U.B.C. LIBRARY NEWS

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INTERSESSION HOURS: MAY-JUNE

Intersession hours of opening for all campus libraries are posted and available by telephone. The Main Library is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Sedgewick Undergraduate Library is open until 11 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays. The Woodward Biomedical Library is open until 10 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. All libraries are closed on weekends, and on Monday May 24th and Thursday July 1st.

SERIALS REVIEW PROJECT

As has been pointed out in this newsletter and elsewhere, one significant cause of the Library's financial woes is the increasing cost of serials subscriptions. Serials now consume approximately 60% of the collections budget. The quality of the Library's monographic collection is being eroded.

Before the new budget was announced, the Library undertook a serious analysis of its subscription lists. The idea was to figure out which titles might have to be dropped in order to save enough money to maintain a balanced collection. Other economies were also investigated - cuts in public service, for instance - but, so as to be prepared for the worst, the various subscription-originating branches and divisions started a comprehensive serials review exercise, examining their lists and establishing priorities.

Serials titles were divided into 8% blocks, the first category representing the most expendable titles, the fourth category including titles which could only be cut in extreme circumstances. 32% of the total subscriptions expenditures had been set as the maximum recoverable. Intrinsic value, use (as revealed by circulation data), and the availability of titles through interlibrary loan, were the bases on which assignments to particular categories were made.

Most branches and divisions reported that determining the make-up of the first and fourth categories was not terribly difficult ... the assortment of relatively dispensable titles which had attached themselves to the collection in boom times was easily identifiable, as were the absolutely indispensable titles. The intermediate categories were rather more difficult to constitute. Work on the exercise was finished just before the new budget was announced, in time to serve as guidelines for a rational policy.

The Library's share of the budget, better than expected, is sufficient to prevent drastic deterioration of the collection. It is estimated that about $30,000 worth of serials subscriptions will have to be dropped; this is substantially less than many had feared would be needed. It represents about 4% of the current subscriptions list. Titles to be cancelled, then, will be drawn from the most expendable category of the exercise.

The work of choosing specific titles for cancellation is now underway. Faculty members have been or will be consulted before journals in their fields are dropped.

In another, related, development, the so-called 'quid pro quo' periodicals policy, whereby each new subscription was tied to a cancellation, will be discontinued. The policy has been in force, on and off, for about two years, intended to hold down serials spending. The Library has never felt entirely comfortable with the policy and now, with a whole slate of potential cancellations as a result of the serials review project, such strictness seems unnecessary.

NEW LOAN POLICY

The Library inaugurated its new, somewhat controversial, loan policy January 19th and now, some months later, it looks like a success. The rate of returns is up sharply from last year as borrowers try to avoid steep fines for overdues. Requests for extended loans - whereby borrowers may receive loan periods longer than the usual one or two weeks - have been coming in at a steady, but not excessive rate.

The success appears to bear out the reasoning on which the new regulations were based, namely, 1) that more severe penalties for late returns were necessary to ensure that all borrowers could get hold of needed materials within a reasonable length of time, and 2) that long, relatively unrestricted loans were not required for most books.

At first, in January, there was some confusion in implementing the new policy. A great stack of overdue notices - 8,743 for the Main Library; 14,056 for the whole system - had to be mailed and followed up. Inevitably, there were errors, and complaints. And there were transitional problems with the computers. Eventually, things were ironed out and the procedures began to work more smoothly.

A study of the new policy will be carried out later in the year to determine if the revised rules should be maintained. Copies of the one-page outline of the new regulations are still available at most public service desks.

CLASSIFICATION REVISION

The system of call numbers - the classification scheme or schedule by means of which books are arranged in a logical order - is the user's key to finding library materials. U.B.C., along with most large libraries in North America, employs the U.S. Library of Congress classification scheme, as being the most efficient for substantial, specialized collections. The sharing of a single system by many libraries has greatly facilitated users' access and institutional cooperation over the years, but Canadian libraries have long realized the inappropriateness of LC (as it is frequently abbreviated) schedules for certain specifically Canadian subject areas.

In 1941, W. Kaye Lamb, then U.B.C. University Librarian, devised an alternative to the existing LC schedule for Canadian history. The new scheme - involving the F 5000 numbers - went through four revisions, each one of which, unfortunately, was adopted by different groups of libraries. Legend has it that, as Dr. Lamb traveled from Vancouver to Ottawa in 1948 to take up office as National Archivist, he tossed out the train window his various drafts for the schedule, and where each different draft fell, it was applied. Whatever the story, by 1970, four versions of the F 5000 schedule were in use in Canada. None of them was officially sanctioned by the National Library, though one was in force there.

