UBC LIBRARY

# BULLETIN

No. 248 December 1996

## Merry Christmas! Happy New Library!

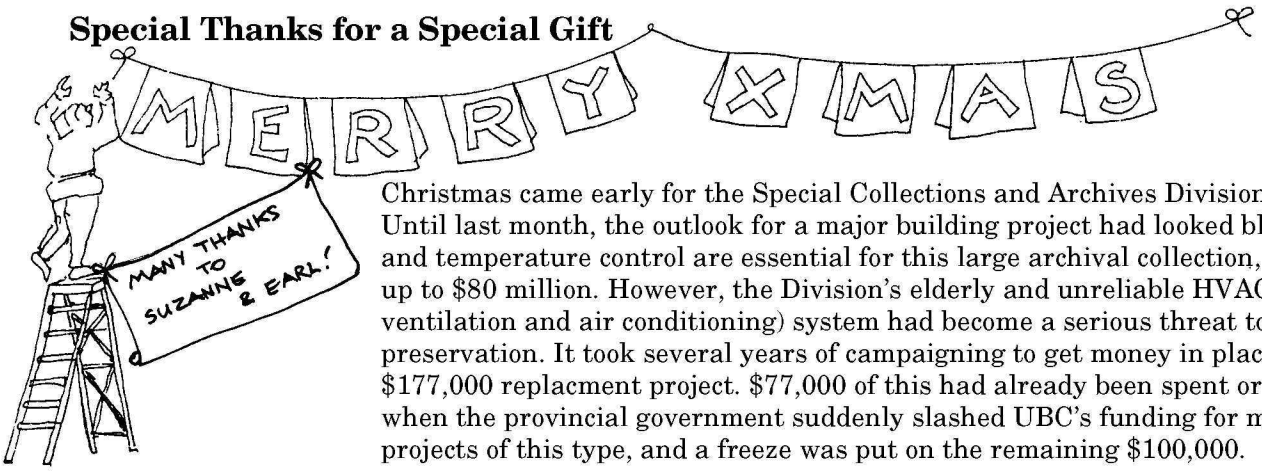
***Oh by gosh, by golly/ It's time for books upon a trolley ...*** about half a million of them, at last count. The decision is now official: on December 20 the largest mass move in the history of the library system will get underway. Teams of professional movers and Plant Operations staff will work double shifts every day but December 24-25, 31 and January 1. The aim is to transfer between 50 and 60% of the entire Main Library humanities & social sciences collection over to Koerner and reintegrate it on floors 1-2 and 4-6.

***He's making a list/ And checking it twice/ Gonna find out who's naughty or nice ...*** That would be Suzanne Dodson's super-sidekick, Doug Brigham, making sure 90 Main Library staff and all their belongings wind up settled into their new Koerner Library work areas by early January. Be nice: please finish sorting and packing before December 20, and sign up with Suzanne Dodson for a tour of the floor 1 and 2 renovations rather than dropping in unannounced. Understandably, everyone trying to complete jobs there will be under great pressure, and controlling visits is one way we can help.

***Christmas comes but once a year ...*** and this year patrons will find it a bit slow to depart. Between Christmas holiday shutdowns and service limitations due to the move, users should plan ahead if they need to use Main or Koerner during the 16-day blitz. Check the fluorescent pink handouts listing service locations and hours.

***Hallelujah!*** [Handel, *Messiah*, 1748] ... If all of the above go as planned, 1997 will see UBC with its Phase I research library up and functioning, and the balance of the Main Library staff and collections able to spread out into more useable space. So, thanks in advance to everyone who's helped to make the Koerner plans a reality, and may next year be a truly happy New Year.

## Special Thanks for a Special Gift




Christmas came early for the Special Collections and Archives Division this year. Until last month, the outlook for a major building project had looked bleak. Climate and temperature control are essential for this large archival collection, valued at up to $80 million. However, the Division's elderly and unreliable HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system had become a serious threat to preservation. It took several years of campaigning to get money in place for the $177,000 replacment project. $77,000 of this had already been spent or committed when the provincial government suddenly slashed UBC's funding for minor capital projects of this type, and a freeze was put on the remaining $100,000.

