SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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LIBRARY COLLECTIONS SPACE: A TALLY & A BLEAK PROSPECT

Bill Watson, Assistant Librarian for Physical Planning, has prepared a report bringing up to date (December, 1974) the collections space inventory begun in the "Programme for Libraries" issued in October 1973 and its December 1973 supplement on storage capacities and growth rates. The new report - copies of which are available - indicates that the Library's space problem "is a very real one, of major proportions, and one that will not be overcome easily, or quickly, or cheaply."

Below, some of the new report's main points are summarized.

ANIMAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY LIBRARY. Beyond working capacity for two years. Plans have been drawn up for transfer to a relocated temporary building which would accommodate enough additional stack space to hold the collection for a decade at the present rate of growth...Funds to cover the project have not yet been secured.

CURRICULUM LABORATORY. Will have exceeded full working capacity by the end of the year. More shelving can be erected only at the expense of readers' seats, or by rearranging the layout in such a way as to interfere with traffic in the Education Building...Alternative is to retire some of the collection to limited-access storage. A new Education Building is being planned; under the most favourable circumstances it could not be ready for occupancy before the autumn of 1977, and it is likely to take at least a year beyond that.

MARJORIE SMITH SOCIAL WORK LIBRARY. Will be out of collections space by summer, 1976. A project to renovate the library has been held in suspension since last summer, though the design is complete and funds have been reserved. If it is allowed to proceed, it will add enough space for more than seven years of growth at the present rate; if the project does not move forward, storage seems the only alternative.

MAC MILLAN FORESTRY/AGRICULTURE LIBRARY. Will run out of space in spring, 1977. Putting bookstacks in the Graduate Reading Room area would increase working capacity and accommodate growth until summer, 1980; beyond that, no solutions to MacMillan's space problems are in sight:a sizeable chunk of the collection is already in storage and seating space is, even now, less than half of what is needed.

MUSIC LIBRARY. Will have exhausted its collections space by autumn, 1977 at this year's growth rate. Any appreciable extension of the stacks would be made at the expense of seating unless the library were able to expand into additional space.

MATHEMATICS LIBRARY. Can accommodate normal growth until the end of 1977. Again, additional shelves would displace seats unless extra space could be obtained.

CRANE LIBRARY. Will outgrow available space early in 1978. If some contiguous space in Brock Hall North, now Arts Faculty offices, could be incorporated into Crane, there would be enough stack space for almost a decade.

VGH MEDICAL BRANCH. Will run out of space in 1979, with no solution for the space problem that will face the branch then. It may be that before the problem is acute, the future of the B.C. Medical Centre will be clearer and the role of the Medical Branch Library will have been redefined in such a way that its collections can be reduced.

MAIN LIBRARY. Three years away from full working capacity. If conditions are favourable - if plans go ahead and funds are available for development and reconditioning of facilities - a timetable like this might be tried:

1975 - Relocation of Humanities offices and extension of Ridington Room shelf space. Time gained: 16 months.
Relocation of Anthropology Museum and Fine Arts Gallery, and extension of Fine Arts and general stacks. Time gained: 43 months.

1976 - Relocation of Asian Studies Library to new Asian Centre and extension of general stacks. Time gained: 38 months.
Extension of Special Collections into Rooms 860, 861, and 863. Time gained: 43 months.
Relocation of Map Division, perhaps uniting the collection with the Geography Department collection, and using the space for shelving and readers' tables. Time gained: 11 months.

1977 - Relocation of Processing Divisions to new building, moving Government Publications/Microforms upstairs, and expanding the general stacks on Floor 6. Time gained: 36 months.

1978 - Relocation of materials to new Education Library. Time gained: 7 months.

The total effect of this timetable would be a gain of up to twelve years in the life of the Main Library at a cost of somewhere between $225,000 and $275,000, a large part of which would be spent on metal shelving.

If anyone has further thoughts or bright ideas on space-saving in the Library, Bill Watson would be glad to hear them.

NEW PERIODICALS ORDERING POLICY

From the Bibliography Division comes word that the 'Quid pro Quo' periodicals programme - whereby new subscription requisitions have had to be accompanied by titles to be cancelled - is being suspended for the calendar year 1975. Bert Hamilton, head of the Division, advises those divisions which have developed a surplus credit to keep a record of the amount; "If the Periodicals funding rises sharply again," he adds, "the 'Quid pro Quo' programme will be reinstituted."

