ubc library bulletin

No. 157 November 1980

SERIALS CANCELLATION CONSIDERED

The Library is making plans for a serials cancellation project. While no serials will actually be cancelled until after the university budget is received (spring 1981), librarians are being asked to "rate" serials in terms of their importance to the collection. It is possible that each location will have to make a 10% cut in subscriptions. The crux of the problem is rising costs. While the Library's collection budget has grown about 9% a year, the cost of library materials is rising at about 13%. Serials have a higher inflation rate than books and already consume 55% of the Library's collection budget -- hence, they are logical candidates for initial cuts.

The serial titles proposed for cancellation will be reviewed by UBC's faculty. At a later date, continuations (e.g. reference books that come out regularly) and government serials will be reviewed for cancellations.

Why not buy the Library a gift subscription for Christmas?

LIBRARY BUILDINGS: A FAST VIEW

Two schemes for new library space are still in the running. One proposal would see a new library building on the current site of the Institute of Animal Resource Ecology just to the west of the stand of trees called Founders' Grove. The new library would house collections and services for physical sciences and engineering (the current Science Division) and for biological sciences (part of Woodward, plus Ecology and MacMillan). Library Processing Divisions would remain where they are and the old Main Library Building would be revitalized. Most of the building with the exception of the original core would be torn down and built again.

The current favorite of the two schemes is to centralize library functions bringing back into the Main Library the processing divisions, possibly Music, Crane, Math, and Curriculum Laboratory. The result would necessarily be a very large building. It would be built at least partly underground in the space between the existing Main Library and Sedgewick Library. Again, all but the core of the existing Main Library building would be torn down and rebuilt. Architect Richard Henriquez (who was involved in the concept and design of the Sedgewick Library building) has recently been employed to prepare preliminary sketches and cost estimates. The sketches are scheduled to be presented to the UBC Board of Governors at their February meeting.

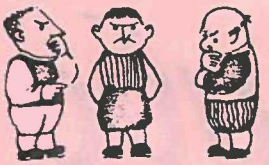
Any building plans must be brought before committees both within the University (President's Committee on Library Space Requirements, Committee on Land Use, the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs) as well as groups beyond the University (Universities Council, Ministry of Universities). Any of the plans for additional library space are expensive - $40 million or so.

UBC's Office of Facilities Planning has prepared an interim report called "Library Development Study". A fairly detailed (slightly incorrect) review of the report appears in the November 5th issue of UBC Reports. A copy of the report itself is available in the Librarian's Office.

Facilities Planning brings to the fore some questions about general campus life possibly affected by the choice of library building scheme. Would a new big south campus library provide a focus of activity there? Would the current center of campus "die"? Would a large library building in the center become a "people place" or an environmental disaster?

The next step in the process is to present the plans at the December 10th meeting of the Academic Senate.

SEARCHING BY SERENDIPITY: THE OUIJA BOARD APPROACH TO THE CATALOGUE



As the microcatalogue grows, the need for a thorough-going authority system becomes ever more obvious.

For example: you are helping a student find books on World War I. You look in the card catalogue under WORLD WAR, 1914-1918 and there they are -- drawers full. Now you go to the microcatalogue to find recent books on the subject. You look under WORLD WAR, 1914-1918 and another 70 books come to your attention. Done? No! You have missed another 75 titles filed under the subject heading EUROPEAN WAR, 1914-1918 (a mere 52 fiche away).

If we had an authority system, all the books on World War I in the microcatalogue would be under one heading and cross references would lead to that heading from ones not used.

Systems/Catalogue Records are working on an interim method for detecting and correcting "authority" problems. Eventually a comprehensive authority support system will take care of this requirement properly. But in the meantime -- user beware!

More confusing news in the realm of subject searching: the Library of Congress recently changed the rules for subdividing headings by geographical area. As a result, you will find in the catalogue both:

MUSIC -- INDIA -- MAHARASTRA

MUSIC -- MAHARASTRA, INDIA

The new policy is to collect things at a country level (in case you want something on Indian music before you even know there is a Maharastra). However, there are four major exceptions: Canada, United States, USSR, and Great Britain (so: PERODONTICS -- NEW BRUNSWICK is good enough). Then (sigh) there are a few cities that are politically senstive (Berlin, Jerusalem); so, you are allowed to mention them without mentioning what nation they are in. New York City and Washington, D.C. can also be used alone (example: POULTRY -- WASHINGTON, D.C.). All in all making a sensible catalogue isn't so easy.

