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.

MORE FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

On February 24 the Librarian's *Annual Report* was presented to the Senate. Highlights from the first half of the *Report* were reprinted in last month's *Library News*. This issue contains extracts from the final sections.

Copies of the *Report* are available from the Librarian's Office or from any dean, department head, Senate member or departmental library representative.

FROM THE REPORT:

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. Budget

University operating expenditures stood at $16,225,972 in 1960/61 and $51,397,650 in 1969/70, a 216.7% increase. Library operating expenditures, by comparison, increased by 470.9%, from $677,369 to $3,873,988, and from 4.2% of the total university budget to 7.6%. In a list of budgets of North American research libraries, UBC stood in thirty-third place at the beginning of the decade; at the end, it ranked nineteenth. UBC today spends as much on its Library as Harvard spent on its Library a decade ago. These facts and figures reflect the radically changed nature of the Library, and of the University: from a centralized to a de-centralized system, and from a largely undergraduate to a graduate institution. Expressed in terms of student support, whereas the University spent $53.28 per student on over 11,000 students for library service ten years ago, it spends $186.49 on over 20,000 students today.

Yet, surprisingly, this last figure is one of the lowest in Canada. Simon Fraser University spends $426.54; the University of Victoria, $311.73; the University of Alberta, $244.76; the University of Toronto, $216.60; the University of Montreal, $220.62; McGill University, $222.48; Laval University, $207.80; Dalhousie University, $281.50; and Memorial University, $190.21. In fact, only Sir George Williams University, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba spent less than UBC in 1969/70.

This situation can be viewed in two ways: the University is getting a high level of service at bargain rates; and, the University would not be setting new records unless it increased its support of the Library substantially. It is hoped that the University will see, and appreciate, both points of view.

2. Organization and Relationships

Four Presidents served the University of British Columbia in the nineteen sixties. Similarly, four librarians made their unique but interdependent contributions to the Library's development. Neal Harlow resigned in June 1961, after a decade of service during which the Library was doubled in all of its aspects. Samuel Rothstein served from July 1961 to May 1962, while at the same time guiding the School of Librarianship through its first year. Between June 1962 and December 1963, Jim Ranz made a case for the rapid development of a research library, and set the Library firmly on the path which he had indicated. The writer succeeded him in 1964 . . . .

Over ten years the pattern of higher education has changed in British Columbia, with the creation of a series of colleges and two new universities: the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University. A new set of relationships among university and college libraries grew out of these developments. From the outset, the librarians of the three public universities worked together in a spirit of cooperation and amity. On their initiative, and under the aegis of the Academic Advisory Board for Higher Education, the librarians of the colleges were brought together for the first time in October 1969, and an informal Council of B.C. College and University Librarians was formed. This body concerns itself with the collection of statistics and other information, the establishment of standards, the sharing of resources, and with collaboration in such areas as collection development and processing.

UBC Library has since 1966 been a member of the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, an organization which has been described as a library's library. The Center concentrates on the purchase of materials which are too infrequently used or too expensive for individual libraries to acquire; it has massive holdings of newspapers, documents and manuscripts, available to UBC through the media of collect long-distance telephone and air freight.

To a greater and greater extent, individual libraries are participating in so-called networks, realizing that although the world's information resources can be held by no single library, any group of users can represent a vast range of needs. In the interests of utility and economy, UBC Library and other libraries must move closer together in the next decade.

3. Personnel

The 103 staff members of 1960 had become 394 by 1970 . . . . There has been a threefold increase in the number of professional librarians, from 33 to 100, and over a fourfold increase in supporting staff, from 70 to 294. After Toronto, McGill and Alberta, UBC's library staff is the fourth largest in Canada today.

The improvements in service described earlier in this report were reflected in the ratio between students and library staff: 113 to 1 in 1960, 53 to 1 ten years later. Nevertheless, the figure was still higher than Alberta's and Toronto's 48 to 1 . . . .

