U.B.C. LIBRARY NEWS

Volume II, No. 8 November, 1969 Vancouver, B.C.

This newsletter appears once a month as an information service for U.B.C. faculty 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.

THE SEDGEWICK LIBRARY–PAST HISTORY AND FUTURE PLANS

As most of our readers know by now, UBC's Board of Governors has formally approved plans for a new undergraduate library, to be built under the Main Mall. The two-storey building will have roughly four times as much space as the present undergraduate library, and will be able to house 200,000 volumes instead of the 84,000 Sedgewick now holds. Anyone who has visited Sedgewick in the last two or three years knows how desperately these expanded facilities are needed. Yet this overcrowded library was thought to be large enough to meet future needs when it opened just nine years ago. What happened?

To understand just what happened, and why, we have to go back to the late 1950's. At that time the Main Library was growing steadily in size and complexity. One wing had been added ten years before, and a new south wing was under construction. In addition, enrolment at UBC had reached the point where the Library's single reference division could no longer handle all the requests for information. If efficient service was to be maintained, a number of specialized reference divisions would have to be set up when the new wing was completed.

Given the number of users and the size of the collection, these changes were necessary. However, from the point of view of the undergraduates, they did not make the Library any easier to use. Collections and reference services were becoming increasingly fragmented, and students in their first and second years were beginning to have trouble finding the material they wanted. In short, there was a real need for a smaller, more simply organized library set up especially for undergraduates. So began the Sedgewick Library.

From the time it opened its doors in 1960, Sedgewick was an instant success. It had been intended only for students in the first two years of arts, but other undergraduates rapidly discovered it. Material selected for first- and second-year students proved to be almost as useful to those in upper years, and in a short time the library began gearing its services to all arts undergraduates. The results were overwhelming. Students baffled by the Main Library turned increasingly to Sedgewick, and by 1966 it was serving far more students than it had been designed to handle. It had quite literally become a victim of its own success.

Between 1966 and 1969, as Sedgewick struggled to serve an ever-growing number of students, plans for a new and much larger undergraduate library were taking shape. The first formal proposal came in *A Plan For Future Services*, issued in 1966 by Basil Stuart-Stubbs and William J. Watson. In September 1968 it was repeated in the Senate Library Committee's *Summary Report on Building Requirements*, addressed to the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs. At that time the Sedgewick Library, with 84,000 volumes, was making nearly half a million loans a year–almost as many as the Main Library, with its 700,000 volumes.

Before the end of 1968 the project was formally approved by the Board of Governors, and a Client's Committee and a User's Committee were set up. By the summer of 1969 the architectural firm of Rhone & Iredale had drawn up a design for the new library. This plan, slightly modified, was submitted to the Board of Governors and approved on October 8.

The new library will not be just an expanded version of the old one. Over the past nine years the Sedgewick staff have learned much about student needs and use patterns, and the architects have kept these in mind while designing the building. The day may yet come when the university need not apologize for its library service to undergraduates.

AT LAST

After a long but unavoidable delay, our much-advertised library handbook is back from the printer and ready to distribute. Its contents include:

1) a guide to the location and holdings of all branch libraries
2) step-by-step explanations of the classification system and card catalogue
3) tables of loan periods
4) detailed information on all Main Library reference divisions and other public services
5) a glossary of terms used in UBC libraries
6) Main Library floor plans and stack maps
7) a campus map showing locations of libraries

All in all, the handbook should make life a good deal simpler for anyone using the Library. As few students know it is available, any publicity from faculty members would be appreciated. Copies are being given out at all public service desks and branch libraries.

GROUP ORIENTATION A SUCCESS

Now that a comprehensive printed guide is available, the Library's orientation programs will probably not attract as many students. However, the combined slide show and tour given daily during September and the first part of October drew unexpectedly large crowds. In the first five weeks of the fall term more than 2,000 freshmen came to the Main Library for the forty-minute program. This represents over 50% of the total number registered at UBC.

The response from faculty members was particularly encouraging. More than 45 English 100 classes were brought in for specially-scheduled programs, and groups of students in Arts 1, physical education, sociology and economics were given tours stressing areas of particular interest to them. These special programs are still being given, incidentally, and they are not restricted to first-year students. Any faculty member interested in bringing a class to the Library for a general or specialized information session should call local 2076 or 2077.

SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE NAMED

Every year at this time a new Senate Library Committee is appointed. Its chief function is to advise and assist the University Librarian, and more specifically to:

1) help develop a general program of library service for the interests of the University
2) advise on the allocation of book funds to the various fields of instruction and research
3) help formulate a policy for the development of library resources in these fields
4) keep informed about library needs of instructional and research staff
5) aid in keeping the academic community informed about the Library

The Committee is made up of four *ex officio* members (the University President, Chancellor, Registrar, and Librarian), and a number of Senate members, including students. A list of the 1969/70 Committee members who have been appointed by the Senate is given below.

