1969 REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN TO THE SENATE University of British Columbia 1977-78 U.B.C. LIBRARIES U. B. C. LIBRARIES

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to the Senate

of the

University of British Columbia

Sixty-third Year

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the past few years these annual reports have focussed on the costs of the Library and especially those of its collections which, subject to the pressures of inflation and currency devaluation, have been of particular concern. Although these conditions still prevail, this year's annual report has a different emphasis, and a broader perspective. It deals generally with the topic of published information, and it attempts to relate this Library's experience to the global phenomenon that has come to be known as the information explosion. The University deals in knowledge: its purpose is the creation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge. These processes are continuous, interrelated and endless, and they impose specific requirements on the University's Library, which must acquire, store and provide access to the published results of intellectual activity. Thus this report will speak mainly of the growth of collections, the housing of collections, and the bibliographic apparatus needed to make these collections useful. It will describe the measures that are being taken to deal with the reality of constant growth, and propose additional measures which must be taken, if the library is to continue to be an accessible, manageable resource for the University, and beyond it, the community.

II. THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLECTIONS

Just ten years ago, in 1967/68, the Library was on the threshold of a million-volume collection. At 943,990 volumes, it had doubled in size in nine years, quadrupled in eighteen.

In 1977/78 the collection reached another threshold, being close to two million volumes in size. Thus it has doubled again in a decade. Looked at another way, as many volumes were added in the past ten years as were acquired in the first fifty-two years of the Library's existence. No matter how one views the statistics, the rate of growth has been phenomenal.

If this University's experience were unique, one might conclude that the Library had acquired an unusual appetite for books. However, in Canada U.B.C. is not alone in undergoing a period of rapid expansion of its Library's collections. Some libraries, such as those at McMaster University and Queen's University, exceeded U.B.C.'s growth rate, while the University of Alberta Library almost equalled it. The surge of development experienced by Canadian academic libraries was partly attributable to the publication of three reports in the sixties, reports which drew the attention of the universities to the relative weakness of their libraries. 1,2,3 Canadian university libraries did not compare favourably with those at U.S. institutions of comparable size and with similar academic programmes. Thus in the sixties and early seventies, Canadian academic libraries grew more quickly than their U.S. counterparts. In 1967/68, among the members of the Association of Research Libraries, U.B.C. ranked in the lower third in terms of its collections size. By last year, it was in the upper third. Along with the libraries at the University of Alberta and McGill University, which are only slightly smaller, U.B.C.'s Library is now of the same approximate size as those at the University of Missouri, the University of Florida, the University of Kansas, Pennsylvania State University and Rutgers University.

But the growth of libraries everywhere, in Canada, the U.S., Great Britain, Germany, Japan, has been in recent times exceptional. If libraries are

suddenly larger, it is because they are responding to the reality of what has been termed the age of information. Giving to the word "information" the broadest possible meaning, the characterization of our times as a special age is accurate, for we live in a period which is witness to an unprecedented amount of investigation, study, invention and creativity. A concomitant of these activities is the process of making a permanent record: writing and publication.

All one need do to perceive the extent to which these developments have affected the University as well as the Library is to compare the Calendars for 1967/68 and 1977/78. Ten years ago, the University offered 2,139 courses of instruction during the winter session. This year it offers 3,205. Now there are 1,818 full-time faculty members. Then there were 1,267. This is not because of the insidious workings of some variant of Parkinson's Law. There is simply more to be taught. Work within traditional disciplines has become increasingly specialized, and the exploration of new relationships among disciplines has yielded entirely new fields of study. And this in turn results in yet more research, writing and publication.

In light of the above, and given that a library's collection must reflect the diverse and numerous interests of its users, the recent growth of U.B.C.'s Library while extraordinary seems less difficult to explain. It was, in a sense, ordained. But it was extraordinary, and it was neither easy to afford nor to accomplish.

In the ten years since 1967/68, \$16,375,484 has been spent on collections and binding, and in the year 1977/78 the cost of collections alone was \$2,473,368, up a staggering \$519,247 in one year. The following table charts this decade of expenditures on collections and on their preservation through binding.

1967/68	\$ 1,099,233
1968/69	1,109,920
1969/79	1,240,000
1970/71	1,341,807
1971/72	1,432,902
1972/73	1,463,130
1973/74	1,513,856
1974/75	1,629,797
1975/76	1,885,287
1976/77	2,108,164
1977/78	2,650,621

Although in any one year there is not a perfect correspondence between the amounts spent and the number of physical volumes added to the collections, the following table does illustrate a trend: more buys less.

Table 2
Net Growth of Collections in Physical Volumes, 1967/68 - 1977/78

1967/68	\$	98,998
1968/69	1	19,569
1969/70	1	29,283
1970/71	1	62,428
1971/72	1	44,505
1972/73	1	36,626
1973/74		85,528
1974/75		82,086
1975/76		93,803
1976/77		87,817
1977/78		90,403

The reason why more buys less is well known: the prices of books, periodicals and other library materials are as much subject to inflation as the prices of other commodities. Take, for example, the average prices of books published in the United States and in the United Kingdom. In 1967 the average price of U.S. books was \$8.43, and in 1977 it was \$18.03. The average prices of U.K. books in those years were £1.83 and £4.46. The percentage increases are 114% and 141% respectively. U.S. periodical prices showed an even more spectacular increase: from \$8.56 per subscription to \$24.59, an increase of 187%.

Particularly in recent years, fluctuations in the value of Canadian currency have joined inflation in contributing to the higher cost of maintaining the Library's collections.

Table 3
Foreign Currencies: Canadian Dollars per Unit

	September 1977	August 1978	Increase
U.S.	1.0746	1.1504	7.05%
U.K.	1.8702	2.2132	18.3%
Germany	•4642	•5712	23.05%
Switzerland	•4465	.6848	53.37%
Japan	.004032	.006050	50.05%

That the decline in value of the Canadian dollar would have an impact on the collections budget is made obvious by the next table, showing the distribution by country of the Library's expenditures on collections, a distribution which reflects both the reality of world publishing and the university's academic programme; about three-quarters of our dollars are spent on English language materials.

