

cIRcle, UBC's Research Repository

IMPACT AND ACTIVITY REPORT | 2023-2024

NEW IN cIRcle!

cIRcle continually develops new partnerships that create and leverage precedents in repository service development. From one-of-a-kind reference books to blog posts, the three new partners featured in this year's report represent the diverse and community-oriented scholarship for which UBC is best known.

An English-Squamish Language Dictionary: A unique resource, [An English-Squamish Language Dictionary](#) was archived in cIRcle with the combined effort of past and present Library employees. A recent feature by [UBC Library Communications](#) tells the story of how this and other Indigenous Language Dictionaries in cIRcle support language revitalization by providing unfettered access to materials that may otherwise be challenging to find for communities of language learners.

Therapeutics Letter: This year cIRcle archived 143 copies of the [Therapeutics Letter](#), an open access publication on common therapies to increase awareness and improve prescription habits among British Columbia physicians and pharmacists. Working with Doug Salzwedel, Systematic Reviews Information Specialist at [UBC Therapeutics Initiative](#), cIRcle will also begin archiving the new lay summaries for these publications created to extend the accessibility of this material to non-specialists.

UBC Open Access Fund: In collaboration with the Library's Scholarly Communications & Copyright Team, cIRcle archived nearly [40 digital books and research articles](#) made freely available with the support of the [UBC Open Access Fund for Humanities and Social Sciences Research](#). Administered annually, the fund covers fees for article processing charges (APCs) where UBC faculty publications align with SSHRC grant-funding guidelines.



Still from Squamish L'ilwat Cultural Centre Language Video via YouTube tinyurl.com/SLCCLanguageVideo

cIRcle aims to showcase and preserve UBC's unique intellectual output by providing permanent, open access to scholarly materials for anyone, anywhere.

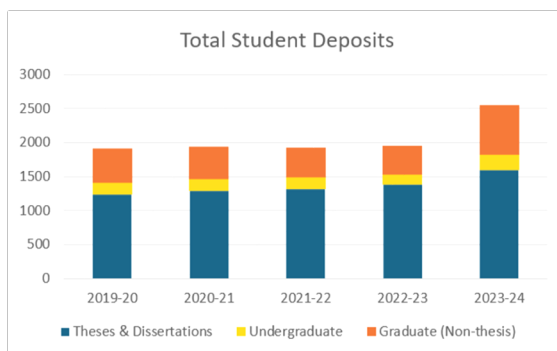
REPOSITORY GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

At more than **84,000 items**, cIRcle has achieved nearly 25% of its growth within the past five years.

The number of theses and dissertations deposited increased by more than 30% from the previous year in tandem with a similar increase in faculty content. In the same period, undergraduate deposits in cIRcle nearly doubled making 2023-2024 one of cIRcle's busiest years yet.

As the volume and complexity of requests for repository services continues to grow, the cIRcle Team has prioritized a number of metadata enhancements and technical upgrades that support diverse scholarly outputs.

STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD



More than **2,600** student works were added to cIRcle in 2023-2024.

Undergraduate student deposits increased by **54%** from the previous year.

SYSTEM UPGRADE : PLANNING FOR DSPACE 7 MIGRATION

Preparations for the [DSpace 7](#) upgrade continued in partnership with [Atmire](#), trusted repository developers for over 250+ institutions worldwide. An extensive technical requirements review was completed in early 2024 with a focus on identifying opportunities for replacing current customizations with new out-of-the-box features, and enhancing processes to make it easier to manage growing demands for repository support. Planning discussions for this significant and complex upgrade will continue throughout the year in conjunction with projects that support the transition.

METADATA ENHANCEMENTS : SUBJECT HEADING ANALYSIS

This year the cIRcle Office completed work on a subject heading analysis that began in 2021. Focusing on theses and dissertations created prior to 2007, the project aimed to identify outdated, inappropriate, or problematic terminology in reference to Indigenous peoples, communities, and cultures. Findings informed the decision to remove all Subject Keyword metadata across the entire collection and identified opportunities for future enhancement projects in support of ethical and inclusive description of Indigenous content. Project details were captured in a blog post entitled, "[Inclusive Metadata: Legacy Subject Keywords in Theses & Dissertations](#)."



