# ubc library news

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## COLLECTIONS BUDGET

### Additional Funding Received

We are pleased to announce that the Library's collections budget was increased by 8% ($339,000) this fiscal year. A further $223,000 was transferred to collections from the salaries budget by the elimination of eleven staff positions. Last year about $250,000 in reserve funds had to be used to supplement the operating budget for collections and counteract the effects of inflation and devaluation. With the reserve now exhausted, an increase of this magnitude in the continuing collections budget was needed to maintain purchasing levels, even after some serial cancellations had been made.

### Cancellation of Serial Subscriptions

Inflation has continued to be a significant factor in the cost of library materials, especially periodical subscriptions. Coming on top of this normal level of inflation, the rapid devaluation of the Canadian dollar against some of the major world currencies has placed a severe strain on the collections budget both last fiscal year and this year. It has therefore been necessary to proceed with the cancellation of about $160,000 worth of serial subscriptions. The new funding has allowed us to retain the titles in which faculty members had expressed strong interest, and we hope that the loss of about 900 titles will not have a serious effect on current work at UBC.

### New Subscriptions Budget Increase

The cancellation of subscriptions mentioned above has enabled us to budget $50,000 for new subscriptions this year, and library divisions and branches can now accept requests for important new serials. Please send requests to the head of the appropriate division or branch. Even this amount of money will not satisfy all the needs, and priorities will have to be carefully considered.

We intend to send out to academic departments during the next few weeks a list of the serial titles which have been cancelled. Requests for reinstatement will be possible, but reinstatements will have to be funded out of the new serials budget described above.

## LIBRARY PATENT SERVICE

UBC Library has been awarded a grant under the Canada-British Columbia Subsidiary Agreement on Science and Technology Development to develop a patent information search service. The project, which has been allotted half a million dollars until March, 1990, will be administered through the Provincial Ministry of International Trade, Science and Investment. Mr. Ronald Simmer, a librarian with considerable patent searching experience, has been appointed to direct and provide the service. The service should be in operation by the end of November and will be located in the Science Division, Main Library.

"A patentable invention is any new and useful process, machine, manufacture of composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, which shows inventive ingenuity."[1] Patent literature is a valuable primary source of scientific and technical information. The literature is extensive: the Canada Patent Office, for example, has issued over one million patents and the United States Patent Office over 4 million.

The primary objective of the new patent service is to improve access to patent literature. Initially,

[1]Canada. Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Patents: Questions and Answers, (Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services, 1985), p.3.

online searches will be subsidized for faculty, research staff and students at UBC, SFU, the University of Victoria and, probably, other post-secondary institutions in B.C. The service will offer "information" searches, intended to show what has been done and to suggest avenues that may be worth exploring. It will not undertake "patentability" or "novelty" searches, which are the field of the patent attorney.

During the four years of the trial, the Library will work closely with the Canadian Patent Office and the University/Industry Liaison offices at the three universities. Mr. Simmer will visit the Patent Office in Ottawa in November and can be expected to pay regular visits to SFU and the University of Victoria.

A secondary objective of the project is to work with Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada to develop a prototype online access system to Canadian patents. A limited amount of the funding is available to contract with the private sector for the development of prototype software, for data conversion at the Patent Office, and for the hardware needed to operate an online system at UBC for searching Canadian patents.

More information about the service will be published in a later issue of the Library News. If you have any immediate questions, please phone Rein Brongers, Head, Science Division (228-3826).

## NEWS FROM CRANE LIBRARY

A grant of $5,000 for a Crane Library endowment was received from William Mercer Limited, Toronto, a Canadian compensation consulting firm. The gift, on behalf of the employees, is in memory of the death twenty five years ago of the Company's founder, William M. Mercer of Vancouver. Two of Mr. Mercer's children are visually impaired UBC alumni who received service from Crane Library.

The endowment will be used to ensure that production of talking books and research materials for blind, visually impaired, and print handicapped students at U.B.C. can be maintained and expanded. For further information, please phone Paul E. Thiele, Crane Library (228-6111).

## GRANTS FOR UBC ARCHIVES

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) has awarded Laurenda Daniells, the University Archivist, a renewal grant of $20,850 for the UBC Archives and Manuscripts - Guide project. Begun in 1985, with a $26,195 grant from the SSHRC Canadian Research Tools Program, the project will provide an automated repository guide to UBC's archives and manuscript collections. Researchers will have immediate access to a database of holdings and the guide will also be made available in print and microfiche to researchers inside and outside the University. The UBC Archives has also received from the Public Archives of Canada, through the B.C. Council of Archives, $12,000 to assist in organizing and describing hitherto neglected records. Initially, efforts will focus on the Chinese-Canadian research collection, the Leonard Marsh papers, the UBC Library and Registrar's records and the President's Office records.

## MONEY FOR OLD MUSIC

The Music Library has received a $50,000 grant from the SSHRC program Strengthening of a Specialized Research Collection to buy eighteen more sets from the microfilm series Unpublished music manuscripts from the great English collections. Chosen by faculty from Music and the Music librarian Hans Burndorfer, the sets reproduce music manuscripts, both English and continental, from the 16th to the 20th centuries. Access to them will benefit musicologists, theorists and performers. With the ten sets purchased earlier, the Music Library will be the only library in Canada, and one of the few in North America, to have this collection.

