

# U.B.C. LIBRARY NEWS

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This newsletter is published as an information service for UBC faculty, students and other readers outside the Library. It contains feature articles and news about developments in the library system which we feel will be of interest or concern to the larger community. The *News* welcomes all comments, criticisms, and suggestions for future articles.

## ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

This month's *Library News* has been delayed to allow publication of extracts from the Librarian's *Annual Report to Senate*, presented on February 25. Because of its length, the report will be covered in two issues of the *News*. Extracts published this month deal with physical conditions in campus libraries, the services they offer, and the growth of library collections. In two weeks' time the March issue will carry highlights from the final sections, covering the Library's financial position and a summary of its achievements and future requirements.

Copies of the *Report* are being sent to all deans, department heads, departmental library representatives and Senate members. A limited number are available from the Librarian's Office (local 3871).

### FROM THE REPORT:

#### I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

In the nineteen sixties the University of British Columbia Library attained maturity.

To recall the nineteen fifties is to remember a library largely confined to a single unfinished structure, containing fewer than half a million volumes.

At the beginning of this new decade, the Library is no single entity, but a network of dispersed and specialized units, containing a million and a quarter volumes and a wide variety of other materials essential to learning and research.

Increase in size, however, is not the only measure of progress. As evidence of its growing importance and utility, the Library could point to a 320% increase in borrowing, compared with an increase of 79% in student members in the same period . . . As an indication of the University's own concern for its Library, comparative budget figures can be cited: they show an increase of 471%, representing a larger share of the University's operating budget, 7.6% compared with 4.2% ten years ago.

Unfortunately the satisfaction that these developments bring must be tempered by other less attractive realities. Impressive though the Library's achievements might be, they continue to be outstripped by the requirements of students and faculty members, and the collection and the staff of the Library have outgrown the physical capacities of many parts of the Library system. It is a plain fact that great numbers of users in the nineteen seventies will find themselves increasingly inconvenienced by the Library's inability to meet demands [assuming] the existence of accommodations which are simply not there, and which may not be there in the future. There are few difficulties which in one way or the other do not relate to a shortage of space: this is the Library's major problem, one that only large capital expenditures can solve.

Nevertheless, given the determination of students, faculty and library staff, . . . the next decade should not be one of successive disappointments and failures, but of further achievement.

#### II. THE PHYSICAL LIBRARY

In 1960 the Walter Koerner wing of the Main Library was completed; within its walls were taking place changes in the organization of services which pointed the way to the future. What had been a single reference division was being divided into a number of new divisions, each adapted to the requirements of a particular group of users. Divisions for the humanities, social sciences and sciences were created, joining already existing divisions for the fine arts and biomedical sciences. The . . . rare books and collections were gathered together in a new Special Collections Division, while an Asian Studies Division was formed around recently acquired oriental collections. For growing numbers of undergraduates, a College Library opened its doors. And the Curriculum Laboratory, then located in the Main Library, initiated a trend toward decentralization by moving into the old Faculty Club, adjacent to the new Education Building.

Specialization and decentralization of library collections and services . . . was the story of the sixties. Within the Main Library, over a period of a decade, new divisions for maps, government documents, microforms, recordings, collection development, orientation and systems were set up. Around the campus, branch libraries were organized for mathematics, ecology, social work, forestry and agriculture. In 1963 the Law Library and the Biomedical Library became part of the developing network, and in 1969 this system was extended to include over thirty departmental reading rooms, operated jointly with the departments concerned through a Reading Rooms Division.

These developments were not accidental, but the result of considered policy and careful planning . . . [The] Senate Library Committee worked for two years on the document *Policies Governing the Establishment and Growth of Branch Libraries and Reading Rooms Outside the Main Library Building*, approved by Senate in 1965. In keeping with this policy, *A Plan for Future Services* was produced in 1966, and in a second revised edition in 1969.

The realization of the *Plan* is a continuing objective for the Library. The addition to the Woodward Biomedical Library, formally opened on June 10, 1970, marked the completion of the University's only major branch library; with seating for 800 users and shelving for 180,000 volumes, it serves as a model for future large branches for the sciences and education. During the past year, work on plans for the new Sedgewick Undergraduate Library proceeded quickly . . . Construction was scheduled to begin in the fall of 1970 and to finish in the spring of 1972.