In the course of ten years, changes have been introduced which have made working conditions in the Library more satisfactory. The method of appointing librarians and determining their rate of pay was changed. Other staff members were grouped together in an additional classification for Library assistants; job descriptions for the two classifications were prepared, criteria for promotion established, and the possibility of a career within the Library for supporting staff was thus created.

Salaries have been raised and are competitive at all levels. As a result, a wastefully high rate of turnover dropped from a peak of 68.3% in 1965/66 to 49% in the past year, a more acceptable rate, considering that many staff members are student wives, and that the staff for the most part is composed of people under thirty years of age.

The decade witnessed the departure of a number of persons who had made outstanding contributions to the evolution of the Library. Neal Harlowe, Samuel Rothstein and Jim Ranz, all University Librarians, have been mentioned. Miss Anne M. Smith, Associate Librarian, retired in 1964, having guided the development of reference services and collections for thirty-four years. It could be said that the Lanning family retired during the sixties, having rendered an astonishing total of a hundred years of service to the University. Mabel Lanning, the Head of the Circulation Division from 1926 to 1961, was for generations of students the very Library itself. Roland Lanning, her brother, developed through both lean and fat years a magnificent collection of periodical literature; he retired in 1968 after 42 years' service as the Head of the Serials Division and the Bibliographer for periodical literature. Walter Lanning, Head of the Curriculum Laboratory since its establishment in 1955, and Professor in the Faculty of Education, retired this year. The principle of public service was a common cause for all of these librarians, who spared nothing of themselves in its pursuit.

4. Systems

During the sixties, libraries . . . began to use increasingly sophisticated machinery for the performance of routine tasks. Today the computer occupies a dominant position among the working tools of the Library . . . .

Among academic libraries, UBC made an early beginning in applying techniques of systems analysis to its daily routines, and in developing practical computer applications to carry out these routines. A system for the circulation of books was inaugurated in the fall of 1965, and in smooth succession over the years, systems for acquisitions, accounting, serials, backlog books, book catalogs and document indexing were put into operation. These systems do more than simplify tasks and multiply records: they make the Library easier to use, and accumulate and analyze information which can be used to guide the future growth of the Library. Some of these applications have been touched upon in earlier sections of the report. The emphasis has been, and will be in the future, on systems for people, not systems for systems.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FORECAST

Through its functions of teaching, research and publication, the University is at one time the creator, user, recorder and transmitter of knowledge. Nothing short of a global disaster seems likely to slow the rapidly increasing growth of knowledge, and its consumption by greater and greater numbers of people. A comparison of the University's Calendars for 1960/61 and 1970/71 would be enough to convince anyone that this University is responding well to the universal process of intellectual development, and that this process will result by 1980 in a curriculum even more comprehensive and diverse.

The Library acquires, organizes, preserves and disseminates knowledge, and is thus deeply involved in this process. The implication of present trends is clear enough: there will be higher levels of demand from more people for an even more massive body of information. The Library will be expected to guarantee access to this recorded knowledge, and as knowledge becomes more complex and abundant, to provide more simple methods of access. This formidable assignment may be further complicated by a diminution of financial support. If the next decade followed the pattern of the last, the University's operating budget would be

about $163,000,000 by 1980, and the Library's about $22,000,000, which would represent nearly a doubling of support in terms of University budget over 1970; this is probably too much . . . to hope for.

If it can be assumed that the University and the Library will be expected to do more with less, ways must be found either to limit demands, or to increase benefits while lowering costs. In the past year, the University took steps to control at least one aspect of its future: it set a limitation on enrollment of 27,500 students . . . By defining its ultimate student body, the University greatly simplified the task of planning its future.

Accommodating student users has been one of the most difficult of the Library's problems in the past decade, and it is a problem that is not yet solved. However, the enrollment limitation facilitates Library planning in this its most expensive aspect, for library patrons are the greatest consumers of space in library buildings. Using the accepted standard of 35% seating for undergraduate students and 50% seating for graduate students, a requirement of 10,450 places in indicated when the enrollment limit is reached. Presently, in all libraries, reading rooms and study areas, there are almost 5,000 seats. A new Sedgewick Library is under construction; a new Law Library is in the planning stages; these, together with the libraries for the sciences, fine arts and education, already proposed to the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs; together with increased seating in the Main Library following upon the removal of the Processing Divisions; and together with a few anticipated reading rooms, will come acceptably close to the University's hopefully permanent requirement for seating.