As Facilities and Preservation Manager, Suzanne Dodson had been involved with the HVAC proposal since 1994. Rather than see it fail, she and her husband Earl offered to donate half of the $100,000 needed, with the proviso that the University find matching funds. It's now official: the remaining $50,000 has recently come through, and work will start on the new system as soon as possible.

Library staff will remember that within the last two years, the Dodsons have also made it possible for the Koerner Library to install its much-needed second elevator (due next April), to expand the level 7 roof deck, and to add the lighting originally proposed for the metal "trees" that highlight the rooftop atrium. Without their support, Facilities and Preservation's award-winning preservation microfilming project would probabably never have happened. Please join Ruth Patrick and the rest of the Library administration in wishing Suzanne and Earl a particularly happy Christmas.

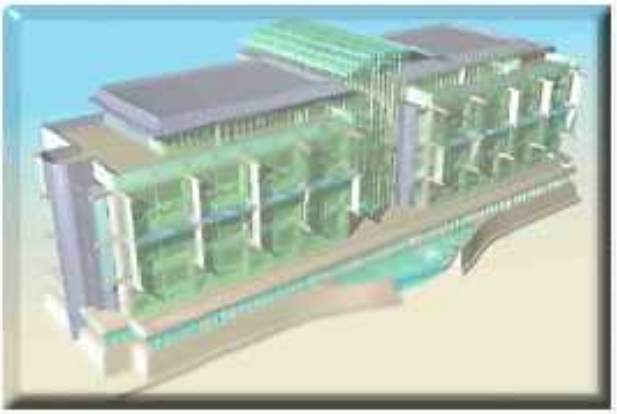
## GST Rebate Boosts Collections Funds

As of October 24, 1996, Canadian libraries will no longer be required to pay the 7% federal Goods and Services Tax on printed books, scholarly journals, and other items defined, rather narrowly, by Revenue Canada. Taken all in all, it's good news. Even though we customarily received a 67% rebate on purchases in all media for the Library's collections (in effect, paying 2.31% GST rather than the full 7%), the new enhanced rebate means we will pay no GST at all on many library acquisitions, and will continue to get the 67% rebate on the rest.

The intention of the October legislation is to promote literacy. It applies to printed books, scholarly journals acquired on a subscription basis, audio recordings of printed books, atlases (except compilations of street and road maps), and most likely music scores, although a Revenue Canada ruling may be needed there. Excluded are microforms, videos and similar A-V materials, electronic media, non-subscription journal acquisions, and any periodical with more than 5% advertising content.

Understandably, applying this to our purchasing patterns and estimating savings is a task not lightly undertaken. Ann Turner, the Library's Financial and Budget Manager, made a special effort to come up with ballpark figures in time for the December *Bulletin*. In 1995/96 we paid $164,504 in GST on collections material, including items acquired on grant, trust, departmental and reading room funds. If the 100% rebate policy had been in effect, we would have saved about $154,480 of that total overall, and $148,921 for items within our own Library operating budget. These figures look more precise than they are: they're based on the general type of material normally acquired on each book fund, and as noted above, format is everything when it comes to being exempted from GST in future or continuing to pay.

As the legislation was announced seven months into our fiscal year, the new rebate won't amount to as much in the 1996/97 budget as it will in future. However, if the slender but welcome increases in our operating book budget continue, and the money is spent primarily on "eligible" materials, over time the GST savings should mount up nicely. Current plans are to redirect the money back into collections spending.



## Koerner Opening Celebrations

The official Opening Day ceremony for the Walter Koerner Library is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 1997. It's the highlight of a festive 10-day period of special events and activities designed to include all levels of Library staff, UBC users, off-campus patrons, and the Vancouver community. The celebration also provides an opportunity for the Library to thank its many donors, as well as the innumerable other people whose hard work went into the Koerner project.

