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.

ORIENTATION: A PROGRESS REPORT

Since the fall term started on September 14, the librarians responsible for student orientation have had a busy time. Information desks throughout the library system have been distributing printed guides and brochures to all comers. Already five thousand copies of the library handbook have been given out, and there is a steady demand for the information handouts available from Sedgewick and some of the larger branches.

Often students prefer to be shown through the library, though. To make that possible, staff members have been giving as many as five tours a day. In the past four weeks nearly two thousand freshmen have been taken through the Main Library and Sedgewick. (This represents about 60% of the total number registered at UBC this year.)

Faculty members, especially those teaching first-year courses, are encouraged to arrange a special tour for their students. In the past month, 44 English 100 sections have been shown how to find material for their assignments, and the same type of program is available to any other class or teaching group. For more details, please call the Information and Orientation Division at local 2076 or 2077.

PRINT-OUT OF NEWLY CATALOGUED MATERIAL

A new computer print-out has just been added to the collection shelved behind the Main Concourse information desks. It gives the call number and location of every printed item which might not yet be listed in the Main Card Catalogue. Users who cannot find a book through the catalogue should be sure to consult this list. Items are entered under both author and title, and each entry includes the date the item was catalogued as well as the call number and location. Cumulating supplements to the basic list will appear each month.

THIS MONTH'S EXHIBITS

During October visitors to the Main and Woodward Libraries can choose from a variety of historical displays. The first, in the Main Library's entrance hall, commemorates Cook's discovery of Australia and New Zealand two hundred years ago. Reproduced pages from his *Journal* are mounted in a case on the north wall, along with a chart from his *Journal* showing the routes of his three voyages. On the opposite side of the hall are two illustrations by crew members of scenes mentioned in Cook's *Voyages.*

Another exhibit which should not be missed is upstairs in the Special Collections Division. It brings together books, illustrations and documents relating to that controversial figure in Canadian history, Louis Riel. The Red River Rebellion of 1869-70 is brought to life through contemporary pictures and accounts. Perhaps the most interesting manuscript is Riel's own 32-page letter discussing the Rebellion. (Our copy is a facsimile; the original recently sold for $16,000.)

Fifteen years later Riel returned to lead a second, ill-fated uprising in Saskatchewan. Coloured lithographs and some rare photographs trace the progress of this 1885 Rebellion, which ended with Riel's trial and execution. Books, letters and official reports covering the Rebellion and trial are also on display, along with sketches made in the courtroom by an anonymous artist. The last section of the exhibit features current works on Riel and his influence.

Not to be outdone, the Woodward Library is beginning its annual series of student displays on the history of medicine and science. Over a dozen exhibits are planned for October. Topics include the history of anaesthesia; landmarks in the development of antibiotics; surveys of aviation medicine, dental education, and the medical use of herbs; leprosy and its treatment; and the development of the microscope. Enterprising dentistry students have even put together an exhibition on the history of artificial teeth!

For the exact dates of any of Woodward's displays, please call Miss Brenda Sutton at local 4447.

NEED A TYPEWRITER?

Faculty and students using the Main Library are reminded that a coin-operated typewriter is now located in the Main Concourse. Anyone may use this, at a charge of 10 cents for twenty minutes of typing time. Change is available from the Xerox Room in the downstairs entrance hall until 5 p.m., and from the Main Loan Desk when the Xerox Room is closed.

RAND PUBLICATIONS AND INDEXES

The UBC Library is now a depository for all unclassified publications of the RAND Corporation. This means that any of the *Reports* (R- series), *Papers* (P- series) and *RAND Memoranda* (RM- series) published since January, 1970 are available to library users. They are housed in the Science periodicals area, just inside the stack entry from the Science Reference Division.

The best guide to this material is *Selected RAND Abstracts,* which provides author and subject indexes to the publications and summarizes their contents. Two sets of the *Abstracts* are available, one in the Science Division and the other in Social Sciences.

COMPUTER STUDIES BORROWING PATTERNS

This month marks the fifth anniversary of the UBC Library's computerized circulation system, which has introduced a new era for both patrons and staff. Because borrowers no longer have to fill out slips for their material, the automated system has encouraged greater use of the library and its resources. Circulation has risen out of all proportion to either the enlargement of the book collection or the growth of the student body.

Despite this increase in loans, automation has reduced much of the clerical work previously done by the circulation staff. Borrowing transactions have been speeded up, loan information is recorded more accurately, and routine sorting, filing, cancellation of records and preparation of overdue notices have all been substantially reduced.

Perhaps the most important result of computerized circulation has been the ease with which months of loan records can be analyzed. The library staff now have an accurate source of information on the number of times each item has been borrowed, the status of the borrower, and the length of the loan period. With the demand for each book measured in this way, the library can do a much more efficient job of meeting readers' needs. The figures will indicate when a reserve book should be taken off short-term loan, and when a stack book should be put on reserve or duplicated.

Over the past two years, staff members from the Main and Sedgewick libraries have been working on a large-scale project aimed at improving access to needed books. A special program was written, enabling the computer to analyze all the loans made from the Main Stacks, the Reserve Book Collection and Sedgewick between September 17, 1968 and January 8, 1969. Its main function was to identify heavily-used books so that added copies could be purchased. The type of use defined as "heavy" varied for each collection. Some basic criteria were the number and frequency of loans for each item, the length of each loan, and the number of holds placed on the book by other borrowers.

The program resulted in three separate print-outs – one for each collection – totalling 1,300 pages. Entries gave the author, title and call number of each book that met the criteria: the number of individual borrowers; the total number of days the book had been in circulation during the four-month period; the status of each borrower (undergraduate, graduate, faculty, etc.); the loan category of the book (two hours, one day, one week or two weeks); and the number of holds placed on it while it was on loan.