Table 4
Percentage of Collections Expenditure by Country, 1977/78

U.S.	38.4
U.K.	18.9
Canada	16.6
Germany	10.4
Netherlands	6.2
Japan	2.4
Switzerland	1.6
Others	5.5

The University's administration, Board of Governors and Senate, through massive increases to the Library's budget, have succeeded thus far in saving the collections programme from disaster. Had that support not been forthcoming, additional scores of journal subscriptions would have been cancelled, and thousands of essential works would not have been purchased. Given the short print runs of academic publications, that damage could never have been repaired. Regrettably, this has been the fate of many great research libraries in these times. U.B.C. can count itself among the fortunate minority. Last year its expenditures on collections placed it tenth in rank order among the members of the Association of Research Libraries. Five years ago it was in twenty—third place. Formerly ahead of U.B.C. in expenditures on collections, and now behind, are such distinguished institutions as Cornell University, Princeton University and the University of Michigan.

It is earnestly hoped that U.B.C. can continue to ward off the twin threats of inflation and devaluation, and maintain its collections programme. The emphasis, it should be noted, is on maintenance, not expansion, which is to say that the Library should continue to acquire materials, and predominantly current materials, which are directly relevant to the University's present programme of teaching and research. Experience indicates that meeting present needs requires an accession rate of 90,000 to 100,000 volumes annually, plus other forms of publications such as government documents, microforms, maps and recordings.

If this proves to be possible, what are the implications?

First, it seems clear that maintaining the collections will cost more every year. No country has halted inflation, so the costs of library materials will continue to rise along with wages and other prices. No one is predicting the early recovery of the Canadian and U.S. dollars; in fact, some predict that both will continue to decline in value against major European and Asian currencies.

Second, if world production of books and periodicals continues to increase, the maintenance of a constant accession rate implies increasing selectivity. How this will be felt will depend on the production rates of those countries from which U.B.C. acquires most of its materials, mainly those in the English-speaking world. Any expansion of the University's programme involving a need for new categories of material will also imply greater selectivity. This prospect underlines the fact that no library can contain everything, and leads to the realization that libraries are and must be interdependent. Some outcomes of the condition of interdependence are discussed later in this report.

Third, the maintenance of a constant accession rate will result not in the doubling of the collection in the next ten years, but in increasing its size by half. Late in the nineteen eighties, the Library will attain its third millionth volume.

The question is: where will the next million volumes be housed?

Notes

- 1. Williams, Edwin E. Resources of Canadian university libraries for research in the humanities and social sciences. Ottawa, National Conference of Canadian Universities and Colleges, 1962. 87 p.
- 2. Bonn, George S. Science-technology literature resources in Canada. Report of a survey for the Associate Committee on Scientific Information. Ottawa, National Research Council, 1966. 80 p.
- 3. Downs, Robert B. Resources of Canadian academic and research libraries. Ottawa, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 1967. 301 p.

III. PHYSICAL ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

There are only so many ways of dealing with the fact that the growth of libraries is perpetual. One way is to build more space. Another is to make more efficient use of existing space. Another is to diminish the physical size of items in the collections, through microphotography. And another is simply to diminish the collections in size, through weeding. At U.B.C., all of these options have been and are being exercised.

That the Library would attain a collection of two million volumes before 1980 was foreseen in the middle nineteen sixties. In 1965, the Board and Senate adopted Policies Governing the Establishment and Growth of Branch Libraries and Reading Rooms Outside the Main Library Building, and thus gave their imprimatur to the development of a decentralized library system for the expanding campus. In June 1966 the Library produced A Plan for Future Services, based on this policy, and on projections to 1975 that forecast a student body of 22,000, a faculty of 1,422 and a collection of 2,000,000 volumes. As it turned out, these projections were realistic. The basic approach of the plan was to locate collections and services in proximity to users, wherever they were on campus.

It is useful to review the proposals made in that document in the light of what has been accomplished. There is a disparity, and that disparity accounts for the serious predicament in which the Library now finds itself, concerning space for its collections. In this review, the emphasis will be on the space required for physical volumes, not on the space needed by users and staff, although there are shortages in these two respects also.

Main Library

Proposed: An addition to the Main Library of 76,300 square feet, to contain the School of Librarianship, the Processing and Systems Divisions, the Library Administration, Staff Room and Bindery. It was anticipated that this would release

33,100 square feet in the Main Library, for stack space, reading areas and other services.

Outcome: An addition to the Main Library has proved not to be feasible, for a number of site and architectural reasons.

A separate building, now nearing completion, will house the Processing and Systems Divisions. This will free some 22,000 square feet in the Main Library for other purposes, if obstacles do not prevent its use. The Main Library is discussed at length in a later section of this chapter.

Undergraduate Library

Proposed: A new undergraduate library, with a maximum capacity of 200,000 volumes.

Outcome: The Sedgewick Library was opened in January 1973. It has a capacity of 200,000 volumes, and now holds nearly 150,000 volumes. Its departure from the Main Library freed 22,950 square feet, which was occupied by the Asian Studies Division, the Map Division, and part of the Cataloguing Division.

Woodward Biomedical Library

Proposed: An addition, to increase the capacity of the Library to 200,000 volumes.

Outcome: The addition was completed in 1970, giving the whole facility a capacity of 280,000 volumes. This Library now contains over 220,000 volumes.

Science Library

Proposed: A library to contain 200,000 volumes.

Outcome: Not constructed. Had it been, 12,500 square feet plus stack space have been freed in the Main Library for other purposes, and new space would have been available for the expansion of the science collections.

Physical Sciences Library

Proposed: If new construction for the departments concerned brought them together, a library comprising the present Mathematics Library, and Physics and Chemistry Reading Rooms, with an upper limit of 80,000 volumes.

Outcome: Not constructed.

Forestry/Agriculture Library

Proposed: This Library was under construction at the time the Plan was published in 1966.

Outcome: The MacMillan Library has already exceeded its capacity of 40,000 volumes, and parts of its collection are already in storage."

Education Library

Proposed: A library to contain a maximum of 120,000 volumes.

