

# *ubc library bulletin*

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## **More OPAC's and Improved Response Time on the Way**

Balancing the growing demand for online access by Library staff and users with our present resources (both computer and monetary) is an ongoing challenge. The more computer terminals we install, the greater the demand. Although the Library has installed more network ports and acquired more terminals, this equipment cannot be fully utilized because, as everyone knows, the system response time has recently deteriorated during peak periods to an unacceptable level.

Why has the response time deteriorated? It is the result of an increased load on the system. Because the number of terminals has not increased and the system has not been changed significantly, it appears that the system is simply being used more heavily. The OPAC's and other users from non-library locations do not put much of an additional load on the system and we have a protective mechanism in place to prevent outsiders from signing on if the response time reaches 3 seconds (this limit can be changed). During peak periods, the total number of users is about 90 to 110 of whom usually only 10 to 15 are faculty and student users, mainly using UBCLIB. Response time begins to degrade seriously when the number reaches beyond 90 users.

So what is Systems doing to correct this situation? The Library plans to spend about \$200,000 to expand our computer facilities. Systems is currently working with the University Computing Services (UCS—the new name for the Computing Centre) to determine the best way to spend this money. New developments in software and hardware give the Library more choices for expansion and more risks, creating an increasingly difficult and complex decision-making process. Options include expanding the Library's IBM 4381 computer, moving to the new 'super micro' class of computer which appears to offer much better price performance than the traditional 'mainframe' computer, or a combination of both. A decision should be made within the next few months. The expansion will definitely improve response time.

Because the OPAC's do not contribute significantly to the load on the system, the Library Administration has decided to go ahead with some new OPAC installations. Eleven new terminals are or will shortly be installed in the following locations: Main concourse (3), Woodward (2), Sedgewick (2), Curric Lab (1), Music (1), Social Work (1) and Crane (1). One or two staff terminals may also be considered to deal with critical situations. Any additional terminal installations must wait until the response time improves.

The growth pattern for library online systems is expected to continue. More staff terminals, OPAC's, microcomputer workstations, databases (e.g. index/abstract files) as well as a new circulation system and other services (e.g. printing facilities) will require more computing capacity and careful planning to avoid recurring response time problems. Setting priorities for new online developments and matching our computer equipment requirements with expanding use and available capital funding should speed up the juggling act for Systems for some time to come.





## **University Librarian Update**



It appears that we will not have a new University Librarian under this year's Christmas tree. The position has been re-advertised. The deadline for applications is January 31st, 1990. The Search Committee will meet shortly after that date to review the applications and interview a short list of candidates.

## **New Task Group Formed**

The Task Group on Commercially Produced Bibliographic Databases has been formed to work with the Systems Division in developing software for searching outside bibliographic databases through LDMS. The immediate focus of the Task Group is to provide access to the ERIC and PsycINFO databases but consideration is also being given to the requirements of other databases which the Library may acquire.

A report to the Library Administration should be available by the end of November. Once the computer databases are loaded and the software is in place, ERIC and PsycINFO will be made available for reference staff to test the software and make suggestions for changes and enhancements. This test period will also allow Systems to assess the impact on system response time.

Members of the Task Group are Jane Price (Chair), Lynn Copeland, Pia Christensen, Howard Hurt, Mary Mitchell, Keith Bunnell and Julie Stevens.

## **ILL Workstation to be Developed at UBC**

The B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education and Job training has given \$400,000 to SFU, UVic and UBC for library development for the new provincial university/college programme. UBC will use part of its two-year grant to hire a librarian to develop, design, and implement an interlibrary loan workstation in collaboration with the Systems Division at UBC, and purchase computer equipment for the project.

The purpose of the ILL workstation is to be able to manage a number of ILL tasks with one software programme. Tasks include transferring data from a database into an ILL workform to create an in-process file of requests or entering data not found in a database, changing the status of the request as each step of the ILL process is completed (at the borrowing and lending site), communicating the request to the appropriate site by the most suitable method, providing a circulation record for material that needs to be returned, and transferring data from several directory files (borrower, borrowing library, lending library, etc.) to workforms and reports. In addition, the programme will have the capability to generate invoices, a variety of reports, and management information statistics.

The software will be tested by interlibrary loan staff at UBC and the university/colleges—Cariboo, Okanagan and, possibly, Malaspina College.



## Omnicat Committee Winds Up

The Public Services Task Group on Online Database Development held two meetings at the beginning of October to receive staff reactions to their Draft Report. The Task Group, chaired by Julie Stevens and Jocelyn Godolphin, was to make recommendations for development of the Library's online public databases.

The meetings were well-attended, and the feedback received was generally very positive. The most frequent question was: "When will it all happen?"

The major hesitation was with the recommendation that a comprehensive keyword index should be the default index and first point of entry to the catalogue. Many staff were concerned about the potentially large search results, were unsure about whether keyword searching in a large library catalogue could be efficient, and feared that users with specific searches would not be well-served. Staff also had questions about how recommendations would be implemented and urged consultation with staff members directly affected by particular aspects of the report, when systems work proceeds.

