UBC LIBRARY

BULLETIN

No. 228 May/June 1992

Ode to the Barcode

The rumour is passing
Along the dark shelves
Leaping like prairie fire
'Mongst the books themselves

The word is: replacement
Of IBM cards
The books are astonished
Their world broken, in shards

Books anxious and fearful
Pages start crumbling
Like the crackling of leaves
They all begin grumbling

'Que pasa, hombre?'
'What's happenin', dude?'
Was machst du?' 'Nicht so gut...'
'Old chaps, this is rude!'

'Oh, the impertinence
'Who gave them the right?
The old ways are better
'Gents and Ladies, let's fight!'

'But what can we do?'
To each other they said—
'I know!' piped a young voice,
'Let's pretend to be dead!'

'Bad idea,' came a growl
From one wiser and older
'They already think that–
We need something bolder!'

The IBM's began calling
At this point, 'We're afraid
You've left us out,' they accused.
'We won't be mislaid!'

'Old friends!' the books cried
'You have misunderstood–
'We mean to defend you
'And keep you for good!'

'O thank you, dear books'
The IBM's sighed in relief
'We need all your help
So we don't come to grief.'

'United!' they screamed
All together as one.
'We will not be parted,
'No, this no fun.'

'These humans–just who
Do they think they are?'
They determined right then
To reject the new bar.

Their valour was great– yes;
Of their courage, no doubt
But barcoders came
And pulled the IBM's out.

O, the pain; the misfortune
The grief and the sorrow;
For the books knew there'd be
No IBM's tomorrow

(continued over)

Ode to the Barcode (continued)

They had heard of 'wands'
They had heard of 'scanning'
They started to wonder
What the Library was planning.

'Wands?' snorted one
(a cynic, no doubt...)
'Sounds like mumbo jumbo'
He said with a pout

'O no, it's not magic'
Said one more worldly-wise
'It's just a high-tech adventure
But they'll get a surprise!'

A ponderous tome said
'What's this world coming to?
In my day I'd teach
Them a thing, maybe two'

The moment arrived:
Barcodes came with a strut
The books were all opened
And then quickly slammed shut

Each with a spanking
New barcode in place
The books were astonished
At such cheek! –at such pace!

The barcodes had attitude
O, loads of it, sir
They were new, they were rad
And they caused quite a stir.

The IBM's all
Were eventually tossed
And the book pockets, too
Knew their cause was lost

The hegemony of
The barcodes was complete
The books were all silenced
They knew they were beat

Long was the reign
Of the barcodes, I hear
They ruled the roost
So proud, without fear

Ah, but one day
In the year 2010
The books were all heard
To be whispering again:

'What did you say?'
'Why, the Library's bought
A new coding system
And it's called 'Microdot.'

But the barcodes were torn
Off the books on the spot
And they were replaced
By la nouveau Microdot!

'● '

(To be continued in 2010)

Bryan Zacharias
Circulation Division

Organizational Update

Marjorie Smith Social Work Library Closes

The Social Work Library move on April 23rd went smoothly and materials have been integrated into other branch libraries. The majority of items are in Main Library; reference and vertical file materials are located in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division; call numbers starting with 'W' are in Woodward Library; and call numbers with 'K' are in Law. Audio-visual materials, excluding 'W' call numbers, are now located in Sedgewick.

Beverley Scott is dividing her time between the Social Work Librarian's Outreach Office in the School of Social Work and the Humanities and Social Sciences Division. Social Work's library assistants have moved to other jobs: Phil Vacheresse has accepted a senior library assistant position in the Biomedical Branch and Dale Tenby has moved to a secretarial position in Family and Nutritional Sciences.

A Rose by any other Name

To the relief of all those users who wondered why they were being sent to a laboratory for books, the Curriculum Laboratory has changed its name to the Education Library. The new name is now being used in the Online Catalogue, and will be incorporated into Library publications as they are revised over the next year.