Outcome: Progress was made toward the planning of this library as part of an addition to the Scarfe Building, a project which was at one time a Senate priority. That project is at a standstill. The growing collection in the Curriculum Laboratory is gradually eliminating all study space. The bulk of the education collection remains in the Main Library, where it occupies about 1,500 square feet and is expanding.

Law Library

Proposed: A new Law Library, to contain up to 150,000 volumes.

Outcome: The new Law Library was completed in 1975. It contains about 110,000 volumes today.

Music Library

Proposed: The Music Library was under construction in 1966.

Outcome: The Music Library has reached capacity; in the future student seating will be sacrificed to make room for the growing collection.

Social Work Library

Proposed: An expansion of the Social Work Reading Room in Graham House.

Outcome: New area was provided for the Marjorie Smith Library, which

is now approaching maximum collection capacity.

Map Library

Proposed: A merger of all campus map collections in a then proposed

Earth Sciences Building.

Outcome: The Earth Sciences Building was not constructed. The

Library's Map Division remains in the Main Library.

To summarize, although many objectives of <u>A Plan for Future Services</u> were achieved, some vital ones were not. The failure to construct an addition to the Main Library, a Science Library and an Education Library has had a serious impact on the situation in the Main Library. Space for the anticipated two million volume collection was not provided, with the result that the Library was forced into a series of ad hoc storage arrangements.

As for the three million volume collection, space for that is not under construction, nor is it part of the University's current building programme.

In the first paragraph of this chapter the alternative methods for dealing with the growth of collections were itemized. Anyone who reflects on this situation will come to the conclusion that since libraries cannot add shelves indefinitely, remote storage must be inevitable. Perhaps it is. But before storage is pursued as a desirable objective, consideration should be given to the present and future implications of adopting, or being forced to adopt, the storage principle at this point in this Library's history.

It is a fact that some library branches are already full, and others will soon be full. Included in this group is the Main Library, the shelves of which have twice been weeded in recent years to make room for incoming accessions. Last year the Main Library stacks held almost 800,000 volumes; weeding has reduced the number to about 765,000, and yet the stacks are

still crowded and difficult to manage. Assuming a steady accession rate, space must be found for 350,000 to 400,000 volumes in the stacks over the next ten years. If no new space is available, that means that half the books now on the shelves will be retired to storage, or that new accessions must be sent directly to storage. The former alternative might be acceptable if half the present stack collection were inactive and of infrequent interest to users. But such is not the case. The least active titles have already been removed from the shelves and sent to storage. As for new materials, the evidence is that the newer an item, the greater the likelihood that it will be wanted by a user. No matter how the problem is approached, the outcome is unpalatable.

A second point about storage: it reduces the "browsability" of the collection. Despite the existence of a catalogue and of scores of published subject bibliographies, users still rely heavily on scanning the shelves to locate material of interest to them. The importance of this means of discovery should not be minimized, particularly for those working in the humanities and social sciences, whose literature is less well indexed than literature in the sciences.

Third, storage imposes delay. For some this does not matter. For others, it is an annoyance. But for many, particularly students working toward essay and examination deadlines, a book which is not available today might as well not exist.

Fourth, storage increases operating costs. Much is made of the supposed capital economies allowed by remote, compact storage. But if these economies exist, they are offset and eliminated over time by costs of working with storage libraries, not to mention the costs of delay imposed on the user. The tasks involved in placing material in storage are essentially human ones, and therefore storage is labour intensive. An item must be selected for storage, usually on the basis of some criteria such as frequency of use and age of publication; this requires title-by-title judgement. Then the item has to be physically removed to storage and reshelved, possibly according to a new numbering system. A record has to be made that the item's location has changed, so one or more

catalogues must be revised. Retrieval demands more time: when an item is wanted, a staff member has to visit the storage area, locate the desired item, and bring it to the user. Later, it must be returned. Multiply these routines by a factor of several hundred thousands, and one can readily perceive why storage is not to be advocated if one is concerned about costs of operations, let alone the quality of service to patrons.

Already over 140,000 volumes are in storage in four locations, two in the Main Library, one in the Woodward Library, and one in the Law Library. Locations for all these items have not been posted, because staff time for this work is not available; this task will only be accomplished gradually. The items in storage were selected because it appeared, on the basis of previous circulation records, that they were not in high demand. However, as the quantities of material stored increases, so will the number of items retrieved for examination and possible borrowing.

The storage areas in the Main Library already being full to capacity, what will become of new accessions? There are two buildings under construction which will increase the amount of shelving available to the Library system.

When the Asian Centre is completed, the Asian Studies Library will move from the south wing of the Main Library. It will vacate stack space on stack levels 2 and 3 which can be opened to the main stack area, to contain about 110,000 volumes. When the Processing Divisions move to two levels of a new multi-purpose building, they will vacate the seventh stack level, and the lowest level of the south wing, an area which had been at one time the original Sedgewick Library study area. Renovation of the seventh stack level for the Government Publications and Microforms Division, now in cramped quarters, is planned. That division will vacate part of stack level six, making space for an additional 140,000 volumes available. Progress with planning for these developments is delayed, because proposed renovations in the stacks have brought to the fore the painful fact that the Main Library does not meet contemporary building, fire or safety codes. A means of dealing with this situation is being sought as this report is being written. Clearly, the space is urgently needed.

The south wing being only eighteen years old, renovation will be easier to carry out. What had been a study area, then a work area, will be converted to stack space, to contain approximately 100,000 volumes.

If all renovations can be carried out, the capacity of the open stack areas will be increased by about 350,000 volumes. At a steady growth rate, that should serve for eight to ten years.

In addition, a basement in the multi-purpose building mentioned above is being partly converted to storage shelving, with a capacity of about 200,000 volumes. The principal use for that area will be to contain overflow from the branch libraries which have already reached or exceeded capacity, or will do so in the next few years. That storage space too should be filled within eight to ten years.

Readers would be ill-advised to accept with a sigh of relief the short-term solutions outlined above. There are assumptions in the foregoing calculations. One is that something can be done with stack levels six and seven; this remains to be seen. The other is that the accession rate will continue at the present level. If it diminishes, less space will be needed. But what if it should increase?

In any case, after eight years there will be a crisis. The Main Library, most branch libraries and all storage areas will be full. The University will need all that time, given the pace at which building projects are now moving, to deal with that future crisis. It can't wait until the crisis is upon it.