PLEASE, if you find an error in the microcatalogue, report it on a light blue snag form. For example, you may wish to report this slightly incorrect heading found on subject fiche 24:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE -- IDOMS, CORRECTIONS, ERRORS -- DICTIONARIES

or perhaps this heading on subject fiche 74 will catch your attention:

UMENPLOYED

Catalogue Products is making time to correct these errors. But half the work is finding them. Please help out.

THINKING SMALL: WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO MILLION MICROFORMS?

A great deal of information available in microform is not reflected in either the card or microcatalogues. Of economic necessity, a number of large collections have been catalogued under one heading. Access to this material is through printed indexes or online searches. (For example, the mass of reports on education and related subjects avialable on microfiche through ERIC is simply catalogued *U.S. Educational Resources Information Center. ED-* . Access is through the printed index *Resources in Education* or the online *ERIC* database.)

The situation is in a way analogous to that of access to periodical articles. These have to be located through periodical indexes. Everyone knows that and everyone accepts it. We can achieve an equally successful rate of retrieval for our materials in microform, providing we maintain an attitude which is sufficiently small minded!

Some large all-encompassing collections to bear in mind include ones which cover Canadian, U.S., and British government publications. For Canada, we augment our print collection with *Profile* (1973-78) and its successor, *Microlog* (1979-). For the U.S. we have very complete coverage from the mid 1950's onwards. For Great Britain, we have a virtually complete collection for the period 1922-1972. None of these collections is analyzed. So, if you suspect something may exist in microform, check with the people on level 6.

NEW FICHE -- the DRS

The Library has long planned to inititate a computer file consisting of brief bibliographic records for pamphlets or other material not appropriate for full cataloguing. The first computer output microfiche from this file are now available -- the fiche are labelled "DRS." The initials could stand for Document Retrieval System (but don't, -- just call it DRS). Currently, Woodward, Curriculum Laboratory, and Ecology are entering items on the DRS system. The fiche provide entries under author, title, and series. In the new year, a separate set of subject fiche (based on keywords from the titles) will be available and the fiche will be more widely distributed.

Take a look at the DRS; there's a copy at the staff reader near the Information Desk in the Main Library.

COMING IN JANUARY: AACR II

On January 1, 1981, cataloguers all over the English-speaking library world will stop cataloguing according to AACR I (Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, 1967) and start cataloguing according to AACR II (1978). We, too, are preparing for the switch. In the near future, all divisions and branches will receive a "statement of noticeable changes, complete with examples of old and new forms of headings" and an open meeting will be called to discuss the changes. It is expected that UBC Library will use the new rules to devise headings that are totally new to the UBC catalogue but will continue to use an old-style heading if that heading has already been established. When the automated authority system is in place, a global switch to new-style headings is anticipated.

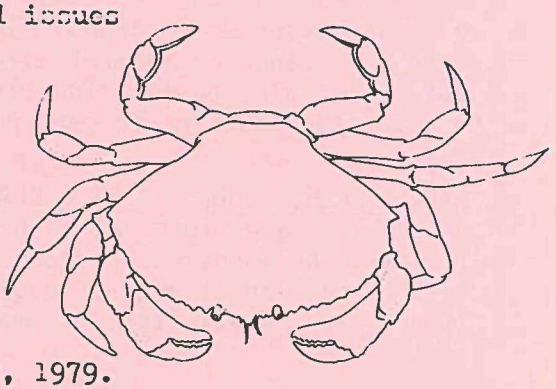
BCUC REPLICATION STUDIES CONTINUE

Studies on the feasibility of "bringing home" the database of the British Columbia Union Catalogue Project are continuing. A consultant has been hired through B.C. Systems Corporation to study hardware needs. Lynn Rosen and Brian Owen are now each working half time for BCUC to study the nuts & bolts of moving the data base and of shifting users to DOBIS, the software system chosen for replication. The studies are expected to take about six months.

