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ubc library bulletin

No. 181 September 1984

A LITTLE EXTRA EFFORT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Finding what you need in the Library usually involves a lot of mental and physical effort, and can at times be daunting, even to the most able-bodied. Imagine, then, the problems facing disabled people. Think, for instance, about aisles not quite wide enough for a wheelchair to navigate easily; about telephones that are too high; stairways that are too dark for safety; elevator doors that are too heavy to open; or a normally helpful staff member fallen prey to the "freeze syndrome" who doesn't quite know what to do. You get the picture!

A recent report by library school student Tamarah Moss outlines some of the obstacles the disabled encounter. These fall into a few basic categories: physical access, personal attitudes, and public awareness. All of us in the Library need to be aware of these barriers, as even staff who do not work at public desks are frequently asked for assistance.

The physical factors take lots of money to overcome, but the human factor can really help to offset this. So we should:

- be aware that some disabilities such as arthritis and heart problems don't show. People you assume can help themselves may need special services such as reaching a book.

- know where the elevators are. In Main Library all of our users (even the able but lazy) may use the elevator at the south end of the stacks.

- know what routes will work for wheelchairs.

- be willing to look after someone's books for a few minutes (books are hard to carry for many people).

- know the washrooms well. Are there wheelchair stalls?

- allow disabled people to use staff phones, chairs.

- know that parking permits for the disabled (so they can park right by the library) are available from Traffic & Security.

- be aware that we sometimes send books from one branch to another for disabled users (check with the branch concerned).

- be aware that the Crane Library serves only the visually handicapped.

Our attitudes make a big difference to these users (and are easier to improve than our buildings!). A new edition of the booklet "Welcome to the UBC Library: A Guide for Disabled Persons" is being distributed to all branches and divisions; spend a few minutes looking at it. Lee Ann in I&O (2076) has extra copies.

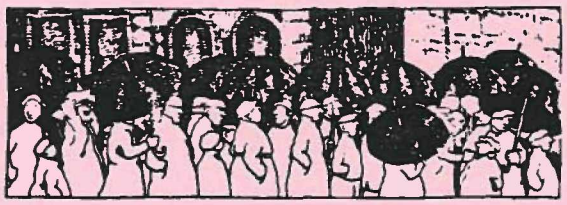
HARDWARE NEWS

The computer selected for use by the Library is an IBM 4381. Five billion characters (five gigabytes) of disc storage will be available initially, with the capacity for expansion as necessary. The machine will likely be delivered and installed at the Computing Centre by the end of October. Computing Centre staff may be able to transfer Library operations onto the equipment over the Remembrance Day weekend.

There are plans to acquire additional terminals; the improved response time provided by having our own computer will support more users. The new terminals, which should be in place by December, will be installed in branches and divisions which don't yet have terminals. Older equipment currently in use will be replaced, and other locations requiring increased support for processing and service needs will get additional terminals. No new services are contemplated; "survival" is the theme.

SHORTER DAYS OF WINTER

In case you haven't yet heard, most libraries are open fewer hours during this Winter Session than last, because of the reduction in the Library's budget. If you favor late-night foraging in the stacks, be warned that Main, Woodward, and Law will close at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday (instead of 11 p.m.). Weekend hours have been reduced as well, and other branches have taken similar cuts. Sedgewick's schedule remains intact (open until 11 p.m. every evening), although late Saturday hours don't start there until October 13.



UPDATE: CONSUMER WARFARE/SHIFTWORK

The campaign to stop eating and drinking in library stacks and study areas is gearing up. The Committee to Control the Consumption of Food within the Libraries (ComConConFoo?) has designed four different flyers which will be left at study spaces, from September 19th through October 10th. Extra copies of the flyers are available from I&O (2076), as are enlargements which are suitable for posting (and framing?).

So where will all the banished consumers gather to eat? What was the staff lounge in Main is now open to the public. The sofas and kitchen equipment are gone, and vending machines have been installed.