New Faces at the Information Desk

Margaret Friesen is assuming responsibility for the training, scheduling and general organization of the Main Library Information Desk. The transfer of responsibility from the Information & Orientation Division is expected to be completed by the fall.

Life Sciences Libraries Unite

The three hospital libraries, Health Sciences Network, and Woodward Library have always worked in close cooperation, so it was a natural progression to combine these areas into one administrative unit. Now called the Life Sciences Libraries, the three hospital libraries and network staff will report to Johann van Reenen, the Head of Woodward. The individual Libraries will retain their present names.

Many efficiencies and new ideas have already been implemented. Bi-weekly meetings of all the Life Sciences Librarians provide a new forum for assisting the Head in planning and developing new strategies and services for increased access to life sciences materials.

The Health Sciences Network, Woodward Interlibrary Loans unit and the Serials and Orders processing groups have moved together to form the Document Delivery and Orders Department, currently run by Margaret Price. The hospital branches and supervisors in Woodward will be assisted with personnel and related functions by Elsie de Bruijn, the Administrative Support Librarian.

Recent Acquisitions in the Special Collections and University Archives Division

Some recent acquisitions of particular interest and importance in the Division include the papers of the Barbarian Press, Mission, B.C., and addenda to existing collections of the papers of Nan Cheney.

Since 1978 the Barbarian Press has been prominent among B.C. small presses, with a large and varied output, from fine monographs, miniatures and pamphlets, to typographical oddities, broadsheets and keepsakes, to business cards, letterheads and other job work. The Barbarian Press Papers include project files, documenting the editorial and design processes involved in each major production. Other files document the activities of proprietors Jan and Crispin Elsted in book fairs and other public events, and the business end of a private press operation is reflected in extensive financial records. Also included are samples (with design files) of the job printing and ephemera. Researchers into the techniques of fine presswork and the operations of private presses will find relevant materials here. An extensive Inventory has been prepared.

Nan Cheney (1897 - 1985) was a noted landscape and portrait painter, and a friend of many artistic and literary figures in B.C., including Emily Carr, Jock Macdonald, Ethel Wilson and Dorothy Livesay. Her letters from Carr in our collection have recently been published (*Dear Nan*, UBC Press, 1990). But Cheney had also trained professionally as a medical artist, and was the first medical illustrator at UBC, 1951 - 1962: an impressive collection of 53 of her drawings still hangs in the Anatomy Building. This most recent Addendum to the Nan Cheney Papers consists on one hand of editorial papers generated during publication of the Carr letters, and on the other a large collection of her medical drawings produced throughout her career, from the early 1920s to the 1960s. A detailed Inventory and a Guide have been prepared.

Senate Library Committee

The Senate Library Committee had a busy year. Major topics reviewed by the Committee included the strategic plan, collections budget, the University Librarian's Annual Report, a report on the University Archives, a development proposal for the Data Library, overdue fine and interlibrary loan policies, library technology, the 1992/93 budget submission and planning for Phase I.

The main focus of discussion was the erosion of the Library's collections budget. In the Committee's report to Senate on April 22nd, the following motion was presented:

That Senate urge the Board of Governors to increase the Library's acquisitions budget, from the current 2.1% of of the University's operating budget, by annual increments of .1% for the next two years, beginning in 1992-93, in order to restore the budget back to its 1987-88 level of 2.3%.

It was passed unanimously by the Senate.

The Senate Library Committee's terms of reference are to advise and assist the University Librarian in: formulating library policies, allocating book funds, developing library services, informing the Library about the needs of instruction and research staff, informing the academic community about the Library, and to report to Senate on matters of policy under discussion by the Committee.