Preceding Opening Day, we'll be co-sponsoring a four-day conference at the SFU Harbour Centre. Titled *Scholarly Communication in the Next Millennium*, it will bring together scholars, librarians, publishers and other key Canadian players, as well as experts from other countries. As attendance is limited to 200, early registration is advised. For more information and an advance look at the program, visit the conference Web site at <http://www.sfu.ca/scom/>

Speaking of Web sites, full details of the March 5 - 15 events are now up on a handsome new one designed by the Woodward Library's Suzan Zagar. The URL, appropriately enough, is <http://www.library.ubc.ca/koerner/celebration>. Check this one regularly from now on: it's where to find the complete timetable for each day of the Koerner festivities, not to mention a self-guided visual tour of the new library, a slide show, and a look at the Koerner project from the architect's point of view. Be sure to sign the electronic guest book, file your own comments, and read others'.

## Copyright Bill: Will Changes Threaten Information Access?

The seemingly unending saga of Canadian copyright revisions is far from over. Bill C-32, which would define what's acceptable in terms of reproducing a copyrighted work, passed its second reading in the House of Commons six months ago, and is currently under review by the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. As part of this process, the Committee has heard at least 60 briefs. Some were from libraries and educational institutions anxious to retain and/or improve the (mostly) favourable wording in the original draft. However, many others were presented by creators' groups, publishers, and other stakeholders who have been lobbying hard to eliminate exemptions for these users. On December 3 the Committee began a clause-by-clause revision of the draft, and we are informed that there will be between 60 and 70 alterations to the wording. As the bill has only 63 clauses, this suggests that extensive changes are in the works.

The Canadian Library Association has sounded the alarm. In a statement e-mailed to libraries across the country, CLA called for "urgent action by the library community, to alert Ministers [Sheila] Copps and [John] Manley and members of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage of the importance of maintaining exceptions for libraries and educational institutions in the legislation." Library staff and administrators were urged to make the following points:

- It is in the public interest to ensure reasonable access to copyright works for the purposes of education, research, private study, and the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.
- All Canadian governments since 1988 have made commitments that Phase II copyright legislation would address the interests of the user community.
- Libraries do now and will continue to negotiate with CANCOPY to provide compensation to writers for copying done outside the proposed amendments.

CLA fears that if controversy over the final wording of the bill continues, it will either be returned for redrafting or be lost altogether if it isn't passed before an election is called.

As if that wasn't enough bad news, an international conference on intellectual property rights could generate even more problems. In order to bring the global copyright system into the computer age, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), an arm of the United Nations, will be meeting in Geneva from December 2 to 20. Representatives from 16 countries, including Canada, will review three draft protocols, including one that extends the Berne Convention provisions for protection of literary and artistic works, and another establishing copyright protection for databases. An array of academic, scientific, consumer and technical organizations, including the American Library Association, have come out against the proposals. Whatever the outcome, Canada's Minister of Industry, John Manley, stated on December 2 that "if agreements were entered into at an international level ... which were inconsistent with the provisions of our copyright law and to which we wished to subscribe, then of course we would present the appropriate legislation to Parliament".

To quote one of the classic film lines: "Fasten your seatbelts, kids, it's going to be a bumpy night."

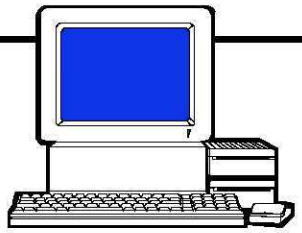
## Record Set for T & L Proposals

Applications for 1997/98 Teaching and Learning grants have just been submitted. Last year the Library did an outstanding job, submitting 17 proposals and receiving funding for all of them. This year we hope to do as well or better. Overall, 24 proposals have been put forward, valued at just over $575,000. Thirteen of the applications are requests to continue funding for projects initiated in 1996/97. In addition, 11 new proposals have been drawn up, with a value of roughly $300,000 for staff, collections and equipment. While most of the requests were submitted by individual libraries or divisions, four were done in partnership with other UBC departments such as Graduate Studies, Law, Commerce and Computing Services.

