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LIBRARIAN'S REMARKS TO SENATE

In presenting his Annual Report to the Senate, Mr. Stuart-Stubbs made the following statement:

Since this report covers a period which ended last summer, and since most Senators will have read it, I'll speak instead about conditions during the present academic year.

First, to deal with our two basic indicators of use, volumes loaned and reference questions asked.

Last year, probably as a result of lower enrollments, loans from the Main and Branch Libraries dropped. During the past fall term, they have risen again by an average of about 13%. There has also been a marked increase in reference use, up by 18% in the Main Library and 30% in the Branches. Some Branch Libraries are experiencing unprecedented activity: the Sedgewick Library dealt with 64% more questions in the fall months, the Woodward Library with 58% more. It thus appears that after a slight lull in library use last year, the upward trend is reasserting itself.

Not all of that increase can be attributed to our own students and faculty. In a limited consumer survey performed on a November Sunday, we learned that as high as 30% of the users of the Sedgewick Library were not U.B.C. students or faculty, but were from other universities, colleges and schools; there were also many members of the public, non-students engaged in research. A more extensive survey will be made next Sunday, including all libraries in the lower Mainland. However, we now have some confirmation of our importance to a community wider than our own. The reason for our importance is to be found in the strength of our resources, both our collections and our services.

To speak of the collections: the Library has acquired twice as many items in the last ten years as it did in the first half century of its existence. Today it is the largest and richest collection west of Toronto, and among academic library collections in Canada, it is the most heavily used. The greater part of this collection could not be duplicated today at any cost. Because of its scope and depth, students at other local institutions often must come here to complete their assignments, and they are being encouraged to do so by their respective instructors and librarians. At the same time, working professionals in the health and applied sciences are similarly dependant upon us. At other libraries throughout the province, acquisition policies are being formulated on the assumption that easy access to UBC's collections will always be possible, and will suffice for many titles. All of this, of course, makes excellent sense from the point of view of public expenditure on education.

I am sure that Senate will share with me my sense of frustration when I hear it said that the University is not fulfilling its responsibility to the community. In the Library, we find ourselves doing more and more for users across the province, and being asked to do yet more. At the same time, we are receiving budget increases that do not even compare favourably with those the Library received during the Depression, an irony in a province that is, according to the Premier, enjoying great prosperity. In the fiscal year which ends next week, we received an additional $35,500 for operating purposes; all but $500 we allocated to the collections budget. In the coming year, we will have an additional $25,000 and this too will be allocated to the collections. It just isn't enough. Our rate of accessions is dropping precipitously. In 1970-71, we added 162,000 items to the collection; in 1971-72, 142,000 items; last year, 137,000 items; and this year the figure will be about 96,000 items. For next year, we estimate 82,000, about half of the figure for 1970/71. Within the budget for collections, the price of remaining current is rising just as dramatically, particularly where periodicals and continuations are concerned. Five years ago journal subscriptions consumed 17% of the collections budget; in the coming year the figure will have risen to 48%. This is directly attributable to inflation, not to any great increase in the number of our subscriptions; in fact, we have been cancelling them. In order to pay the bills for current periodicals and books, we are being forced to restrict our purchasing of retrospective materials, and of research sets and collections. We have gone about as far as we can go, and it will soon be necessary to cut the subscriptions list more drastically. The result of this will be terminated and broken runs, which we will have to repair later at a higher price, if the materials can still be found on the market. This is not only contrary to the best interests of the University, it is disastrous for all of education

in the province. To end where I began, we are the resource library for the province, and will be into the future. It seems to me that the government must acknowledge this fact, and provide the University with sufficient funds to enable the Library to play the role that is expected of it.

THE LIBRARY, 1973 to 1975: or, How the pinch becomes the squeeze becomes the crunch

The *Annual Report* of the University Librarian, for the academic year 1972-73, was received by Senate at its meeting on March 20th. In speaking to the *Report*, Mr. Stuart-Stubbs told the members that diminishing budget support and inflating costs of library materials and operations accounted for a rapid decline in the state of collections and services.