Once the program had been run and the lists printed, the manual work began. Each library had to review all three print-outs, note titles that should be ordered or duplicated, estimate the number of added copies necessary for each title, and check the final list against the file of books already on order. The total number of added copies purchased came to over 2,000.

This year a follow-up study is under way to gauge the effect of these duplicate copies on loan patterns. As before, most of the data will be gathered and analyzed by computer. The library hopes that sufficient funds will be available to run more programs on collection use. The IBM system is one of our most valuable tools, and its potential should be fully explored.

ADDED NOTE ON LIBRARY COMPUTERS

Arrangements have been made for the libraries at UBC, Simon Fraser and the University of Victoria to exchange data on their computer programs. Details of all programs written up till this summer have been sent to the participating libraries, and exchanges will continue as new programs come into operation.

This is just part of a wider system set up this summer. Any Canadian library using computers is now encouraged to share its programs with the others. It is still too early to tell how well the arrangement is working, but progress reports will be given from time to time in this newsletter.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMPUTERS AND COMPUTING SYSTEMS

The UBC Library is now subscribing to five loose-leaf publications put out by Auerbach Information, Inc. Each one gives current reports on products or projects in the information processing field, and each is updated at least six times a year. More detailed information on all five titles is given below.

1. *COMPUTER NOTEBOOK INTERNATIONAL.*
A two-volume current awareness service on more than 80 large-scale U.S. computer systems. Contains individual descriptions of the features and limitations of each system, over 100 pages of objective hardware and performance comparison charts, and complete price lists. Includes a *Special Reports* section providing facts and guidelines on topics of current interest. Updated monthly.

2. *DATA COMMUNICATIONS.*
A complete reference source on digital data communications equipment and techniques. Contains individual, analytical reports on more than 50 different types of communications terminals and processing equipment; detailed reports on common-carrier facilities; and a guide to the design of effective data communications systems. Updated six times a year.

3. *DATA HANDLING.*
A comprehensive guide to selecting and applying the wide range of support equipment and supplies used in conjunction with computer systems. Detailed, analytical reports are given in a standardized format for easy comparisons. They describe equipment used for capturing data at its source, preparing input to computers, performing media conversions, processing unit records, and handling printed forms. Updated six times a year.

4. *MINICOMPUTERS.*
A three-volume current awareness publication which includes reports on minicomputers and process control computers. These reports enable readers to keep up with the latest developments in a rapidly changing field. Also included are detailed information and performance calculations for easy comparison of the most important systems. Updated monthly.

5. *TIME-SHARING.*
A two-volume service covering all aspects of commercial time-sharing. It features reports on the state of the time-sharing art, time-sharing languages, applications, equipment and individual reports on commercial time-sharing services. Updated six times a year.

All of these publications will be found in the Science Reference Division.

MORE BOOKS, MORE STORAGE NEEDED

Early in September the number of printed volumes in the UBC library system reached 1¼ million. It is an impressive figure. Even more impressive is the Library's acquisitions record: the first million volumes took fifty years to arrive; the last quarter million took three.

Much of our progress over the past five years is due to increased support from the University, combined with Mr. H.R. MacMillan's gift, in 1965, of $3 million exclusively for book purchases.

Even with this extra help, however, the Library's book collection is still under strength. The Canadian Association of College and ~~Research~~ University Libraries recommends a minimum of 75 catalogued volumes per full-time student. UBC's 1970-71 registration stands at 20,829 students, meaning that the Library is more than 312,000 volumes short of CACUL's requirements.

This formula was one of two used by R.B. Downs in the 1967 report, *Resources of Canadian Academic and ~~Research~~ Libraries.* The second method of evaluating university library collections was developed by Verner Clapp and Robert T. Jordan of the Council on Library Resources. It attempts to relate collection size to the academic programs offered by the university and the amount of research the library must support. Thus, while it requires only 12 volumes per undergraduate student, it recommends a minimum of 100 volumes for each faculty member, 335 volumes for each subject in which an undergraduate major is offered, and 3,050 volumes for each subject field supporting work at the M.A. level. A total of seven factors are taken into consideration. Applied to the Library's current collection, the Clapp-Jordan formula shows a deficit of 601,886 volumes.

Actually this represents considerable progress on UBC's part since 1966, when the Library had the largest deficit in Canada: 1,210,885 volumes, compared to 25,771 for the University of Victoria and a surplus of 286,741 for the University of Toronto. All the same, it indicates that we still have some way to go, even if enrollment is not increased.

But if collection growth is to continue at all, thousands of feet of added storage space will have to be found. A survey taken earlier this year shows that the Main Library's bookstacks will be filled almost to capacity by the end of December. A program for the removal of 50,000 volumes into storage is being drawn up and will be implemented before the new year; this will be the subject of a later article in the *News*. Since the Main Library's stack collection is growing at the rate of over 75,000 volumes a year, it is clear that the first group of books headed for storage will not be the last. Although the construction of the new Sedgewick Library will begin soon, completion of the building is not expected until the summer of 1972. At that time, the removal of the Sedgewick collection will create space for only about 100,000 volumes in the Main Library, not enough to hold the books acquired between now and then.

Six years ago the *Annual Report of the Librarian* to Senate observed: "... decentralization, which will improve services without impairing the logic of collections, must proceed apace or the Main Library will become an obstacle to the use of books." Unfortunately this prediction is now coming true. Library users may anticipate an increasing amount of inconvenience as they look in vain for books which have been withdrawn from immediate access, and as they wait for them to be retrieved from remote storage facilities. Such major libraries as the Science Library and the Education Library, proposed over half a decade ago, are already much too late in arriving. If they were needed before, they are needed more urgently than ever today.

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