U.B.C. LIBRARY NEWS

Volume 3, No. 3 March, 1970 Vancouver, B.C.

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.

During UBC's Open House on March 6 and 7, the Main Library and its branches will welcome thousands of visitors. On the first two pages of this month's News we offer a brief review of the Library's history and a preview of some of this year's displays.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES
. . . PAST . . .

1915 – Official opening of the University of British Columbia in "Fairview Shacks" at 10th Avenue and Laurel Street
– Library holdings: 22,000 bound volumes and 7,000 pamphlets
– Average circulation: roughly 10 volumes a day

1916 – John Ridington appointed first University Librarian

1925 – University moves to Point Grey campus
– Official opening of University Library (now the centre portion of the Main Library building)

1948 – North wing of the Main Library opened

1952 – First branch library opened (the Biomedical Branch at Vancouver General Hospital)

1960 – South (Koerner) wing of Main Library opened

1965 – Gift of $3,000,000 from H.R. MacMillan to the Library, exclusively for the purchase of books

. . . AND PRESENT . . .

UBC now has the third largest academic library in Canada. According to the most recent figures, its holdings are:

Books and periodicals	1,093,294
Microforms	939,128
Documents	544,470
Maps	70,000
Phonorecords	14,359
TOTAL	2,661,251

Current periodical subscriptions: 12,979
Government documents received, 1968/69: 60,853
Book budget, 1968/69: $988,414

Number of public service divisions in the Main Library: 11
Number of branch libraries: 11
Total number of staff: 387

Average number of items circulated (ie. borrowed and returned) each day throughout the library system: 11,000
Greatest circulation for any one day: 19,731 (January 5, 1970)
Photocopying statistics: 1,318,055 exposures made by library machines during 1968/69

Most valuable book held: Shakespeare First Folio (1623), on display in entrance hall of Main Library during Open House
Oldest printed book held: the Shou Wên, a block-printed Chinese dictionary dating from the 12th century
Oldest book printed by movable type: Lorenzo Vella. Elegantiae linguae latine . . . . 1476. (On display in Woodward Biomedical Library.)

A GUIDE TO OPEN HOUSE DISPLAYS

I. Main Library.

Just inside the front door, visitors will find exhibits from the Special Collections Division, Asian Studies, and the Sedgewick Undergraduate Library.

Two small glass cases mounted on the walls hold rare or historical maps from Special Collections: New France (1556); the Western Hemisphere (1587-88); the North Pacific (1752-1780); and the Oregon Territory (1846). Display cabinets in the hall illustrate the range of books held in the Special Collections Division. Included are a Shakespeare First Folio, dated 1623; Du Creux's Historiae canadensis (1664); material on the Arctic and on early visitors to the north-west coast; and displays of miniature books, illustrated children's books, and early and modern book bindings.

Close by is the Asian Studies display, illustrating almost four thousand years of Chinese printing and calligraphy. Visitors will be able to follow the development of Chinese writing, printing and binding from the earliest carved inscriptions down to the invention of paper and movable type. A highlight of the display will be a 700 year old block-printed book from the Library's P'u Pan Collection.

Also on exhibit in the entrance hall are a scale model and colour drawing of the projected new Sedgewick Undergraduate Library, which will be built under the Main Mall. Construction is expected to start this summer, and the building should be completed by the spring of 1972.

The Library's other displays are on upper floors. One attraction in the Main Concourse is a large three-dimensional model of the Main Library, a gift of the UBC Alumni. An alphabetical directory set into its base lists all the main areas of the building. When the button beside the name of a room or division is pressed, that area of the model lights up, showing its location in relation to the Main Concourse. (Note to faculty and students: this model can always be found near the Information Desk, and is a useful guide to the layout of the building.) Just off the Concourse, the Ridington Room display case features a photographic history of the Library from its earliest days.

At the top of the stairs in this wing is the Acquisitions Division, where visitors will see the Library's computerized book ordering system in operation. Next door, the Cataloguing Division has come up with an ingenious way of showing how newly acquired material moves into, through and out of the Division. Multicoloured cord has been used to create a three-dimensional flow chart on the ceiling, so that visitors can follow the same route the Library's books take as they are prepared for the shelves.

A stairway from Cataloguing leads down to the Government Publications Division on stack level 6. Here a colourful display features the many types and uses of micromaterials. Special readers will be set up to illustrate the variety of materials available in microform, and black-and-white prints will be produced on a reader-printer.

The south wing of the Library houses two other exhibits which should not be missed. Featured in the Map Division is a large aerial photographic survey of Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, measuring almost nine feet long by five feet wide. Just across from it is a Special Collections display entitled "A Galaxy of Gifts", which brings together some of the outstanding items given to the Library over the past forty-five years.

II. Branch Libraries.

Curriculum Laboratory.