The Task Group has made changes to the recommendations to reflect these concerns and the Final Report will be distributed soon. The Group hopes the Report can be distributed more widely to encourage input from many other Library users.

The next step is the establishment of a "small, broadly representative" committee on public service computing needs (the first recommendation of the Task Group). This is in the hands of the Library Administration and is expected to proceed quickly.



## Mending the Wounded

Over the past month Suzanne Dodson, Acting Preservation Librarian, organized two preservation sessions for Library staff. On October 19th and 20th, seventeen people from fifteen different branches and divisions attended a two-day workshop on conservation of library collections. Given by Dorothy Lawson, a Fine-Arts Conservator, the workshop covered such topics as the proper environments for preservation, handling of materials, reversible mending techniques and mending in general. Participants learned how to do simple mends using Japanese paper and reversible glues, encapsulate fragile items, flatten materials which have become badly folded or crushed and remove most types of adhesive tapes. Staff attending this workshop can now repair tears, replace missing pieces of a page and re-attach covers which have come loose. Suzanne is ordering supplies they will need to do these simple repairs.

Randy Silverman, Preservation Librarian from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah gave two presentations on October 30th and 31st. In the first, he spoke to Library staff about the benefits of an in-house mending programme and a non-destructive book return, which is being built in his library. The second presentation, given as part of the Library School's Colloquium Series, dealt with the preservation of the book as an object. He traced the history of the book, from cuneiform tablets to the present day. He showed slides of different types of bindings over the ages, from hand-lettered manuscripts to mass production. He pleaded the case for the preservation of original cloth bindings, many of which are whacked off and replaced by the utilitarian but basically ugly library bindings we presently use.



## **SYSTEMS UPDATE**

### **COMBO Search Removed from UBCLIB and LDMS**

After receiving several reports of unintentional truncated searches (e.g. s?) which can tie up a terminal for over half an hour, Systems decided to remove COMBO from both UBCLIB and LDMS. The problems occurred because COMBO automatically truncates all terms, including single letters. This type of search not only ties up the terminal, it also puts a heavy load on the system, something we cannot afford with our current response time problems.

### **User Interface Project**

During the past month, Jocelyn Godolphin and Brenda Peterson have been working with Systems to test the new user interface. The interface was set up on a microcomputer in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division to allow them to evaluate the software. They have identified a number of bugs and recommended several design changes before the prototype is put into use on reference desks. Lynn Copeland has also given the Branch Heads a demonstration of the interface.

### **Display Tip**

The online system currently displays records in the order in which they were input. As a result, new materials are always at the end of a display. If you have a fairly large hit list and know that the item you are searching for is new, it is possible to display the records in reverse order. For example:

*19 items selected as RESULT 1*

*Do you want to see them? 19-1*

To see the same records in the medium format type 19-1 again.



**Hans Burndorfer**, Head of the Music Library and Fine Arts Library, will be away from December 1 to June 30, 1990. He is taking five months study leave and two months vacation and long service leave. During his study leave he will be working in Fine Arts and Music libraries in Vienna. While he is away, **Kirsten Walsh** will be Acting Head of the Music Library and **Nick Omelusik**, Head of Catalogue Products Division, will be Acting Head of the Fine Arts Library.

**Margaret Friesen**, Head of the Interlibrary Loans Division, has been named as Acting Head of the Science Division until a permanent head is appointed. **Helen Chow** has been hired on a temporary basis to work half-time as a Science Reference Librarian. **Rita Penco**, who worked in the Science Division for a year, is the new librarian at the Pulp and Paper Centre on campus.

The Curriculum Laboratory has two new librarians. **Lee Ann Bryant**, who previously worked



part-time in Information & Orientation and Government Publications, has replaced **Len McIver** as Reference Librarian. Lee Ann, who has worked in the Library since 1977, has a B.A. in Sociology, M.A. in Asian Studies and M.L.S.—all from the University of California (Berkeley). **Cynthia Swoveland**, a new graduate from UBC's School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, has been hired as a temporary Reference Librarian in the Curriculum Lab. She is replacing **Jo-Anne Naslund** who is on leave of absence until June 30, 1990.

**Deborah Wilson** has been appointed for the position of half-time Reference Librarian in MacMillan Library. Deborah, who also works as a half-time Reference Librarian in the Computer Science Reading Room, obtained her B.Sc. (Zoology) from the University of Alberta and her M.L.S. from UBC.

The new librarian in Information & Orientation is **Sheryl Adam**. Sheryl, who is replacing Lee Ann Bryant, has a B.A. (Linguistics) and M.L.S. from UBC. She has been working in the Britannia Public/School Library and the UBC Centre for Continuing Education, where she designed and taught a course on library research. Sheryl starts her new job on November 27th.



Congratulations to singers **Terry Horner** (Catalogue Records Division) and **Josie Martens** (Administration Office). The chamber choir they sing in, **Phoenix**, took first place in the Contemporary Music Class of the European Broadcasting Union's International Choral Competition, as well as receiving the BBC Silver Rose Bowl for best over-all choir. Phoenix will soon have an album available on CBC Classics.

