

# ubc library bulletin

No. 173

October 1983

## LIBRARY FREEZES

Along with the rest of the university the Library has had to give up part of its money allocation for 1983/84. The amount should not affect services or collections seriously although the third level turnstile in the Main Stacks was closed October 1. The hiring freeze announced by Pedersen last month is continuing indefinitely and exceptions will be carefully reviewed. Any expenditure of funds that is not essential will have to be avoided. This situation is already in effect this year as the administration has not purchased any equipment nor have library divisions been able to take on extra help.

The final figure for the collections budget for this year is slightly reduced over last fiscal year, but not by enough to make a major difference. Tony Jeffreys has issued final allocations for individual book funds; in most cases these have increased slightly over the interim levels, but are still slightly below last year's level. In view of the uncertain nature of next year's funding, ordering during January, February and March will have to be carefully controlled so as not to enter the new fiscal year with too heavy a burden of outstanding orders.

And we still do not know if further cuts during the rest of the year may be necessary. The funds returned cover the situation only to the beginning of October. If the University has major unexpected expenses during the balance of the year, the Library may have to find more funds to return.

The next fiscal year, starting March 1984, is uncharted. What is clear already is that if the announced 5% cut in university funding occurs, and if the library allocation is reduced proportionately, it will be impossible to protect users from cuts in service and collections.

## PERIODICAL ACCESS SURVEY

Back in January when we noted the existence of the Committee on Periodical Access, we speculated, idly you might say, about a survey. We're not so dumb. Halloween begins a week-long survey on the accessibility of periodicals.

Each of the 15 participating public service divisions will search for randomly selected periodical issues to see whether they're on the shelf, and if not, where they are. In all 5900 items will be searched during the week by library staff.

The survey is attempting to establish if there is a correlation between journals circulating and their being unavailable or whether inaccessibility has more to do with in-library use, misshelving, etc. Depending on the results, the Committee will make recommendations for changing the library's procedures for handling journals.

off to survey periodicals





## EXTENSION LIBRARY NEEDS EXTENSION

The Committee on Library Services to Distance Education Students, established early this year, recently submitted its report on how library services to UBC students enrolled in credit courses at a distance should be improved.

At present, the Extension Library, headed by Sheila Neville and housed with the Reserve Book Collection, provides service to these students. Guided Independent Study or correspondence course students can request items on a toll-free telephone line. Students in off-campus credit courses, taught outside Vancouver by UBC instructors, have course material provided for the duration of the course.

The Committee pointed out inadequacies in the present service, including lack of liaison with the groups on campus who plan and teach distance courses and with the students who take the courses. The Committee recommended the appointment of a professional librarian to head the Extension Library, with primary responsibility for developing channels of communication with the groups involved in Distance Education and publicizing library services. They also recommended that the Extension Library continue to be a non-public unit serving all distance students, including Knowledge Network and graduate students and that all these students have toll-free telephone access to needed items and reference service.

The Library and the University Administration have been very sympathetic to the Committee's conclusions, especially about the need for a professional position. What makes any changes or appointments impossible for the moment is the hiring freeze and current financial situation of the university.

## A FURTHER EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF BCLN

During September, the last of the BCLN tests and demonstrations were done. The system is now stored off-line and the phone lines have been disconnected, pending the final decision on its future. The decision will be made on the basis of cost figures, to be revealed at the beginning of November. Earlier tests were not conclusive because they were followed by modifications to improve the system's performance. These final results will show whether the cost of cataloguing on BCLN is competitive with the present system. In more buoyant times, the superior qualities of the WLN system might have justified implementation even if it were more expensive; in these times, the system must be proven cost-effective.

In September public service staff at UBC, SFU and VCC participated in demonstrations to investigate BCLN's capability as an on-line catalogue and reference tool. These were orchestrated by Bill Pelletier. The report from these demonstrations suggested some modifications to increase BCLN's power as a searching tool, such as subject keyword, call number and exact title searching.

If the results of the latest tests are positive, further negotiations with the university and college chief librarians will attempt to solve the funding problems. If a favourable solution is reached, the contract with Bibliotechniques can be revived although the system itself may not come up immediately. Bibliotechniques will need some time to finish the enhancements requested, such as a better holdings display format, etc.



## READING ROOMS SURVEYED

The final report of the survey of the reading rooms which Ann Hutchison conducted over the summer has recently been given to the administration. It reviews the situation in light of the library's 1982 decision to cease supporting the reading rooms. Brenda Peterson, Catalogue Records, wrote the report.

With one exception, all reading rooms are planning to continue operations, and all intend to maintain catalogues using the limited cataloguing service offered by the Library. Most of them rely on the microcatalogue; 26 maintain their own card catalogues as well.

Most reading rooms allow access to all users; only 3 have a stated policy of denying access to users from outside the department. In most cases loans are not permitted.

A number of reading rooms are concerned about the possible suppression of reading rooms holdings in the microcatalogue. It is also likely that the need for the services of the reading rooms consultant (Ann Hutchison) will continue and perhaps increase as reading rooms encounter procedural problems for the first time and because of frequent turnover of both reading room personnel and faculty responsibility for the rooms.

