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 *News* has been given over to extracts from the Librarian's *Annual Report to Senate,* which will be officially presented on February 23. 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

The development of the Library, while it is not taking place at the hectic pace of the mid-sixties, continues at a steady rate.

Two landmarks were established during the year: recorded use exceeded two million loans, and the collection size attained a million and a half catalogued volumes, making UBC Library the second largest academic library in Canada.

The heavy use of all libraries made evident the physical shortcomings of many buildings. Fortunately, the new Sedgewick Library will be completed in the coming year, and a new Law Library is in the planning stages. But for many parts of the Library system, such as the intensively used Curriculum Laboratory, no relief is in sight.

Although expenditures on library materials increased during the past year, inflation in the costs of the books and periodicals has more than eliminated the effects of the increase. In the development of collections a diminishing trend seems to have set in.

To contend with ever-rising demands for library service and for swifter access to larger quantities of library materials, libraries are turning for solutions to closer interlibrary cooperation and coordination. Such efforts are bearing fruit for the three public universities of British Columbia and for the many colleges, with a general improvement in service at lower overall costs.

II. THE PHYSICAL LIBRARY

The present library system consists of the familiar Main Library ; . . . eleven branch libraries, ranging in size from the Woodward Biomedical Library, in its recently completed four-storey structure, to the Animal Resource Ecology Library, in two cramped rooms; and thirty-eight reading rooms, located in academic buildings around the campus.

The next major addition to this system will be the Sedgewick Library, scheduled for completion during the summer of 1972 . . . . The unique design of the building had already attracted the attention of the architectural profession; it was one of 12 building projects, selected from 209, to win a design award from the *Canadian Architects' Yearbook.* When the building is completed, it will greatly improve access to library collections and services for undergraduates . . . and should alleviate for all time the study seating shortage which has plagued students at this University since the end of the second world war. The Main Library will become, in effect, a research library for the humanities and social sciences, and for many of the pure and applied sciences, until a separate Science Library is erected.

A new Law Library, as part of a building for the Faculty of Law, is in the planning stages. After detailed consideration of a number of sites, it was determined that the Faculty would remain in its present location . . . . It is probable that the Law Library will be ready in the spring of 1974.

On March 22, 1971, the Provincial Secretary accepted from the Consul General of Japan a centennial gift to the people of British Columbia: the steel girders which formed the structural components of the Sanyo . . . pavilion at Expo '70 . . . . A committee has been established to raise the funds necessary to re-erect the building at UBC, as an

Asian Studies Centre. [The Centre] would house the Asian Studies Division, now located in the Main Library, and provide office and teaching space. This building represents the only hope for a satisfactory library for Asianists.

During the year the Senate Library Committee reviewed the Library's programme for development, and submitted its estimates and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs. In order of priority, the Senate Library Committee advocated the construction of an Education Library and Learning Resource Centre, a Fine Arts Library within a Fine Arts Building, a Science Library, and a Physical Sciences Library. In July, the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs issued a report, to be received and reviewed by Senate in the fall, in which it was stated that "we cannot assign a top priority at this time to either the Library or Curriculum Resource Centre of the Faculty of Education". The other proposed libraries fared no better. At the end of the report year, the Senate Library Committee and the Faculty of Education were hopeful that further documentation might alter the opinions of Senate. Nevertheless, the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs did recognize the acute need for additional space in the Main Library, and for better working conditions for the Processing Divisions, and stated that "careful study should be made of the suitability of Brock Hall for Library purposes".

A report was also submitted to the Senate Committee on Standards for Quality Education at UBC, in which the ultimate requirements for the library system were forecast. Providing that the University adheres to Senate's decision to limit enrollment to 27,500 students, accepted standards for library accommodation would call for 10,450 seats. Buildings which exist, which are under construction and which have been proposed to the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs will contain a total of 9,750 seats, acceptably close to the requirement. In respect to collections, the same present and future buildings will house 2,525,000 volumes, a collection size which will be attained well before the end of the decade. When the collection exceeds this size, or in the event that all proposed buildings are not constructed by 1980, portions of the collections must be moved into storage; in fact, 37,000 volumes from the Main Library have already been moved to a compact storage area in the basement of the Woodward Library. Librarians at British Columbia's three public universities are considering the feasibility of a jointly operated storage library, but it is unlikely that such a building can be constructed in the near future; thus expensive commercial storage may be the only alternative if the library's building programme continues to lag. Irrespective of the physical problems created by a lack of physical facilities, the absence of good libraries for education, fine arts and the sciences is detrimental to the quality of teaching, learning and research at this university.

III. PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Branches, Divisions, Subject Collections.

In 1970/71 the trend toward increasingly heavy use of library services continued. Most branches and divisions loaned more materials than ever before; in several instances, use has doubled in just four years.

For the fifth year in succession, the system of branch libraries registered more use than the divisions and subject collections within the Main Library; difference in use between the branches and the Main Library has increased by another 22.3% in the past year. The move of the Sedgewick Library into new quarters will undoubtedly further widen the gap. It is evident that the planned decentralization of the library services and collections is having the desired effect of alleviating pressure on the inadequate Main Library building . . . .

. . . In order to measure the adequacy of branch library services and collections, consumer surveys were conducted during the year in the MacMillan Library (Forestry & Agriculture), the Marjorie Smith Library (Social Work) and the Music Library.

The results indicated a general high level of satisfaction with the services of these branch libraries. Most complaints, understandably, related to the inadequacy of collections, which are limited in size by both available space and available funds; this deficiency was noted particularly by those faculty members and students engaged in interdisciplinary studies. In awareness of this trend toward such interdisciplinary work, and seeing in it a particular challenge to library service, the Library formed a task group to discover ways and means of accommodating scholars whose interests are outside the scope of traditional disciplines. . . .

Although the book is far from being dead, an increasing amount of information is becoming available in machine-readable form, information relating for the greater part to the sciences and social sciences. This information is generally of two types: bibliographical and statistical.

Through its Science Division and Woodward Biomedical Library, UBC Library is cooperating with the National Science Library in providing access to a variety of bibliographic tape services. Fourteen faculty members and graduate students . . . subscribed to this programme for the selective dissemination of information; individual "profiles" relating to specific literature interests were drawn up, and compared by the National Science Library's computer to its collection of data tapes.

In assessing the usefulness of this approach to scanning current literature, one participant in UBC's programme noted: "The computer print-out has, in effect, carried out a preliminary screening and has 'short-listed' references possibly deserving closer attention. Random checks indicated that the profile . . . retrieved at least 95% of the current papers of interest to our group . . . . " Even the most futuristically-minded computer enthusiasts will concede that a trained and educated mind is still a more efficient tool for the . . . retrieval of information; however, it is clear that progress is being made toward the effective use of electronic machinery in the handling of . . . citations.

In order to come to grips with increasing amounts of machine-readable statistical information, the Director of the Computing Centre and the University Librarian drew up plans for a jointly operated Data Library, to be opened in 1971/72. This new service will perform the traditional library functions of acquiring, listing, organizing, storing and making available for use magnetic tapes containing information relating to such things as public opinion polls and censuses.

2. Reading Rooms.

In its second year of activity, the Reading Rooms Division continued to arrange for the acquisition and cataloguing of materials for thirty-eight reading rooms, and to assist departments in the administration of them. It is now possible to describe with greater accuracy the dimensions of the reading room system.

There are 53,470 books and 10,605 bound volumes of journals in reading rooms, a total of 64,075 volumes . . . . In addition, they contain uncounted numbers of pamphlets, reprints, government publications, maps, slides and index files. Twenty-six of the reading rooms permit materials to circulate, and loaned a total of 52,749 items during the year. Library and departmental costs for collections amounted to slightly over fifty thousand dollars.

An attempt was made to measure the rate of use of the reading rooms . . . . It was estimated on the basis of sampling that over a nine-month period the annual occupancy for thirty-seven reading rooms was close to a hundred thousand. There is little question that the reading rooms constitute an important adjunct to the library's larger information system.

3. Copying.

The use of copying machines increased by another 19.44% in 1970/71: a total of 1,897,799 exposures were taken by library users and staff. The constantly increasing amounts of copying which are taking place in libraries have been a matter of concern to publishers and authors, who have suspected that the purchase of copies of parts of books and periodicals has resulted in a loss of sales. [Moreover], some have put forward the view that the" fair-dealing" clause in the present Copyright Act should be altered or deleted, and that any copying of any published work without the payment of royalties should be made illegal.