SPOTLIGHT : STUDENT RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

HIST 449 : Undergraduate Honours Theses

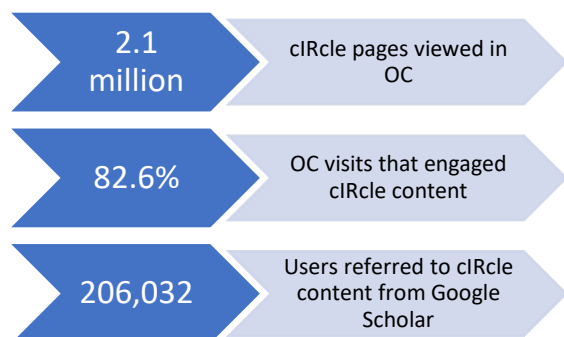
From [perceptions of sea otters](#) in Vancouver to the [rise of the Occult](#) in 19th century Britain, the [Undergraduate Honours Theses in History](#) collection in cIRcle captures fifteen years of exceptional UBC student scholarship in the production of historical knowledge.

UBC Vancouver and Okanagan Graduating Projects

Since 2008, more than [1,700 Graduating Projects](#) from across UBC Vancouver and Okanagan campuses have been made openly available in cIRcle. These works exemplify cross-disciplinary approaches to solving real world problems that are the hallmark of UBC research. Explore the collection starting with a podcast on the intersection of war and heritage in [Canada's diaspora community](#) or discover multi-format pedagogical tools for addressing [climate change and mental health](#).

OPEN COLLECTIONS : INCREASED ACCESS AND DISCOVERY

UBC research in cIRcle is accessed by millions of visitors from all over the world. Between 626,000 and 1.2 million new visitors have discovered cIRcle each year since 2021. This year nearly 85% of all site visits to [Open Collections \(OC\)](#) were directed to cIRcle content compared with 50% the previous two years.



cIRcle works with the UBC community and its partners to provide access to research materials for future generations.

ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS

The Database of Religious History (DRH): Since 2018, cIRcle has archived more than [500](#) encyclopedic entries from the [Database of Religious History](#). A unique resource, the DRH is a searchable database of reliable, scholarly opinions on religious belief, history, and traditions from across the world.

FROGBEAR: After eight years and more than 1,500 item records, cIRcle deposited the last of the materials created by research clusters in the SSHRC grant-funded project [From the Ground Up: Buddhism & East Asian Religions \(FROGBEAR\)](#). Following this milestone, the cIRcle/FROGBEAR partnership continues on with metadata remediation and other stewardship tasks on the horizon. Read about the history of this project on the [cIRcle blog](#) and visit the [FROGBEAR](#) project page for updates on publications, teaching materials, and related news.

SPECIAL PROJECTS : cIRcle Blog Reboot

cIRcle reimagined and relaunched its blog in the Spring of 2023 after over a year's hiatus. Publishing twice a month, the cIRcle blog offers tips on finding and depositing research materials in the repository and includes behind the scenes looks at special projects and partnerships. An exciting update to the new blog is the feature posts written by cIRcle student assistants. These stories provide fresh insight into repository operations and the complexities of navigating our role in the scholarly research lifecycle.

Learn about our core services with the [Introduction to cIRcle](#) post or take a deep dive into discovery and item descriptions with an overview of our [Name Disambiguation](#) project. Interested in scholarship you can listen to while you commute or watch on your phone? Discover our growing collection of podcasts and more with the [Alternative Research Outputs](#) article.

Visit our [home page](#) regularly to stay up to date on what's new with cIRcle.

RESEARCH BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Connect news items with UBC research in these collection highlights:

[Growing connections : regenerative land-based education for Indigenous urban youth at xʷc' ic' əsəm garden "the place where we grow"](#)

[Made in Asia/America : Why Video Games Were Never \(Really\) about Us](#)

[Women and nonbinary people's understandings of their sports-based activism](#)

[Transcending Political Dissonances : Music as an Instrument of Diplomacy](#)



Still from "xʷc' ic' əsəm Garden : The place where we grow—UBC Farm" via YouTube [tinyurl.com/w2ewr73e](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2ewr73e)



Visit us at circle.ubc.ca



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Library

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