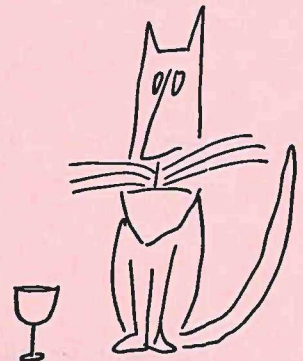
The report recommends that the library reconsider its present level of cataloguing support and the proposal to suppress holdings in the microcatalogue as not offering enough financial or staff time savings to be worth the effort. It also suggests that the reading rooms be asked in return to facilitate outside use of the collections. The reading rooms are not going to disappear, and some continuing relationship with the library is inevitable given the historical background. The library in considering its future relations with reading rooms must balance the needs of its users, the reading rooms, and the demands on processing staff and budget.

## CALORIE CONSUMPTION

A recent report by the Southern California Medical Association pointed out that proper weight control and physical fitness cannot be attained by dieting alone. Many people engaged in sedentary occupations do not realize that calories can be burned by engaging in strenuous activities that do not require physical exercise. For example:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Beating around the bush.....                                   | 75     |
| Jumping to conclusions.....                                    | 100    |
| Climbing the walls.....  | 150    |
| Swallowing your pride.....                                     | 50     |
| Passing the buck.....  | 25     |
| Throwing your weight around<br>(depending on your weight)..... | 50-300 |
| Dragging your heels.....                                       | 100    |
| Pushing your luck.....   | 250    |
| Making mountains out of molehills.....                         | 500    |
| Hitting the nail on the head.....                              | 50     |
| Wading through paperwork.....                                  | 300    |
| Bending over backwards.....                                    | 75     |
| Jumping on the bandwagon.....                                  | 200    |
| Balancing the books.....                                       | 25     |
| Running around in circles.....                                 | 350    |
| Eating crow.....   | 225    |
| Tooting your own horn.....                                     | 25     |
| Climbing the ladder of success.....                            | 750    |
| Pulling out the stoppers.....                                  | 75     |
| Adding fuel to the fire.....                                   | 150    |
| Wrapping it up at the day's end.....                           | 12     |

(Reprinted from UW Library's From the Library Office which reprinted it from the Foreign Service Medical Bulletin which reprinted ....)





## A VISIT TO ALBANIA

Alan Soroka, Law Library, was one of about only 6000 people to visit Albania this year. He writes of this isolated country:

"In August I visited the 'land of the eagles', the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, so named because of the high mountains covering two-thirds of the country and the fierce, unyielding resistance the people have offered to the many invaders of their nation. I left there very much taken by the warmth of the people and the civilized atmosphere prevailing throughout the land. The Albanians have a high political consciousness; they hold their party, the Party of Labour, and their leader, Enver Hoxha, in very high esteem.

I travelled the width and breadth of Albania in a tour organized and guided by ALBTURIST, the state tourist agency. It was an exciting visit. I'd often wake early, walk through the town where we were staying to see what was going on, or chat with the people. In one small city in an agricultural district I dropped into the public library and had a nice talk with a librarian. She showed me that their serials collection was being expanded, especially the English language scientific journals, and she was not at all surprised to hear that the opposite was taking place in Canada, a capitalist country.

The Albanians have made impressive achievements in industry, in arts, science and culture. I saw first-rank museums, archaeological digs, and modern factories. All their advances are genuine, for they have not been made by bartering away national independence. Albania has done all of this without borrowing a penny from the IMF, the World Bank, or any financial agency of the imperialist or social-imperialist powers.

I found that life in socialist Albania is flourishing. It is a proud and vigorous land, led by a revolutionary national leadership which has brought about and defends the remarkable transformation there."

## SUPPORT STAFF CHANGES

### TRANSFERS & UPS/DOWNS

Darlene Brothers, LA1, Catalogue Records

Caroline Brown, LA4, Sedgewick

### GOODBYES

Diane Berger, LA3, Wilson Recording Coll.

Fred Fitzpatrick, LA1, Woodward

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gifts and Exchanges needs:

Western Homes and Living, Aug-Sept 1950, Sept 1954, Jan 1955, Sept 1959, July 1960, Jan 1962, Jan 1965

Vancouver Free Press, v.1, n.2(1979); v.2, n.38,41,60,75 (1980)

If you can provide any of these issues, please phone Kris Hans (2304).

### Ripley's Believe It or Not...

Did you know that the eye-readable headings on the In-Process List print the second entry on each fiche, not the first one.

### "The Pedersen Exchange"

is taking place in the Librarian's Office, Main Library most Monday afternoons. Library staff (and other university people) can talk with President George Pedersen about matters of university concern. A sign in the foyer announces he's there.

Go ahead. Don't be shy.

Public service types who occasionally knock up against IEEE conference proceedings should know that the ones appearing on the Serials system may not show our complete holdings. Sometimes individual conferences get catalogued separately and live separately. Science Division is alleged to have a file more complete than any other record you'll find in the place. Never decide that we are lacking an IEEE conference without talking to the SciDi.

## LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SKILLS INSTITUTES 1984

These institutes are week-long workshops that provide application of current management concepts to libraries and specific skills for effective library management. Sponsored by the Office of Management Studies, Association of Research Libraries, they are to be offered in March & October (Basic) and February & November (Advanced). Brochures for both the Basic and Advanced Institutes are in Erik's office.



Happy Halloween