

ubc library bulletin ^{file}

No. 180

July 1984

LIBRARY COMPUTER COMING

A milestone for the library was passed in mid-July when the University Administration authorized the acquisition of a library computer. Some \$250,000 has been made available as start-up funding; the rest of the money needed will come from diverting funds currently paid to UTLAS. The facility has been approved because it can stabilize the cost of cataloguing support, because it reduces the burden on the central university computer, and because it makes possible more efficient and expanded library services.

Delivery and installation of the computer, which will be the largest IBM, or IBM-compatible, one we can afford, will take place at the Computing Centre as early as October, certainly by the end of December. Its first duty will be maintaining our online routines, especially in Serials and Acquisitions, and staff will notice a considerable improvement in response time when the changeover from the university to the library computer takes place. For the time being, many of the batch procedures will continue on the central university computer.

The next priority, and this must be done within 6 to 8 months, is to move most of the cataloguing support from UTLAS, because the UTLAS money is needed to pay for our new machine. We'll begin to store and edit our catalogue records locally. What we'll still need from outside is catalogue copy. Some of it (hopefully 50%) will come from buying and mounting here 2 or 3 years of MARC tapes, and another 30% or so by searching outside sources, probably UTLAS, perhaps others like WLN or DOBIS. Exact details remain to be worked out.

Other systems changes will be necessary to accommodate the new computer. Some new terminals are to be acquired, to replace some older models and increase access. A priority will be better documentation, staff training procedures, and online help facilities, so that in an environment of frequent change, staff make best use of systems.

What are the hopes for the future? The failure to establish an automated provincial library network has freed us to pursue computerization at a local level more vigorously. Circulation online, authority support for the catalogue, an online public access catalogue, and local access to other bibliographic databases may become realities. For sure there will be reductions in our dependence on fiche and greater reliance on online access. The direction developments will take is uncertain until the computer is operating and our present needs for cataloguing support and online access are determined. Stay tuned for further news.



WEST EUROPEAN BIBLIOGRAPHER APPOINTED

Les Karpinski will be the new West European Bibliographer when Dorothy Shields takes early retirement at the end of the year. Les will be responsible for the selection of German, French, Spanish and Italian materials, primarily in the humanities (but also in some social science areas). He will start January 1985, remaining as a reference librarian in the Humanities and Social Sciences Division for 1/3 of his time, and spending the other 2/3 in Collections.

CONSUMER WARFARE

A campaign is being launched to discourage eating and drinking in library stacks and study areas, a serious problem particularly in Main, Sedgewick and Woodward. Damage to the collections due to insects is the worst consequence of this careless consumption; another factor is the annoyance for others trying to study.

A committee representing all the libraries, chaired by Ture Erickson, is coordinating this effort. Starting September 19th, for a four-week period, staff will stage weekly raids on study areas during quiet times, leaving copies of four different flyers whose message is clear--please lunch elsewhere! Extra copies will be available for distribution. Posters may be strategically arrayed, and thought is going into organizing displays. All in the interest of de-bugging the system.

SHIFTWORK IN MAIN

Several changes in Main Library are expected soon:

- Gifts and Exchanges will move to the former Asian Studies offices and circulation area on level 2 of the south wing, by the Map Division entrance.
- The present Gifts and Exchanges area (room 730) will become a staff lounge.
- The present staff lounge will open to the public as a lunchroom, where smoking will be permitted.

Some of these changes may happen in August, others in the fall. The first will be the removal of the kitchen facilities and the sofas and easy chairs from the staff lounge. Some repairs and redecoration will be necessary, and we expect new vending machines to be installed.

The room will be open to staff during renovations, although we may all be driven away by the disruption, and it should be ready for public use by the fall session. Until the new staff lounge (room 730) is ready, staff may use room 860 at the head of the stairs to Special Collections. Smoking will not be allowed there because the air circulation system is inadequate.

A need to change public attitudes towards food and drink in the Library has in part prompted these changes. Providing space where library users can go to eat their lunches may make the fall campaign against food and drink more effective, at least in Main Library.



SHRINKING FICHE

The microfiche budget this year was reduced by about \$14,000, mainly through not producing current microcatalogues for the reading rooms (they will receive superseded copies), and discontinuing Sunday circulation lists. The frequency of the Serial Master and the Serial Supplement has just been reduced from once every 2 weeks to once every 3 weeks.

With the library facing the prospect of further budget reductions next year, it is more than likely that the allocation for fiche production (which for years has been overspent) will have to be cut further. If the new computer system improves response time and access to files, we won't be so dependent on our diminishing microfiche resources. In the meantime, staff using the Serial Master and the Serial Supplement should remember that the information there is going to be less reliable because it will be aging a little bit more.

PEOPLE NEWS

MELVA DWYER, head of the Fine Arts Library, was honoured at the CLA Conference in June by the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS) for her services to special librarianship in Canada.

Award
for Special Librarianship in Canada

The award recognizes not only her long and active association with CASLIS but also her participation in the community of art and planning librarians in Canada, North America, and internationally, through such groups as the Council of Planning Librarians, the Art Libraries section of IFLA, and the Art Libraries Societies of both North America and the U.K.