Mr. W.M. Armstrong	Deputy President
Mrs. A. Brearley	School of Librarianship
Dr. D.G. Brown	Department of Philosophy
Mr. F.J. Cairnie	B.C. Teachers Federation
Dr. D.H. Chitty	Department of Zoology
Dr. W.C. Gibson	Department of History of Science and Medicine
Dr. J.M. Kennedy	Computing Centre
Dr. A.J. McClean	Faculty of Law
Dr. M.F. McGregor	Department of Classics
Mr. K.R. Martin	Management Research (Western) Ltd.
Dr. S. Rothstein	School of Librarianship

By early November, student senators will have been added to the Committee, and a chairman will have been elected. See next month's *Library News* for an up-to-date report.

OBSTACLE COURSE TEMPORARY

Entering the Main Library is a challenge these days, although those long trips up and down stairways may be helping many hearts. Behind the hoarding, the front doors are being widened. The result, due in November, will be four doors instead of the familiar two. Pedestrian traffic jams, we hope, will disappear, and the general appearance of the building will be improved. Thank you for bearing with us!

NEW SERIALS LIST DUE

The Library's annual *Serial Holdings* list will be released this month. It will be available at public service desks throughout the library system, and copies will be sent to all academic departments. As most of our readers know, this alphabetical index gives the location, call number and holdings of all serials listed. The new edition is bigger than ever, covering just under 16,000 separate titles. All the same, some of the Library's materials (chiefly government publications) will not be included, and must still be found through the card catalogue.

To make this year's list easier to understand and use, the editors have added a new step-by-step introduction and an index to all locations. Also included is a list of the journals which were recently moved from the Main Library to the Curriculum Laboratory.

COPYING BRANCHES OUT

The Main Library's Xerox Room is now able to make transparencies of library materials for use on overhead projectors. Faculty members may find this service especially useful. Obviously, it is a convenient way of showing printed material to large classes, but it has another advantage. Transparencies of rare books or reference material have not always been easy to obtain up till now, as some volumes could not be taken out of the building. The new service makes it possible to reproduce anything held in the Library.

Located at the rear of the main entrance hall, the Xerox Room is open between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The charge for an 8½ by 11 transparency will be fifty cents.

SAVE TIME–USE BOOK RETURN BIN

Not everyone knows yet that a remote book drop has been set up outside the Student Union Building. A gift from the UBC Alumni Fund, it is located on the north (Brock Hall) side of the SUB opposite the parking meters. Books borrowed from the Main Library or its branches can now be returned here instead of to the individual library. A second book bin has been temporarily placed in front of the Main Library while the centre doors are being widened.

On weekdays the book bins are cleared twice daily, but books left there after 4 p.m. Friday will not be picked up till Monday morning. For this reason, please don't return anything to a book bin on a weekend if it is due before Monday.

AWARD–WINNING BOOKS ON DISPLAY

Thanks to UBC's German Department, the Library will be a more colourful place during November. Display cases around the building are featuring some of the best-designed German books of 1967. These have been selected from a complete set of just over fifty volumes which was donated to the Department by the West German government.

The collection has been divided into three separate areas, each on display in a different section of the Library. Children's books are being exhibited in the School of Librarianship, books illustrating aspects of fine printing are in the Special Collections Division, and material on literature, fine arts, and technology is in the hallway outside the Ridington Room.

After the display the children's books will be added to the Library's collection, and the rest will be housed in the German Department's own reading room.

CRANE'S TAPE LIBRARY GROWS

The Crane Memorial Library for the Blind has set up two new and welcome services for its users. The first of these is a variant of the Sedgewick Library's paperback browsing collection. Each month Crane will receive twenty light fiction and biography titles, each on a unique new pre-recorded tape cartridge. Students who have an hour to spare may now come in, pop one of these cartridges into a toaster-like player, and enjoy some of the latest non-academic reading. The twenty titles are exchanged for new ones every month.

Although the number of pre-recorded materials is growing, many books required for UBC courses are still not available on tape. To correct this situation, the Crane Library has launched a drive to record textbooks needed by blind students on campus. Over 100 volunteer readers, mostly students, have responded to advertisements in the *Ubyssey*, and recording sessions now run for seven or eight hours a day. Using this system, the library expects to tape an average of one text a week. However, this estimate may have to be revised. Just before press time we learned that three books had been completed in the first five days of the program.

NEWSPAPERS IN THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY

The library of a large university is a storehouse for information in many varied forms. However, no library has an unlimited budget or unrestricted storage space. Some priorities do have to be established in the purchase of material.

Where do newspapers fit into this picture? Over the years there has been a considerable difference of opinion on their importance to the academic library. Until fairly recently they were not regarded as serious source material. After all, they were ephemeral, often biased or sensational, and very seldom indexed. Storage was difficult and expensive, and even with the best of care newsprint tended to disintegrate within a few years.

In spite of such disadvantages, newspapers are looked on today as an essential part of the university library's collection. Basically this is because they report on events much nearer to the time of happening, and in much greater detail, than any other printed medium. As a result, they are major sources of information for research in history and the social sciences. Biographies, local histories, studies on politics, economics, or social customs—all of these draw much of their primary material from newspapers.