## CANADIAN POLITICS BIBLIOGRAPHY

Librarians writing citations on piles of cards entwined with rubber bands are part of the past. Now, they use the library's database management system to list and organize information on computer files. One such file is the Canadian Politics Bibliography, compiled by Iza Laponce in the Humanities and Social Science Reference Division, Main Library. "Information on Canadian politics is scattered and often inaccessible," says Mrs. Laponce, the political science librarian. The bibliography currently has over 9,000 citations to books, articles, government reports, conference proceedings and book chapters, with more citations being added every week. Topics range from the Social Credit Party in B.C., Canadian electoral history and native rights to lobbying and parliamentary reform. Because the bibliography is in a computer file, it has many access points, including author, title, keyword in title and subject heading. Also, the bibliography is available on the DRS microfiche in every library and online at every reference desk. If you want information on Canadian or provincial politics, save yourself some time. Use the Canadian Politics Bibliography. For further information, please phone Iza Laponce (228-5923).

## B.C. NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Margaret Friesen, Head of Interlibrary Loans Division, is the co-recipient of a SSHRC Canadian Studies Research Tools grant for the B.C. Newspaper Project. The grant was awarded to the B.C. Library Association. The principal investigators of the project are Margaret Friesen, a Director and former President of BCLA, and researcher/freelance librarian Linda Hale, current BCLA President. Project coordinator is Hana Komorous, Senior Serials Librarian, University of Victoria, and project consultant is Brian Owen, Systems Librarian, UBC.

The project is now underway at UBC Library, which is providing space and computer consulting support. The Newspaper Project is B.C.'s contribution to the National Library's goal of decentralized creation of a national database for newspapers. The primary objective is to create a union catalogue, a register of microform masters and a guide to British Columbia newspaper collections, which will eventually be part of the national union catalogue.

## SEDGEWICK ATTACKS SNACKS

New doors in the Sedgewick Library now separate the Library proper from the foyer. This renovation is part of a campaign, supported by the Library and University Administrations, to reduce the noise level and stop food consumption in Sedgewick. Although all libraries have these problems to some extent, they are particularly acute in Sedgewick.

Sedgewick was designed especially to give undergraduates a centrally located library with study space (around 1200 seats), an accessible core collection of books and periodicals, and reference services. The building is heavily used - in past surveys, staff have counted up to 1400 people in the building in the middle of the day. Unfortunately, the popularity of Sedgewick, its size and open design have turned it into a social center and lunchroom as well as a library. Some serious students now avoid Sedgewick because of the noise. So much food is consumed in Sedgewick that, after SUB, the building has the largest garbage pickup on campus and keeping it clean is a major problem for Physical Plant.

As part of the campaign to reduce the noise and food consumption, the Library has hired five monitors to patrol Sedgewick, and occasionally the Main Library, to remind students about library policy against food, drink, and noise. If students refuse to cooperate, disciplinary steps are being taken.

Most students support these efforts to provide a clean and quiet library. After one month, the campaign is having a positive effect. Sedgewick is quieter and the amount of garbage collected has been reduced by about a third. It is too soon to tell about the long-term success of the campaign. Students, now lunching and socializing outside, will seek shelter when the rainy season begins and there are few facilities on campus to absorb this influx.

## LIBRARY LEAKS

The Library has reason to be thankful that September 23 was a weekday. On that day, heavy rain and blocked roof drains caused leaks in the ceiling of Floor 7 of the Main Library, where many books are in storage. Library staff reported the leaks to Physical Plant around 10:30 a.m., got out mops and pails and began to move 1,800 books out of harm's way and to cover threatened shelves with plastic sheets. It was not until noon that the drains were unblocked. Most of the books in storage on Floor 7 are old and out-of-print, and thus, irreplaceable. Fortunately, the eighty-five that were damaged can be repaired. If the leaks had occurred over a weekend or evening, many more books would have been soaked, some of them irretrievably. The Main Library houses over 1,375,000 volumes, more than one half of the University's books and periodicals. This incident illustrates one of the potential threats to the preservation of these resources in an old building requiring continual maintenance.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Recently prepared or revised Library publications include:

Start Here 71, revised, French Canadian Literature
Start Here 95, revised, Classical Studies - Part One General Reference and Bibliography
Start Here 132, Economic and Financial Data Files (Data Library)
Start Here 134, Indexes and Abstracts for Education - a select list
Start Here 135, Author! Author! Aids to Getting Published
Start Here 136, Fashion
How to use Book Review Digest
How to use Psychological Abstracts
Computer Searching in the Humanities and Social Sciences

If you would like a copy of any of these one- or two-page sheets, please phone the Information and Orientation Division (228-2076). Ask at any reference desk for information on the many additional publications available.

## BERTON OR BURTON?

Incomplete or incorrect citations in course reading lists can happen for many reasons but reference librarians say many of this year's lists have more errors than usual. Citations with the author's name mispelled, with cryptic title abbreviations or lacking periodical volume numbers and years hinder a student's search for materials. Although librarians can sometimes decipher the citations, students have already wasted time before they ask for help and some don't ask for help. For many students, even with correct citations, locating material in the library is difficult. Help out students (and librarians). Please review your reading lists before distributing them.

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