

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



President's Report on the Library

UBC



An historic moment: past and present chief librarians meet with the president in the Woodward memorial room. Nov. 1986.

“Masters of Science,” The dramatic tapestry hanging behind the librarians, depicts famous scientists throughout the ages. It was worked in 1948 in a special workshop in France under the direction of a former administrator of the Gobelins Tapestry Works, and purchased by UBC in 1967.

L-R back row: Neil Harlow, 1951-61; Walter Kaye Lamb, 1940-49; Douglas McInnes, 1981-present; David W. Strangway, tenth president of UBC; Samuel Rothslein, acting librarian 1961-62. Front row sitting: Basil Stuart-Stubbs, 1964-81; Anne Smith, acting librarian 1949 and 1951.



“Today, the Library faces three major challenges – challenges that we must overcome in the very near future if we are to maintain the strength and health of this vital resource, the heart of our university”.

Dr. David W. Strangway
President
University of British Columbia



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Introduction



Dr. David W. Strangway, tenth president of UBC.

For my first report as President of The University of British Columbia, I have chosen to focus on one issue critical to the health and strength of the University — its library.

This remarkable library is the second largest research library in Canada. Among its superb collections are areas of national and international significance, which provide a unique and vital resource for the people of British Columbia, from university researchers and senior professionals to private industry and consultants.

It is one of the major, critical links in a national research library system that, particularly in the social sciences and humanities, is housed almost exclusively within Canada's universities.

There is very good reason for this.

Canada, with a small population dispersed across an enormous land and separated by massive physical barriers and great climatic differences, has developed as a series of major centres, surrounded by vast rural areas.

Universities in the major centres have become the focus of intellectual development. Their libraries form the heart of Canada's national collection, just as each individual library is the heart of its institution.

Today, it is hard for us to imagine how our lives would be without the wealth of written materials available to us. The new ideas and technologies that characterize today's information age have been accompanied by a corresponding growth in the numbers of books and journals published. Without access to these resources we would not be able to grow and develop, creating new fields of research and expanding into fresh markets.

The first president of UBC, Dr. Frank Fairchild Westbrook, recognized from the beginning that a fine library was one of the key elements for a great university, and made the acquisition of the initial library collection his first priority.

He also believed that the University — and its library — belonged to the people of British Columbia, and should be maintained to meet 'all the needs of all the people'. Successive UBC presidents have followed Dr. Westbrook's vision, and I am proud, as tenth president of UBC, to assume responsibility for an institution with such a strong and noble tradition.



The UBC Library is the focal point of the University, essential to the work of every faculty on campus at all levels of teaching and research.

Started only in 1914, the year before the University opened its doors, its strength and resources today are world class. In its fledgling years, the Library survived two world wars and a major financial depression. In more recent years, it was blessed with some outstanding patrons, without whose help the Library — and indeed the University as a whole — might still be a small provincial facility. Today the Library faces fresh challenges as it grapples with the complexities of the information age.

These challenges it shares with major research libraries around the world. Thanks to the computer, libraries can have access to information contained in databases situated at any point on the globe. They must, therefore, make use of these technologies in order that their users can gain access to the most current data as effectively as possible. Through the UBC Library, researchers can find almost anything, anywhere in the libraries of the world.

Libraries must also decide where to concentrate their resources in order to buy the journals, books and other materials that their community will need for education, research and intellectual growth. The UBC Library has made the maintenance of its collections its major priority, even during the recent years of recession, inflation, currency devaluation, retrenchment and funding cutbacks.

Great libraries, such as the one at UBC, do not grow overnight. They require the dedicated efforts, foresight and imagination of successive presidents, librarians, governments and private individuals, without whose collective efforts a library — and the university it supports — will falter and weaken.

Today, the Library faces three major challenges — challenges that we must overcome in the very near future if we are to maintain the strength and health of our vital heart. We urgently need to find more space to accommodate our ever increasing collections and renovate some of the space we have already; we need to expand our budget for collections, bringing it into line with the University's needs; and we need to continue our commitment to technological advancement and innovation in the library system.