It is now time to plan for the replacement of the Main Library by a new research library building, one that will not be full on the day of its opening, but that will carry the Library forward well into the twenty-first century, which at that point will only be ten to fifteen years away; and one that will meet the needs of those major faculties, such as Arts, Education, Commerce and Science, which the Library is increasingly unable to meet.

Such a proposal raises many questions. Where will such a major structure be situated? What will it cost? What will become of the Main Library building?

The siting of a major library building should be determined within the context of a master campus plan. Obviously, given the faculties and students it must serve, a new research library must be somewhere near the centre of the northern half of the campus. This is not an impossibility, since there are a number of not-so-temporary temporary buildings occupying a major segment of the north campus.

Before the size and cost of this building can be estimated, some detailed programming would need to be carried out. Very tentatively, the cost might be on the order of thirty million dollars.

As for the Main Library, whatever its future uses, it would need to be extensively remodelled once it was vacated. With its central location and variety of spaces, it recommends itself as the future site of the university administration. Other areas can be converted to general purpose classrooms and seminar rooms, now in short supply. The stacks could be closed off to public access and redeveloped as a general university storage facility. Again, renovation of the building should be carried out in the context of a master plan. The Main Library could be remodelled for a variety of purposes.

To recapitulate, the University, in not meeting the objectives of the 1966 Plan for Future Services, has scarcely enough space to hold today's collections, and is not in a position to accommodate the three million volume collection which is now in prospect. To cope with the next period of collection growth, some seven storage areas will be used; but these are not even a second best alternative, considered from the points of view of user access and operating efficiency. Planning should commence immediately for a new major structure which will correct present deficiencies and provide for collections, users and staff projected for at least thirty years.

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Beginning in January the Library stopped producing catalogue cards for works published in 1978, a first step toward the complete closure of the card catalogue and its substitution by a catalogue on computer output microfiche, or COM. To understand how and why this event occurred, it is necessary, as in the case of the growth of the collection itself, to look for reasons in developments external as well as internal to the University.

Ultimately, it is the swelling tide of new publications that has forced changes in methods of catalogue production and maintenance not just at U.B.C., but at libraries everywhere. That the body of world literature was increasing at an accelerating pace was recognized by librarians in the nineteen fifties and sixties. The question was: how to describe adequately and currently what was emerging from the world's presses, so that access to individual items would be possible?

Obviously, to make the most efficient use of available time, it would be desirable to prepare a catalogue description for each new item just once, and thereafter to avoid recataloguing in libraries everywhere. The achievement of such an objective would depend on international consistency in cataloguing practices, and on methods of exchanging bibliographic information. Work began on the development of standards for cataloguing, and for the entry of cataloguing information into machine-readable form for computer handling. Ultimately this work was subsumed in 1973 under a programme mounted by the International Federation of Library Associations, supported by U.N.E.S.C.O., under the title of U.B.C., standing in this instance for Universal Bibliographic Control.

This programme was based on a number of general principles, easy to describe if not so simple to implement. Each country, through its national library or some other national agency, would undertake to catalogue all publications originating within its borders. Cataloguing would be carried out according to conventions which would be standard inter-

nationally. Catalogue descriptions would be recorded in machine readable form, again according to international standards. Thus the cataloguing of an item would be performed once, in the country of its origin, and the results of that work would be available to libraries everywhere for use in compiling their individual catalogues.

This enormous undertaking, involving hundreds of thousands of new items every year, is beginning to bear fruit. In a small way, this library is contributing to it. In recent years, the library has been under contract to the National Library of Canada to provide cataloguing information for all new books being published in western Canada. The library obtains from publishers galley sheets for forthcoming books. Cataloguing information is supplied to the publisher, who prints it on the back of the title page. The same information is sent to the National Library, which uses it to compile the published national bibliography Canadiana; and the National Library also distributes the information in machine-readable form, on magnetic tape. The printed bibliography and the magnetic tapes are exchanged internationally.

The developments occurring under the rubric of Universal Bibliographic Control have been roughly contemporaneous with the unprecedented growth of this Library's collection and with its distribution among a number of new library branches and divisions, both of which have resulted in an equally remarkable growth in card catalogues. That growth continued at a steady rate, reflecting the maintenance of the existing accession rate. In the calendar year 1977, 1,342,300 cards were filed into catalogues, about a third of those going into the Main Catalogue, the rest into other catalogues. These cards required 1,120 drawers, equivalent to nineteen sixty-drawer cabinets.

The card catalogue has many commendable assets. Its organizing principles are relatively easy to grasp, and many users can have access to it simultaneously. In short, it works. But its disadvantages now outweigh its advantages. To begin with, It consumes floor space. If space were available for the indefinite expansion of catalogues that might be acceptable. But in some areas, such as the Main Library, there is no more

space into which the catalogue can expand and still be convenient to users. The card catalogue is difficult and expensive to maintain: every card must be hand filed; each book moved to storage must be re-listed; international standardizations necessitate thousands of revisions; and labour costs always increase. When a library is short of space, is anticipating the addition of another million volumes, and is contemplating the relocation of hundreds of thousands of items, it is bound to seek a means other than the card catalogue to provide bibliographic access to collections.

It is at this point that international and local developments intersect. Now, cataloguing information for a high percentage of the output of the world's presses is available in machine-readable form. This cataloguing information, supplied on magnetic tapes, can be obtained through a number of pioneering computer systems, one of which, developed at the University of Toronto, is now being used by the U.B.C. Library. These systems allow a cataloguer to search a data base incorporating tapes from many countries to locate a record for an individual item which the library has in hand, to adapt that record to local needs, to instruct the computer to file that record with other library records, and to obtain from the system a catalogue product in some form. These systems initially were devoted to card production. That still left the cards to be filed, however.

Increasingly, libraries are turning to computer-produced microform catalogues. And that is the medium chosen by U.B.C. It is easy to use, compact, and inexpensive to duplicate. In a few years' time, it will be joined by another means of catalogue access: direct access by computer terminal not only to the catalogued materials, but also to materials in process and on order. Some persons may find this prospect daunting, but tomorrow's students will not: they are learning to use computers in elementary school.