By comparison, planning is complicated by the continuous increase in recorded knowledge. No end to this process is in sight. The demand for access to the Library's store is similarly increasing, with no hint of diminishing. Thus it is extremely difficult to discern the ultimate nature and dimensions of the Library's collections, and to determine how these may be arranged and controlled. However, some trends can be examined as possible indicators.

During the nineteen sixties, it was frequently speculated that the physical volume, the book, was destined to disappear. At the beginning of a new decade, this seems far from likely. It is now commonly recognized that the centuries-old format has many advantages in convenience of use, portability and economy. Book production rates are escalating the world over, and confidence in the future of the book is evidenced by the enthusiasm of investors . . . for the stock of publishers; it has recently come to public attention that foreign capital regards even Canadian publishing as a reasonable investment. The appetite of consumers for books and magazines is not waning . . . . At the University . . . students . . . have established new rates of use which, if they continue to rise, will attain 6,000,000 loans per year by 1980. It would be reasonable for the Library to assume that the conventional printed volume will play a major role in its future, as . . . in its past.

On that assumption, the Library will hold two and a half million volumes by 1980, even if its purchasing power is not increased over 1969/70. If the collection grows at the rate established in the past decade, it will contain 3,000,000 volumes, and yet this figure would represent a proportionately smaller share of the world's information resources . . . .

While the physical book rests secure in its future, it is also unquestioned that it will be joined by a variety of other media or knowledge-carrying formats in the Library, or in close association with it. Some of these formats, such as sound recordings, microforms and computer tapes, are already familiar, some are unfamiliar, and doubtless there are others yet undiscovered and unknown. Again, some trends may be detected . . . . Both the machines necessary for using recorded materials and the . . . materials themselves are becoming smaller and less expensive to reproduce. The eventual integration of the technologies of electroni s and photography could result in cassettes carrying libraries of fundamental readings, playable on devices as convenient and cheap as a transistor radio. The linking of libraries to computers with the capability of swiftly assessing massive memory banks will further revolutionize the use of information . . . .

The Library's role, as in the past, will be to remain alert to the possibilities of all new means of storing and using information, and to incorporate them into the existing collections.

Despite the vagueness of the future, planning for the collections must proceed. The accommodation required for physical volumes can be easily estimated; space for a collection of two and a half million volumes has been requested in the submission to the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs. The approximate capacities of present and future libraries are:

Main Library	1,250,000[3]	Physical Sciences Library	100,000[3]
Woodward Library	180,000	Education Library	150,000[3]
Sedgewick Library	180,000[2]	Fine Arts Centre Library	75,000[3]
Law Library	150,000[2]	Other Branch Libraries	100,000[4]
Science Library	240,000[3]	Reading Rooms	100,000
	TOTAL	**2,525,000**	

[1] Assuming removal of Processing Divisions, Fine Arts Gallery, Anthropology Museum, and relocation of Government Documents and Asian Studies Divisions.

[2] Under construction or in planning stage.

[3] Proposed to Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs.

[4] Contents of present and future small branches, e.g. Music, Social Work.

If the University is to accommodate library users and collections in the nineteen seventies, it must commit itself to a continuous programme of library construction. It should be noted, however, that the proposed buildings . . . will not hold physical volumes in excess of two and a half million; any increase in purchasing power above the present level will thus mean that additional space for collections must be provided. This raises the question of the eventual size of the collection, and where it might be housed . . . .

There is a growing realization that libraries can no longer follow a course of exclusively independent development. The creation of centres of bibliographic information linked with efficient means of transmission can maximize the use of regional and national resources . . . with attendant financial economies. The librarians of British Columbia's three public universities are now exploring ways and means of achieving these objectives, by means of which some of the outcomes of unhindered and unregulated collection growth can be avoided.

