ubc library bulletin

No. 190 February 1986

Future directions of the University

With the will on the part of the University and the province, UBC can again resume its place as a top-ranked university. There is a positive feeling in the province right now, but how that translates into dollars at budget time (June) has yet to be determined, said UBC President Dr. David Strangway to a group of administrative and professional staff at a communications session, Tuesday, January 21 at the UBC Computing Centre. Dr. Strangway's talk was one in a series of communications sessions organized by Personnel Services.

In his effort to create a greater understanding in the province, Dr. Strangway said much of his time must be spent externally to the institution with governments, councils etc. "The single most important message being conveyed is that we are losing our competitive edge. B.C. was the pace-setter four to five years ago. In 1985-86, UBC ranks ninth or 10th in the country, and is in 18th position in terms of its salaries. UBC is one of the great universities of North America in terms of its resources and people talent, but we're having a tough time living up to that now," he said. "We have to be in the continental marketplace."

Behind a philosophic ideal of a university department which would employ the one person per year of age, from 30 to 65, there has to be a sense of budget - or any ideal cannot be realized, noted Dr. Strangway. Priorities need to be established, whether to emphasize post graduate studies or undergraduate facilties. "UBC is not a single university serving every need in the province. There are other alternatives out there. We should not try to be all things to all people. But we need the budget leverage to do this," he said. The only difference now is that once these individuals leave, the position comes under budget re view and the position is often cut. There are difficulties now even thinking about recruiting. "We need to be given the tools to play our role. That change-over needs to come soon."

Dr. Strangway said there were a number of ideas/issues that need to be understood. These include planning for commitment in terms of funding by the government. "The Ontario system has made a two-year commitment. We need some mobility in order to look ahead, and cannot formulate a plan without funds." A second issue is that costs are rising and whatever index is used should include inflation. UBC, to date, has been incredibly responsive. But response has been related to budget cutting activities, rather than examining directions, he said.

"We need to articulate clearly what the university wants to be, and get our message across to the people of B.C." He feels the process is a consultative one, and that there should be a philosphical framework. There should be a sense of where we want to go with input from the community.

A question and answer session followed. One of the questions concerned the presence of Ritchie & Associates on campus. "The presence of Ritchie & Associates in the Library and other units on campus has caused a great deal of concern in those units. As the new kid on the block, what is your view of that presence?" Dr. Strangway agreed that the presence of R&A had caused a great deal of tension within the units examined, particularly the Library. However, he stressed that the presence of R&A gave UBC credibility in the community, insomuch as the university is examining its own management procedures. Dr. Strangway did not discuss whether the choice of R& A evaluating the university was the best one, but he noted that the review process is nearing an end.

The Case of the Messy Catalogue

We all know that the Microcatalogue is different from the card catalogue. But did you know that some of the differences have nothing to do with the computer?

Here's an example. In the card catalogue, we normally look up an author's real name (Clemens, Samuel Langhorne). But in the Microcatalogue, we can look up the pen name (Twain, Mark).

What happened? The cataloguing rules (powers beyond UBC) changed. A set of rules called AACR 1 was in force from 1967-1980; since then AACR 2 has been in effect. The new rules reflect a change in ideas about how ordinary people look up names.

You might think that the Microcatalogue would have only the new form of a name. Someday you will be right. But not yet. (Is life and librarianship ever that simple?)

In the November 1985 Microcatalogue you will find:

Clemens, Samuel Langhorne	and	Twain, Mark
Canada. Geological Survey	and	Geological Survey of Canada
Leeds, Eng. University	and	University of Leeds

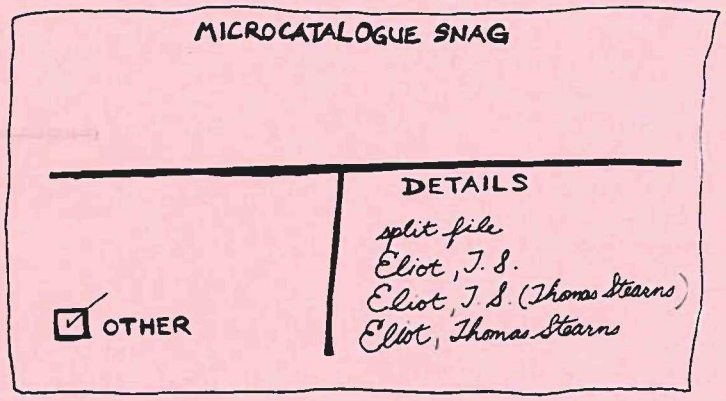
To the casual user it must look as if there are no rules at all.

Do cross references help the innocent?

-if you start with the old form, you'll get a reference to the new form
-if you start with the new form, there are no references to the old form. (This is based on the fond hope that someday there will be no old forms). Meanwhile, it is easy for all of us to miss some stuff.

How to cope? Look up the title whenever possible. Be suspicious & thorough.

How to help? Fill in a Microcatalogue snag form whenever you find a 'split file'. Just list the two (or more) forms of what you think is the same name.