Nevertheless the rate at which physical facilities have been expanded has not been swift enough. This should come as no surprise to Senate. In the Librarian's *Annual Report*, the warning has been sounded often enough: in 1963/64, one reads, "Further decentralization . . . must proceed apace or the Main Library will become an obstacle to the use of books"; in 1964/65, ". . . the increased rate of acquisitions will cause the book collections to overflow existing stack areas . . ."; in 1965/66, "a critical shortage of space exists now, and . . . the situation will be unmanageable inside of two years"; and just last year, ". . . thousands of books will have to go into storage."

For the next year and a half, until the new Sedgewick Library is completed, students will be subject to seating shortages more acute than those experienced by their predecessors. But for them, at least, relief is in sight. The outlook for the Library's collection is less hopeful. Having assembled in the Main Library during the nineteen sixties a research collection worthy of the name, the University must now watch a first installment of 50,000 volumes go into storage in 1970; further installments will follow regularly, in response to acquisition rates. Obviously, a deterioration of standards of service must accompany every withdrawal from the collections for storage . . . The steps which the University must take in the nineteen seventies if it is to retrieve itself from this serious situation are described in the final section of this report.

### III. PUBLIC SERVICES

#### 1. Branches, Divisions, Subject Collections

Knowledge itself is continually expanding, and with it the interests of the University. Like any organism, the University responds by becoming more detailed and complex in its parts as it grows larger. As part of the University, the Library responds by subdividing into specialized units, in the fashion described in the previous section of this *Report* . . .

The *Annual Report* for 1959/60 listed five divisions in the public service, only one of which . . . was a branch outside of the Main Library building. In 1969/70 there were thirteen reference divisions and subject collections in the Main Library, and nine branch libraries. Whereas a decade ago there were forty employees serving users directly, there were a hundred and ninety-seven last year. There are now about two hundred students per public service employee, compared with two hundred and fifty in 1960.

Loan statistics reflect the shift away from dependence on the Main Library. For the third successive year, loans from branch libraries exceeded loans from the Main Stack collection, this year by 271,596 items, compared with differences of 229,529 items and 181,399 items in previous years . . . However, these and other statistics can only serve as partial evidence of an improvement in service, for many aspects of library use cannot be quantified.

As an example, much of the effect of the creation of the Information and Orientation Division in 1968 cannot be measured statistically. The purpose of this division is to make the Library more accessible to the student. As part of their work last year, the Division's staff answered thousands of questions at the information desk in the Main Concourse, published with the financial assistance of the Alumni Association a library handbook for students, set up . . . a plexiglass model of the complicated Main Library building, printed, posted and distributed scores of signs, directories and guide sheets, and regularly issued a publication for faculty members, *U.B.C. Library News*. In the weeks following registration in September 1969, more than two thousand students, over half of the freshman class, took a short course in the use of the library, comprised of a slide-tape lecture and walking tour. Certainly the effect of this activity must be to optimize use of the Library's resources, but to what exact degree is unknown.

A similar account could be given on behalf of the other twenty branches, reference divisions and subject collections. Among many improvements introduced in the last year alone, here are a few:

- The Curriculum Laboratory . . . although acutely short of space, transferred from the Main Library a hundred and seventy journal titles, thus making them more accessible to users; began to develop a collection of film strips for instructional purposes; and increased hours of opening in response to growing demand.
- The Sedgewick Library, using funds provided by the Alumni Association, set up a collection of about fifteen hundred paperbacks, from which 11,322 items were borrowed in the first year.
- The Crane Library in Brock Hall organized a textbook recording programme for blind students, of whom there are now thirty-one, and also began to participate in another programme for the supply of light reading-through-listening.
- The appointment of two qualified archivists in the Special Collections Division permitted programmes to be expanded in two areas: historical and literary manuscripts and U.B.C. records, manuscripts and publications . . . .
- Subject specialist librarians in the Social Sciences Division delivered 52 bibliographic lectures to approximately 900 students, for the most part at the graduate and upper year level. Comprehensive bibliographies were compiled to assist students in identifying key material in each subject area.
- A union list of all newspapers held in the libraries of U.B.C., University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University and the Centre for Research Libraries in Chicago . . . was prepared by staff in the Social Sciences and Information and Orientation Divisions.
- Expansion of the Mathematics Library into an adjoining study room improved accommodation for readers and allowed additional space for collections . . . .