But this Library is not acting independently in implementing these major changes in its cataloguing practices. It is working in concert with all libraries at post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. The Ministry of Education, aware that only by the sharing of library collections can all students begin to enjoy some equality of opportunity for access to literature, has funded the development of a B.C. Union Catalogue. This enterprise has

required all libraries to cooperate in entering their catalogue records into a machine-readable data base that can be used both to generate local catalogues, and to produce a single union catalogue of all their holdings. This union catalogue, also produced on COM, is being distributed throughout the province, so that students and faculty can locate materials anywhere, and obtain them through interlibrary loan.

The simplicity with which this project can be described tends to obscure its size, complexity, and revolutionary nature. To use the adjective "revolutionary" is entirely appropriate. The university, college and institute libraries of B.C., with government financial support and encouragement, have collectively agreed on common cataloguing standards, are all carrying out their current cataloguing procedures on one computer-based system, and are systematically converting all catalogue records retrospectively, a task which will take several years. Non-academic libraries are joining this project. Ultimately the holdings of the majority of the province's academic, public, government and special libraries will be represented in one bibliographic data base. Maintained by a computer located in B.C., it will in several years' time be accessible on-line, providing citizens with a greatly enhanced capability for retrieving information. In effect, there will not be a multiplicity of library catalogues, but only one; instead of hundreds of cards, describing dozens of copies of the same book in many libraries, there will be one record in the computer, which can be summoned up to appear in any library's electronic catalogue.

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V. SERVICES

In 1977/78 there were 2,346,379 recorded loans. Unrecorded use of materials within libraries would probably double that figure. Few, if any, academic libraries in North America have attained such a high level of use, regardless of size of student body or size of collection. There are probably several reasons for U.B.C.'s experience. The automated circulation system, in operation since the middle sixties, makes for ease of borrowing. The decentralization of collections has made materials more accessible. The Library has carried out a comprehensive programme of orientation and instruction, which last year involved more than ten thousand persons. The collections have been carefully developed to meet actual needs. And not least, there is a tradition of teaching at U.B.C. that places emphasis on research and reading. In 1961/62 the full time winter enrollment at U.B.C. was roughly half of what it is today. But circulation has quadrupled, not doubled, since then.

Yet the rate of annual increase has slowed. This could be attributed to diminished increases in enrollment, or it may be that an inherent maximum has been reached: students can only read so much in a given period of time. Another factor might be the implementation two years ago of new loan regulations which permitted extended loans and thereby decreased the number of loan renewals.

Although the numbers involved are not great in relation to the total circulation, it is noteworthy that interlibrary lending jumped by 60% in one year, following two years of decline. It was in January 1976 that U.B.C. joined the University of Toronto in implementing an interlibrary loan fee, as the only means of dealing with the mounting staff costs of providing materials to other institutions. This brought about a decline in transactions. But in September 1977 the Ministry of Education funded a B.C. Interlibrary Loan Network Project, the purpose of which was to make the lending of materials by the universities to the colleges and to one another more efficient and less expensive, and this reversed the statistical trend. Some basic findings of the Project: U.B.C. supplied 73% of the loans, the other two universities supplying the balance; turnaround time was faster and unit costs were lower at U.B.C., presumably because of efficiencies and

economies made possible by the larger volume of business. The high percentage of filled loans may be attributable simply to the size and richness of U.B.C.'s collections, and tends to underline the importance of this Library as a provincial resource. The establishment of this network is naturally linked to the development of the Union Catalogue, the existence of which should further increase the province—wide use of U.B.C.'s collections.

Measured reference activity has increased by 25% in the five years that statistics have been collected systematically. On the other hand, computer searches were fewer in number this year, but this was to be expected: 1977/78 was the first year during which these special services were offered on a partial cost recovery basis. There was also a pronounced decline in the number of directional questions, but this in fact may be evidence of the effectiveness of the library's orientation programmes, which involved tours, lectures and a plethora of free and readily available printed guides; assisted also by an increasing number of directional and informational signs and posters, the user is getting better at finding his own way around libraries. In the Main Library, U.B.C.'s imitation of the catacombs, particular attention has been given to graphics, and directional questions dropped off there by almost 10%.

One other feature of this age of information: the appearance of increasing numbers of indexes, abstracts and bibliographies, essential if individuals are to identify the materials they require. Mastering this species of publication is the task of the reference librarian. It is a pleasure to report that a considerable number of commendatory letters have been received, expressing appreciation for the quality of service provided by the Library's information specialists. It should also be noted that during this year two important works, authored by U.B.C. librarians, were added to the body of reference literature:

Microforms Research Collections: A Guide, by Suzanne Dodson. (Westport, Conn., Microform Review, 1978. XXVI, 410 p.)

The Religious Life of Man: Guide to Basic Literature, by Leszek M. Karpinski. (Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press, 1978. XX, 339 p.)

Further, many librarians in the public, technical and administrative services of the Library, were engaged in teaching courses and workshops at institutions throughout the lower Mainland. All these developments attest to the vitality of the Library's programme of service to the university and the community.

Notes

 A separate report on the project may be obtained from the Office for Library Coordination, 7671 Alderbridge Way, Richmond, B.C., V6X 1Z9, under the title <u>Interlibrary Loan and Post-Secondary</u> <u>Libraries in British Columbia</u>; <u>Report of a Project</u>, <u>September 1977 ~</u> April 1978.

VI. CONCLUSION

The emphasis in this annual report has been on information: its acquisition, organization for public access, housing, and rate of growth.

The University, through its support of the collections budget during recent difficult years, has shown its determination to continue to meet the many and diverse needs of the users of the Library. In converting its cataloguing records to machine-readable form, the Library is attempting to provide access to the contents of the collections both more efficiently and effectively. However, the predictable growth of the collections toward the third millionth volume imposes a need for space to contain them. All available space will be filled at the end of eight years.

Given the amount of time required for the completion of even minor building projects, planning for a new research library should begin now.