MICROCATALOGUE SNAG

DETAILS

☑ OTHER

split file
Eliot, T. S.
Eliot, T. S. (Thomas Stearns)
Eliot, Thomas Stearns

Hot off the Press

Start Here guides:
129 (1985)---- Information Sources in Computer Science
130 (1986)---- Native Land Claims in Canada
131 (1986)---- China: Domestic Politics and Foreign Affairs

FEED BACK FEED BACK

Ode to Metal Plates

Sitting in my favorite place in Main,
With formulas of Calculus running through my brain.
Problem #16 close to an end.
As I began to lower my pen.
A loud "clang clang" arose like an old coal train.

What could this be?
From the window I could not see.
So back to my work I did go
But not long from then,
I heard it once again,
The metallic "clang clang" followed by its echo.

My thoughts were all-a-scatter,
But I thought, "It doesn't really matter".
So I tried #16 once again.
But a man on a bike soon passed by,
And I felt I was going to break down and cry,
Because #16 and the noise are driving me insane.

The metal plates on the road have to go.
If they don't, I justdon't know.
My sanity is being pushed right to the edge.
I know this problem isn't great,
But problem #16 just can't wait,
So in the meantime, I'll do calculus at Sedge.

Yours truly, Stuck on Problem 16.

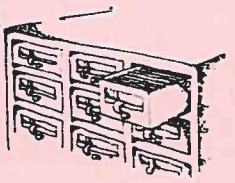
Not all of the notes received by Main Library's Feedback (I&O Division) are penned with such an original touch. For those of you who haven't had a chance to peruse the feedback board lately, or didn't know Main Library had one, this is what it attempts. Feedback receives and answers queries of all types, including complaints, suggestions, reference help and trouble finding things, as well as questions on lockers, lighting, signing, security, etc.

Sometimes the complaints can be non-specific and/or cryptic. One user simply finds the entire library system confusing. One of the more cryptic messages simply read - Canadian Patents 1975- poor explanation, i.e. useless. So, often a great deal of interpretation is required. And sometimes the notes can be just plain silly. One student wrote that there was a conflict of interest in the use/location of one of the benches in Sedgewick and the pencil sharpener. Apparently the sharpener is placed above the bench where he regularly takes a nap. I recommended he go home for his naps.

But the main concerns are noise and building maintenance. Those clanging steel plates in the sidewalk at the rear of the Main Library were the focus of at least two notes, one of honourable mention above. Heating and/or the lack thereof tops the Main Library building complaints; and lighting was the cause of concern for one individual left in the dark. One reference to signing was amusing. The individual hesitated to mention the matter as it was not deemed crucial to the running of the library. He asked if the sign above the Level 5 Bill changer could be removed as the new $1 bills referred to were now a least 10 years old. Presto- the sign was removed only nine years late.

Fifty-Two Pickup?

Close to 1.5 million cards were 'unfiled' to clear out SFU's old card catalogue. Librarians refused to say if card-tossing was a supressed desire, but were seen to smile a lot during the process. Phasing in of the microcatalogue is complete, and the Main floor area of the library (previously occupied by card catalogues) now offers additional study carrells.



John Gray - Lighting the Flame

"There is something about the Canadian system which stifles creativity," began writer John Gray, in the first spring colloquium at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS) January 21.

He used the image of a "flame" to describe the creative energy or impetus behind a culture. In the town of Truro, Nova Scotia where he grew up, this "flame " was a "phony" flame, a "second hand glamour" borrowed from the U.S. "Canada was the one country where nothing happened. What's more, it never occurred to me that it mattered. I knew that Canadian books were not worth reading, were they?" he said. "In school, Canadian history was never confused with an excess of facts. There was a lack of Canadian authors, and culture, music, the arts - they all came from somewhere else."

"I still need to repress a physical boredom when I hear the words 'Canadian culture'. Our lot in life seems to be to export natural resources and import culture. For, it is far better to believe we are dull to maintain the status quo," he said. "If Canada was a satellite of the Soviet Union we wouldn't be suppressed as effectively, or as willingly."

He criticized the coyness of major Canadian art institutions that contain Canadian culture, prevent it from spreading. He questions funding arts administrators- why if equal priority is given to contributing something original to the arts as to reproductive work (recreating something world class), why is so little money allocated to original Canadian work? The answer usually begins, "It's a complicated question ..."

"We could light our own flame," he said. "But we need to get our cultural act together. Thought feelings, and perceptions need to be practiced." He referred to the need to get past the predictable entertainment of television and the average theatre season, which usually includes a Broadway production, a British classic, etc.

In 1975, Gray said he walked into a Canadian renaissance after joining Theatre Passe Muraille as a musician. "Part of our psychological need is to have Canadian arts. The whole notion that we want to participate in our own demise is twisted," he said. But Mr. Gray did not feel that Canadian content restrictions were the solution. In fact, he finds these patronizing. "Instead we should have restrictions on foreign content, and ensure that no more than 20% of programming come from any one country. What passes for entertainment is pernicious propoganda," he said. "Americans are hallucinating. But worse still, Canadians are hallucinating on a hallucination, one created by Americans. We have to know who we are, and where we are. It's fundamental to being a human being."