In the foregoing account of the development of the public service divisions, a shift from a passive to an active mode can be detected. The Library is less and less a static, dormant, self-contained organization, and more and more a vital participant in instruction and research . . . .

## 2. Reading Rooms

In its first year of work, the Reading Rooms Division . . . concentrated on determining the needs of the various reading rooms, improving those which most conspicuously needed assistance, arranging for the transfer of periodical subscription records to the Library, processing book orders, and preparing collections for cataloguing.

A preliminary survey revealed that the reading rooms contained some 40,000 volumes, about 26,000 of which had not been catalogued. A crash programme reduced that backlog to about 5,000 volumes; most reading room collections are now listed in the main catalogue, and have their individual catalogues. It is hoped that all volumes will be catalogued by the end of 1970.

The Library also assumed financial and clerical responsibility for about 900 journal subscriptions, previously paid for by departments and individuals . . . .

The objective of a campus-wide system of reading rooms was set in 1964 by the President's Committee on Academic Goals; in its report, *Guidposts to Innovation*, it stated that "Departmental reading rooms contribute to the intellectual life of the department and improve the conditions for student discussion and study." That desired situation is now being achieved.

## 3. Services

### Hours of Opening

Ten years ago, during the winter and spring term, libraries were open for seventy-nine hours per week. In 1969/70 this had been increased to a hundred hours a week for major branches; all branches combined offered service for a total of nine hundred and forty-seven hours, in a single week.

Moreover, longer hours were maintained throughout the year. For the first time libraries were open at night in May and June, for the greater convenience of graduate students and increasing numbers of extra-sessional students . . . .

### Copying Service

It is now difficult to conceive of the Library without the modern copying machine. Yet a decade ago, the best the Library had to offer was a single unit which produced an imperfect and impermanent copy at a cost of thirty-five cents. Little wonder that only two hundred and five such copies were produced in 1960/61.

In 1969/70, nineteen machines, mostly coin-operated, produced 1,588,805 copies, . . . an increase of 20.5% over the previous year . . . .

The users of the copy machines were asked what they would do if no machines were available. The results were revealing: 80.5% said they would hand copy the material, 12.2% said they would drop the matter, 4.3% said they would attempt to purchase the material, 2% said they would steal the item and 1% said they would tear out the pages they needed. Clearly, copy machines are saving the students much time, and the Library a measure of loss and inconvenience.

### Interlibrary Loans

... It has been pointed out that in a decade, loans have increased by about 321%. Interlibrary loans have increased by 866%. In the past year, interlibrary loans increased by 25% over the previous year . . . .

Further analysis points to the increased importance of the Library as part of the interlibrary network. Whereas in 1960/61, U.B.C. Library filled about three requests for every one it made, it now fills five. Of the over 20,000 requests filled in 1969/70, over 12,000 were received from four provincial institutions: Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, the B.C. Institute of Technology, and the B.C. Medical Library Service.

## IV. COLLECTIONS

### 1. Funds

In 1969/70, the Library was spending almost a million dollars more on books and magazines than it was in 1959/60; over ten years, the budget for the purchase of library materials has increased by 390.3% . . . . But this was not the whole story of the nineteen sixties . . . . Between 1964/65 and 1965/66, expenditures shot up from \$516,153 to \$1,613,087. This was the result of the unprecedented . . . gift of H.R. MacMillan, who donated three million dollars to the Library for the purpose of developing as quickly as possible a collection to support graduate instruction and research.

... The Library grew to maturity almost overnight. In a decade . . . the size of the collection, measured in physical volumes alone, increased by nearly 150%.