In 1972, the Canadian Task Group on Cataloguing Standards recommended that "the National Library appoint two experts ... to revise completely its F 5000 schedule". After some discussion, it was decided that a revision was not enough; an entirely new schedule was needed. T.R. McCloy, retired chief librarian of the Glenbow-Alberta Institute Historical Library was assigned the job. He devised a scheme around the call letters FC, and copies were distributed in 1974. The National Library has blessed the new scheme and will maintain it.

At U.B.C., the Cataloguing Divisions began assigning FC numbers last November. Thus far, about 20 titles have been so classified. For now, and probably for some time to come, older works, classified in the F 5000's, will remain where they are. This is clearly a hindrance to browsers, but changeovers of this sort always create some problems; presumably future benefits outweigh the disadvantage. The TRIUL (Tri-University Libraries, i.e., U.B.C., Simon Fraser, and U. Vic.) Subcommittee on Cataloguing intends to investigate the possibility of a cooperative project to reclassify existing collections.

TERM PAPER CLINIC

In February, librarians in the Sedgewick Undergraduate Library, with the help of students from the School of Librarianship, conducted a "term paper clinic". This was an extended reference service for students writing term papers. Interviews were done, in which student and librarian, together, clarified the topics to be explored. Appointments were set for further meetings, and in between the librarian examined available reference sources in the subject and prepared outlines which guided students to the relevant material.

While some have argued that this method of library instruction robs the student of initiative, others point out that, given the complexity of information sources today, a step-by-step orientation is worthwhile and indeed necessary if students are ever to manage independent research. Presumably, once the route has been traveled with a competent guide, students are more able to find their own way. Certainly, students seem to respond more enthusiastically to an offer of concrete help with term papers than to traditional offers of unadorned reference service.

Plans are to repeat the clinic each term, so long as sufficient staff are available.

ACQUISITIONS OF NOTE

Crane Library: A talking calculator, for the blind. Electronic calculator which uses computer modules which pronounce numbers and functions in a crisp, clear voice. The device has a 24-word vocabulary, allowing blind, or visually impaired persons to hear the numbers and functions they are pressing on the calculator. Part of the growing collection of electronic, optical, and mechanical devices which is maintained in this special branch library. The library was able to acquire the device with a grant from the Hamber Foundation.

Government Publications: The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, on microfilm. The Inquiry, conducted by Mr. Thomas Berger, began hearings in April 1975, with the purpose of providing a sounding board for everyone interested in the proposed gas pipeline in the North. A looseleaf index is provided for easy access to the 20,000 pages of transcript. The film collection will be updated as the hearings progress.

Special Collections: The records of the Cariboo Quartz Mining Company, Ltd., operators of the gold mine at Wells, B.C. from 1933 to 1967. The records consist of minute books, documents, reports, correspondence, news clippings, maps, and photograph albums. Mr. J. Royden Morris, former president of the company, donated the records to the University.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS: PROBLEMS OF PRIORITY

The interlibrary loan system in North America is one of the most valuable services libraries provide for researchers. It was developed in the first years of this century. Sixty odd years of practice have extended and formalized the service but certain crucial administrative problems have remained unsolved. One of the central issues, particularly problematic in these times of fiscal distress, is the undue financial burden borne by libraries which lend more than they borrow.

Last year at U.B.C., over 25,000 requests from other libraries were received and filled - at an average cost to us of $8.00 per loan. The total cost is simply too much to bear within a shrinking budget. The realization that we could no longer fulfill traditional interlibrary responsibilities to the provincial, national, and even international community, and at the same time provide adequate service to local, campus users, led to two undertakings. One was a comprehensive survey of interlibrary loans in Canada, conducted and published in order to alert funding agencies to what has become a threat to the whole elaborate network of interlibrary lending. The other was the introduction of a fee schedule for libraries which wish to borrow from U.B.C.