ABEL AND US

When the bankruptcy of the Richard Abel Company was announced on January 6th, the news was received by North American libraries with regret and concern: regret that this major supplier and leader in library technical development had succumbed, and concern for the commitments that would consequently remain unfulfilled. The Richard Abel Company was a corporate giant, offering not only the usual services of a book jobber but also extensive computer-based catalogue support services.

The announcement of bankruptcy was the final event in a series of financial difficulties experienced by the company over the past year. In November, Abel announced that it was being acquired by the Follett Corporation; in December, Follett withdrew. At Xmas, we heard that B.H. Blackwell,Ltd., of Oxford, England, was considering acquisition of the company; then, on January 5th, Blackwell too decided against taking over the business. The next day, the bankruptcy was announced.

U.B.C. found itself in a better position than many libraries when the crunch came. We had cancelled our Abel blanket order and catalogue card order programs two years ago, and had already begun in a small way to transfer our standing orders to other suppliers. Abel's demise left us with only firm orders and approximately 1000 standing orders to relocate. The transfer of all the firm orders and most of the standing orders has now been completed, with considerable help from the computer in preparing new order forms and updating records.

Abel's place in the North American library book market did not remain empty for long. On January 20th, the following statement was released by B.H. Blackwell, Ltd.: "Blackwell's and Richard Abel are glad to announce the formation of Blackwell's North America, a company which aims to preserve and develop the contribution to library services of Richard Abel..."

NEW LAW LIBRARY

The new Law Library opened its doors on January 15th, the first phase of a total law complex to be completed later this spring. Designed to serve a resident student enrolment of 700, the three-floor building has a capacity for 150,000 volumes and over 50% more seating than the old library - it's a welcome change after many years in cramped and inadequate quarters.

With the teaching programme already in session after the Christmas break, moving the unorganized collection with the least possible disruption - and in correct sequence - was a challenging and complicated manoeuvre, but the exercise was successfully completed in five days. In all, 35 people performed the transfer of 85,000 volumes on a fleet of book trucks loaned by various library divisions. Somehow the circulation staff managed to serve library users for all but two days despite the obvious chaos.

Planning for the expanded law facility actually began in 1968, and during the intervening years the major parts of the collection were catalogued and a classification scheme adopted. As a result, the U.B.C. Law Library is one of the few in Canada to be completely catalogued. It is presumably the only one in the world with a poured concrete circulation counter!

What has happened to the old Law Library you knew and loved? It is being redesigned to contain classrooms, lounges, and student offices. And it still enjoys one of the best views of Georgia Strait...the only aspect of our former quarters the library staff misses.

OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE, PART II, READING ROOMS

Sheila Porter, now in the Information & Orientation Division, formerly in Reading Rooms, introduces this issue's feature:

Before actually working in a reading room, I had no idea, apart from a vague mental picture, what the function or purpose of a reading room was. I pictured it as a large study area tucked away in the Main Library; where, I couldn't imagine. And I thought it was rather odd that Library Assistants would work there - what could they possibly do all day? To my amazement, I found I was all wrong; a reading room is not just a study area, and there is not one but 42 reading rooms situated in departments throughout campus.

Reading rooms are basically small departmental libraries, serving mainly fourth year and graduate students, and faculty. They have collections of varying sizes and, to a great extent, their holdings are duplicated in Main and Woodward; holdings are included in the Main Library location file. Each reading room has a faculty representative who submits acquisitions requests to Nick Omelusik, the head of the Reading Rooms Division, for approval and ordering. Reading rooms' acquisitions are paid for out of Library funds and, in the case of all Arts reading rooms, there is additional subsidy from a Dean of Arts fund.

Many reading rooms have full-time attendants whose job categories range from Clerk II to LA III. Job vacancies are posted with UBC Personnel; they screen applicants first. Suitable people are then interviewed by the head of the Reading Rooms Division, and then by the department head concerned; the department head makes the final decision after recommendations from the Reading Rooms head.

Reading room attendants are directly responsible to the department they work for, but they are advised by Library Assistants in the Main Library Reading Rooms Division. Any problems that come up regarding the functioning of the reading rooms are referred to their supervisors. All reading rooms which do not have full-time attendants are serviced by the Reading Rooms Division staff of three LA IV's and three LA II's. Most reading rooms without full-time staff are "key access" only; graduate students and faculty of the department concerned are issued keys upon request; others not associated with the department must ask at the Reading Rooms Division office for permission to use the material.

Below are some reading room attendants' thoughts on their jobs:

Pat Higgins, of the Applied Science Reading Room, writes:

The Applied Science Reading Room has a large study area which is well-used by undergraduates. There is a high rate of circulation, especially for the books which have been placed on one-day reserve and which are supplementary reading for specific courses. The students who use the Reading Room most often for reference purposes are in fourth-year Engineering; I've asked a few of them what they think of the collection and they seem to find it adequate and reasonably up-to-date.