The spring colloquia series continues Tuesdays with John Cole, Head, Center for the Book, Library of Congress, February 25; and Rod Slemmons, Associate Curator of Photography, Seattle Art Gallery- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery, March 4.

A rose by any other name...the British Library Lending Division

The British Library Lending Division (BLLD) has been renamed The British Library Document Supply Centre (BLDSC). The change of name has come about as a result of a general restructuring of the British Library. The Library has long been more than a "Lending Division", and it is felt that this new name more accurately describes its function of supplying documents of all sorts, whether by post, FAX or satellite. For the next few months both names will be seen in use, as the new name is gradually introduced.

Systems News

- The Library SERVER: A major system change was implemented in mid-January; it is now operating reliably and response time is reasonable. Under the new server each user operates independently on the Library's Data Management System. Previously, under SHARE, one user's activities could affect the response time of the entire system. Copies of Bob MacDonald's memo describing this new system, and the TN-7 memo with additional information, were distributed to Branch and Division Heads; copies are available from Systems.

  Although this change was intended to improve response time, it initially caused major systems bottlenecks. Most of these have been eliminated and response time has indeed improved; nevertheless, with increasing demands on the on-line system, some hardware expansion will be needed before any significant further improvement in response time can be achieved, or any expanded use of the system can be considered. Further expansion of system usage without additional hardware would result in the reappearance of response time problems.

- Wondering how to get off the mini-attached terminals? After keying 'Stop' (when the 'request to clear' message and other information appears on the screen), simply hit RETURN three times. The screen will clear.

- A reminder to users updating files. Always sign off keying stop. Do not use F10 or %quit, as you may lose data.

- Browse vs keyword searches:
  You can help minimize response time problems by scheduling online work, where possible, outside of the peak times between 10am and 2pm. Also, the way you use the system affects the load. Performing a browse on an exact index is preferable to a truncated find. It is also more efficient than a keyword search, if you know the title or name. If you are performing a keyword search, use only the least common words for the search.
  Read Technical Note #8 for explanations of effective search strategies.

- Other news: A microfiche catalogue containing all machine-readable records for reading rooms is being duplicated. The serials conversion programs which load the serials catalogue records into the serials bibliographic files are operating off the new cataloguing system. Redevelopment of the acquisitions system is proceeding well.

Oh for a slice of salami, a holistic approach to time management

Did you miss Janet Fraser's Time Management Seminar held at the Library school, January 16. Here's one harried librarian's hurried notes.

Make time visible, WRITE IT DOWN in a journal or on your calendar. Think of yourself as a total person. Schedule yourself 24 hours a day, seven days a week to see where your time really goes. Be sure to include time to allow for some fun and flexibility. For each day, prepare an "A" list. Things that must get done go on the "A" list; "B" list has less priority. Ideally paper comes across your desk once. You should DO IT, PLAN IT (write it on your calendar), DELEGATE IT, or SCRAP IT.

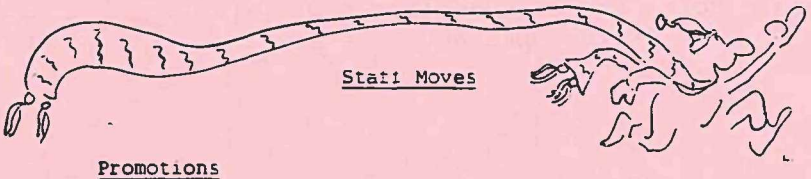
Identify your goals, including a time frame. Conceptualize them as a huge salami hanging in the window of an Italian delicatessen in North Beach. Acknowledge that you cannot eat this salami in one sitting. Plan your goal, thinking of each step as a small slice of the big salami. So far all I've planned is lunch.

Alternative to Library Typewriters

The Alma Mater society is now offering a customer operated word processing centre in S.U.B. (lower level). Students can type their own resumes, essays, etc. on a word processor for $5 per hour, plus 10 cents per printed page. There is no minimum charge, and payment is cash only. The rate includes the provision of 20 lb. bond paper. All work is stored in the computer system for three months, so editing can be done at a later date. Students do need to read 10 pages of instruction, which usually takes a half hour to learn the basics of the Word Perfect word processing system. For further information call 228-5496. Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

New appointment

Hans Burndorfer has been appointed Head of the Fine Arts Library as of April 1, 1986. He will continue to be Head of the Music Library, a position he has filled since 1967. Mr. Burndorfer has managed the dual responsibility of both libraries since January 1985, on the retirement of Melva Dwyer, when he was appointed Acting Head of Fine Arts.



Staff Moves

Promotions

Anne Bennie, from LA2 Woodward to LA3 Crane

New appointments

Thien Pham, LA1 Circulation

Transfers

Kathleen White, LA1, from Periodicals to Curric. Lab.
Laura Halliday, LA2, from Gov't Pubns to Woodward
John Burgess, LA2, from Wilson Rec. to Law

Goodbyes

Correction: Susanne Lloyd, LA2 Collections (not Spec. Coll.)
Elizabeth Catsburg, LA1 Circ.
Laurie Vranka, LA1 Curric. Lab.
Margaret Power, LA1 Law