In the fiscal year 1973/74, the increase to the Library's operating budget, excluding the amount for salary increases, was $35,500, of which all but $500 was allocated to collections. In 1974/75, the increase to the operating budget will be $25,000, all of which will be allocated to collections. However, the costs of library materials have been rising by an annual factor of 10% to 20%, depending on the type of publication and its country of origin. Some periodical subscriptions have doubled in price in one year. Publishers are forecasting further increases, attributing them to the higher costs and scarcity of paper. To make matters worse, world currencies have undergone two major revaluations in recent years, which have had the effect of increasing the costs of publications from abroad.

The results of this on the collections budget and on the accession rate have been dramatic. Periodical subscriptions and other forms of continued publication are consuming a greater proportion of the total budget, since the costs of these are inflating at a higher rate than the costs of books. In 1970/71, 31% of the budget was required to pay subscriptions bills; in the coming year, nearly 50% will be required, even though measures have been taken to reduce the number of subscriptions. As a result, there is less money to spend on books, both in-print and out-of-print. The statistics for accessions tell the story: there were 162,000 items added to the collections in 1970/71; 142,000 in 1971/72; 137,000 in 1972/73. For 1973/74, the figure is 96,000 and for 1974/75, 82,000.

All available additional funds having been devoted to collections, nothing remains for additional personnel, or to meet cost increases in supplies, equipment, binding or other operating expenses such as postage and service contracts. To cope with this situation, a number of measures have been and will be taken:

- staff positions will be transferred to divisions and branches which are encountering difficulties in contending with increased work loads; for the most part these positions will be taken from the processing divisions where, for obvious reasons, work loads are decreasing.
- cheaper forms of binding will be introduced, although these might not provide adequate protection for volumes which receive regular use.
- the publications programme will be curtailed. The *News* will appear no more than quarterly. Orientation and reference publications will be reduced in number. No further edition of the *Serial Holdings List* will be printed.
- Telex service to faculties and departments will be terminated.
- The MEDLINE terminal in the Woodward Library will be phased out unless it is supported by the B.C. Medical Centre.
- No special projects will be permitted (e.g., compilation of bibliographies, reclassification of parts of the collection).

Other economies will be made wherever possible. An effort is being made, through measures such as these, to retain the present hours of service.

While faced with the difficulties described above, the Library is dealing with higher levels of use and rising expectations on the part of users. Although the number of loans levelled off in 1972/73, when enrollment sagged to about 19,000 students, the upward trend has reasserted itself. During the fall term, circulation increased by 13% overall. In the Main Library, divisions responded to 18% more reference questions, and in the Branch Libraries, 30% more. The two major branches, the Sedgewick Library and the Woodward Library, dealt with increases of 64% and 58%.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

The Government Publications Division of the University of British Columbia Library orders and processes virtually all of the government publications included in the library system. The Government Publications staff is kept busy with an annual influx of over 68,000 government reports and periodicals. Getting these materials ordered, unwrapped, processed, and ready for circulation requires a permanent staff of 13 plus student help.

Government publications are collected from every level of government, from municipal publications

through provincial and state to federal and international inter-governmental publications. We receive many publications through depository arrangements but we are obliged to buy a large part of our collection. The University of B.C. Library is a depository for the publications of several governments: British Columbia, Canada, and a number of international organizations, including the United Nations, FAO, ICAO UNESCO, OECD, and GATT. In addition there are extensive holdings of Canadian provincial, U.S. federal and state governments, many municipal and foreign publications, and publications of all the major international organizations. We receive a large number of government publications in microform too: virtually all U.S. publications since 1956, the British sessional papers from 1731, League of Nations publications, and assorted papers from several international and European governments. Most of our materials are available for loan.

Ordering and processing the material is the Division's most hectic activity, non-stop from January to December. More visibly, we do reference work for students, staff and faculty, and anyone else. Our hours correspond very closely to those of the Main Library. During Winter Session we are open every evening from Monday through Thursday and on Saturdays and Sundays.

