

ubc Library Bulletin

No. 117

January 15, 1975

ANNUAL REPORT

The Report of the University Librarian to the Senate, covering September 1973 to August 1974, finished and ready for printing.

By way of illustrating the tone, this story: One day Nasreddin Hodja, the Turkish folk hero, went into a teahouse, sat down, picked up a string instrument, and began to strum...the same note, over and over. People at neighbouring tables started muttering. "No, no," said the Hodja, "You can't understand. Some musicians hunt and peck all over the fingerboard. They get all kinds of notes but they never seem to find the one they're looking for. Me, I've found the perfect note!" and he went right on strumming that note.

Just so with the annual report...the note is the same as last year's, to wit, inflation. Expenditures increased 8.40% over 1972/73, to \$5,409,784, but staff size remained the same, and acquisitions dropped from 136,626 in 1972/73 to 95,536. At the same time, lending rose 8.50% and reference activity increased by 10.10%. "In the light of what the foregoing pages reveal," the report concludes, "It is difficult to be optimistic about the state or future of the Library. The issue is squarely one of costs versus expectations. If the costs are not met, the expectations will not die, but they will not be adequately satisfied. This is much to be regretted, for in this library the University and the Province possess a great and essential resource, one which should be expanding in the range of its offerings rather than contracting."

The Report will be available for distribution sometime next month, after it is presented before the University Senate.

EXPERIMENT IN STAFF PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Written submissions were due on December 20th, and a resumé of the proposals is given below. These will be discussed at an open meeting on January 23rd, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Instructional Resources Center, Room 2. Any interested staff members may attend; division and branch heads must attend. Any further proposals will be printed in the next issue of the Bulletin or brought forward at the meeting.

COLLECTIONS

- "A total, continuing, and open review of what one branch, division or faculty receives in relation to another so that everybody knows beyond any shadow of a doubt that our scarce resources are allocated in the fairest possible manner." To accomplish this, the development and application of a formula is suggested, which could be applied to the collections budget.
- Transfer of staff positions in the Bibliography Division to the appropriate divisions and branches. Although not stated in the proposal, it is assumed that responsibility for collections development would be turned over to the divisions and branches.
- Reorganization of Main Library collection to bring bound and unbound periodicals together in one area.
- More mending of books than rebinding, both as an economy measure and as a means of preserving the original binding.
- More specific assignment of funds to branches and divisions for categories of material now in the "commitment" section of the budget: serials, multiple copies, etc.
- Development of policies and procedures for the handling of non-book materials.

PUBLIC SERVICES

- Conduct a user survey of the Main Library at busy times, to determine the number of extra-mural users, preliminary to seeking financial assistance from the outside sources for providing service to this group.
- Review of policies regarding extra mural users, and possible establishment of service priorities for groups of users.

SYSTEMS

- Revise the acquisition system history files, in order to make retrospective profile searches possible.
- A critical examination of the use of computer-output-microform (COM) in place of conventional printout.

BUILDINGS AND ENVIRONMENT

- Provision of additional space for Social Science Division and Humanities Division collections, users and staff.
- Closing in of Periodicals work room, Main Library, to increase security.
- General improvement in security of Main Library collections, possibly by removal of turnstiles to main entrances and use of theft detection system.
- Provision of humidity and temperature-controlled area for manuscripts.

PERSONNEL AND PROCEDURES

- Giving to Committees, such as the Ombudsman Committee, the right of final decision, rather than making them advisory to the administration of the Library.
- Arranging tours for new staff members.
- Providing all service points with a card, outlining briefly, in large type, procedures to be followed during emergencies.
- Shift public and technical services staff on a seasonal basis, and at times when work loads temporarily peak.

DISPLAYS

During December, Christmas has been celebrated with 'A Starry Night' theme in the display case outside the Ridington Room. In the Main Entrance Hall, Richard Moore exhibited some of his collection of Arthur Rackham and Heath Robinson book illustrations. Presently on display on the fifth floor is Richard Hopkins' collection of Dickensiana; and on the third floor are Richard Moore's consumer advertisements from World War I. In the future, displays are being planned around the themes of International Women's Year and Library Staff interests and publications. If you have ideas or things to display regarding either these two exhibits or possible others (especially for the 2 cases in the Entrance Hall where displays must change fairly often), please contact Joye Wheater in the Information & Orientation Division.

NEWS FROM CRANE

The new recording and mass duplicating facilities have arrived at Crane and are now installed and in full use. The facility, purchased as part of a provincial Education Department Innovation grant, makes the Crane Library one of the most advanced and flexible Spoken Book recording and production centres in North America.