Appendix A

SIZE OF COLLECTIONS - PHYSICAL VOLUMES

	March 31, 1977	Additions	Withdrawals	March 31, 1978
Main Library				
General Stacks ¹	794,720	34,839	64,660 ²	764,899
Asian Studies	80,734	11,580	18	92,296
Fine Arts	66,555	4,705	3	71,257
Humanities & Social Sciences Reference	38,872	1,857	56	40,673
Science Reference	14,369	441	232	14,578
Special Collections	46,111	2,514	13	48,612
SUBTOTAL.	1,041,361	55,936	64,982 ²	1,032,315
Branches and Reading Rooms				
Animal Resource Ecology	13,551	319	11	13,859
Biomedical Branch	18,071	1,584	300	19,355
Crane Library	6,477	309	3	6,783
Curriculum Laboratory	39,534	5,667	987	44,214
Law Library	104,612	4,237	19	108,830
MacMillan Library	36,189	2,214	327	38,076
Marjorie Smith	10,974	710	78	11,606
Mathematics Library	18,518	1,000	61	19,457
Music Library	26,026	1,756	65	27,717
Reading Rooms ³	101,742	8,361	1,112	108,991
Sedgewick Library	141,429	10,700	4,281	147,848
Woodward Library	214,146	7,508	18	221,636
SUBTOTAL	731,269	44,365	7,2624	768,372
TOTAL	1,772,630	100,301	72,244	1,800,687
Storage	78,750	62,346 ⁵		141,096
GRAND TOTAL	1,851,380	 		1,941,783

Notes

- 1. Including some minor Main Library collections.
- 2. Of this number, 62,066 were relegated to storage.
- 3. The Data Library is included under Reading Rooms.
- 4. Of this number, 280 were relegated to storage.
- 5. In total, 62,346 volumes were added to storage.

Appendix B

GROWTH OF COLLECTIONS

	March 31, 1977	Net Growth	March 31, 1978
Volumes - Catalogued	1,851,380	90,403	1,941,783
Documents - Uncatalogued	465,618	31,954	497,572
Microfilm (reels)	49,538	7,975	57,513
Microcard (cards)	111,680	296	111,976
Microprint (sheets)	935,750	51,000	986,750
Microfiche (sheets)	717,007	127,718	844,725
Films, Filmloops, Filmstrips & Video Tapes	2,988	85	3,073
Slides & Transparencies	16,697	7,640	24,337
Pictures & Posters	69,943	4,596	74,539
Maps	115,574	3,875	119,449
Manuscripts*	3,717 1.f.	100 1.f.	3,817 1.f.
Sound Recordings	62,138	4,679	66,817
Computer Tapes	282	5	287
Air Photos	70	-	70

^{*}Thickness of files in linear feet

Appendix C

LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Years, April - March

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Estimated 1978/79
Salaries & Wages	5,344,412	5,755,893	6,303,582	6,588,494
Books & Periodicals	1,741,021	1,954,121	2,473,368	2,550,000
Binding	144,266	154,043	177,253	180,710
Supplies & Equipment	428,696	752,810	518,360	969,438
TOTALS	7,658,395	8,616,867	9,472,563	10,288,642

Appendix D

RECORDED USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

	Septem				
	_				% Increase/
GENERAL CIRCULATION	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	Decrease over 1976/77
Main Library					
General Stack Collection	465,534	427,094	454,310	425,211	- 6.4%
Reserve Circulation	31,656	19,657	16,775	17,401	+ 3.7%
Extension Library	3,831	4,356	5,764	5,943	+ 3.1%
Asian Studies Division	18,586	17,943	23,003	17,856	-22.4%
Fine Arts Division	81,097	88,359	97,055	96,747	- 0.3%
Government Publications	148,980	149,975	109,430	141,013	+28.9%
Map Collections	7,650	9,928	12,503	11,824	- 5.4%
Special Collections	19,571	19,051	17,667	17,651	_
SUBTOTAL	776,885	736,363	736,507	733,646	- 0.4%
Branch Libraries & Reading Rooms					
Animal Resource Ecology	9,651	8,447	9,773	11,178	+14.4%
Crane Library	48,626	31,293	52,700	51,713	- 1.9%
Curriculum Laboratory	249,054	225,261	252,129	254,022	+ 0.8%
Law Library	124,169	142,628	153,440	138,942	- 9.4%
MacMillan Library	41,860	41,193	42,956	44,503	+ 3.6%
Marjorie Smith Library	12,969	12,603	14,017	19,251	+37.3%
Mathematics Library	18,972	19,251	19,283	19,504	+ 1.1%
Medical Branch Library (V.G.H.)	26,947	27,469	30,390	32,554	+ 7.1%
Music Library	27,468	33,624	38,279	40,029	+ 4.6%
Reading Rooms	75,195	83,907	78,642	76,824	- 2.3%
Sedgewick Library	396,286	377,882	367,927	344,561	- 6.3%
Woodward Biomedical	189,408	195,110	183,053	191,575	+ 4.7%
SUBTOTAL	1,220,605	1,198,668	1,242,589	1,224,656	- 1.4%
Recordings					
Wilson Recordings Collection	255,498	261,278	280,150	312,375	+11.5%
Music Library Record Collection	37,920	38,976	40,756	45,672	+12.1%
SUBTOTAL	293,418	300,254	320,906	358,047	+11.6%

APPENDIX D (Continued)

INTERLIBRARY LOANS*	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	% Increase/ Decrease Over 1976/77
To Other Libraries					
Original Materials	12,092	8,094	7,884	11,533	+46.3%
Photocopies	13,483	8,263	6,609	11,705	+77.1%
TOTAL INTERLIBRARY LENDING	25,575	16,357	14,493	23,238	+60.3%
From Other Libraries					
Original Materials	3,576	3,184	3,274	3,243	- 0.9%
Photocopies	3,801	2,661	3,502	3,549	+ 1.3%
TOTAL INTERLIBRARY BORROWING	7,377	5,845	6,776	6,792	+ 0.2%
GRAND TOTAL (General Circulation & Interlibrary Loans)	2,323,860	2,257,487	2,321,271	2,346,379	+ 1.1%