From the point of view of the user, what has been called the information explosion is imposing heavier burdens in terms of the use of personal time . . . . The Library must respond by going farther in helping the user to locate as swiftly as possible only the material which is relevant to his purposes; the whole Library apparatus . . . must be made more efficient and more comprehensible. At the same time, the Library will have a larger role to play in equipping students to deal with information, for the ability to keep abreast of developments in one's specialty will become critical to one's survival in this age of technology. No less important, if the age of technology is to be humane, will be the Library's function of providing access to and encouraging familiarity with the world's cultural inheritance . . . .

While it is not possible to foresee all of the changes which will take place in the Library in the nineteen seventies, enough can be predicted . . . to sketch a rough portrait. Certainly the Library will be larger in terms of its own collections, but these may have reached a practical limit in terms of size and format, with older and infrequently used materials being relegated to various kinds of storage. The Library . . . will have access to vast repositories of material through cooperative regional bibliographic centres, joined to national and international systems of information gathering, indexing and preservation . . . . [The] time required to locate and transmit desired materials will be diminished. The requirements of users will be heavier, more pressing and more refined, and these will be met by higher levels of reference and public service . . . with access to more sophisticated systems of information retrieval. Users will have the benefit of a variety of media, from books to videotape, greatly enriching the quality of education.

Some have questioned the ability of the conventional library to survive. In nature, the failure to adapt leads to extinction. UBC Library will have no such fate, given the willing support of the University, because it is today a flexible and responsible organization, staffed by inventive and industrious people for whom the future presents a stimulating challenge. But in meeting this challenge, the Library must have the support of Senate and of the University, particularly in respect to its physical requirements; for if these . . . are not met, the Library is destined to become an inefficient and unmanageable barrier to education. The University will be the loser, and will have thrown away the investment of fifty-five years of effort and expense.

STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY

The Greek Letter Societies have donated the income from Phoenix '70 (formerly Mardi Gras Week) to the new Sedgewick Library. A cheque for $750 was presented to Mr. Stuart-Stubbs on February 26 at the end of the annual Songfest.

The money will go toward furnishing the new library when it is completed.

NOBODY'S PERFECT; OR, THINGS WE'RE GLAD NEVER GOT PAST THE SYSTEMS DIVISION

Every so often Library checkers catch weird and wonderful computer entries which might otherwise have ended up on the IBM printouts. Among the recent crop were:

a) One cross-reference, filed under "CL" . . .

CLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. SUTDIES IN HISTORY AND ECONOMICS.

See

HAS MARKET CAPATILISM COLPASED?

b) One entry (slightly warped) for a book selection journal . . .

CHOICE: BOORS FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

c) And a note on a title change that leaves us wondering whether that IBM knows something . . .

MEDICAL GYNECOLOGY AND FERTILITY ABSTRACTS

— SUPERSEXED BY MEDICAL GYNECOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

BOOKLOVERS TAKE NOTE

This month two displays in the Main Library's entrance hall mark notable achievements in typography. In the left-hand case, visitors can see a Canadian book that is literally one of the most beautiful in the world. It is the *Economic Atlas of Ontario,* published for the Ontario government by the University of Toronto Press. In competition with volumes from 27 other countries, it won the world's top design award for 1970: a gold medal awarded by the International Book Fair in Leipzig.

The right-hand display case contains some of the best books produced by the late Lawrence C. Wroth, who was librarian emeritus of the John Carter Brown Library at the time of his death in December, 1970. In his 65-year career as a bibliographer, historian and typographic expert, Dr. Wroth published close to 550 titles. Our exhibit illustrates the wide range of his work. The volumes on display include *Some American Contributions to the Art of Navigation, American Woodcuts and Engravings,* and Wroth's definitive edition of Varrazzano's *Voyages,* on which he worked for the last 14 years of his life.

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