Staff who don't mind sharing quarters with the public can of course still use the lounge. Those who prefer privacy will be able to go to a temporary staff space, Room 860, at the head of the stairs to Special Collections, which will be outfitted with the old lounge's furniture. Smoking is not allowed there because the ventilation system can't handle it. Those Main Library staff who prefer to do so, may use the staff room in Sedgewick (10 minutes additional time for travel permitted per break) until room 730, currently occupied by Gifts and Exchanges, is made into a permanent staff lounge. G&E is waiting to move to the old Asian Studies space, which may not happen for a few months yet.

MAIN LIBRARY STORAGE PROJECT

Staff in the Main Library Circulation Division have been working since June of this year on a huge project to move 60,000 volumes from the stacks into storage. There is no more shelf space for incoming material; the move should free enough shelves for three to four years' worth of new books.

The project, which has been organized in order to make subsequent moves easier to manage, consists of a number of time-consuming steps, including: selecting the items to be moved (books and periodicals that haven't circulated in the last ten years); keying to update the Storage fiche; putting a storage location label on each book, to name a few. All books should be in storage by the end of the year, although the attendant processing will go on into 1985. And when that's all done, the remaining collections in the affected call number ranges (AP to AZ, J, A to E, U, V and Z) will have to be re-distributed in the stacks; that could take upwards of 2000 hours.

"E. P."

Jenny Forbes of the Collections Division attended a conference on book and serial acquisitions earlier this year in Charleston, South Carolina, and offers some comments on Electronic Publishing:

"Some priceless materials which may not be available in the future are being recorded on video discs and tapes - for example, opera and theatre performances, documentaries from World War II, films made in Germany during the Nazi period. But bookdealers have little experience in this field and are not inclined to keep librarians informed. Just as in the 1960s librarians had to travel to Europe to find important retrospective printed materials, in the 1980s we have to go there for videodiscs. The British in particular are noted for the quality and reasonable prices of their discs.

The development of electronic publishing will make it possible for out-of-print titles to be stored in a computer file, and for copies to be produced as required. An entire publisher's imprint line could be stored and produced on demand.

The circulation and storage of discs and tapes has proved troublesome (fingerprints and warping, for instance); one speaker advocated the purchase of two copies--one to be retained as an archival copy."

But what if a library can't afford even one?

RIGHT TO COPYCOPYCOPYCOPY...

A new Library committee, the Copyright Committee, chaired by Erik de Bruijn, has been established to develop an interim Library policy on the reproduction of copyrighted material. The Committee has eight members, representing divisions and branches heavily involved in interlibrary loans, course reserves and copying, and will make its recommendations to Doug McInnes. The group has yet to meet; look for news of their deliberations later in the year.

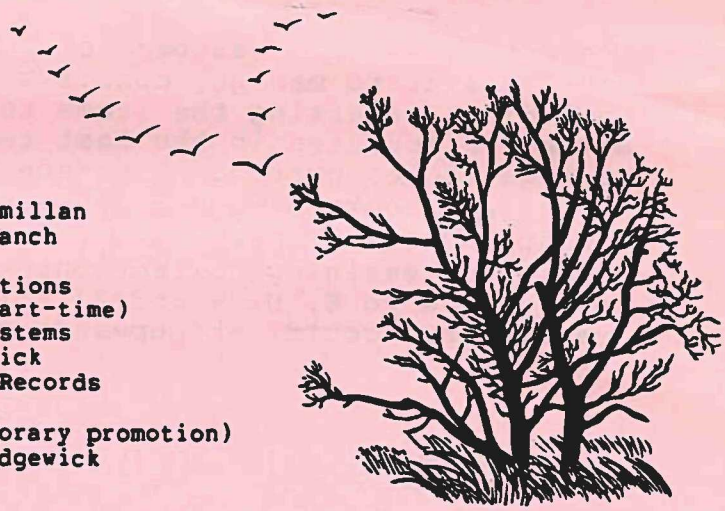
INS AND OUTS OF I&O

Jocelyn Foster is on leave from I&O, studying Information Science at the University of Toronto. She returns, scientifically informed, in July 1985. Rhonda Nicholls, who is Extension Librarian for 20 hours/week, is filling in for Jocelyn for 15 hours/week. She's spending that time working at the Information Desk, conducting library orientation and instruction sessions, organizing Library displays, and dealing with Main Library "Feedback" inquiries.