I enjoy working in the Reading Room because I'm on my own, and thus benefit from lack of supervision. And the work routine is flexible. And one usually gets to know, at least by name, the people who use the collection.

Shirley Gawne, of the Metallurgy Reading Room, writes:

I enjoy my Reading Room and find it a very rewarding and comfortable situation to be in. Like a young adult who has moved only a gradual three or four blocks in a first attempt at leaving home, the Reading Room has all the advantages of being semi-independent; while knowing that there is a higher authority close by to turn to for help and guidance whenever the need arises.

Because the Reading Room is a small specialized collection, I have become acquainted with both the collection and its users. As well as being familiar with the collection, I get exposure to all aspects of library work, which is an important asset to have. I look upon myself and the Reading Room as being primarily 'ready reference', and I need to know without hesitation where the answer to a request is located in the Reading Room or what the next step in the process is when an answer cannot be found within the collection.

I never feel isolated from Main because there is always contact, be it by phone, mail, or in person. There is, throughout any given day, a great deal of contact with various divisions of the Main Library...so much so that I sometimes feel better informed than a person working in just one individual division at Main.

Jo Carney, of the Economics/History Reading Room, writes:

The Economics/History Reading Room is situated on the 10th floor of the Buchanan Tower and on a clear day there is a breath-taking view of Vancouver Island which blows away any cobwebs that may be around.

The Reading Room is used by faculty members and graduate students from both departments, but the vast majority of users are from the Economics Department. I have been working here full-time for almost two years and find this the most congenial and satisfying job I have had in Canada. Before coming to Vancouver, I worked in a high school library in Edmonton so I really appreciate the peace and quiet of the Reading Room. The atmosphere at the high school was chaotic; here it is pleasant and friendly.

During my two years here I have become very familiar with the collection and so can be a help with most inquiries related to it. The economics graduate reading lists are one of my major tasks - in January and September. All the books and journals must be put on reserve. The students get these lists at about the same time as I do, so we all run around like mad-hatters...they try to get them out on two-week loan before I have time to put them on reserve...it can be a lot of fun. Many of the references are not available here so I get enormous help from the Reserve Book Room and Library Delivery. The telephone is my lifeline with the Main Library.

My Reading Rooms Division supervisor, Leona Polonich, is my only source of information about Main Library happenings; apart from that, I would have no idea what goes on there. I am very grateful to her for her help and advice.

Mariyal Alibhai, of the Geography Reading Room, writes:

Having worked in a professional capacity prior to taking up the position of attendant of the Geography Reading Room, it was not long before the realities of the work situation became apparent. In essence, the Main Library (totally unknown to me, beyond the one or, stretching it, two people in the Reading Rooms Division) prepares the cake and one eats it. The implications of this problem are probably situational and peculiar to this particular case, but there is no denying the existence of a strong bureaucracy.

Over the years, staffing has been erratic and the handling of the substantial assortment of uncatalogued but relevant material has been rudimentary. With the situation as it now stands, filtration through the regular channels is called for and the corollary limitations need no elucidation.

From a more positive angle, the basic function of the Geography Reading Room has been that of providing a more personalized and coherent library service to the student body, affording them a sense of identity at departmental level. Despite limitations, this has been and is being facilitated with the existence of the Reading Room, having broken down

the barriers of scale. Due to the lack of material over and above the existing core collection, the librarian's function stand merely at that of being a preliminary catalyst.

The pros and cons of working in a Reading Room as against being in a typical library system probably balances out if brought under scrutiny. Much depends upon the individual, but a total lack of communication accounts for most of the grievances.

Jenko Lukac, of the Physics Reading Room, writes:

"It's hard for such a little tail to wag such a big dog," prophesied a librarian friend when I started working in the Physics Reading Room. A most appropriate remark, I have learned - I, being a graduate student in Physics fulfilling my teaching assistantship duty by attending to the reading room two hours each day.

From this vantage point, as a new and temporary library worker, I am able, with immunity, to observe the system from the sidelines, while infusing my job with the idealism of a long-time library user. The frustrations which result would make a much too long, tiresome list, yet each one forms the seed of a challenge, the core of an opportunity. Maybe it's the sight of a solvable chaos that has enticed me into becoming a librarian myself [Jenko intends to go to library school next fall, ed.'s note]. After all, something ought to be done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COLBECK COLLECTION

The Colbeck Collection of 19th century English literature has now been moved to the Special Collections Division on the 8th floor of the Main Library. Materials and information can be obtained in the Special Collections Division at locals 2521 or 4879; Joan Selby, Colbeck Librarian, can be reached at either number.