The card catalogue in the Government Publications Division lists the governmental holdings of the entire library system. This catalogue indicates the location of each item in the system and also includes call numbers for those publications which have been fully catalogued. Those publications which have been catalogued will, of course, also be included in the library's main card catalogue. Although we attempt to have as much of the collection catalogued as possible many items still have not been catalogued and are therefore not listed in the library's main public catalogue. The Government Publications catalogue is therefore a good place to begin a search for any government publication.

The search itself can lead anywhere ... whether you want the text of the Columbia River Treaty, the new British Columbia budget, the latest unemployment figures or the status of the UIC fund, the Auditor-General's annual report, what happened at Stockholm, or the newest design for False Creek, the Government Publications staff will do all they can to help you find the material you need.

LITTLE MAGAZINES

The Humanities Division in the Main Library invites users to browse in its collection of Little Magazine samples. These are mostly single issues of fly-by-night poetry magazines for which no full subscription was taken out. Canadian, American, and British magazines are on file ... an interesting and fairly representative selection of recent creative writing. Ask at the Humanities Desk in the Ridington Room.

NO MORE TELEX

The introduction of Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS) on campus on or about April 1, 1974, will reduce the cost of long distance telephone calls considerably.

In comparison the cost of TELEX service, even now only marginally less than long distance calling, will become uneconomical for most messages.

For this reason, once WATS will be available, the Library's TELEX will be used only for sending Interlibrary Loan messages. The Library's TELEX number should no longer be given for incoming messages except in cases of emergency.

WHO USES THE WOODWARD LIBRARY?

In recent months, the Woodward Library has been one of the busiest libraries on campus. A sample of reference questions taken in November revealed that 30% emanated from off-campus organizations and institutions. The MEDLINE terminal improved on that record: 40% of inquiries came from off-campus. A list of the regular non-university users of the Woodward Library serves to demonstrate the importance of the services and collections to province:

Hospitals

Burnaby General Hospital. Cross-Infection Study
Esquimalt Hospital
Shaughnessy Hospital
Royal Jubilee Hospital
Royal Columbian Hospital
Woodlands School
Riverview
Lions' Gate Hospital
St. Paul's Hospital

B.C. Government Agencies

B.C. Commission on pesticides and herbicides.
B.C. Dept of Health Services and Hospital Insurance, Mental Health Branch
B.C. Youth Development Centre, Mental Health Branch (Burnaby)
B.C. Hydro
B.C. Development Group for Establishing Community Health and Human Resource Centres
B.C. South Okanagan Health Unit
B.C. Central Vancouver Island Health Unit
B.C. Hospital Insurance Service
B.C. Department of Health. Task force to design a dental plan for children
B.C. Research
Workmen's Compensation Board
Fraser Valley Regional Library. Abbotsford

Municipal Governments

Greater Vancouver Regional District. Health Committee
Greater Vancouver Mental Health Project
Community Care Services Society
Vancouver Metropolitan Health Board

Federal Government

Canada. Department of the Environment. Pacific Environment Research Stations (West Vancouver)
Canada. Fisheries Research Board Laboratory
Canada. Food and Drug Directorate. Laboratory
Canada. Environment Protection Service. Laboratory
International Pacific Salmon Commission

Associations

B.C. Narcotics Foundation
Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society
Canadian Public Health Association
Medical Records Librarians' Association
Registered Nurses Association of B.C.
Vancouver Women's Health Collective
Regional Medical Centre, Abbotsford
G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre

Business Firms

Arthur Erickson Architects (B.C. Medical Centre Planning)

CAN/SDI SUBSIDY DISCONTINUED

The National Science Library in Ottawa started its computer-based current awareness service, CAN/SDI, in the spring of 1969. Since then librarians in the Science Division and the Woodward Library have acted as "search editors" or intermediaries between local users of this service and Ottawa - offering assistance in the preparation of "interest profiles" and helping users in making corrections and changes as they became necessary.

To encourage scientists and engineers to experiment with the system the Library also has been paying the $40.00 base fee for new subscribers who were UBC faculty members or graduate students.

As a result there now are some fifty subscriptions serving close to three hundred users on the UBC campus whose interests range from Audiology through Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Forestry, and Geology to Oceanography and Physics, to name just a few.