However, following the depletion of the MacMillan funds, some painful adjustments took place. The resources essential to the continuing development of a retrospective research collection were not available with the result that many purchasing opportunities had to be passed over . . . . The present budget is just sufficient . . . to keep abreast of the current literature in all fields of interest to the University, and to acquire duplicate and replacement copies of heavily used or missing titles. By comparison, other comparable Canadian institutions were progressing more rapidly . . . .

A higher rate of spending is necessary if the collection is to continue to meet the requirements of a constantly expanding programme of graduate studies and of more intensive undergraduate training. Yet, ironically, an increased rate of acquisition will only accentuate the difficulties arising out of a shortage of stack space. An impasse has been reached, from which the only escape is increased funds for both operating and building purposes.

### 2. Collections

... Early in 1969, without fanfare, the millionth volume was catalogued. By the end of August 1970, the million and a quarter mark had been passed. Only a decade ago, the Library had contained fewer than half a million volumes. This, of course, is only part of the story, for physical volumes are but a single measure of the Library's strength. Account must be taken of the over one million microforms, the superb collections of government documents, maps and records.

... [The] task of selecting appropriate materials must be shared by librarians and faculty members. During the nineteen sixties there was a change in the proportion of this responsibility handled by the two groups . . . . At the beginning of the decade, faculty members undertook to select current books for purchase. However, the results of this approach became progressively less satisfactory as the number of available titles increased, and as other duties claimed more of the time of faculty members. Since collection development demands continuity, the concept of the blanket approval order was introduced, whereby dealers were placed under contract to deliver new books in specified subject areas, from which selections could be made. This method of acquiring new books also made possible a number of time and money saving practices in the Library's Processing Divisions.

In 1964, the increasing responsibility for the selection of materials made necessary the formal creation of a Bibliography Division, staffed by senior librarians, whose whole assignment is to develop the collection. By 1970, five bibliographers were at work on various areas of the collection, policing the blanket approval orders, producing desiderata lists, building back files and entering new subscriptions . . . .

Another form of assistance in collection development was given by a new partner in librarianship: the computer. For half of the past decade, precise records of use have been collected in machine-readable form, and conveniently organized and stored on magnetic tape. Analysis of these five million records of loans has yielded information on rates of use which can be employed in developing collections, principally through the purchase of additional copies to meet high levels of demand. One of the most difficult problems faced by librarians in this era of mass education is that of relating supply and demand. At U.B.C. . . . the computer is now assisting in the solution to that problem.

The objective of the Library in the nineteen sixties has been to develop a collection which is current, in the sense that it keeps abreast of an ever-developing universe of knowledge; which is comprehensive, representing all topics of interest to the . . . students and faculty; and which is accessible, in that desired individual items are available when required by individual users. The attainment of that objective . . . may be a continuing challenge. Nevertheless, it can be confidently stated that the collection of 1970 meets the needs of users more closely than did the collection of 1960 . . . .

### 3. Processing

The swift development of the Library's collection and its dispersal throughout branches and divisions, changes in selection methods, and the emergence of the computer . . . have combined to revolutionize the Processing Divisions . . . . New working patterns have emerged through the application of techniques of systems analysis, and work performance is measured by computer-based monthly cost-benefit studies. Such adjustments have been necessary, because the Library must now receive, record and store over a thousand new and different items every working day. At any time, as many as 22,000 items may be in various stages of the acquisitions-cataloguing-physical preparation process . . . .

. . . [The] ten-year record of the Processing Divisions borders on the miraculous. As many volumes have been added to the collection in the last five years alone as were added in the first fifty. During the middle of the decade, a stored backlog of over fifty thousand volumes developed; it has now been reduced to about ten thousand volumes, and will have been eliminated by this time next year. All new branches and some divisions have full catalogues of their own; two, the Mathematics Library and the Recordings Collection, have computer-produced catalogues, pilot projects for future more comprehensive systems of handling catalogue information. In the Main Library, the union catalogue has exploded to occupy all of the main concourse . . . . Joining the catalogue are printouts for periodical holdings, materials on order and volumes on loan. The Processing Divisions have succeeded in bringing together in this one area nearly complete information about the total holdings of the Library.