If we were to get everything on the wish list, it would come to more than twice the value of last year's grant total. To put it in more concrete terms, full funding would allow us to hire some 22,200 extra hours of student help, add over $55,000 worth of new material to the collections, and buy about $90,000 worth of equipment, software and computer connections.

It will be several months before we hear what projects will be funded, and undeniably there's stiff competition for the money available. However, the Library obviously has a strong team whose members know from experience what it takes to design and write a winning proposal. Special thanks go to this year's coordinators, Bonnie Stableford and Mary Mitchell, and cross your fingers for good news next spring.

# SYSTEMS UPDATE



## Countdown to DRA

With the new DRA system now up in test mode for staff use, and the Library-wide changeover just five months away, most of our focus has been on keeping current with the work and training needing to be done before May. The various DRA committees will mainly be concentrating on the technical aspects of the system, with the first priority being understanding how the system works and addressing conversion issues. The rough draft of all conversion specifications was completed on schedule December 1. Shortly after that, plans called for another DRA site visit by Steve Falk and Lottie Meador, during which the final version of the specifications will be put together. We hope to make it to the formal signoff point by the end of December.

By now each Task Group is hard at work dealing with its sector of the implementation issues, and during December and January we can expect a transition from the "medium intensity" phase of preparations into the final "high intensity" months. One piece of good news is that the serials system is looking better than originally expected.

Erik de Bruijn, Brian Owen, Nadine Baldwin and Ann Turner will be working with the Levels of Cataloguing Implementation Group and the Accounting Policy Committee to address changes in workflow procedures, policies, and organizational implications. Any major issues in these areas will go to the Library's Admin Group for resolution.

Ann Doyle reminds all staff that DRA training sessions have now started, and will be offered several times a month. We're also encouraged to bookmark the URL for the Library's DRA home page. This is where people can check for all DRA-related news, information from the various task groups, and links to other library catalogues which already use the DRA system. Check it out at <http://www.library.ubc.ca/staff/dra>

## More on DRA Training Plans

Everyone on staff is assured that they'll be getting training well before the new system goes in. There will be three basic training tiers: the primary "super trainers", a group of secondary trainers, and the rest of us. Plans for interim training from December until the date of implementation are just being prepared, and will be circulated to all branches and divisions. DRA training materials will be made available in LPC, the Main Library Technology Training Room, and the Main Library's Circulation Division.

Formal training begins in February, as follows:

**1. DRA**

**Week of February 3:** Technical Services (including Cataloguing and others involved in bibliographic record creation); Public Services.
**Week of February 10:** Acquisitions and Serials
**Week of March 17:** Circulation

**2. Train the Trainers**

**Week of February 24**: two seminars on techniques, with facilitators from the ARL Training Skills Institute:

a) February 24-26, for primary trainers
b) February 27-28, for secondary trainers

**3. All Staff**

Plans for training in specific modules will be announced by the chairs of DRA task groups and by Library supervisors. For further information, please contact Margaret Friesen, Chair, DRA Training Task Group, or the chair of the closest related task group.