These are serious and pressing concerns, and they must be met if the Library is to continue to play its role in the economic, cultural and social development of this province and the nation as a whole.

In order to provide you with a clear understanding of the importance of the task ahead of us, I have divided my report into three sections: the first outlines the rich history of the Library; the second takes a look at the Library as it is today; and the third details the challenges we have to face if we are to reinforce the strengths of this critical provincial resource for future generations of British Columbians.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Making of a Library

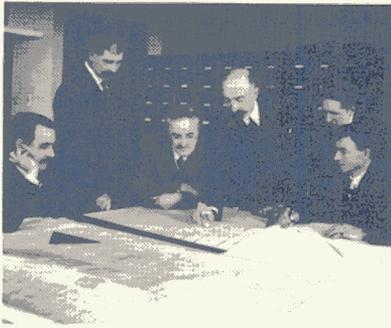


The Making of a Library

A Vision And A Dream

“The people’s university must meet all the needs of all the people. We must therefore proceed with care to the erection of those Workshops where we may design and fashion the tools needed in the building of a nation and from which we can survey and lay out paths of enlightenment, tunnel the mountains of ignorance and bridge the chasms of incompetence.”

*Dr. Frank Fairchild Wesbrook,
First president of The University of British Columbia, 1914-1919*



President Frank Fairchild Wesbrook (third from left) reviews plans for the future campus with the University’s architects, Nov. 1913.

One of Wesbrook’s first actions was to hire a first rate librarian, James Taylor Gerould, to select and purchase the basic collection of books for the Library. Gerould, then librarian at the University of Minnesota (where Wesbrook had been dean of medicine), and later librarian for Princeton, was sent to Europe in the summer of 1914.

He bought extensively in England and France, acquiring fundamental works in sciences, philosophy, history and literature. He then went to Germany, but was arrested as a British spy the moment he arrived in Leipzig. He was thrown into prison and his money confiscated. After weeks of delay and frustration, Gerould was finally released and made his way back to North America, but without any of the German books the library needed. Nevertheless, his discerning choice gave the University an unusually good start for its collection.

The books were rapidly made available for the use of students by the acting librarian and cataloguer, John Ridington. Ridington decided to classify the books according to a new classification scheme devised by the U.S. Library of Congress — a far-sighted decision which contributed enormously to the strength of the Library, and its ability to grow into a significant research resource.

In 1915, Ridington became UBC’s first librarian, a position he held for 25 years. Through all these years Ridington, with the help of a small but dedicated staff, continued to build upon its strength, encouraged and supported by President Wesbrook and later by President Klinck.



John Ridington received no formal training as a librarian, but he had the energy and vision to build a first-rate collection for the fledgling University during difficult and financially precarious years.



Despite financial difficulties, the Library grew rapidly, and the problem of space became increasingly pressing. The situation was not relieved until the University moved to its permanent location at Point Grey in 1925. The grandiose neo-gothic Library was one of the few monuments of the new campus. Built for a total cost of about \$525,000, it was planned to allow for future expansion in three directions, and its stacks were the most modern available. The Library provided reading and study space for about 350 students, and shelf space for 135,000 volumes.

Under Ridington's energetic and vigilant eye, the Library expanded year by year. Ridington showed a special skill in attracting donations of rare and expensive items from private individuals, including a collection of rare books donated by Dr. Ralph Stedman of University College, Swansea, part of the Gerrans Library from Oxford, England, the De Pencier Library of mining and geology, and several smaller collections.

The affluence of the twenties came to an end abruptly with the stock market crash of 1929. During the next three years, the provincial budget for UBC was slashed by well over half, and the survival of the University itself was in question.

The Library had come to the worst crisis in its history. Ridington's battle for survival is underscored in a letter he wrote to Donald Cameron, University of Alberta, in 1932: ". . . We have been working for years to build up a collection and service of books that, so far as I know, is among the best of any university library in Canada . . . and now the prospect is starvation, retrogression. I am weary at heart and sick of soul."