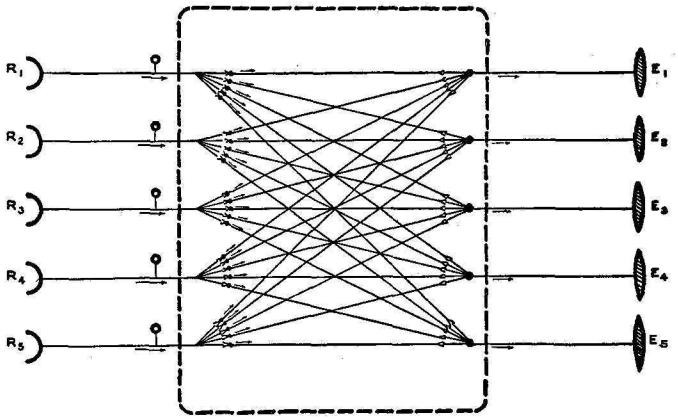

FIG. 24. DIAGRAM OF THE ANATOMICAL POSSIBILITY OF CONNECTION BETWEEN ALL RECEPTORS AND ALL EFFECTORS

Interlibrary Loan in Canada, A Report of a Survey, and its companion volume, A Survey and Interpretation of the Literature of Interlibrary Loan, were prepared by four U.B.C. librarians, B. Stuart-Stubbs, M. Friesen, D. McInnes and K. Nichol. The survey of interlibrary loan practices gathered general information from 352 libraries, and then, in a second stage, more specific data from 127 libraries, between March 1974 and March 1975. Participating libraries completed questionnaires on the magnitude, staff costs, conditions, policies, and content of their interlibrary loan traffic. Among the significant findings of the survey were:

- that 240 of the 352 libraries reported lending or supplying copies of 515,095 items in 1973; 260 libraries reported borrowing 291,789 items in the same year;
- that interlibrary lending increased by 31% in the years 1970-1973;
- that university libraries in Canada account for about half of all interlibrary loan activity;
- that university libraries and the national libraries are, as a group, the major net lenders, i.e. libraries which lend more than they borrow;
- that the cost of interlibrary loan activity to the survey participants in 1973 was estimated at $4,750,000.

On the basis of these findings, and taking into account the fact that most of the libraries characterized as net lenders are finding it difficult to justify interlibrary loan expenses while reducing staff size, buying fewer books, and cancelling subscriptions, the report recommended "that the federal government, through the Canada Council, the National Library, or some other agency capable of making direct grants to or negotiating contracts with individual libraries, reimburse net lending libraries".

The recommendation is, clearly, a good one. But few of the hard-pressed net lenders can or will wait for political action. The survey report noted that "some [libraries] are contemplating the introduction of a fee [for loans to other libraries] ... It s introduction by a few libraries would probably lead to its proliferation in an uncoordinated way, with different fees and conditions being established by different libraries in different places. It would undoubtedly result in a diminution of interlibrary loan traffic, which would simply imply a lower standard of library service to the Canadian community. But under existing economic conditions the introduction of a fee system may be inevitable, as undesirable and retrograde a step as that might be."

At U.B.C., on February 1st, interlibrary loan fees for borrowing libraries were introduced. Canada Council had notified libraries that they are unable to offer financial support to the recommended scheme. The National Library made no formal response to the survey and its recommendations but it seemed obvious that no help could be expected from that quarter, given the federal government's economy drive. The provincial government was approached, but again no funds were forthcoming.

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INTERLIBRARY LOANS: PROBLEMS OF PRIORITY (CONTINUED)

It was with regret and some fear of the consequences that the U.B.C. Library began charging $8.00 per loan to libraries which submitted requests. The Library felt it had no choice if it was to protect the collection and the needs of U.B.C. users who are seen as having a prior right to the Library's services.

Where this new fee policy will lead is hard to know. One immediate and expected effect, at U.B.C., has been the flood of protest from libraries across Canada. Mr. Stuart-Stubbs, the University Librarian, answered with a form letter which included some hopeful news. "The Canadian Library Association," he wrote, "in cooperation with provincial library associations, is preparing a forceful brief directed to government. A study of the situation of academic libraries in B.C. has been called for by the provincial Department of Education. I am enough of an optimist to think that the interlibrary loan fee will prove to be a passing, but in its time necessary, phenomenon."

Another possibility, however, is that government financial support for interlibrary loan will not materialize. Then, the entire system will be threatened.