The Committee is chaired by Dr. Sherrill Grace, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts. Other members are: Dr. Laurence Bongie, Department of French, Mrs. Elaine Carty, School of Nursing, Dean John Grace, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dr. John McLean, Faculty of Forestry, Ms. Brenda Peterson, Main Library, Dr. Philip Resnick, Department of Political Science, Dr. Geoffrey Scudder, Department of Zoology, Dean Nancy Sheehan, Faculty of Education, Mr. Peter Simmons, Acting Director, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies; *Convocation Senators*: Mr. John Banfield and Ms. Nancy Woo; *Student Senators*: Mr. Stephen Mak, Ms. Catherine Rankel and Ms. Shirely Sterling; *Ex-Officio Members*: Dr. Ruth J. Patrick, University Librarian, Dr. Richard A. Spencer, Registrar, and Dr. K.D. Srivastava, Vice-President, Student & Academic Services.

Center for Research Libraries (CRL) File Now Online

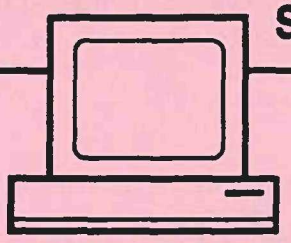
The Center for Research Libraries (CRL), of which UBC is a member, was founded in 1949 by ten major U.S. midwestern universities to strengthen their library and information resources for research and to enhance the accessibility of those resources. Today, its collection in excess of 3.5 million volumes serves 150 research libraries throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The CRL database has been loaded onto LDMS and UBCLIB (command mode). At present, the file has approximately 272,000 records. Please remember that if you do not find an item you are searching for it does not mean that CRL does not own it. CRL's holdings include:

- all printed publications of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., both monographs and serials
- archival materials in microform or other reproduction that record the activities of national governments
- doctoral dissertations submitted to institutions outside the U.S. and Canada
- foreign newspapers, selected U.S. ethnic newspapers and microform editions of general circulation U.S. newspapers
- official publications of all U.S. states and territories and their various departments and agencies
- African, East Asian materials, South Asian materials and Southeast Asian materials
- microform sets and reprint collections and much, much more....

In addition to the database, there are a number of tools one must consult in order to make the best use of these collections, of which many are not catalogued. For example, major microform sets contain thousands of titles for which bibliographic access is not apparent. The CRL Handbook attempts to describe all of the Center's collection components and to detail the parameters of various areas of focus so that patrons can request specific items. Copies of the Handbook are available in ILL, Main Library.

SYSTEMS UPDATE



As usual, lots of activities are underway. We always describe the situation in Systems as "very busy", but we have probably eclipsed that and reached a new activity level that is better described as "extremely busy." Generally, everything is progressing well and on schedule.

Rob McGee, of RMG Consultants visited the UBC Library on April 9th and 10th to assist us in reviewing progress on the various major automation activities that have been underway since last September. Many staff attended a general information session on Friday, April 10th to update everyone on the status of our automation projects. In addition, Rob McGee provided a fifteen minute summary on the state of library automation in the "rest of the world." For those who couldn't attend the session, here is a brief summary:

Barcoding/Conversion

Project staff continue to set new records in converting branches. To date, the three hospital branch libraries, Math, Education and MacMillan have been converted. Next stop is Law Library, where other library staff will also be participating in the barcoding blitz.

Circulation Workstations and Communications Network

Systems Division staff (particularly Pete Edgar) and Networking and Communication staff from the University Computing Centre are keeping one step ahead of the barcoding activity. New equipment and communications network support must be in place before one label can be applied. LAN installation at Main Library is almost completed. This is especially good news as we had major concerns about potential building infrastructure obstacles we could encounter.

Phase I Circulation System

Systems is in the midst of major design and programming activity. A lot of work has been done, but there is still lots to do during May and June. Fine Arts and MacMillan have been identified as "beta" sites for the new system in July.

OPAC Upgrade

Some very important work has been completed that will enable us to use the Library's UNIX servers as the home for the big merged file which the Public Catalogue Task Group (PCTG) is recommending be called the CATALOGUE. For more information about the new file, see the last *Bulletin*. A test version will be available shortly for Library staff to access and provide comments. Unfortunately, the plans to acquire additional OPAC workstations have been delayed until all our project funding has been confirmed and we are confident we have sufficient funds for the LAN network installations required between now and August.