The facility consists of two parts; 1) original recording and editing equipment and 2) mass duplicating machines. Books and related materials are now prepared by Crane's professional and voluntary readers on totally automated recording units which allow one technician to supervise four recording sessions simultaneously. The mass-duplicating equipment is capable of producing approximately 90 cassettes per hour and in excess of 40 reels as well as transferring spoken words from one medium to another at very high speeds. The facility also includes editing and mixing equipment which permits the recording of multivoiced plays complete with music and background sounds as well as many other complicated and intricate recording processes.

WOODWARD HO-HO

On December 12th, if you had strolled past Woodward Library you could have seen jolly Santa Claus present gifts to the "good" boys and girls and their friends at Woodward Library. Santa even came out with some one-line "zingers" concerning some of the "good" boys and girls but it was all in the name of holiday fun.

Before Santa's arrival, the folks who made up the Technical Processing produced, directed, staged and wrote a dandy one act play called "The Woodward Christmas Story".

The Sherrington Room was tastefully decorated in the tradition of Christmas and the Social Committee did a fine job of supplying tempting eats.

All in all, it was a party we all enjoyed and it was good to mingle with our fellow employees in such a charming and relaxed atmosphere. Sorry we couldn't ask you all to join us but we can end this with: HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL from ALL AT WOODWARD LIBRARY.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK DESCRIPTION: THE NEW LOOK

Before (à gauche) and after.

QL
495 Wigglesworth, Sir Vincent Brian, 1899-
W51 The principles of insect physiology, by V. B. Wigglesworth.
1972 7th ed. London, Chapman and Hall, [1972].
vii, 827 p. illus. 26 cm. B***
Includes bibliographies.

CaBVAU ISBN: 0-412-11490-9

Wd/ 1. Insects - Physiology. I. Title.

ap73

RF OL106.W63 1073

95.701

73-152566
MARC

Library of Congress

53 (4)

QL
495 W51 Wigglesworth, Vincent Brian, Sir, 1899-
1972 The principles of insect physiology / by
V. B. Wigglesworth. - 7th ed. - London :
Chapman and Hall, [1972]
vii, 827 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

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OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE, PART I. BRANCHES

In 1952, the Library went out on a limb (see illus.) and established its first branch--the Bio-Medical Branch at the Vancouver General Hospital; in the mid-Sixties, Woodward, the Curriculum Laboratory, and others were set up. Now, there are about a dozen branches, tied to the Main Library by various knots and, for the most part, thriving, each in its own way. Gathered below are some statements on the advantages and disadvantages of working in a branch.

Elsie de Bruijn of the Social Work Library writes:

After working in the Main Library, working in a small branch well away from the centre of campus is a bit like life in a submarine. While not exactly short of anything (except space), we do occasionally miss the day-to-day contact with people from other library areas, and the easy access to a wider range of materials. Keeping informed about holdings and developments in many other libraries we use takes time--leaving that much less time for all the other work of the branch.

What makes this job satisfying? Partly its variety: in a library with few staff, everyone gets a chance to tackle an assortment of projects instead of doing one job endlessly. The greatest asset, though, is the people we share our 'submarine' with. Serving a limited group of students and faculty, we get to know them as friends and can route useful material to them as it turns up. If we're good at what we do, they'll go out of their way to tell us. And if it's been one of those weeks when nothing went right...they serve cold beer down here every Friday afternoon.

Ann Nelson of the Animal Resource Ecology Library writes:

Animal Resource Ecology is the smallest branch in the system; we are overcrowded, overheated, isolated to some extent from the other libraries, but it's still a great place to work.

Because we have a specialized collection which is used by a comparatively small group of people, we have the opportunity to get to know both the collection and its users to a degree impossible in a large library. For example, we use the whole collection for reference; it's not difficult, and it's very impressive, when you can go to the shelf and pull off a book which contains the very thing some student had despaired of finding. Just so you won't think we go around smug and self-satisfied all the time, let me hasten to add that there are frustrations inherent in working with a collection that is tailored to the research and teaching needs of a small group. There are inevitable gaps: What do you do, for instance, when a new faculty member is appointed and you find you have only two ancient books in his or her field in your whole collection? Or when you don't have the 'most important' book in some subject? Or when what's on hand just can't provide the answer to a user's question? What you don't do is panic; fortunately, we are part of the larger system...we don't have to rely completely on our own resources. We can help locate information or material our users need in another part of the system, or elsewhere.

The students and faculty who use this library tell us whether the results of our efforts are good or bad. They tell us if our collection needs strengthening in one area or weeding in another. Mind you, they don't always agree with one another or with us on priorities...but perhaps it is this feeling of personal involvement everyone has in a small branch library that makes working in one as much fun and as rewarding as it is.

Judy Atkinson of Sedgewick writes:

I find that being in a branch library isolates me from much of the activity in the Main Library. Although I very much enjoy working in Sedgewick, I miss the interaction with other divisions that I experienced when working in Main. It's hard to believe that one hundred yards could make such a difference.