# MORE SYSTEMS UPDATE . . .

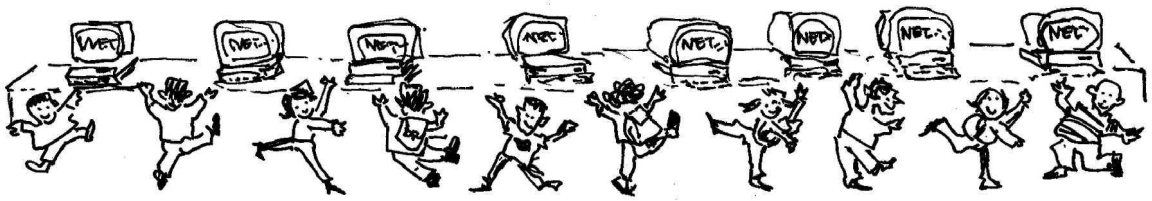
## Equipment Installation Update

Systems Project 96-3 is now underway. It involves purchase and installation of 110 additional workstations, about half of which are destined for staff and public service facilities in the new Koerner Library. Another significant component of Project 96-3 is the upgrade of all existing OVID workstations. The new machines will be installed essentially as public-access Web workstations. At the same time, we are implementing the new OVID Web interface as the primary way to access this system from within the library. This means that the Life Sciences Libraries workstations giving users access to *MEDLINE, HealthStar, CINAHL* (nursing), *BIOSIS* and *Current Contents* all have a new look. Even though the changeover had to be scheduled for the middle of the fall term, users seem to have taken to the Windows-based interface with enthusiasm.

All remaining new Project 96-3 workstations have been allocated to meet specific needs in various branches and divisions.

Our standard workstation specifications have continued to improve. All workstations purchased as part of this project come with 16MB of memory and a 635 MB hard drive.

As usual, our requirements are greater than the immediate supply of workstations. However, we hope to initiate another major purchase before the end of the 1996/97 fiscal year.



## New Netinfo Lab

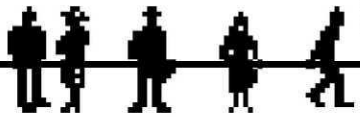
Patrons wanting to check their e-mail now have a new location for public Netinfo terminals. Six superseded workstations have been moved into a glassed-in room in the basement of the Woodward Library. They're available as long as the building is open. However, please note that they ONLY give Netinfo access; word processing and printing still have to be done elsewhere.

## Old Space —> New Technology Training Room

Bookings are pouring in for the Main Library's computer training lab, recently set up in the fomer administrative photocopy room. It offers 10 Pentium PC's loaded with the same software as a standard staff workstation: Windows, virus-checking software, Netscape, and other package items. The instructor's workstation and video projector from the Level 3 Conference Room have also been relocated to the Technology Training Room.

While this isn't the state-of-the-art facility that awaits when we move to Koerner, it does allow hands-on training space for library people wanting to keep up with the systems now becoming available to all staff. Please note that it's reserved for supervised training only, and is not available for general workstation activities such as Netinfo access.

To book the Technology Training Room, contact Jean-Philipe Wilmshurst in the Koerner administrative office. If your training program involves special software projects or CD-ROM databases, please also consult Tracey Douglas in the Systems Division ahead of time, so that the instructor's workstation can be set up as required.



# STAFF NEWS

## Hello

**Mary Fankhauser**, LA1, Education Library
**Adelia Harrison**, temporary LA2, Woodward Library
**Dana McFarland**, Reference Librarian, Education Library
**Anita van Weerden**, LA1, Woodward Library

## Promotion

**Maureen Adams**, to LA4, David Lam Library

## Retirement

**Toshie Aoki**, LA2, Catalogue Division. This is our second goodbye to Toshie, who was with Catalogue Preparations as an LA2 between 1974 and 1977. After a 12-year break, she returned to LPC as an LA1 in Catalogue Records, then moved via Catalogue Products to the reorganized Catalogue Division. She'll be sincerely missed.

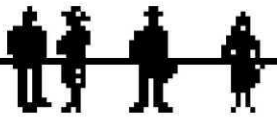
## Notice of Retirements

The Library has received word that **Indy Bhugra** (Indic/Law Unit, Catalogue Division) and **Julie Stevens** (Undergraduate Library Services Coordinator) will both be taking early retirement, effective December 31. The January *Bulletin* will carry fuller notes.