STAFF NEWS

SciInfonet Librarian Hired

Kevin Lindstrom has been appointed as SciInfonet Librarian in the Science Division, Main Library. Kevin has a BSc in Physical Geography and Geology and a BA in German and Sociology from the University of Alberta and a MLS from the University of Western Ontario. His previous experience includes reference work in the Science and Technology Library and Circumpolar Institute Library at the University of Alberta. Kevin's two-year term appointment started April 21st.

Congratulations

Frances Woodward is the recipient of the 1992 Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives Honours Award ...The newest members of the University's Twenty-Five Year Club are **Janice Austin**, Education Library and **John Campbell**, Systems Division ... **Erik de Bruijn's** study *Before and after automation: cataloguing staff, productivity, and labor costs at the University of British Columbia Library* has been published as a chapter in *Advances in Library Automation and Networking*, volume 4, 1991 ... In April, **Ruth Patrick** joined Paul Mosher, Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, University of Pennsylvania, as an external reviewer at McGill University Libraries ... **Brenda Peterson** is incoming President of the Academic Women's Association, a campus organization representing women with academic, administrative and faculty appointments.

Hellos

Elizabeth Whittam, LA1, Circulation

Leigh Andrew, LA1, Woodward

Tara Ross, LA1, Circulation

Promotions

Jennifer Martin, LA2, Biomedical Branch

Transfers

Phil Vacheresse, LA4, Biomedical Branch

Goodbyes

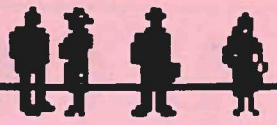
Susan Jones, LA1, Woodward

Scott Smythe, LA1, Circulation

Dale Tenby, LA1, Social Work

Patricia Meagher, LA4, Biomedical Branch

MORE NEWS



Disability Resource Centre Offering Workshops

Would you like to feel more comfortable serving patrons with disabilities? Don't know what to say/where to look/how to react? Ruth Warick and Bradford Bentley of the Disability Resource Centre will give two workshops on *Disability Information and Awareness*. Each two-hour session will focus on working with and providing services to people with disabilities.

Participants will improve their understanding of disabilities in general and will learn specific skills for comfortable and effective communication with people with disabilities in a library setting. Both public and technical services staff are encouraged to attend.

The Disability Resource Centre is pleased to be working with Library staff: students with disabilities have given Centre staff good feedback about our enhanced services, flexibility and "anything's possible" attitude. Let's make a good thing better.

Workshops will be held on Monday, May 25, 1:30-3:30 and Monday, June 22, 1:30-3:30 in Room 839 of the Library School. To register, call Peggy Ng at 2-5855.

Faculties Review Library's Strategic Plan

Since Christmas, members of the Library Administration have been meeting with Deans and other representatives of the faculties to discuss the Library's Draft Strategic Plan. To date, they have met with the Faculty of Agriculture, Applied Science, Arts, Forestry, Law, Medicine and Pharmacy. Visits to the remaining faculties and the Alma Mater Society will resume in the fall.

David Lam Library Moves into Elegant New Space

The new David Lam Management Research Centre was opened officially on April 29th. Located beside the Henry Angus Building, the five-storey Centre will house facilities for the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, including the David Lam Library. The David Lam Centre is the first of eleven new buildings going up on campus that were funded from the World of Opportunity fundraising campaign. Discussions are continuing between the Faculty of Commerce and the Library Administration about a closer affiliation between the David Lam Library with the UBC Library system.

UBC Authors' Reception Rescheduled

Due to the strike, the reception planned for UBC authors on March 10th was cancelled. The Library and President's Office have rescheduled the reception for the fall.

Editor's Note:
The last issue of the UBC Library Bulletin (No. 227 -February/March 1992) was incorrectly numbered as No. 226. We have resumed proper numbering with this issue.