^{*}Interlibrary Loans are presented in greater detail in Appendix ${\tt E}$

APPENDIX E

interlibrary loans [☆]						
To Other Libraries					Increase	Increase
- Original Materials	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	(Decrease) from 74/75 %	(Decrease) from 76/77 %
General [†]	7,362	3,078	1,941	2,132	(71.0)	9.8
Federated Information Network	685 (9 mos.)	1,314	1,459	1,477	115.6	1.2
B.C. Medical Library Service	1,997	2,298	2,975	3,466	73.6	16.5
Simon Fraser University*	1,645	987	1,090		-	-
University of Victoria*	314	364	306	-	-	-
B.C. Institute of Technology*	89	53	100	••	-	-
B.G. Post-Secondary Library Network	2,048	1,404	1,496	4,428	116.2	196.0
Bamfield Marine Station [†]			13	30	-	130.8
SUBTOTAL	12,092	8,094	7,884	11,533	(4.6)	46.3
- Photocopies						
General [†]	8,142	3,591	1,412	2,012	(75.3)	42.5
Federated Information Network	183	571	736	797	335.5	8.3
Simon Fraser University*	(9 mos.) (2,951	7 2,446	-1,875	-	••	-
University of Victoria*	1,492	1,245	1,307	_	_	
B.C. Institute of Technology*	269	178	766	-	-	-
Colleges of B.C.*†	416	142	428	-	-	-
B.C. Post-Secondary Library Network	5,128	4,011	4,376	8,860	72.8	102.5
Bamfield Marine Station†	30	90	8.5	3.6	20.0	(57.6)
SUBTOTAL	13,483	8,263	6,609	11,705	(13.2)	77.1
TOTAL INTERLIBRARY LENDING	25,575	16,357	14,493	23,238	(9.1)	60.3
From Other Libraries - Original Materials						
General	2,657	2,020	2,580	2,453	(7.7)	(4.9)
B.C. Medical Library Service	919	1,164	694	790	(14.0)	13.8
- Photocopies	3,801	2,661	3,502	3,549	(6.6)	1.3
TOTAL INTERLIBRARY BORROWING	7,377	5,845	6,776	6,792	(7.9)	0.2

^{*}Because of the number of significant changes in interlibrary loan activity in British Columbia in the years covered by this table meaningful comparisons are difficult and sometimes impossible.

⁺ Until 1977-78 loans to public colleges in B.C. were included under the heading "General" for both originals and some photocopies. Other photocopies were handled through the SFU unit at UBC and counted separately.

FIN, a network of libraries operating since December 1974 under the aegis of the Greater Vancouver Library Federation. It provides access to the UBC collections for its own members and for some B.C. Government libraries in Victoria.

^{*} Prior to September 1977 loans were handled by the special Simon Fraser University Library unit at UBC.

[•] NET, a network of B.C. public university and college libraries, since September 1977.

[†] BMS loans were handled by the SFU unit until September 1977, since then by UBC via the FIN telephone line.

Appendix F

REFERENCE STATISTICS

September, 1977 - August, 1978

	Directional Questions	Reference Questions	Research Questions	Computer Searches	<u>Total</u>	Percentage Increase/ Decrease
Main Library						
Asian Studies	1,768	3,233	2,022	-	7,023	
Fine Arts	8,228	9,093	1,054	_	18,375	
Government Publications	670	30,747	816	-	32,233	
Humanities	2,172	8,781	728	-	11,681	
Information Desk	12,621	57,785		-	70,406	
Map Collection	291	3,671	121	-	4,083	
Science	596	7,231	1,525	154	9,506	
Social Sciences	618	16,010	907	184	17,719	
Special Collections	845	7,660	327	_	8,832	
	27,809	144,211	7,500	338	179,858	+ 0.7%
(1976/77)	(30,787)	(141,953)	(5,634)	(320)	(178,694)	
Branch Libraries						
Animal Resource Ecology	2,313	2,526	195	45	5,079	
Crane Library	2,299	3,160	407	_	5,866	
Curriculum Laboratory	10,037	16,850	96	-	26,983	
Law Library	2,509	4,256	1,184	121	8,070	
MacMillan Library	2,522	6,192	315	59	9,088	
Marjorie Smith Library	274	1,658	149	_	2,081	
Mathematics Library	917	1,348	241	_	2,506	
Medical Branch Library	4,720	7,409	543	-**	12,672	
(V.G.H.)						
Music Library	2,386	7,623	722	-	10,731	
Sedgewick Library	10,748	11,554	134	-	22,436	
Woodward Library	3,579	27,313	1,846	1,192	33,910	
	42,304	89,889	5,832	1,397	139,422	+ 2.8%
(1976/77)	(45,227)	(83,007)	(5,806)	(1,558)	(135,598)	
GRAND TOTALS	70,113	234,100	13,332	1,735	319,280	+ 1.6%
(1976/77)	(76,014)	(224,960)	(11,440)	(1,878)	(314,292)	

Statistics on "computer searches" were previously included with "research questions." Many involve the use of more than one reference data base.

48,537 questions (35,352 in 1976/77) in Reading Rooms are not included in Appendix F above.

^{**}Included in Woodward Library's statistics for computer searches.

Appendix F (Cont'd...)

CATALOGUE PRODUCTS

From April 3, 1978.

Elrod, J. McRee

Joe, Linda

Head (until July 14, 1978)

Acting Head (from June 5, 1978)

Head (from September 1, 1978)

CIRCULATION

Butterfield, Rita

Head

CRANE LIBRARY

Thiele, Paul

Head

CURRICULUM LABORATORY

Hurt, Howard

Head

DATA LIBRARY

Ruus, Laine

Head

FINE ARTS DIVISION

Dwyer, Melva

Head

GIFTS & EXCHANGE

Elliston, Graham

Head

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS & MICROFORMS

Dodson, Suzanne

Head

HUMANITIES

Forbes, Charles

Head

INFORMATION & ORIENTATION

Sandilands, Joan

Head

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Friesen, Margaret

Head

LAW LIBRARY

Shorthouse, Tom

Head

MACMILLAN LIBRARY

Macaree, Mary

Head

MAP DIVISION

Wilson, Maureen

Head

MARJORIE SMITH LIBRARY

de Bruijn, Elsie

Head

Appendix F (Cont'd...)