Help was close at hand. In answer to UBC's plea, the Carnegie Corporation gave a grant of \$5,000 a year for three years to purchase books for undergraduate teaching. Through all these hard times, Ridington's devoted and energetic staff continued to collect for a future library whose strengths they could only imagine, resolutely increasing the reference library, and collecting serials concerned with subjects which the University did not yet teach.



The grandiose neo-gothic library, built in 1925, was one of the monuments of the new campus.



The Making of a Library

In 1936, Ridington obtained a depository set of 1,500,000 Library of Congress catalogue cards, one of only 18 such sets in the world at the time. The cards vastly simplified the cataloguing procedure, and were valuable as a bibliographical aid in research.



During the 20s and 30s, the Library's reading room was the centre for undergraduate activity and learning.

By this time, the Library had 100,000 volumes, 15,000 pamphlets, and subscriptions to 600 general, scientific and technical periodicals. What it had, it shared, lending books to every part of the province — a policy it continues today. The extension library developed during this period, fulfilling many obligations of the 'People's University' Dr. Wesbrook had envisioned.

By the start of the Second World War, the UBC Library was an important and widely used resource for a great many people. Its collection was small, but unusually well balanced — an achievement gained against all odds.

The War Years and Post-War Expansion

In 1940, John Ridington retired. He was replaced by UBC alumnus Dr. Walter Kaye Lamb, an outstanding librarian, archivist and historian, and a man of great vision and energy. It was during his time that the first great expansion of the University took place.

Within two and a half years, at the end of the war, the student body increased from about 2,300 to over 9,300, creating the need for the first addition to the original building — the north wing. Completion of this wing came just in time, as Eric Nicol, then an editor of *The Ubyyssey*, noted in a Nov. '45 column: "Dr. Kaye Lamb has been reluctantly obliged to admit that merely fitting the librarians with jet propulsion has failed to meet the demand . . . Obtaining a seat in the great hall has taken on the primitive charm of musical chairs, with predators circling tables watching for the slightest sign of somebody rising to leave."

At the formal opening of the new wing in 1948, with the needs of the future always in his mind, Kaye Lamb remarked that not even a good angel can fly to heaven on one wing. However, it wasn't until 1960 that one of



UBC's great library benefactors, Dr. Walter Koerner, provided the funding that helped to build the south wing, turning Kaye Lamb's wish into a reality.

In 1945, the Library became a member of the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Centre, and was able to greatly expand its research capability through inter-library loan services, borrowing from the strong collections of the Universities of Washington and Oregon. Private donations of money increased steadily, including an annual contribution from the Summer Session Students' Association, and \$4,000 each in 1944 from the Goodyear Tire Company and the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

Numerous gifts-in-kind continued to reach the Library. Notable among these were: a bequest from the estate of the late Lionel Haweis, one of the original, dedicated group of library staff; a donation from retiring President Klinck; the contents of the library of the late UBC Chancellor R.E. McKechnie; and the A.M. Pound collection of Canadiana.

One of the key acquisitions at this time resulted from special, identical agreements worked out by Kaye Lamb with two keen historians of British Columbia, Judge F.W. Howay and Dr. Robie L. Reid. Both had been associated with the University for many years, and were personal friends of Kaye Lamb.

The Reid Library contained extensive material on B.C., and also a great deal of general Canadian history, fiction, poetry and essays, with special emphasis upon Western Canadian writers. The bulk of Judge Howay's library related to Western Canada and the Northwest coast of the U.S. and Canada. He also had copies of almost everything in print on the Maritime fur trade. Under the agreements worked out by Kaye Lamb, Howay and Reid bequeathed their libraries to the University, on condition that the two collections be shelved together in a special room, with access restricted to research scholars. Today, the Howay-Reid collection of Canadiana, as the co-bequest is known, has become one of the principal centres of research on the history and development of the Pacific Northwest area.



In 1949, the University honoured its landscape architect of 29 years, Mr. Frank Buck, dedicating the fountain in front of the Library to him. L-R: President Norman A.M. MacKenzie, Mrs. Buck, Mr. Frank Buck, Chancellor Eric Hamber.



