

For some unknown reason we were not designated as searchers, but known by the ambiguous term "checkers". I envisioned us all as playing some sort of board game, in which the object of the game was to avoid capture and become queen at the end. In fact, it was the orders who became queens, after they ran the gauntlet of being checked in the card catalogue, the received-not-catalogued file, the on-order file, etc. If they were found in any of these, they were sent off the board and back to the library rep. who had requested them. If they got this far unscathed, one tried to find bibliographic confirmation for them using the various tools available in the bibliography room. Their crowning moment was to be put on Wilma Kearns's desk, ready for agenting and ordering.

The agenting or routing procedure was rather involved in those days, as I found out when I had to replace Wilma when she was temporarily on sick leave the following February. One had to find the Canadian agent for each of the publishers, and then divide the orders among the different agents. We made great efforts to support Canadian publishers in that year of "Expo '67", when feelings of Canadian nationalism were probably higher than at any other time I can remember. I recall being horrified when, after moving to Montreal the following year and working in the McGill University Library system, I discovered that all their orders went to a large agent in the United States who located the books and sent them to Canada.

In September of 1967, 4,000 items were donated to form a nucleus of a Gothic Fantasy collection, which, under the aegis of Professor Charles Pullen of the English Department, would be greatly expanded in the subsequent months. The purpose of the collection was to investigate
the particular aspect of the creative imagination which began with writers such as Walpole and which has been a strong force in English literature ever since. The Order Department was kept busy with many Gothic Fantasy orders, as well as a greatly increasing number of regular academic book orders, reflecting the population explosion at Queen’s as the baby boomers started to enter their university years. The workload of the order department, and of course most of the other departments as well, had greatly increased in the 1960s. In the year 1959/60, 4918 orders had been placed, but this number had increased in 1966/67 to 55,300 orders. However, Peter Girard announced in September 1967 that at that time the Order Department was up to date, and that orders were going out within 24 hours of being received.

According to the CACUL (Canadian Association of College and University Libraries) Newsletter of December 1, 1967, among all the university libraries in Canada, Queen’s was said in 1967 to have the highest number of volumes per full-time student (107) and the highest number of periodical subscriptions (1682) per 1000 full-time students.

In September, Mr. Walter Peterkin (M.A. Cantab.), Head of I.L.L., announced that the Inter-University Transit Service, agreed upon by OCUL (Ontario Council of Ontario Librarians) and directed by the Chief Librarian of York University, was beginning operation. This greatly increased I.L.L. traffic in Ontario, and with service given five days a week, I.L.L. material now took a maximum of 36 hours to get to Queen’s from any point in the province, rather than five days, as it used to by mail.

The same month it was announced that students of Grades 12 and 13 from three Kingston high schools had been granted users’ privileges at the Douglas Library. The students were required to carry with them identification cards issued by the school librarian or vice-principal, and on entering the library were to sign their names in a register kept at the Circulation Desk. These visitors were to be permitted to use books in the library, but were not allowed to take them out. The high school students also were not permitted to use branch library materials without a special request.

On May 8, PLAQ (Professional Librarians Association of Queen’s) had a meeting to receive an interim report from the Committee on Academic Status, which stated that librarians now had academic status. Academic status, it seemed, was not the same as faculty status, but no one in Administration at that time was prepared to say exactly how it differed.

On March 3, a new library association, the NPA (Non-Professional Association) had its first meeting. Its stated objective was to represent the interests of the nonprofessional staff more constructively and effectively than had been the case previously. Among the first items on its agenda was to improve the system of job classification for non-professionals, as it was felt that equal salaries were not always being paid for equal work. It was categorically stated that this association was definitely NOT (as the Queen’s Journal had suggested) the first step toward a staff union. However, as we look back from our vantage point of over 30 years later, it did in fact prove to be exactly that.

The NPA held its first elections on December 6, 1967. Diana Wood was elected President, Susan Miller Vice President, and Dawn Graham Secretary. December also saw the Library
Christmas Party on Saturday December 16th, in the Wine Cellar at Prokop’s, where Tony Frazao and his trio provided the entertainment. The final event of this centennial year of 1967 was organized by Assistant Chief Librarian Ted Phillips. The library staff went carolling one evening in late December, and then to his house for refreshments afterwards.