In order that the debate on copyright and copy machines could be conducted in the light of hard fact, a national survey of university library copying practices was conducted. It was learned that Canadian university library copying machines were registering about fifteen million exposures per year, but that about half of the exposures were made of a miscellany of unpublished material. Forty-four percent of copies were taken from books and periodicals, and a fifth of these copies were of Canadian books and periodicals, or roughly 1,320,000 exposures. The average number of pages copied at any one time from a Canadian book or periodical was approximately eight. Considering the great number of individual works involved, that the copyright on many had lapsed, and that the amount of money paid for each exposure averaged seven cents, a scheme for the direct collection of royalties appeared to be neither practical nor economical.

IV. COLLECTIONS

1. Funds.

In 1970/71, seven Canadian universities spent over a million dollars on acquisitions and binding:

Alberta	$1,851,670
Toronto	$1,717,358
UBC	$1,341,807
Western Ontario	$1,322,283
York	$1,294,894
Manitoba	$1,056,162
Carleton	$1,049,470

In the current fiscal year, it appears that UBC will drop from third to fifth place on the list.

Research libraries everywhere are encountering difficulty in meeting the material needs of their users. The number of books and journals is increasing rapidly, and the interests of faculty members and students to continue to expand, resulting

in the constant escalation of demands upon libraries. It is the general experience of librarians that the supply of current materials is consuming a higher and higher proportion of their budgets every year. To complicate the situation further, it is not only the abundance of desired new materials, but also their cost that accounts for these extreme budgetary pressures. Inflation is driving up the prices of books and journals published in the United States and the United Kingdom, the two main sources of English language publications, and the main suppliers of printed materials to North American libraries. How serious is this inflation?

In the case of British books, the average price of adult non-fiction increased by 8.7% between 1969/70 and 1970/71. Price increases for some categories of books of particular interest to universities were more extreme. The cost of books in the social sciences generally increased by 22.9%. In specific areas, the situation was even worse: law books rose 91.4% in price, architecture and town planning books 55.3%, pre-history and anthropology books 45.3%.

In the case of U.S. hardcover books, the average price rose 22.7% between 1969/70. As in the case of British books, particular categories exceeded this percentage: art books increased in price by 80.1%, history books by 38.6%, education books by 53.7%.

Periodical prices also refelcted the inflationary trend. Between 1970 and 1971, prices for British journals increased by 16.8%, for U.S. and Canadian journals 10.5% and for journals published in all other countries, 12.1%.

In August, the United States introduced fiscal measures which were pointed toward currency revaluation, which would further erode the purchasing power of the Library.

UBC Library's expenditures on books and periodicals increased by 7.7% in the same period. In the light of the above, it is clear that the programme for the acquisition of new materials must suffer. In fact, although the inflow of new materials is now being restricted, it will not be enough to stop the erosion of the Library's programme for the development of its research resources through the purchase of out-of-print materials, reprints and collections.

It seems doubtful that the University will be able to meet these continuing inflationary pressures with funds sufficient to maintain customary levels of purchasing. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide materials in support of the current academic programme. Thus faculty members and students should not be surprised to find the Library less willing to commit itself to the purchase of new subscriptions, additional copies of books and journals, materials to support some new area of interest. In the same vein, library expenses arising out of new programmes brought before Senate should receive even closer scrutiny in the future.

2. Collections.

Ten years ago, the Library's collections numbered 500,000 catalogued volumes. Early in 1969, it catalogued its millionth volume. By the end of 1971, it will have added another half million volumes, making it the second largest university library in Canada . . . . [By] 1980 the collection will have reached the size which can be accommodated in all existing library buildings, those which are under construction, and those which are being proposed for construction. These developments seem bound to take place, irrespective of the diminishing purchasing power of the budget.

Catalogued volumes represent only a portion of the Library's collections. There are in addition nearly 700,000 government documents, and over a million microfilms, which together already occupy almost an entire floor in the stacks of the Main Library. The map collection has grown to 75,000 pieces.

The problem of housing the burgeoning collections is not a problem of tomorrow, but of today. Already a significant part of the Asian collection is in compact storage in the basement of the Main Library. The Map Division has been unable to adjust to its own growth, because the floor of the space which they occupy . . . is incapable of bearing additional weight. Early in 1971, 37,000 books were withdrawn from the Main Library collections and removed to compact storage . . . . Selected for storage were those monographs which had never been borrowed or which had been infrequently borrowed; experience in intervening months indicates that there is little regular demand for these particular books. However the fact that they are not readily available to be seen on the shelves must make the Library less effective for its users, who may never know what they are missing while scanning the collections in the stacks.