WANTED

The following items are needed to complete the Library's holdings:

Arts Bulletin. Canadian Conference of the Arts. v. 1 all issues
British Columbia Historical News. v. 12 n. 1, 1979
Canada Crafts. v. 1 n. 1, 1975 and v. 2 n. 2, 1976/77
Canadian Aeronautics and Space Journal. v. 23 n. 3-4, 1977
Canadian Architect Yearbook. 1970.
Canadian Numismatic Journal. v. 2 n. 1-3 and v. 7 n. 1-8
Delta K. v. 12 n. 1 and n. 4, 1973
Educational Courier. v. 46 n. 1 and n. 6, 1975/76
Engineering Digest. v. 25 n. 10 1979
Esquire. v. 92 n. 1 and n. 6
Journal of Documentation. v. 34 n. 4 1978
Journal of Library Automation. v. 11 n. 2 1978; v. 12 n. 1-2, 1979.
Library Quarterly. v. 49 n. 1 1979
Library Journal. Dec. 1, 1979.
Vancouver Free Press. v. 1 n. 2-5, 1979.



If you can supply any of these, please phone Graham Elliston, local 2304

LIBRARY HISTORY

The Canadian Library Association has formed a Library History Interest Group, and a Symposium on Canadian Library History will be held in conjunction with the next CLA Conference (Hamilton, June 1981). The Group has issued an invitation for papers to be given at that Symposium. Anyone wishing to submit an outline or a draft should do so no later than February 1st, sending the material to Peter McNally, Graduate School of Library Science, McGill University, 3459 McTavish St., Montreal, H3A 1Y1.

PRIVATE BOOK SALE

A list of important and interesting paperback books at less than half price is now posted in the Main Library's staff room. Call Kevin Grace in Catalogue Records (5478) if you would like to purchase any of them.

WORK AND TRAVEL

The University of Ayocucho in Peru requires a Librarian for two years to act as an adviser on the organization and modernization of the university library system. For more information, call the CUSO office in Vancouver.

A librarian at the John F. Kennedy Institute of Free University of West Berlin (American and Canadian Studies) would like to work for a year at a Canadian university library. Anyone interested in an exchange? His letter is posted in I & O.

NEW FACES/NEW PLACES

Stephanie Dykstra is the new Serials Librarian in Woodward Library. She worked previously in Ottawa for Agriculture Canada. Her M.L.S. is from McGill University.

Lee Perry will join the staff of Woodward Library in January as reference librarian and Medical history librarian. She is currently working at Edmonton Public Library. She holds a PH.D. in Biochemistry as well as an M.L.S. from UBC.

Margo Young is a new librarian in Science Division. She holds a degree from the University of Alberta in chemistry and botany and a library degree from Simmons College, Boston.

Karen Olcen will supervise the Recon unit while Lynn Rosen is seconded to work on the BCUC Replication Study. Both Lynn and Brian Owen will be working half-time on the BCUC Study for the next six months.

$186,000 TO LAW LIBRARY

The Law Foundation of British Columbia has made a generous award to the Law Library for the purchase of library materials. $20,000 of the grant will be renewed annually to pay for subscriptions to journals. The balance will be used to replace heavily used sets and purchase research materials. There's nothing like money to make us feel appreciated!

$200,000 FOR HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY PROGRAM

UBC Library now has access to $200,000 in non-recurring funds through the Faculty of Medicine. The money is being used to improve clinical collections and protect existing journal subscriptions from threat of cancellation at Woodward and Biomedical Branch, and to prepare for the introduction of improved library services for major teaching hospitals.

BUSMAN'S HOLIDAY

If you miss the old Information Canada bookstore, you might like to know of a newcomer to downtown Vancouver -- RENOUF BOOKS at 522 West Hastings (across from Sears). They stock a wide variety of Canadian federal government publications, some international publications (UNESCO, FAO, OECD, ILO), plus publications from some private bodies like the Fraser Institute. They hope to stock B.C. government publications in the next few months.

WINTER COUGH? COULD IT BE LIBRARIAN'S LUNG...

Do you have bronchial disorders and rashes on your hands? The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration reports an outbreak of "librarian's lung." The most likely cause is phthatlaate - an allergy-producing substance in the red dye used on some book covers. (Bibliography Newsletter, December 1978) More green books please.

EDITORIAL FOR THE 80's (from ISG News, London)

... ...there are two responses to this need for economy. One is to absorb cuts quietly by making various reductions in expenditure and increasing existing charges slightly..... The alternative is ... make it obvious that the library is suffering; ... extract the maximum squeal from your users with the minimum damage ...