## Been There, Done That

Congratulations to **Margaret Friesen**, who has just passed her oral examination and had her thesis accepted for her MLIS at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. This is the first Master's thesis ever completed for SLAIS, which only introduced the option last year for the library and information studies sector ... Margaret is also a joint author, with **Erik de Bruijn**, of a new article, "Investing in Human Resources: Staff Training and Development at the University of British Columbia". See *Advances in Library Administration and Organization*, v. 14 (1996), p. 63-94. ... Erik spent part of October attending the EDUCOM Conference in Philadelphia and the LITA/LAMA Conference in Pittsburgh, fitting in site visits at major universities to discuss cataloguing and technical services operations ... kudos also to **Mary Mitchell** (Law) and **Elizabeth Caskey** (Lam), the Library's new members on UBC's Scholarly Communications Committee.

## STAFF TRAINING



### Staff Training and Development: 1995/96 Highlights

The STD *Annual Report* was distributed several weeks ago to all divisions and branches. Its theme could be summed up as "Learning To Change". In its fourth year, the program built on last year's goal: helping staff deal with changes in information technology and organizational restructuring. One of the lessons learned was that techniques for adapting to change are applicable at both the personal and organizational level.

Fifty per cent of the $60,000 budget went toward support for learning information technology of all kinds, including basic to advanced computer skills. Activities included special programming of UBC lab courses for library groups needing more hands-on experience with the World Wide Web, Internet, and Windows. Sixty-two other staff participated in specialized courses in applications such as spreadsheets, accounting, geographical information systems, word processing, and desktop publishing.

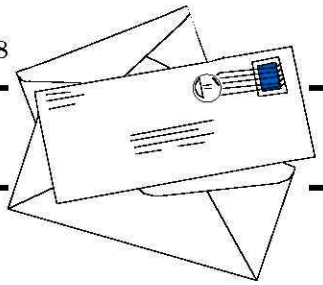
Four out of every five sessions on information technology were conducted by UBC librarians using our own facilities. The total number of staff signing up for one or more courses came to nearly 900. Topics ranged from focus sessions on UBCLIB, the World Wide Web and Internet to seminars on financial procedures and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

Due to the need for as much skilled help as possible on dealing with change, Judy Clarke was brought in as an external trainer to ease the transition. She presented four repeat sessions to 89 participants on managing personal change and transition.

Not all training needs to be in face-to-face workshops. Three participants completed an introductory course on the World Wide Web given wholly by e-mail, and two others worked through an entire self-directed certificate program, complete with correspondence courses and exams.

In early 1996 our STD program was compared with that of other peer universities. It was found to be comparable in scope and budget to just one other Canadian institution, and more developed than equivalent programs in the other universities. Recognition of this development has resulted in an invitation to publish an article in *Advances in Library Administration and Organization* [see **Staff News** page] and to present papers to both SLAIS and the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada.

Margaret Friesen, the Library's Staff Training and Development Coordinator, merits thanks from the literally hundreds of library people who take advantage of these programs without, perhaps, remembering that few of these opportunities existed in the early 1990's. Margaret's own thanks go to the Staff Training and Development Committee for their help in planning and implementing this range of programs, and to Peggy Ng, Josie Lazar and Sara McGillivray for their expert logistical support.



# MAILBAG

## Fan Mail Sampler For '96

To end off the year, what better way than to just reprint some of the letters that have come in to libraries around the system? Admittedly, what follows is the good stuff — but, how often do we all see it? Space permits just portions of dozens of letters and messages, so many have been left out for every one printed here. All the same, if you ever doubted that what you did mattered, read on....

*... It is of no little consequence to have our [Education] Library staffed with people of such character. These "keepers of the keys" do their jobs ... and more. They obviously strive to provide this pleasant, collegial and supportive atmosphere.... I look forward to the next year of research, knowing my way will be brighter because of them....*

Dear Dr. Patrick:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the work of the Asian Studies library and in particular the director of its Japan division, Mr. Tsuneharu Gonnami. Since I arrived in UBC in 1961, I have witnessed the development of the Japanese-language library from its barest beginnings into one of the most significant collections in North America. For this the patient work of Mr. Gonnami for over a quarter of a century is largely responsible.