## STAFF MOVES

### Hellos

Katherine Edgar, Monitor, Sedgewick  
Naomi Miller, Monitor, Sedgewick  
William McMunnigle, Monitor, Sedgewick  
Gerald Mooney, Monitor, Sedgewick  
Wendy Ancell, LA1, Circ  
John Grant, LA1, Sedgewick  
David Jones, LA1, Circ  
Enid Turner, Monitor, Sedgewick  
Christine Dibbens, LA1, Cat Products  
Jeanette Ashley, LA1 (Sessional), Spec Coll  
Jim Harris, LA1 (Sessional), Law  
Anne Jew, LA1, Woodward  
Joanna Nagel, LA1 (Sessional), Woodward  
Shirley Sretavan, LA1 (Sessional), Curric Lab  
Mauro Vescera, LA1, Circ  
Julie Svec, LA2, Acquisitions  
Carla Arsenault, LA2, Acquisitions  
Helena Bartl, LA2 (half-time), Collections  
Thomas Jones, LA1, Sedgewick  
Janice Beley, LA2, Acquisitions  
Matthew Anderson, LA1, Sedgewick

### Promotions

Liam McConachy, Clk2, Acquisitions  
Stephanie Swan, LA2, Woodward  
Ron Turner, User Services Coordinator, Systems  
Tami McElroy, LA2, Curric Lab

### Transfers

Leslie Evans, LA1, HSSD  
Thomas Lalonde, LA1, Circ  
Sarojini Chandra, LA2, Serials  
Lorraine Lucas, LA2, Collections  
Jim Swartz, LA3, MacMillan  
Colin Chisolm, LA2, Circ

### Goodbyes

Kathleen White, LA1, Curric Lab  
Sonja Loukko, LA1, Circ  
John Burgess, LA2, Serials  
Kristine Neely, LA1, Circ  
Tannis McKillop, LA1, Circ  
Sheila Hill, LA2, Collections  
Gary Carre, LA1, Sedgewick  
Roger Quick, LA1, Sedgewick  
Bruce Broomhall, LA2, Acquisitions  
Lisa Turner, LA1, Woodward  
Meghan Popham, LA1, Cat Products





**MORE NEWS • MORE NEWS • MORE NEWS • MORE NEWS • MORE NEWS**

### **Current Contents Online in Woodward and Hamber**

The printed version of *Current Contents: Life Sciences* is a popular tool for current awareness which gives up-to-date coverage of over 1200 journals. Recent issues of *Current Contents* (minus the news items and comments featured at the beginning of the printed version) are now on diskette in Woodward and Hamber Libraries using the compact disk version of Medline on their public access microcomputers. *Current Contents* can be searched by author, title keyword, journal title, address, discipline and language. Search results can be linked using Boolean logic and a dictionary is available to help formulate search terms. Copying citations on paper or diskette is easy. For cited reference searching and searching older issues, however, librarians will still need to search the *Scisearch* database.

### **Sprucing up the Sequoia**



As part of the Lights of Learning Project to light up the central part of the campus for the 75th anniversary next year, the Sequoia tree adjacent to the Main Library will be redecorated with new Christmas lights. To focus attention on the Project, the tree will be lit up in an official ceremony on Monday, November 27th, 6:30 - 7:15pm. Organizers of the event have invited President Strangway to turn on the switch, the University Singers from the Dept. of Music to sing Christmas carols, Food Services to sell hot chocolate, and the media to publicize the event.

### **Art in the Library**

If you have walked by the large display case on the fifth floor of the Main Library recently you may have noticed some new exhibits. No, not your run-of-the-mill library exhibits. Art. From October to May, a series of works by senior sculpture students in the Department of Fine Arts will be exhibited in the case. The works are on display for about three weeks and deal with themes of the library, literature and the information explosion.

### **Discount Dining**

If you enjoy eating out, you should consider buying the new Solid Gold Coupon Book. It contains 50% off and 2 for 1 coupons for many of Vancouver's finer restaurants, along with discounts for hotels, theatre, night-clubs, sports events and many other special attractions and events. The book costs \$39. If you're interested, please contact Margaret Friesen in the Interlibrary Loan Division (228-4430). Proceeds go to the British Columbia Library Association.

### **Returneth the Book or Else . . .**

Here's something to brandish next time an irate user complains about our fine policy:

*For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change to a Serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, and all his Members be blasted, Let him languish in Pain, crying aloud for Mercy and let there be no surcease to his Agony till he sink to Dissolution. Let Book-worms gnaw his Entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his final Punishment let the Flames of Hell Consume him for ever and aye.*

—from *The Old Librarians Almanack* (1773)

Thanks to Dilma Huggett in the Law Library for sending this to the Bulletin.

### **UBC Fine Arts Gallery**

An exhibition of paintings by Mary Scott is showing in the UBC Fine Arts Gallery from November 22nd to December 22nd. Scott's work has been featured in two important exhibitions at the National Gallery in Ottawa. This is her first one-person exhibition in Vancouver. The Gallery is in the basement of the north wing of Main Library. It's open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm, and Saturday, noon to 5pm.