The Making of a Library

Under great pressure to add both qualitatively and quantitatively to its holdings, the Library added 40,000 volumes in the next four years, bringing the total number of volumes to 320,000 by 1951.



On Jan. 7, 1958, Dr. Walter Koerner presented the University with a cheque for \$375,000 towards the construction of the south wing of the Main Library. The occasion gave Dr. Koerner (far right) the chance to look at some of the works from the Murray collection with librarian Neil Harlow (far left), and President Norman A.M. MacKenzie.

Key among the materials added at this time were the H.R. MacMillan Forestry Collection, from forestry magnate H.R. MacMillan; a collection of old maps, also from Dr. MacMillan; a fine collection of books on the Arctic, assembled by Mr. A.J.T. Taylor, and microfilm files of the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Vancouver Daily Province*. In 1948, the Koerner Memorial Trust was set up, the proceeds to go to library development, and in 1950 brothers Leon and Walter Koerner made a substantial additional grant to the Library.

By 1951, when Neal Harlow came from UCLA to become librarian, the UBC Library was already one of the leading teaching and research collections in Canada. But in 1955 Harlow noted that “however successful the University may be in providing financial support for its current library needs, substantial funds from other sources will be increasingly required . . . At forty, the UBC Library is strong, a bit scrawny, showing some signs of early undernourishment, but is fully determined to do the work cut out for it.”

Harlow saw a clear need for a better library, and knew that this meant more financial support. He applied his considerable talents and energy to the task, and by the time he left the University ten years later, the Library had doubled in every respect, containing a collection of half a million volumes. Three times as many books were being loaned, and the book funds had undergone an incredible ten-fold increase.

His most conspicuous achievement was the addition of the new south wing, funded by Dr. Walter Koerner, as mentioned above. Koerner gave the University \$375,000, the funds were matched by the province and doubled by the Canada Council, and the wing was officially opened in 1960.



By this time, the Library had strong collections in medicine, law, Slavonic studies, forestry, Asian studies and French Canadian studies, and excellent collections of reference works, bibliographies and government publications. The greatest deficiencies were in major subject areas such as Germanic literature, geology, anthropology, sociology, social work, and education.

Fresh Approaches

In 1962, James Ranz became UBC librarian. His arrival coincided with the appointment of John B. Macdonald as University president, and with the publication of Edwin E. Williams' historic report on the resources of Canadian university libraries in the humanities and social sciences. It was a time of fresh approaches, and much that followed can be attributed to the reflections of these three men on library problems.

Within a few months, a new course had been set for the University and the Library. The rapid development of the graduate program, as outlined by the president, called for increased library strength, and an additional \$250,000 of the University budget was allocated to the purchase of books and periodicals.

Ranz saw clearly that, in an expanding university, a single focus for library services would no longer be adequate. Centralized services were to be supplemented by a decentralized system of branch libraries serving related disciplines. Ranz also recognized the need for the Main Library to be reorganized, in order to provide a more rational structure, with more shelf space. This project was completed in 1965.

Ranz was very good at securing cooperation and assistance from both faculty and staff, and he used this ability to reorganize completely the Library's operations. When he left UBC in 1964, his successor, Basil Stuart-Stubbs, inherited a sound framework for future library operations, reinforced by the Library's exceptional staff.



Rapid expansion in post-secondary education during the 60s was one of the factors responsible for a dramatic increase in the use of UBC's library.



The Making of a Library

Friends of the Library

In 1955-56, Neal Harlow, together with President Norman MacKenzie, had organized a group known as the 'Friends of the Library' under the chairmanship of Dr. Wallace Wilson. These 'Friends' were men and women with a particular interest in the Library, and all were willing to help provide additional funds and to locate and acquire important collections. During the next 12 years, its members were instrumental in confirming the Library's place as a first rate research collection of national significance.