The problems of reconciling shrinking budgets, increased production of literature, growing collections and limited space are ones which all research libraries are facing. In British Columbia, libraries at the three public universities have been working for a number of years on common solutions to these problems. Where overlapping programmes of instruction do not make it impossible, they have been attempting to coordinate collection development in order to avoid unnecessary and expensive duplication and triplication. That they have already enjoyed a measure of success was made evident this year by a study of the monographic holdings of libraries at UBC, the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University. Duplication of titles was much less frequent than is commonly supposed, or had been expected by the librarians. . . .

Ultimately, the collections at the public universities and colleges must be viewed as a single, decentralized resource for higher education in the province, consisting of probably as many as four million volumes by the end of the decade. In

developing the bibliographical machinery necessary to make the contents of these collections known to library users everywhere in British Columbia, the university libraries are contributing to the development in Ottawa of the National Library's Union Catalogue, which will eventually be directly accessible by computer terminals. In the meantime, the libraries are linked by Telex to the existing Union Catalogue, and to one another, and service is already efficient in terms of present levels of the sharing of collections. . . .

A shared storage facility must be part of any plan for the future development of academic and other libraries in the province. As long as printing presses continue to operate, libraries will continue to grow. If printing presses are superseded, then libraries will still be necessary to organize, store and make available information, whatever means is used to record it. Whatever techniques of miniaturization become practical and economically feasible, the end result must be the same: libraries at universities will run out of physical space. In that connection, the end is already in sight for the core of UBC's campus. Beyond 1980, libraries at the universities will be compelled to retain in their local collections only those materials for which there is a regular demand. Important but infrequently used material will be somewhere else, and depending on the economics of future methods of transportation and communication, these materials will be brought to the user, or the user will be brought to the materials in their vast centralized repository.

3. Systems and Processing.

In 1970/71, 164,117 volumes were added to the collection, the largest number processed in any year in the Library's history, and 34,834 volumes more than were processed in the previous year, representing a 26.9% increase in production. These statistics would seem to belie the contention that the Library's ability to purchase books is being curtailed. The explanation for this extraordinary increase can be found in the fact that two major backlogs were eliminated during the year. . . .

Among large research libraries in North America, UBC is almost unique in having no dormant backlog of uncatalogued materials in European languages, but only currently purchased materials in process. That this has been achieved with little increase in staff and in some of the worst working conditions at the University is testimony to the quality and character of the personnel.

Unfortunately, the picture is not perfect. It was not possible to produce and file cards at a rate equal to the production rate of other book processing units, even though the completion of card sets jumped from 63,258 in 1969/70 to 83,400 in 1970/71, an increase of 31.8%. At worst, some cards were eight months late in being filed. To correct this situation, a crash programme was initiated during the summer of 1971, with the aim of eliminating the card backlog by April 1972. In order that public access to collections should not suffer in the interim, the Systems Division arranged for the regular production of a printed list of recently catalogued books, as a by-product of the acquisitions system. Together with other machine-produced listings, this list provided in the Main Library concourse in conjunction with the union catalogue almost complete bibliographical control over all volumes on order, in process, or catalogued . . . .

The Systems Division is already cooperating with the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University in the design of a single acquisitions system for use at the three libraries, which will make it possible to reach new levels of control in the joint development of collections and expenditure of funds, with attendant economies . . . .

To an increasing extent, the Library must rely on the computer to contend with burgeoning information. In the near future, the Library will require large blocks of on-line digital storage, remote terminals, and more computer time. Costs for maintaining systems will certainly rise, but will be offset by further improvements in the level of service.

4. Use.

The Library established another landmark in 1970/71 by lending more than two million items. Recorded loans increased by another 9.2% over the previous year. . . .

The general increase in use which has been taking place in recent years cannot be attributed simply to greater numbers of students. An analysis of loan statistics in relation to registration shows that per capita borrowings have been rising almost steadily, and particularly since the computer-based circulation system was installed, the branch library system developed, and the collection enlarged. . . .