MUSIC LIBRARY

Burndorfer, Hans

Head

READING ROOMS

Omelusik, Nicholas

Head

SCIENCE DIVISION & MATHEMATICS LIBRARY

Brongers, Rein

Head

SEDGEWICK LIBRARY

Erickson, Ture

Head

SERIALS DIVISION

Turner, Ann Baldwin, Nadine Head (until April 2, 1978) Head (from April 3, 1978)

SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION

Carrier, Lois

Head

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIVISION

Yandle, Anne

Selby, Joan

Head

Curator, Colbeck Collection

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Dennis, Donald

Systems Analyst

Dobbin, Geraldine

Systems & Information Science Librarian

WILSON RECORDINGS/COLLECTION

Kaye, Douglas

Head

WOODWARD LIBRARY

Leith, Anna

Head

Appendix G

LIBRARY ORGANIZATION

ADMINISTRATION

Stuart-Stubbs, Basil University Librarian Bell, Inglis F. Associate Librarian

MacDonald, Robin Assistant Librarian - Technical Processes

and Systems

McInnes, Douglas N. Assistant Librarian - Public Services
Mercer, Eleanor Assistant Librarian - Collections

Watson, William J. Assistant Librarian - Physical Planning

and Development

de Bruijn, Erik Administrative Services Librarian

ACQUISITIONS

Harrington, Walter Head

ANIMAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY LIBRARY

Nelson, Ann Head

ASIAN STUDIES

Ng, Tung King Head

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cole, John

Elliston, Graham

Bibliographer - Science
Bibliographer - Serials

Forbes, Jennifer Bibliographer - English Language Jeffreys, Anthony Bibliographer - Life Sciences

Johnson, Stephen Research Bibliographer

McIntosh, Jack
Shields, Dorothy
Bibliographer - Slavonic Studies
Bibliographer - European Languages

BIOMEDICAL BRANCH LIBRARY (V.G.H.)

Freeman, George Head

CATALOGUE DIVISION

This section reflects the organization of the Division until April 2, 1978.

Elrod, J. McRee Head

Original Cataloguing

Bailey, Freda Head

Searching/LC Cataloguing

Joe, Linda Head (from July 1 until December 31, 1977)

Catalogue Preparations

Baldwin, Nadine Head

CATALOGUE RECORDS

This section and the one following reflect the organization of Cataloguing from April 3, 1978.

APILI 3, 1970.

Turner, Ann Head

Bailey, Freda Deputy Head & Bibliographic Control Librarian

Appendix G (Cont'd...)

Pharmacology Medical Sciences Building

Block C, Room 221

Pharmacy Cunningham Building

Room 160

Philosophy Buchanan Building

Room 3270

Physics Hennings Building

Room 311

Physiology Medical Sciences Building

Block A, Room 201

Political Buchanan Building

Science Room 1220

Psychiatry Rm. 22, Health Sciences Centre

2255 Wesbrook Road

Psychology Henry Angus Building

Room 207

Rehabilitation Hut B2

Medicine Room 26-27

Religious Buchanan Bldg.

Studies Room 2250

Slavonic Buchanan Building

Studies Room 2251

Theatre Frederick Wood Theatre

Room 211

Appendix H

LIBRARY SUPPORTED READING ROOMS

AS OF AUGUST, 1978

Adult	Room 20	Electrical	Elect. Engr. Bldg.
Education	5760 Toronto Road	Engineering	Rm. 428 (Enter by Rm. 434)
Agricultural	Ponderosa Annex D	English	Buchanan Tower
Economics	Room 105		Room 697
Anthropology-	Anth. Soc. Bldg.	French	Buchanan Tower
Sociology	Room 2314		Room 897
Applied Science/	Civil & Mech. Eng.	Geography	Geography Building
Mechanical Eng.	Building, Room 2050		Room 140
Architecture	F. Lasserre Bldg. Room 9B (Basement)	Geology	Geological Sciences Building, Room 208
Asian Studies	Buchanan Building Room 2208	Geophysics	Geophysics Building 2nd Floor, South
Audiology	James Mather Bldg.	Hispanic-	Buchanan Building
	Fairview Pl., Room 205	Italian	Room 2220
Chemical	Chem. Engineering Bldg., Room 310	Hom	Home Economics Bldg.
Engineering		Economics	Room 210
Chemistry	Chemistry Building Room 261	Institute of Industrial Relation	Auditorium Annex 100 ons
Classics	Buchanan Building	Institutional	Main Mall N. Admin. Bldg.
	Room 2218	Analysis & Plan.	Room 140
Commerce	Henry Angus Bldg.	Library	Library North Wing
	Room 307	School	8th Floor Room 831
Comparative	Buchanan Building	Linguistics	Buchanan Building
Literature	Room 227		Room 227
Computing	Computer Sciences Bldg.	Metallurgy	Metallurgy Building
Centre	Room 302		Room 319
Creative	Brock Hall, South	Microbiology	Wesbrook Building
Writing	Wing, Room 204		Room 300
Economics-	Buchanan Tower	Mineral	Mineral Engineering
History	Room 1097	Engineering	Building, Room 201

SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

1977/78

Rev. P.C. Burns Mr. R.T. Franson Dr. E.M. Fulton Dr. M.C.L. Gerry Dr. W.C. Gibson Dr. R.H. Hill Dr. L.D. Jones Dr. P.A. Larkin (Chairman) Mr. S.L. Lipson Rev. J.P. Martin Dr. Harvey Mitchell Mr. J.F. McWilliams Mr. P.H. Pearse Mrs. A. Piternick Mr. W.A. Rodgers Dr. M. Shaw

EX-OFFICIO

Chancellor D. Miller President D. Kenny Mr. J.E.A. Parnall Mr. B. Stuart-Stubbs

Terms of Reference:

- (a) To advise and assist the Librarian in:
 - formulating a policy for the development of resources for instruction and research;
 - (ii) advising on the allocation of book funds to the fields of instruction and research;
 - (iii) developing a general program of library service for all the interests of the University; and
 - (iv) keeping himself informed about the library needs of instructional and research staffs, and keeping the academic community informed about the library.
- (b) To report to Senate on matters of policy under discussion by the Committee.