Old and new textbooks and displays of modern teaching materials show the progress that has been made in school

libraries and their resources. There will be regular showings of films, filmstrips and slides, all featuring the modern school library.

Law Library.

Books and documents actually used in a B.C. court case illustrate its progress from the first affidavit to the final judgement in the B.C. Court of Appeal. (The case: the C.P.R. vs. B.C. Forest Products, involving workmen's compensation and the right to sue.)

Music Library.

Some valuable items from the collection of Professor Hugh McLean will be on display for Open House. Included are autograph letters by Puccini, Fauré, Elgar and Vaughan Williams, and the title page from the first English edition of Haydn's Ariana a Naxos.

Woodward Biomedical Library.

The Woodward Library will not be at its elegant best for Open House, as its Building Expansion Program is at a most untidy stage. Despite the turmoil, however, the Department of the History of Medicine and Science has arranged an interesting group of displays. The diverse interests of the Health Sciences students who set them up is indicated by the wide variety of topics. Medical students have produced exhibits on "The Evolution of Knowledge of Cancer" and "Comrade Dr. Norman Bethune". Nursing students have featured the "Red Cross" and "Florence Nightingale", and both include samples of the Library's collection of Nightingale letters. The dental students have built a graphic display around the work done by orthodontists. And finally some of the Woodward Library's finest and rarest old books will be on show.

SOME NOTEWORTHY GIFTS

Statistics released by the Gifts and Exchange Division show that the Library received over 1,800 gifts over a period of just six months, from July to December of 1969.

The new year opened with two most welcome donations. The first, a thirty-volume bound set of Fortune magazine, came to us from Dr. Lusztig, Head of the Finance Division in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. It originally belonged to the late Dr. Leslie Wong.

Shortly afterwards, Canon Thomas Bailey of the Anglican Theological College presented the Library with a valuable 15th century digest of the Bible. It was published somewhere between 1477 and 1480, and was originally attributed to Saint Boniface. However, it is now believed to have been written by a French priest, Nicolas of Hanapes. The book, entitled Biblia pauperum, will be on display in the Special Collections "Galaxy of Gifts" showcase during Open House.

B.C. LIBRARIES BEGIN SHARED CATALOGUING

In order to speed up book processing, UBC, Simon Fraser and the University of Victoria have agreed to share the cataloguing of current imprints (books dated 1968 and after). Under the old system, the libraries normally received cataloguing copy from the Library of Congress and used that copy to make up sets of cards for current books. Under the new arrangement, the three libraries will wait a maximum of six weeks for the cataloguing copy to arrive. After that, items without Library of Congress copy will be rush catalogued, with each library taking responsibility for one-third of the alphabet. Copy will then be distributed to the other libraries. In this way, current imprints should reach the shelves sooner than they have up till now.

NEW LOOK FOR RIDINGTON

Because of the high rate of loss from the open-shelf collections in the Social Sciences and Humanities Reference Divisions, the Library has had to install a turnstile at the entrance to the Ridington Room. This means that briefcases and lunches can no longer be taken into the room. A number of coin-operated steel lockers will be set up outside in the hallway so that books and belongings can be safely stored.

COMING UP: TWO OPINION SURVEYS

Sooner or later almost every student and faculty member at UBC has to search for material in the Main Library's Subject Catalogue, or search for a book or seat in the stacks. This month two survey groups will be looking into some of the problems our users encounter in these areas. Opinions and suggestions gathered during this time will help the Library decide where and how improvements can be made.

Early in March one group will begin interviewing students and faculty using the Subject Catalogue. Answers will be recorded on a special form, and later the results will be tabulated by computer. The survey group hopes to gain a better understanding of the purposes for which different groups use the Subject Catalogue and the type of arrangement which the majority of users would find most helpful.

Meanwhile, other members of the library staff will investigate attitudes to stack access and loan privileges. A questionnaire will be distributed asking for views on use of UBC's book collections by students at other institutions, and the results will do much to determine future policy.

Reports on the outcome of the two surveys will appear in later issues of the News.

READERS VS. SEATS: OTHER LIBRARIES SUFFER TOO

Faculty members and graduate students doing research abroad may find an all too familiar situation in some of Britain's best libraries. Chancellor McGavin recently received the following letter from the Secretary of the British Museum:

Dear Sir:

Every year the number of scholars coming to read in the British Museum Library increases while the amount of space available remains unaltered. Seven years ago some additional accommodation was provided for readers by opening the Periodicals Gallery, but this has long been fully taken up.

The Reading Rooms were designed to serve a smaller number of readers using a smaller number of books, and the increase in the number of those using them is bound to have adverse effects upon the service. It leads to a shortage of available space, increasing delays in the delivery of books, failure to deliver books because they have been mislaid, and delays in the personal photocopying service. The consequent inconvenience suffered by those working in the Reading Rooms is much regretted, but there is no sign that it will become less until there is a major increase in the amount of accommodation available.