STAFF MIGRATIONS

HELLOS
Gary Lum, LA1 Main Circulation
Rick Wadland, LA1 Woodward (recall)
Rachel Mines, LA1 Biomedical Branch
Jon Vogt, LA1 Woodward
Ruyun Tan, Sec. 2 Sedgewick
Louise Archibald, LA3 Fine Arts (recall)
Leonora Crema, LA1 Main Circulation
Laurie Marchand, LA1 Hamber (recall)
Pamela Niblock, LA1 Woodward
Brian Russell, LA1 Macmillan
Lynn Jenkinson, LA1 Curric. Lab (recall)
Susan McNeil, LA1 Special Collections

GOODBYES
Ingrid Friesen, LA1 Woodward
Charlene Playne, Sec. 2, Systems
Carole Wisdom, LA3 Fine Arts
Duane Lawrence, LA1 Macmillan
Simon Birch, LA1 Main Circulation
Paul Atkinson, LA1 Main Circulation



CHANGES
Andrea Heyrman, from LA1 Biomedical Branch to LA2 Macmillan
Carol Linney, from LA1 Sedgewick to LA2 Biomedical Branch
Philip Hall, from LA1 Hamber to LA2 Map Reference
Kathy Chu, from KPO Catalogue Products to LA2 Acquisitions
Mignon Smienk, from LA1 Fine Arts to LA2 Sedgewick (part-time)
Patricia Baron, from LA2 Main Circulation to Sec.2 Systems
Susan Cumming, from LA1 sessional to full-time Sedgewick
Scott MacKenzie, from LA1 Fine Arts to LA1 Catalogue Records (temporary)
Raymond Wong, from LA1 to LA2 Catalogue Records (temporary promotion)
Barbara Burton, from LA1 Catalogue Products to LA1 Sedgewick (part-time)

REEL LIFE

The Film Library, located on the third floor of the Library Processing Centre, will soon become a cataloguing location. Motion pictures and videotapes will not be processed by LPC staff (the Film Library has its own catalogue of that material), but any books in their reference collection will appear in the microcatalogue (it's a small collection).

ETCETERATA

KEY ISSUES: Effective Sept. 1, the key deposit fee for students was increased to $10.00. The fee for staff and faculty remains $1.00. Replacement of lost keys costs $5.00.

ESSENTIAL DISSEMINATION: The Library's newsletter to faculty (called, appropriately enough, "Library News") is distributed to Librarians. Please make sure support staff see it as well.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGES: The Canadian Association for Information Science presents a talk by Dr. Paul Gilmore of the UBC Dept. of Computer Science on his work with electronic message systems, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17, Conference Room, B.C. Research, 3650 Wesbrook Mall.

BCLA WORKSHOPS: A programme of continuing education workshops replaces the traditional BCLA fall conference this year. Three workshops will be held concurrently in Vancouver, on October 26 and 27--Packaged or Patched: Microcomputer Software Overview; Managing Change: Introducing Change and Work Reorganization Effectively; Discipline, Grievance and Arbitration Workshop. As well, a puppetry workshop will be given in Nanaimo by Nancy Renfro on October 22. Deadline for registration is October 15; forms available from Margaret Friesen (4430).

COMPUTER COURSES: The Computing Centre is offering a series of free non-credit courses this fall, intended primarily for campus people planning to use Centre facilities. Check the course list posted on the I&O bulletin board, or call the Computing Centre at 6611.

UPWARD MOBILITY

York University Libraries: Associate Director; Map Librarian
University of Toronto, Faculty of Library and Information Science: Assistant Librarian, Cataloguing
University of Manitoba Libraries: Head, Architecture/ Fine Arts Library
University of Calgary Libraries: Librarian, Environment- Science-Technology Library
University of Alberta Library: Science Cataloguer
Complete listings (including USA positions) available in Erik's office.

WANTED

Gifts and Exchanges needs:
Canadian Mathematical Bulletin, v.21, no. 4, and v.22, no. 1
Call Kris Hans (2304) if you can help.