Miss Ng Tung-king came to UBC from Hong Kong when the University acquired the P'u-pan collection, and has helped to guide the growth of the internationally acclaimed Asian studies library ever since. Here she holds one of the treasures of the P'u-pan collection – the Shuo-wen sheng-t'ung by famous Kwangtung scholar Ch'en Li. This volume, a phonetic system of the Shuo-wen, was published for the first time in 1971 when Ch'en Chih-mai, Ch'en Li's grandson, discovered in the P'u-pan catalogue the presumed-lost manuscript.



Librarian James Ranz (left) with Dr. P.A. Woodward, one of the Library's great benefactors. He funded the Woodward biomedical library building and much of the Woodward library's historical collection.

In addition to providing funds for the new south wing, Walter Koerner, one of the 'Friends', helped the University to acquire two magnificent collections — the P'u-Pan collection and the Murray collection. The P'u-Pan collection of Chinese materials is an extremely important collection of early Chinese printing, bindings and lavish volumes, representing the treasures of the Imperial Palace in Beijing, and had been brought out of China via Macao and Hong Kong. Its acquisition brought UBC international distinction, and made the Library one of the two outstanding ones in the field of Chinese studies in Canada. The Murray collection had been assembled by a bookseller in Montreal, and was one of the largest private collections of books relating to the history of Eastern Canada up to the end of the 19th century. Its purchase was a great coup.

Another great benefactor from the 'Friends' was Dr. P.A. Woodward. A man with a great respect for ideas, and how they came into the world, Woodward wanted UBC to be able to have a superlative collection of biomedical literature, including first editions of medical or scientific books that had changed history. His generosity funded the acquisition of many priceless volumes, culminating in a generous donation from the P.A. Woodward Foundation which provided a separate building to house UBC's biomedical collection — the Woodward Biomedical Library.

UBC's third major donor of the 60s was Dr. H.R. MacMillan, a long-time benefactor of the University, who understood the contribution of university education



to the long-term growth of the province. He made an outstanding donation in 1965 that transformed the character of the Library, giving \$3,000,000 for library acquisitions, to be spent over a period of three years. This donation is regarded as the most significant library gift ever made to a Canadian university, because of the effect it had upon the Library.

As then librarian Basil Stuart-Stubbs recalls, spending it was both an exhilarating and a terrifying prospect for the Library. "We were suddenly the richest library in North America. We tried to persuade Dr. MacMillan that the money could be invested and used for the Library over a long period of time, but he insisted that we needed the books now, and that, if we waited, the books would either be unavailable or too expensive for us. He was right, of course."

Thus began for Stuart-Stubbs and his colleague Robert Hamilton the biggest book-buying spree of their lives. That fall, the librarians travelled to Europe, armed only with a line of credit, a list of library "wants" and a list of antiquarian book sellers. In three weeks, working 12 to 16 hours a day, they spent \$250,000, buying complete files of periodicals and cleaning out the contents of booksellers' shelves, picking up some incredible bargains in the process. "None of the booksellers had ever heard of us," said Stuart-Stubbs. "They didn't even know where British Columbia was, and they certainly didn't have the time to raise their prices specially for us."

The Library augmented all its collections, reinforcing its areas of significant strength in Asian studies, medicine, musicology, the Pacific Northwest and Canadian history. Within three years, UBC's Library moved into the ranks of the top research libraries in North America.

President Macdonald recognized the importance of the strengthened Library. Thus, when the MacMillan gift was exhausted, the University decided to continue the development of collections at a level as close as it could afford to that achieved during the "MacMillan years". The stature of the Library's present outstanding collections is largely due to the foundation laid by the MacMillan gift.



Dr. H.R. MacMillan, photographed here at the 1967 opening of the MacMillan library, was one of the great benefactors of UBC. His gift of \$3,000,000 for library collections moved the Library into the ranks of the top research libraries in North America.



The Making of a Library

The Information Explosion

The 1960s was an exciting time of growth and prosperity throughout North America. Many new post-secondary institutions were built, helping to create the beginnings of an information explosion unprecedented in world history. Every year, more books and journals were written, more lectures and papers given.



