



# U.B.C. LIBRARY NEWS



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New Series, No. 4

March, 1982

Vancouver, B.C.

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## THE LIBRARY IN A RETRENCHMENT YEAR

Since September the Library has done its best to maintain normal services while holding as many as 30 continuing positions vacant. To a considerable extent, the monetary savings achieved have been at the expense of cataloguing and other activities necessary to support good service. While this approach can be tolerated for a short time, it would be extremely damaging to library operations if continued for very long.

Finding more acceptable long term retrenchment measures has preoccupied the Library administration and the Senate Library Committee for much of this year. It was agreed that long term priorities could best be served by emphasizing services and collections required for the University as a whole. Where possible, smaller service units would be consolidated within larger ones to achieve the flexibility needed to absorb reductions in staffing. To maintain an acceptable level of general services, some long-standing programmes have to be reduced or eliminated.

As of this writing (early March) specific programme reductions have not been announced, but it is clear that in 1982/83 the Library will have to give up at least 10 continuing professional or support staff positions. General services, such as hours of operation, should not be seriously affected. Some minor changes in hours will be considered for September, 1982, but these will be offset in part by the extension of opening hours prior to and during examination periods.

Collections funding has been excluded from retrenchment, but external factors have continued to reduce the purchasing power of the funds we do have. In November, 1981, a non-recurring allocation of \$702,000 provided unexpected relief. That special funding allowed book funds to be restored to acceptable levels for fiscal 1981/82. Prospects for 1982/83 are less encouraging. If no increase to collections budgets can be provided, funding will revert to the 1980/81 level, despite the effects of two years' inflation.

Effort has been made to control the proportion of the collections budget required to meet fixed commitments such as the renewal of journal subscriptions. Last year about \$150,000 of unique and duplicate journal subscriptions were cancelled to preserve some funding for new books and other essential non-serial purchases. Further cancellations of duplicate subscriptions will probably be required, placing in some doubt the Library's ability to continue its support of duplicate collections in campus reading rooms. If cost increases for materials continue to outstrip increases in the University's budget, priority must be given to the primary task of maintaining the strength and coverage of central library collections.

## BOOK PRESERVATION: A MAJOR CONCERN

The preservation of book collections is an increasingly important concern for all libraries. The magnitude of the preservation problem is only beginning to be understood, and few libraries as yet have a formal preservation plan. What we do know is that book paper quality is deteriorating, that binding technology frequently damages books, and that few books printed since 1900 will last more than 50 years.

At the UBC Library the major change needed to prevent further deterioration of our book collection is provision of a stack area with proper temperature and humidity control. Currently only books in the vault of our Special Collections Division and the Woodward Memorial Room have good environmental conditions, i.e., year-round air conditioning. No other stack area of the library system has proper temperature and humidity controls. It is not economically feasible to provide air conditioning for the stacks of the current Main Library building, but it is hoped that stacks in any new building will be air conditioned.

Users, too, do irreparable damage to books through rough handling and repeated xeroxing. We need to become aware of the fragile nature of many volumes and to place importance on careful handling. Microfilming important materials is one way to provide increased access for the materials while at the same time providing a "rest" for the originals. For example, two years ago the federal government established and funded the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction, with the mandate to microfilm all nineteenth century Canadiana. The UBC Library and the Provincial Archives of British Columbia are providing many materials to be filmed. The microfiche produced as a result of this programme are now becoming available and will not only provide easy access to nineteenth century materials but also prevent wear and tear on Canada's rapidly deteriorating collections.

The National Library of Canada has prepared "A Proposal for a National Preservation Program for Library Materials in Canada." Among the recommendations is one to establish jointly with the Public Archives of Canada and the Canadian Conservation Institute advisory and consultative services, including the development of emergency and disaster planning, the establishment of training programmes, and the sponsorship of overseas study for paper conservators and binder/conservators. The library profession is also encouraging publishers to use acid-free "permanent" paper, which is more expensive than the woodpulp paper currently used but which lasts longer. To insure a useable collection, preservation technology will have to be high on the Library agenda in the coming decades.



## CRANE LIBRARY SEEKS FUNDING FOR READING MACHINE THAT TALKS

Crane Librarian Paul Thiele has begun a funding campaign to raise \$40,000 for a reading machine which converts print into speech. The KURZWEIL reading machine accepts typewritten materials, books, and most common print styles and instantly translates them into full spoken words and sentences.

The device does not eliminate the need for talking books, but will be of great assistance to UBC's blind students in such disciplines as Law and Commerce, where there are great numbers of assignments involving articles or class hand-outs. Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Crane Library--Walter Gage Memorial Fund.