At the beginning of a new decade, some problems remain to be solved. A lag in time between the shelving of newly processed books and the filing of catalogue cards has developed, . . . [and] ways must be found to shorten the time it takes to bind and rebind materials . . . . Other problems like these two, of a practical and procedural nature, are amenable to solution, through the addition of staff and the further refinement of routine.

Regrettably, even if funds were available for additional staff, space is not. The Processing Divisions are located on the uppermost stack level of the Main Library. There, under a seven-foot ceiling, more than a hundred people work in confined and uncomfortable conditions. It would be much better for the individuals concerned, for the work processes, and for the expanding collection itself, if the Processing Divisions could be moved into other space, better adapted to their work. According to established standards, the minimum requirement for the present level of staffing would be 22,000 square feet. They are now occupying less than 14,000 square feet.

### 4. Use

Methods for measuring library use are not yet very sophisticated. Most libraries are satisfied to count those volumes which are borrowed; but they do not count the items which have been consulted rather than borrowed, or the maps or microforms which have been viewed. But even if loan statistics are only a partial indication of activity in libraries, U.B.C. Library's record is impressive enough.

In ten years, loans increased by 320.9% . . . . This was no mere reflection of an increase in student numbers: enrollment has grown by 78.1%. The explanation for the discrepancy lies in the fact that students now use the Library more intensively, borrowing an average of 89.7 items per year, compared with 38.2 items a decade ago.

. . . [The] rate of increase of loans is greater than the increase in the size of the collection, indicating heavier use. In 1966, the rate of increase of loans took an upward turn, and seems to be proceeding steadily at an annual increase of about 15%, which would point toward the attainment of two million loans a year within the next two years, a figure exceeded by few academic libraries in North America. A number of factors must account for this: the increase in information itself; the heavier requirements placed upon students by faculty members; an increasing trend toward self-education; the development of branch libraries; orientation programmes; and certainly the ease of borrowing made possible by automated systems.

(To be concluded in the March Library News)

#### IN MEMORIAM: EMILY CARR

This month the Special Collections Division is featuring works by and relating to Emily Carr, British Columbia artist and author. The display coincides with the issue of a postage stamp commemorating the hundredth anniversary of her birth.

Visitors will be able to see prints, books by and about Miss Carr, a selection of her letters to Nan Lawson Cheney, and samples of her pottery. The pots were generously loaned to the Division by a faculty member, and have never before been on display.

### LIBRARY HAS LIB LIT.

In an attempt to meet the demand for material on the women's liberation movement, the Social Sciences Division has set up a special double file. One section is reserved for publications by women's liberation groups in both Canada and the U.S.; the other contains material from other sources. Besides monographs and pamphlets, the files include newspaper articles, broadcast transcriptions, bibliographies listing useful books and articles, and a directory of women's liberation groups.

Because much of this material would be hard to replace, the files are being kept in the office, rather than on the open shelves. However, any reader can use them by asking at the Social Sciences reference desk.

### AN EXPO PAVILION FOR ASIAN STUDIES?

Since the start of the year both the *Sun* and the *Ubyyssey* have published stories about the possibility of a new Asian Studies library at UBC. The present situation is this: the Sanyo Corporation has offered UBC its Expo 70 building, which is patterned after a traditional Japanese temple. It is a square building, 140 feet on each side at the roof line and about 70 feet high. To dismantle, move and reconstruct it on this campus will be expensive, and the University has no capital funds to allocate for this purpose. At the present time attempts are being made to raise the necessary money from government, business and private sources both in Japan and in Canada. If it cannot be raised, the project will probably have to be abandoned.

In the meantime site studies are being conducted, the potential users of the building are defining their requirements, and an architect is working on interior layouts. The building is large enough to contain not only a greatly expanded Asian Studies library, but also offices for the Department of Asian Studies, for other interested departments, institutes and faculty members, and for teaching and exhibition facilities.

The 1971 graduating class has already donated \$1,350 to the project. Any further developments will be reported in this newsletter.

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**Editor: Mrs. E. de Bruijn**

**Information & Orientation Division**

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