In order to make this type of information available to those who need it, the university library must subscribe to a wide range of domestic and foreign newspapers. As current issues would be of little value by themselves, a backfile should be kept for each title. The more complete this file, the more useful the paper is likely to be.

Valuable as it undoubtedly is, a newspaper collection such as we have described can be a headache to librarians. Newspapers are not only expensive to acquire, but also extremely difficult to store and preserve. Current issues, for instance, require a considerable amount of space for shelving and even more for reading; in fact the area needed for each user is larger in a newspaper reading room than anywhere else in the library. In addition, unbound issues are often lost or damaged, and when this happens it is not always easy to get duplicates.

Putting a newspaper in a hard binding does reduce losses, but it also creates a new set of problems. The process is expensive, and the bound volumes are so large and heavy that they require enormous quantities of specially-built shelving for storage. Furthermore, even bound newspapers will not last indefinitely. Wood pulp newsprint gradually disintegrates if it is allowed to come in contact with air, even when temperature and humidity are carefully controlled. Chemical preservatives are expensive, and none have been entirely successful.

Probably the most satisfactory way of preserving newspaper backfiles is on microfilm. In this form they are easier to handle than heavy bound volumes, take up only about one-hundredth of the space, and of course do not require expensive heavy-duty shelving. Most important of all, they do not deteriorate with age. Today research libraries can buy a wide variety of Canadian, American, British, and foreign-language newspapers on microfilm from publishers, library associations, or commercial copying agencies. The cost is high (especially if the library has to buy microfilm readers as well) but in the long run this method of storage is less expensive than binding printed copies.

Costs can be cut down even more if two or more libraries in the same region cooperate in building up their collections. UBC, Simon Fraser, and the University of Victoria are already taking steps in this direction. A computer list giving the newspaper holdings of all three libraries is being prepared now. It will serve two purposes: to let users know where backfiles of a particular paper are available, and to keep the libraries from ordering unnecessary duplicates.

Indexes to the contents of newspapers are every bit as important to users as lists of holdings, but very few are available. One of the best substitutes, at least for Canadian libraries, is *Canadian News Facts*, which began in 1967. It comes out in the form of a biweekly news digest rather than an index to stories in individual newspapers. However, each news item is dated so that readers can refer to papers published at that time for more detailed coverage. Other indexes have been produced locally for newspapers in a particular region. One, the *Index to B.C. Newspapers*, is so important to students of B.C. history that it deserves separate coverage (see following article). These projects, and others like them, are making newspapers steadily more valuable to the modern university library and its users.

INDEX TO B.C. NEWSPAPERS

B.C. libraries have long been trying to make access to newspapers and their contents easier. One important breakthrough is the new microfilmed *Index to B.C. Newspapers*. For nearly seventy years the Provincial Library in Victoria has maintained a card index to the contents of Vancouver and Victoria papers, but this has never before been available to anyone outside the Parliament Buildings. The file has now been filmed, and a complete copy is available from the UBC Library's Government Publication Division.

The newspapers indexed are the Victoria *Times* and *Colonist* and the Vancouver *Times, News Herald, Sun* and *Province*. Coverage is from 1900 to approximately April 1969, with a gap between 1910 and 1916. Arranged by subject, the index concentrates generally on B.C. history, politics and economics. A partial list of the subject headings used is shelved with the microform reference books in the Government Publications Division. Anyone wishing more information on this new research aid should call at the Division's service desk or phone local 3858.

EXTENDED HOURS FOR MATH LIBRARY

The Mathematics Library has joined a growing number of campus branches which offer service seven days a week. It will now be open on Sundays from 12 noon till 5 p.m.

CAMPUS LIBRARY HOURS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Main, Sedgewick, Woodward and Law Libraries	9 a.m. – midnight
Curriculum Laboratory	CLOSED
Forestry/Agriculture Library	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Mathematics Library	9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Music Library	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Social Work Library	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Wilson Record Library	CLOSED
Brock Hall Study Areas	8 a.m. – midnight

Hours of service for some divisions within the Main Library will vary:

Asian Studies	CLOSED
Fine Arts Division	9 a.m. – midnight
Government Publications	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Special Collections	CLOSED

CANADA COUNCIL GRANTS CUT OFF

As the *News* was going to press, the Canada Council announced that its grants for the purchase of research materials in the social sciences and humanities would be suspended for at least the coming year. UBC received $70,000 from the Council in 1968, and all of it was used to improve library resources.

This change in Council policy is much to be regretted. The great deficiencies of Canadian university library collections were brought to public attention by the AUCC-sponsored Williams Report in 1962, and since that time the Canada Council had done much to improve the national situation. However, Canada's research libraries are still by no means self-sufficient. As evidence of this, the UBC Library must turn to the United States for about 20% of all material needed on interlibrary loan.

Editor: Mrs. E. de Bruijn Information & Orientation Division