In short, the service which now includes a number of data bases which fairly well cover the scientific literature of the day, has become established.

It is with some regret that the Science Division has to announce now that, starting April 1st, 1974, financial constraints have made it impossible to continue to offer the $40.00 subsidy to new subscribers.

We would like to stress, however, that our librarians will of course continue to be available for assistance to old and new subscribers who will receive regular printouts, tailored to their subject interest, giving reference to current journal articles, patents, reports, books, and conference proceedings - for

which the National Science Library will bill them at the end of each subscription year.

For further information please call R.J. Brongers at local 3826.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS PROGRAMME, 1973

The "quid-pro-quo" policy followed during 1973 can now be summarized. This policy required the cancellation by Reference Divisions of periodical titles equivalent in cost to any new subscriptions requested by them. Results achieved during 1973 prove that the programme should be continued during 1974, even if we get a slight increase in the Book Budget.

The main book funds affected by soaring serial costs are Continuations, Periodical Renewals and New Subscriptions. The table below provides a comparison with our experience last year. By means of the quid-pro-quo programme we have managed to slow the "run-away" situation in some measure so that our "over-expenditure" position may be slightly less serious on March 31, 1974 than it was a year previously. But it's nothing to cheer about.

It will be noticed that we have spent so far $9,849 less on New Subs. than in all of last year. But it should also be noted that Periodical Renewals is $44,654 higher than last year and will go higher yet. This deficit is in effect being met by transfer of money from book funds where we have exercised greater restrictions, such as Continuations, Research Periodicals, Graduate Research Library Fund, and others.

For 1974 it will be necessary to exercise a still higher degree of selectivity in choosing new titles for subscription. Cancellation of titles now received, either as outright cancellations, or for transfer to the CRL Extended Journals Programme should be emphasized. Reference Divisions which have developed a credit balance (though their much appreciated co-operative efforts) may wish to exercise restraint in ordering new titles unless they are essential. Adoption of further restrictions is a possibility.

Fund	Allocation		Commitments	
	1972/73	1973/74	March 31, 1973 (Final)	Jan. 28, 1974
Continuations (1110)	$128,500	142,000	128,500	133,448
Periodical Renewals (1130)	257,500	270,000	297,082	346,700
New Subscriptions (1344)	20,000	20,000	23,063	13,151
TOTALS	406,000	432,000	448,645 406,000	493,299 448,645
OVER EXPENDITURE			42,645	44,654

LIBRARY ORIENTATION

Scheduled orientation tours of the Main Library will be provided daily at the beginning of summer session from Tuesday, July 2, to Friday, July 5 at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. These will consist of a brief instructional session on the location, variety, and use of information sources in the library system. Please inform your students of the availability of these tours. In addition, more extensive bibliographic lectures to classes in particular subject specializations may be arranged throughout the summer session. Contact Joye Wheater, Information and Orientation Division, Main Library, at 228-2076.

JOSEPH OF EXETER MANUSCRIPTS

Dr. Geoffrey B. Riddehough has donated to the UBC Archives research materials he used for his 1951 Harvard Ph.D. thesis on the mediaeval poet Joseph of Exeter. Included in this collection are:

1) the Paris ms, Bibliotheque Nationale, fonds Latin 15015 (photostat)
2) the Digby ms, Bodleian Library, ms 157 (photostat)
3) Corpus Christi College ms 406 (photostat)
4) Westminster Abbey ms 18 (photostat)
5) Benedictine Library, Admont, Austria, no.128 (microfilm)
6) British Museum microfilm of the printed edition of Joseph of Exeter, 1669.

Access to this material is open, limited only by the terms of reference of the repositories where the originals are located.

SERIALS WANTED

The following out-of-print items are needed to complete the Library's holdings:

Canada Department of Transport's *List of Shipping* (familiarly called the Blue Book): 1915-1951, 1959, 1971.

National Geographic Magazine, January 1973 (v.143 no.1).

If you have any of these items to give away or sell, please contact Graham Elliston, Bibliography Division, Main Library, (local 2304).

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