In addition to this long-term contribution ... during the past fifteen years Mr. Gonnami has made a significant contribution to another field of historical research..... The field is the study of the Japanese educator, essayist and internationalist Inazo Nitobe, after whom UBC's Japanese garden is named....

Gonnami has assisted at every step of the way in this development. He made the resources of the library ... available to the dozen collaborators who prepared essays for [a landmark] conference [on Nitobe], and then for the last year has led the group... involved in the translation. Treating the task of translation as an act of historical scholarship, Gonnami and his colleagues have produced a flowing text which will set a new standard for the study of Nitobe in Japan.

The skills involved in these tasks go far beyond what one would expect from even as capable a librarian as Mr. Gonnami. As the editor of the volume, ... I would like to express my thanks to him and to the library he serves so capably.

*Today, a Woodward Library staff member (Catherine Howett) was very helpful to me. She very patiently showed me how to use the colour photocopier and to use transparencies. I really appreciated her kindness and her thoughtfulness. Woodward is lucky to have her on staff. Thank you.*

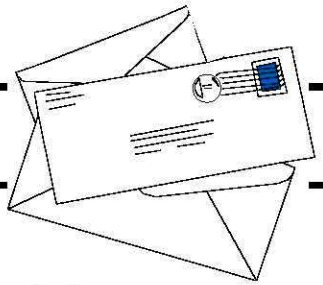
To Everyone at the Interlibrary Loan Division:

I am currently attending Okanagan College in Kelowna as an English major. This is now the second year I have taken advantage of the interlibrary loan system, and I wish to praise all of those involved in this excellent service. The inadequacy of our own library is more than compensated for by UBC's vast selection, which is made accessible to students through this fine program. Articles and books arrive quickly, and this is appreciated by all of us here.

Thanks again.

Dear Dr. Patrick:

Thank you for the briefs which [Bonnie Stableford, Lore Brongers and Janice Kreider] submitted to the Review Teams for the Faculties of Agricultural Sciences and Applied Science.... thanks also for your recent note. Your people did a very nice job of presenting the Library material.



# MAILBAG

*Dear Ms. Price:*

*....I am writing to commend the staff of the Biomedical Branch Library at Vancouver Hospital. During the last three years I have done a considerable amount of work at this library, and have come to appreciate the consistency of the professionalism and competence of Nancy Forbes and the people with whom she works.*

*It is particularly commendable, I think, that requests for assistance in problem solving (locating obscure journals, for example) are always met with a willing and enthusiastic response.*

*...[Please] convey my appreciation to Ms. Forbes and her colleagues.*

[*Letter to Lynn Trudeau, Undergraduate Services and Library Circulation*]

... On behalf of the 1996 UBC Shad Valley students and staff, I would like to thank you for your support of this year's program by arranging library and E-mail access for all of the Shads. Many students made use of the library access to do research for the projects which we worked on this month. This research was an essential part of the projects and greatly enhanced the quality and realism of the final products.

Without [your] generous support, the unique learning esperience of the Shad Valley program, combining science, technology and entrepreneurship, would not have been possible for science students across Canada. Thank you again.

To: Beverly Scott, HSSD

Thanks for sending the additional info on Silvernet.... And thank you very much for giving us such an informative presentation. My experience with the UBC Library staff has been uniformly excellent, and you certainly maintain that tradition.

[*Letter to Shirley Chan, Chair, UBC Board of Governors*]

Dear Ms. Chan:

I very much appreciated your letter of support regarding my Fulbright work here at UBC this year. I can't begin to tell you how much my Fulbright here has meant to me.... Please convey to other members of the Board of Governors that I have the highest regard for the University of British Columbia staff and faculty. I consistently found the staff in the libraries ... and other support services to be helpful and eager to assist me with my research and teaching.... Whether I found myself in the classroom, in the library stacks, at a public lecture or symposium, or strolling the UBC gardens, it was always apparent to me that this is a place that believes in its mission — to educate and create knowledge.