And Tony Jeffreys of Woodward writes:

Branch libraries are a bit like towns--branches of different size have different characteristics and appeal to different people. University libraries also differ in the degree to which they decentralize, and therefore in the range of activities which take place in their branches. My ideal library to work in is a large branch in a library system which has a high degree of decentralization. Such a situation provides all the different types of activity found in a general university library but on a much smaller scale. Most of the staff get some degree of exposure to all aspects of library work, while still being able to specialize in the area of their choice--public service, cataloguing, book selection, etc. This would also be true of a college or small university library, but a branch of a large system has the advantage (or disadvantage) of allowing one to specialize in a subject area. A large branch also provides the optimum level of service to the user. It can be located near the users, it is small enough to allow flexibility in arranging services to meet special needs, yet it is still large enough to have long hours of service, subject specialists on the staff, and most of the facilities found in a general university library.

Woodward is the most decentralized branch in the UBC system but it is still far less separate than are many of the big medical libraries in North America. Presumably this is a compromise between UBC's preference for branches that are primarily public service outlets (relying on the central library for technical services and administration) and the almost complete decentralization found in some of the more well-known models. It is a compromise which has some disadvantages for the staff of the branch, but some advantages from the administrative point of view: the primary disadvantages are in having to fit closely into central administrative policies, and in not having separate budgets for the most part. Conversely, if Woodward were any more autonomous it would probably have to be excluded from any but the most general policies formulated centrally--or at least considered a potential odd-man-out. On a more mundane and day-to-day level, those of us who work in the detached locations may feel somewhat remote from the activities in the Main Library whether these be administrative decision-making, social matters, or just access to the "grape-vine". One of the characteristics of our relations with people in the Main Library is that we are in touch a good deal by phone, but far less often in person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF LIST

Remember to notify the Front Office, Personnel Secretary, Pam, of any changes in name, address, or telephone number. These records are kept confidential and are essential in case of accident or other emergency.

WANTED

The following out-of-print items are needed to complete the Library's holdings:

B.C. MOTORIST vol. 9 no. 2 (1970)
CANADIAN COUNSELLOR (Vancouver) vol. 7 no. 3 (1973)
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL for 1970
CONSUMER REPORTS (Mar., November 1971)
CONTAINER NEWS vol. 8 no. 9 (Sept. 1973)
EMERGENCY LIBRARIAN (Winnipeg) v. 1 no. 1-3 (1973/74)
JOURNAL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (Vancouver) vol. 4 no. 1 (1973)
SOLEIL DE COLOMBIE (Vancouver) vol. 3 no. 10, 28 (July 1970, May 1971)
Please call Graham Elliston, Local 2304, if you can supply any of these.

RECYCLING

Please take note that for the time being, X-Kalay, who pick up our recyclable material in the Main Library, are only able to handle newsprint and print-outs. Therefore, please do not leave any books or magazines to be picked up.

We would like to encourage all divisions to recycle newsprint and print-outs. Please put all such material in boxes and leave it to the right of the main aisle on floor 2 as you enter the Main Library through the mail room. The pick-up day is Tuesday, so please deposit material late Monday or early Tuesday.

UPWARD MOBILITY

The following recruitment notices have been received recently by the Library. For more complete job descriptions and contact addresses, get in touch with Michael Kasper in the I & O Division, Local 2076.

University of Calgary. Librarian-in-charge, Information Centre. (Letter dated: December 23).
Indiana University. Bloomington. Cataloguer, Chinese materials; Assistant to the Personnel Librarian. (December 17).
New York University. New York City. Director of Technical Services; Associate Librarian for Public Services. (December 2).
University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill. Chief Bibliographer. (Deadline: January).

VISITORS

January 15th: Provincial MLA's will tour campus, including some libraries.
January 27th: Members of the new Universities Council will visit various libraries.

MOVES

The new Law Library opens this week...more info. in a forthcoming issue of the Bulletin. And the Colbeck Collection has at last shifted to Special Collections. And building proceeds apace for the Asian Studies Centre; roof beams are up.

LANGUAGE BANK

A record of language capacity throughout the Library system is to be kept for the benefit of Library staff and users needing help either in the processing or use of publications. Unlike the list which used to be maintained among staff on Floor 7 of the Main Library for interpreting purposes, the new record is primarily concerned with reading ability.

Those with language capabilities are asked to return the form below to their division or branch head for transmission to John Gray, Original Cataloguing, who will keep a card file. This record may be consulted at any time through Local 5478.

Name _____ Division/Branch _____

I can read the following language(s): [a] as my mother tongue; or [b] with reasonable ease; or [c] with the aid of a dictionary or by analogy with a related language. (For example: Russian [a]; Bulgarian [c], Polish [c])

To be returned to John Gray, Main Library-Original Cataloguing Division.
*[c] is hardly worth reporting for Chinese, French, or German, which are normally well covered.