UBC's undergraduates . . . are . . . among the heaviest users of library materials in North America. Even in its present crowded quarters, the Sedgewick Library is among the major established undergraduate libraries on the continent, a group which includes Cornell, Harvard, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford, U.C.L.A., Texas and Washington. In this group, the Sedgewick Library stood third in terms of volumes loaned. Its collection turned over 5.2 times, a high rate of use which tied for first place with Washington's. It stood third in terms of loans per student, after Harvard and Stanford, but neither of the two U.S. universities has more than six thousand five

hundred undergraduates. This impressive record says nothing of undergraduate borrowing from other libraries on campus, and is a favourable omen for the Sedgewick Library in its new quarters.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. Budget.

The Library's expenditures for 1970/71 amounted to $4,490,663, representing 7.44% of the University's expenditures, down from 7.54% in the previous year. The Canadian average in 1970/71 was 8.06%. After Toronto and Alberta, UBC's expenditures for library purposes were third highest in Canada. Expenditure per student was $210.56, compared to the Canadian average of $246.64, and to $225.52 and $259.77 at Toronto and Alberta.

2. Relationships.

The increasing interdependence among libraries was reflected in . . . the activities of the province's three public universities. On October 15, 1970, the university librarians . . . established an informal organization named Tri-University Libraries, with the three-fold purpose of 1) improving . . . cooperation among the three libraries; 2) working towards a coordinated policy for long range library growth and development with coordinated acquisitions policies, shared resources, the development of compatible machine systems, provision of easy and rapid communications systems, [and] provision of shared storage facilities . . . 3) cooperation with other educational, library and research institutions to further the purposes of the three libraries.

In order to work toward these objectives, a number of task forces were set up to deal with specific areas of library activity: acquisition and preservation of newspapers, collection sharing . . . conversion of bibliographic records to machine-readable form, information systems, cooperative cataloguing, etc. . . .

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the foregoing, it is easy to discern the future course of development. Given the proliferation of information and the constant expansion of the University's programme, it is essential that the system of libraries continue to expand. The limits of the on-campus library system have been defined, and must be met within the present decade. In the same period, a beginning must be made on facilities for cooperative storage of library materials . . . .

In controlling bibliographic information and library resources, the Library's dependence on the computer will increase, as well as on other new products of technology.

Higher levels of use will accompany these developments, as a province-wide library system for higher education emerges, linked to a national network. Yet, despite the dimensions of these larger systems, service at the individual level must be more personalized and specialized. The units which make up the larger system must themselves be flexible, in order to meet new demands as they arise. New methods of performance measurement and evaluation will be introduced, as a means of holding costs to a minimum.

Evolution toward the Library of 1980 is already under way.

INTERLIBRARY LOANS FOR STUDENTS: A NOTE TO FACULTY

The Librarian's Annual Report for 1970/71 shows that UBC's Interlibrary Loan staff borrowed more than 5,000 items last year from other libraries, an increase of nearly 24% over 1969/70. Most of the requests were placed on behalf of faculty and graduate students for books and journals that UBC does not have in its own collections — they would probably be used very infrequently if we did have them.

The rather high costs of interlibrary loans (about $5.00 per item borrowed) are offset to some extent by the fact that the Library can avoid buying many expensive items which would seldom be used. As long as an efficient interlibrary loan service exists, such materials can be borrowed as needed from other libraries.

Interlibrary loans *are* expensive, however, and some controls to govern the quantity of requests placed are still needed:

1. *A faculty advisor's signature is required for graduate student requests.* This requirement may seem superfluous to some faculty members; others like to be informed of the kinds of materials their students are asking for.

2. Undergraduates are not generally eligible for interlibrary loans, as most libraries that we borrow from are unwilling to lend materials to undergrads in this way. We do sometimes make exceptions where the student is working on an Honours essay and needs a few items. For most other purposes, however, the cost and length of time required make it impractical to borrow for undergraduates. As much as possible, topics for undergrad papers should be selected from areas in which UBC's collections are adequate.

Two exceptions should be noted to these general rules. In cases where a book was originally held by UBC, but is now missing, both undergraduates and graduate students may borrow the item through interlibrary loan without needing a faculty advisor's signature. They may also borrow from the Centre for Research Libraries, which our membership permits us to treat as an extension of our own collections. [See *UBC Library News,* October, 1971]. In this case also, no faculty signature is required.

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Information & Orientation Division