## MICROCATALOGUE IS 4 YEARS OLD

The UBC Microcatalogue recently celebrated its fourth birthday. The computerized catalogue system began January 1, 1978 when the card catalogue was closed. The Microcatalogue now lists nearly 1/4 million (!) titles and is available in all UBC libraries and reading rooms. It lists all books received by the Library since the beginning of 1978, as well as many important older items for which the information in the card catalogue has changed: additional copies may have been purchased or locations or call numbers changed.

A new cumulated Microcatalogue is prepared every four months; copies are offered for sale through the Library's Systems Division (call 6275 for more information). Used superseded Microcatalogues may also be available. If you would like one, call the Information and Orientation Division at 2076.

Researchers should be aware of the In-Process List, filed with the Microcatalogue. It provides author and title information about books on order, books very recently catalogued, or books awaiting cataloguing. If an item you need has been received but has not yet been catalogued, ask to have it "rush catalogued." The item will be available for you within a few days.

## DRS MICROFICHE FOR CURRENT RESEARCH MATERIALS

Among the Library's growing number of microfiche lists is a newcomer called DRS\*. Use it if you are interested in:

- pamphlets
- bibliographies
- science and engineering standards
- proceedings of scientific conferences published in journals
- current events
- government publications (limited numbers in selected areas only)
- historical pamphlets of British Columbia
- translations of fisheries and hydrobiology materials
- Polish language Solidarity materials
- young adult literature
- curriculum guides
- historical textbooks
- maps of the greater Vancouver area

The branches and reference divisions of the Library have always collected materials that were never catalogued. Now the Library's computer system provides us with an inexpensive method to prepare a brief record of the these holdings, increasing accessibility to them. Eventually the record will be available on-line to the public. Currently we use the record to produce two DRS lists: Authors & Titles and Keywords.

Unlike the Microcatalogue, these lists are intended to be quite rough and imprecise. For example, under the keyword "physical," you will find material on: physical education, physical organic chemistry, physical oceanography, and physical therapy. While the system is not sophisticated by library standards, we are finding it useful, particularly for brief or current publications.

The DRS is available in the Main Library, Curriculum Laboratory, Ecology Library, MacMillan Library, Sedgewick Library, and Woodward Library. Subject specialities of these libraries are well represented on the list. Access to and storage of the materials will vary from library to library; please check the location information carefully and ask at the relevant branch or division for help.

\*DRS stands for Document Retrieval System.



## CALL-IN IS APRIL 2: RETURN OR RENEW ALL BOOKS

Soon after April 2, the Library will send call-in notices for all outstanding books borrowed since August 14, 1981. Please return those books you no longer need and renew all others.

If you will be away from campus during the spring and summer, remember that long-term loans are always subject to call-in. Either return all books in case they are needed by others, or make arrangements to have someone check your mail and respond to Library call-ins.

Have you been billed for replacement of books you forgot to return last year? These books are no longer signed out to you and are totally inaccessible to others. We have to assume they are lost and must be replaced. We would be delighted to have them back. If you find any of them, bring them to the overdues department of the relevant branch and ask for a cancellation of the replacement charges billed to you.

Outstanding library fines should be paid at the Finance Department, 3rd floor of the new Administration Building. We will not be able to renew library cards for academic year 82/83 for those people (including faculty) who have outstanding fines.

## BORROWING PRIVILEGES FOR FACULTY

Many faculty members new to campus or here on short term appointments are unfamiliar with UBC Library loan regulations. Recall notices and limitations on extended loans are the source of some confusion. Here are the details in black and white:

BOOKS (most monographs) 1 week - Curriculum Lab, Government Publications, Sedgewick  
2 weeks - Ecology  
2 weeks\* - all other branches

\* As a courtesy to faculty, some libraries (Asian Studies, Crane, Fine Arts, Law, MacMillan, Main, Math, Music, Social Work, Woodward) automatically extend the loan period of books to the end of term. However, after the first two weeks, the book must be returned immediately if recalled for another borrower. If not recalled, the book must be returned or renewed at the end of each term.

SERIALS (journals) Library use only - Fine Arts, Music  
Overnight - Curriculum Lab  
1 day - Sedgewick  
2 days - Law  
3 days (1 week if bound) - all other branches

There are NO AUTOMATIC EXTENSIONS FOR SERIALS. Serials must be returned or renewed by the due date (1 week maximum). If they become overdue, a fine begins to accrue as soon as another borrower requests the item, before a call-in notice is issued.

## BACK ISSUES WANTED

U.B.C. DEPT. OF ECONOMICS. DISCUSSION PAPERS. n. 1,5,7-8,10-11,16-19,21,25,29,34-35,38-41,44,53,57,59,64-65,67,70-71,75,77,79,87-91 (all between years of 1968-1972); no. 4,31 (1977); n.13-16,51-52(1978);n.38 (1979);n.37(1980); n.20,24(1981).

If you can supply any of these, please telephone Graham Elliston, 2304.