Meanwhile, the space vacated by the Colbeck Collection, in the mezzanine above the Ridington Room, is to be used for new Humanities Division offices; the old HD office area will be filled with shelves to allow expansion of the reference collection.

RETIRED REFERENCE BOOKS

The following reference book have been superseded and are no longer wanted by the division which had them up to this point. If you would like them transferred to your branch or division, contact Gifts & Exchanges (2607).

NATIONAL UNION CATALOG, 1968-1971 (complete except for v. 2, 1970)

CHINA MAIL

Graham Elliston's sent along a clipping from the February 12th Sun in which the Post Office announces that mail addressed to "China", "Nationalist China", or other such variations won't get across the Pacific. Only two forms of address are acceptable - for the mainland: "The People's Republic of China"; for Nationalist China: "Taiwan" or "Formosa".

WORKSHOP ON LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED

"Printed words are not enough..." is the theme of a workshop to be presented by Crane Librarian Paul Thiele and Alice Simpson of the B.C. Library Development Commission at this year's Canadian Library Association conference in Toronto. The workshop, scheduled for June 17th, is part of the conference theme of continuing education for library personnel, and it will introduce the concepts of library service and collections in the areas of talking books, braille, and enlarged type.

RUSSIAN IMPERIAL HISTORY DISPLAY

Starting this week, books from the N.M. Yakovleff Collection will be exhibited in the Main Library. The Yakovleff gift is particularly rich in rare Russian compilations of portraits, heraldry and genealogy, and historical publications of the 18th century. Portrait sources are being shown in the main display case near the Ridington Room; heraldry, 18th century books, and genealogical sources in the entrance way to Special Collections.

LIBRARIANS' OMBUDSMAN COMMITTEE

The results of the recent election for this new committee are as follows: Newly elected members: Barbara Gibson, Woodward; Matthew Hartman, Original Cataloguing; Julie Stevens, Humanities Division. Carry-over member: Diana Kent, Woodward. The Committee is now open for business; librarians can contact any of the Committee members.

NEW APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS, & RESIGNATIONS

(December 1 - March 1)

NEW APPOINTMENTS

J. Caple	L.A.I	Circulation
W. Davidson	L.A.I	Woodward Library
K. Dobie	L.A.I	Sedgewick Library
E. Downey	L.A.I	Copy Services (Circ.)
L. Falconer	P/A II	Systems
C. Hamill	L.A.I	Law Library
A. Harris	L.A.I	Law Library
S. Herity	L.A.III	Sedgewick Library
R. Jordon	L.A.III	Music Library
C. Loyd	L.A.II	Social Work Library
J. Pyrch	Librarian	Sedgewick Library
M. Reynolds	Sec.I	Administration
J. Tsai	L.A.III	Asian Studies
F. Vaini	L.A.I	Curric Lab.
L. Whittingham	Sec.II	Woodward Library
L. Burton	L.A.I	Circulation

RESIGNATIONS CONTINUED

S. Spalding	L.A.II	Sedgewick Library
U. Walsh	L.A.I	Cat. Preparations
E. Guilfoyle	L.A.III	Sedgewick Library
S. Criddle	Librarian	Sedgewick Library

PROMOTIONS

M. Oliver	L.A.I Woodward to L.A.II Woodward	
J. Sandilands	Librarian in Humanities to Head Librarian in Information & Orientation Services Div.	

TRANSFERS

P. Kirman	L.A.IV Original Cataloguing to L.A.IV L.C. Cat.
S. Rathi	L.A.III Circulation to L.A.III Sedgewick
J. Forbes	Librarian in Humanities to Librarian in Sedgewick
H. Redding	Librarian in Sedgewick to Librarian in Humanities
J. Stevens	Librarian in Sedgewick to Librarian in Humanities

RESIGNATIONS

L. Bajensen	L.A.IV	Woodward Library/I.L.L.
R. Bowland	L.A.III	Sedgewick Library
A. Kemblin	L.A.I	Circulation
M. Knight	L.A.III	L.C. Cat/Searching
L. MacIver	Admin. Assist. I	Administration
I. Mackenzie	St.Att.	Sedgewick Library
L. O'Brien	L.A.I	Curric Lab
V. Osland	Sec.II	Woodward Library
B. Plumner	L.A.I	Sedgewick Library