KATHY SCARDELLATO, Serials Division, is on study leave. She is in Europe researching the problems of ordering monograph series from German and Italian publishers. She returns with her findings Mar. 1/85.

SUZAN ZAGAR from Woodward Library has recently decided to be a Life Patron of Variety Clubs International, which provides funds for the rehabilitation of mentally and physically handicapped children (among other causes). Variety's Executive Director recently commended Suzan in the Club's newsletter for the enthusiasm of her commitment. She is currently involved in a fundraising Bed Race and Raffle (prizes include a brass bed and brunch for 2 at the William Tell), both happening Aug. 5th. Call her at 2570 for details.

Library alumnus LUTHER CHEW took early retirement from Selkirk College Library on May 1st of this year. Luther went to Selkirk in 1975 after a seven-year stint as the first head of Information and Orientation.



STAFF MOVES



HELLOS

Laurie Marchand (temporary LA1, Curric. Lab)
Gary Fuller (same as Laurie)
Simon Birch (LA1, Main Circulation)

GOODBYES

Sara Beatson (Map Div.)
Shikyo Sawada (Law)
Joyce Sjerve (Sedgewick)

CHANGES

Gordon Bookey (LA2, Acquisitions)
Doug Loney (LA2, Special Collections)
Shelly Brown (LA1, half-time, Woodward)
Susan Henderson (LA2, Gov. Pubs.)
Ann Chatwin (LA2, Curric. Lab)
Pat Lew (LA3, Law)
Andrea Heyrman (LA2, Macmillan)
Carol Linney (LA2, Biomedical Branch)

PRESERVING BOOKS ABROAD

Prebindery Librarian Phyllis Reeve visited the British Library, and the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich while holidaying in Europe this past May. Both institutions are leaders in the field of book preservation. She writes:

"At the British Library's new Preservation Service, I spent a day visiting the Bindery and Conservation Workshops and the Reprographic and Microfilming Department. Pages were being washed and dried; antique bindings were being refurbished; medieval manuscripts were being refitted with elegant hand-tailored casings and boxes. The original tools still used for stamping books with the insignia of the famous collections were proudly displayed.

The British Library has allotted 20% of its total budget to preservation. Although work is now maintained at a constant pace, there is a 100-year backlog.

The Institute for Book and Manuscript Restoration, at the Bavarian State Library, was forced into existence by the devastation wrought by World War II, and is a pioneer in the restoration of books damaged by fire and water. Conservators have had to invent as they go along. I saw an astonishing 'paperlaying' machine, which reconstitutes the missing fibres of handmade paper.

In Munich I again encountered the lament: 'We are always 100 years behind!' With the world's largest collection of incunabula (books printed before 1501) to care for, the Library attempts no restoration of newer books. Because the brittle paper used in most of them cannot be reconstituted, a book is microfilmed at the first signs of brittleness. My guide, Frau Schulmeister, exclaimed: 'I would hate this job 100 years from now.'

I wonder what our collection will look like 100 years from now."



A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Pederson has launched a new programme called "Perspectives" to increase public awareness of UBC and other universities. Brief radio and television spots will focus on the people, events and programmes at the universities. If you know of a newsworthy item or event, send your suggestion to Bill Watson, Main Library.

LIBRARY BULLETIN IN DANGER

Because of a temporary migration, the editorship of this Bulletin has fallen into the hands of Patrick Willoughby, starting with the next issue. Help keep journalistic standards high, by letting him know of news of interest to the library staff. Please call him in Catalogue Products (6649), or drop items off at the I & O office.

ETCETERATA

ELECTION CAMPAIGN: Don't throw away election campaign literature of any kind. Send it all to Special Collections (consider this one of your most worthy campaign donations).

BCLA ANNUAL REPORT, 1983-84: For those BCLA members who didn't receive a copy of the annual report with the last issue of the Reporter, Margaret Friesen (4430) has extra copies. She will even let non-BCLA members have a copy.

MONTANA HIGH: The Pacific Northwest Library Association's 1984 Conference is scheduled for Aug. 22-24 in Billings, Montana. This year's theme is "High-Tech, High Touch", and covers such diverse topics as preparation for automation, writing poetry with children, and ethics for on-line searchers. For info call Margaret Friesen at 4430.

HOLD THAT CALL: The local for Sedgewick Technical Processes and Shelf List is now 5532, the same as for Overdues. (The old number, 5627, is now the AMS Jobline.) Please amend your phone lists.

GOOD VOICE, LIKE TO READ? Crane Library needs volunteer readers to record books for blind students. A university or professional background is helpful, particularly in law, commerce or the health sciences, and you must be able to read aloud in clear, relatively accent-free English. If you can spare two consecutive hours a week, call Paul or Judith Thiele at 6111.

WANTED

Gifts and Exchanges needs:
Urban Reader, v. 10, no. 3/4, 1982.
Harper's Magazine, v.265, no. 1591, Dec. 1982; v.266, no. 1592, Jan. 1983 to v.267, no. 1599, Aug. 1983.
Call Kris Hans (2304) if you can help.