## And Some Internal Fan Mail...

From Hilde Colenbrander, Data Library: Please would you make special mention of Data Library support staff in your next *Bulletin*? Brian Kroeker, programmer/analyst, and Laura Canning, data services assistant, have done excellent work on the Data Library's 1996/97 Teaching and Learning project. The purpose of the project is to create Web access to selected Canadian social science data files.... Brian planned and directed the project and assisted with the programming; Laura spent endless hours creating HTML versions of codebooks and designing Web pages for the project.... We've had very positive feedback from both students and faculty ... and hope to be able to continue it next year.

From Merry Meredith, Graphics: With the ongoing move to Koerner, painting in Main, and staff illness we've been particularly busy this past six months. Many thanks to Sheryl Adam, Shana Hugh and Michelle McRae, and students Julie Lees and Allan Chan, for their able help in getting Graphics through the summer and the fall terms!

# AROUND THE LIBRARIES

## Library Publications: Who's Doing What?

Three Sedgewick/Koerner librarians have split responsibility for overseeing new and revised Library publications. Sheryl Adam will handle all the UBCLIB (blue) guides and anything relating to services for people with disabilities. Larry Campbell is responsible for Library Gopher/World Wide Web support material, and Joan Whitney will take over all other Library publications, including branch and division handouts. If you are still unsure who should deal with a particular item, please see Joan.

## More Bookable Rooms for Library Groups

Besides the old Third Floor Conference Room in the Main Stacks and the Koerner Seventh Floor Conference Room, staff are reminded that two areas in the former Main Library administrative offices are now available for group use. Ruth Patrick's former office is now the Heritage Conference Room, and as noted elsewhere, the former copy and supplies area has become a computer-equipped Technology Training Room. All four areas can be booked via Jean-Philipe at 2-3310.

## Next Steps Toward No-Loan Policy For Journals

As most staff know, science journals reverted to "library use only" status some time ago. Following the recommendations of several committees and task groups, humanities and social sciences journals will be phased down to the same category in the next five months. From January until the end of April, 1997, they will be on 1-day loan. Starting in May, no journals in the library system will be routinely circulated. Special-needs requests can still be made; we'll have details in a later issue.

## Remember: There's More Than One Koerner

Puzzled medicos in the Koerner Pavilion (a.k.a. the very large Intensive Care Unit at the UBC site of the Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre) are wondering what to do with pieces of campus mail addressed to "Koerner" people who seem to be working for the library system. Some of this mail takes days to make its way back, and without action, the problem could get much worse when 90 new people move to Koerner next month. Please make sure all correspondence is addressed to the Koerner LIBRARY, campus zone 2. (The hospital is in zone 3.)

## Tattletape Group Parties, Tells All

As the tattletaping of the entire Main Stacks fades into history, and the November 20 celebration party along with it, we're left with some mind-boggling numbers, along with one or two news updates.

First, the updates: while the bookstacks have been completed (read on to find out what that involved), several areas still remain on the finishing-up list. About two ranges of stacks are left to be done in the Bib. Centre, roughly half of the Science & Engineering reference collection, and an unknown quantity of Government Publications materials are being finished off by staff from Circulation, HSSD and other areas.

Now for the big accomplishments. Between December 14, 1994 and September 20, 1996 (21 months and 6 days), our gallant staff tattletaped 1,070,116 items. That's enough inches of tattletape to stretch from the Main Library to Manning Park Lodge. Eighty-seven per cent of the work was carried out by Main Circulation staff and students (thanks, all those student tattletapers at the turnstiles!). Thanks also to our student helpers from Sedgewick. The LPC staff accounted for about 11% of the total — that's over 134,000 items — with HSS, Government Publications, and the Information Division's dedicated Pauline Willems making up the balance.

This makes the entire Koerner Library collection security-proofed from day 1, and will mean the same for the Main Stacks once the exit upgrading is in place. A party was definitely in order, and rumour says that when it took place November 20 it featured — what else? — the World's Largest Tattletape. Photos have been censored, but a well-earned celebration was had by all.



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