Those who do not use the Reading Room throughout the year may not be aware that in the period from mid-July to the beginning of September there is a considerable increase in the number of readers, and a consequent worsening of conditions. For reasons outside their control many scholars must, we know, use the British Museum Library at this time of the year, but we should be grateful if you would circulate this letter among your academic staff in case it may be possible for some of those who want to work here to arrange their programme so as to avoid this crowded period. If, for example, they were to come in the spring and early summer, or in the autumn, they would find conditions here more comfortable and better for their work.

Yours faithfully,
B.C.P. Bridgewater
Secretary

The Bodleian is having its problems too, according to an article in the February 7th Guardian Weekly:

STANDING ROOM

Allan Bullock, Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and chairman of the Bodleian curators, spent half an hour in the corner of the Bodleian Library the other day, waiting for an empty seat.

At one point he was reproved by library staff for whispering to a research assistant, who was also waiting seatless in what is claimed to be the second best library in Britain. What price "shared facilities" as the answer to the higher education prayer?

If any of our readers have had similar experiences in other large research libraries, or found ways of avoiding this problem, we would appreciate hearing from you.

SELECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION: A PROGRESS REPORT

Rapid developments in the field of science and technology have in recent years led to an enormous increase in the number of published reports, papers, conference proceedings, journal articles and books. The effects of this so-called "publication explosion" have been felt by all scientists and engineers. Time formerly spent on research now has to be spent on keeping up with an increasing flood of research-related literature.

Librarians are very much aware of this problem, and have been looking for some means of assisting their clients in remaining up-to-date. An encouraging development in this search for an efficient "current awareness service" came last year from the National Science Library in Ottawa.

Since the spring of 1969 the National Science Library has been offering a computerized Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service on a national scale. The UBC Library's Science Division, for its part, will serve as "search editor". In other words, it will assist subscribers in the preparation of interest profiles, which are fed to a computer in Ottawa. There they are compared against magnetic tapes containing bibliographic data regarding papers recently published in some 9,000 journals. This scanning and matching of profiles takes place at regular intervals and results in selective bibliographies that are sent to subscribers on a weekly or biweekly basis. This service is available to scientists and engineers in Canada, and the basic cost for a one-year subscription (for a profile containing up to sixty terms) is $100.

From the subscriber's point of view the most difficult aspect of an SDI service is the development of his interest profile. Although this particular system is relatively simple, in that it does not require a pre-established thesaurus, subscribers must be prepared to spend some time in constructing and maintaining their profiles. The better the profile, the more relevant the resulting bibliographies will be. Experience has shown that the best profiles result from conversations between the subscriber and a librarian or information scientist who has been trained in the art of profile construction.

A few UBC faculty members are now nearing the end of their first subscription year, and on the whole they seem satisfied with the results. Readers wishing further information on the SDI program should contact Rein Brongers, Head of the Library's Science Division (local 3826).

CRANE LIBRARY NEEDS READERS

The Crane Library for the Blind has been asked to tape-record three textbooks in mechanical engineering. The books, required by a blind student for the fall semester, are:

R.W. Fitzgerald. Strength of Materials.
Zerban and Nye. Power Plants.
R. Henke. Introduction to Fluid Mechanics.

Any faculty member or graduate student who is familiar with the subject and would like to help record these texts is asked to call the Crane Library (228-2372). Material can be taped at the library, or the staff will supply tape for readers who wish to use their own tape recorders.

This advertisement was run earlier in This Week at UBC, with no results. Please think it over, and call Crane if you can help.

EASTER LIBRARY HOURS

SEDGEWICK AND WOODWARD LIBRARIES	March 27	9 a.m. – midnight
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	12 noon – midnight
	March 30	9 a.m. – midnight

MAIN LIBRARY*	Friday, March 27	9 a.m. – midnight
	Saturday, March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	Sunday, March 29	12 noon – midnight
	Monday, March 30	9 a.m. – midnight
*N.B. ASIAN STUDIES,	March 27	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS,	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
MAP DIVISION AND	March 29	CLOSED
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	March 30	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
CURRICULUM LABORATORY	March 27 – 30	CLOSED
FINE ARTS LIBRARY	March 27	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	12 noon – 6 p.m.
	March 30	9 a.m. – midnight
FORESTRY/AGRICULTURE LIBRARY	March 27	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	CLOSED
	March 30	9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
LAW LIBRARY	March 27	9 a.m. – midnight
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	10 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	March 30	9 a.m. – midnight
MATHEMATICS LIBRARY	March 27	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	CLOSED
	March 30	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
MUSIC LIBRARY	March 27	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	CLOSED
	March 30	8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
RECORD COLLECTION	March 27 – 30	CLOSED
SOCIAL WORK LIBRARY	March 27	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
	March 28	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
	March 29	CLOSED
	March 30	8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Editor: Mrs. E. de Bruijn

Information & Orientation Division