NEW AT THE DATA LIBRARY

The following computer-readable sets are new at the Data Library - Canadian ERTS Multispectral Scanner Computer Compatible Tapes (four images of the Fraser delta, only); Glenrose [DgRr 6] Artifacts and Faunal Remains (Matson); Pornography Study (IBR. York); Waterloo South By-election Study (Wilson); 1971 Census of Canada-Public Use Sample Tapes; Elite Interaction Study: 1968-1972 (Presthus); Intergovernmental Organization Data: 1816-1964 (Wallace & Singer); Lau [Malaita, Solomon Is.] Market Data (Maranda); Metropolitan Toronto and Region Transportation Study-Home Interview Survey (IBR. York); Surveys of Consumer Attitudes and Behavior: 1953-1967 (SRC. Michigan); Surveys of Consumer Finances: 1947-1959 (SRC. Michigan); Progressiviteit en conservatisme (Middendorp); European Community Study: 1973 (Inglehart & Rabier); Le Dain Drug Study (IBR. York); American National Election Study: 1974 (Miller, Miller & Kline); Canadian National Election Study: 1974 (Clarke, Jenson, Leduc, Pammett); General Social Surveys: 1974 & 1975 (Davis); The Housing Game (Bell & Constantinescu); Anglo-Saxon Poetic Records; Canadian Institute of Public Opinion Polls: Jan.-Oct. 1974 (Gallup). Anyone wishing further information concerning these data files should contact the Data Library, local 5587. Copies of the Data Library Catalogue are also available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reserve Lists

The Main Library Reserve Book Collection is preparing lists of books currently on reserve for a number of courses. When faculty members in charge of specific courses receive their lists, R.B.C. requests that they reply immediately with the information requested.

The Reserve Collection is used for those books in great demand. The books are put on a short loan period, 2 hours or 1 day. Constant checking is necessary to make sure books are not kept on reserve when it is no longer necessary.

Faculty Guides to the Library

Departmental offices take note: copies of the 1975/76 Faculty Guide issue of the Library News are available for new faculty members. Intersession and summer session faculty should find these introductions to the U.B.C. Library system useful. Contact the Information & Orientation Services Division, Main Library, local 2076.

Wanted

The following items are needed to complete the Library's holdings:

AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST vol.76 no.3 (1974)
ATLAS; WORLD PRESS REVIEW vol.21 no.1 (1974)
BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS JOURNAL vol.4 no.2 (March 1972)
BUSINESS IN B.C. (Now B.C. BUSINESS MAGAZINE) vol.1 no.4 (1973)
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHER vol.18 no.2 (1974)
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL vol.86 no.2 (Feb.1973); vol.87 no.3 (Sept.1973)
CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS vol.7 no.1 (1974); vol.8 no.1 (1975)
CANADIAN MUSIC EDUCATOR vol.16 no.2 (Winter 1974)
COMMUNITY EDUCATION JOURNAL vol.5 no.4 (July/Aug.1975)
ENGLISH QUARTERLY (Oromocto, N.B.) vol.3 no.4 (Winter 1970); vol.7 no.3 (Fall 1974)
FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW vol.83 no. 3 (1974); vol.84 no.6 (1974)
FIRE CONTROL NOTES (Canadian Forestry Assoc., Vancouver) no.1-3,8,12-14
GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE vol.45 no.10-11 (July-Aug.1973); vol.46 no.4,10 (Jan., July 1974)
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY no.88 (1973)
INSTRUCTOR vol.84 no.10 (1975)
JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION vol.5 no.4 (Nov.1974)
JOURNAL OF BUSINESS EDUCATION vol.47 no.1-2 (Oct.-Nov.1972)
JOURNAL OF EDUCATION. (Boston) vol.156 no.3 (Aug.1974)
MS vol.1 Introductory issue (Spring 1972)
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE vol.146 no.3 (1974); vol.147 no.6 (June 1975)
NEW STATESMAN vol.88 no.2263, 2274 (Aug.2, Oct.18, 1974)
SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS vol.75 no.6 (1975)
SPECTATOR vol.233 no.7637 (week ending Nov.9, 1974)
TIMES, LONDON. LITERARY SUPPLEMENT. Jan.3,10, May 2,23, 1975 (no.3800-3801, 3817,3820)
VENTUREFORTH (formerly IT'S OUR BAG) Saskatoon. vol.6 no.2 (Winter 1974)
VOCATIONAL ASPECT OF EDUCATION vol.26 (Spring, Summer, Autumn 1974)
VOGUE vol.164 no.4 (Oct.1974)
WORLD TODAY vol.30 no.7 (1974)

If you can supply any of these, please get in touch with Graham Elliston, local 2304.

Editor: M. Kasper **Information & Orientation Division**

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