Thanks to the MacMillan gift, the University expanded all its collections during the 60s, providing a rich resource for B.C. students entering post-secondary education institutions.

The UBC Library was coping with this information explosion, and at the same time attempting to sort and catalogue \$3,000,000 worth of additional materials. Basil Stuart-Stubbs notes that he was very grateful for the decentralised plan devised by James Ranz. “We needed more people to organize all the additional material, and we needed more space. It was at this time that the branch library system really developed, helping us to serve a dispersed campus more efficiently.”

Computers were just being introduced for library operation, and UBC was quick to make use of this new information tool. By 1965, the Library had its own automated circulation system. This early system was quite basic compared with today’s on-line systems, but was very effective in reducing the staff time needed to circulate a book.



Between 1965 and 66, the number of loans increased by an astonishing 44 per cent, from 750,000 to 1,070,000. Increased use of automation helped the Library to continue to serve its users efficiently and effectively.

The year after the automated system was introduced, the number of loans increased by an astonishing 44 per cent, from 750,000 in 1965 to 1,069,894 in 1966. “This volume would have been impossible to handle with the previous, manual system, even with increased staffing,” says Stuart-Stubbs. “The new system made it easier to borrow from the collection, and made it easier for staff to process books returned by borrowers. Most significantly, it allowed us to introduce additional features, such as controlling the use of the book stock more efficiently, keeping track of overdue books, recalling books needed by borrowers, and accepting holds and renewals.”

Private Collectors

In common with all other great libraries, UBC has particularly benefited from donations from private collectors, whose concentration and passion for their area of interest has enabled them to do the job no public



institution can do. These private collectors have been vital to our library, and there are hundreds of them. Space does not permit me to mention them all here, but a few examples will give some idea of the richness of the UBC collections.

Norman Colbeck is one such collector. Colbeck was an antiquarian bookseller in Bournemouth, England, specializing in 19th-century English authors. Over the years, he had built up a personal collection of their works which was quite exceptional. Colbeck, who was well known to Stuart-Stubbs, was also a personal friend of UBC professor William E. Fredeman, himself an avid collector of 19th century English literature.

When Colbeck decided to retire, and give his personal collection to a library, Fredeman was able to persuade him to consider UBC. Colbeck, who had hardly ever travelled in his life, came out to UBC, loved it, and agreed to give his collection to UBC with the understanding that he would serve for a period of time as curator of 'the Colbeck Collection', in order to complete a detailed catalogue of its contents. Today, Colbeck is still a familiar figure on campus, and this year will receive an honorary degree in recognition of his magnificent contribution to the UBC library.

Another private individual who donated a vast collection to UBC was Mr. William Heryet, a retired customs official who had been a British foot soldier during the Boxer rebellion. Heryet's Burnaby house was filled from floor to ceiling with books, mostly general history and Canadiana. He gave his extraordinary collection to the University "in order that it might benefit students in the future".

One of the treasures of the Asian Library is a collection of Japanese maps of the Tokugawa Period, collected by a Philadelphia businessman, Mr. George H. Beans. This collection, purchased by the Library with MacMillan money, is one of the best collections of Japanese maps in the world. "Not only are they visually beautiful, but they tell us more about the development of Japanese communities over the centuries than most other sources," says Stuart-Stubbs.



Bookseller Mr. Norman Colbeck provided a very valuable addition to the Library's special collections when he gave the University his exceptional collection of 19th century English literature volumes.



The Library's Japanese maps of the Tokugawa period, originally collected by Philadelphia businessman Mr. George H. Beans and purchased for UBC with MacMillan money, are one of the best collections of their kind in the world.



The Making of a Library

A Firm Mandate for the Seventies

1970-71 marked a turning point in the fortunes of the Library. The MacMillan money had been spent, and no other major donors had been forthcoming to promote the strength of library collections and services. The University's commitment to a library of excellence was still there, but tempered by problems such as student unrest, increasing pressure from all areas of the University for funding, and early signs of a downturn in the economy.



Library staff are a vital resource for students and faculty, as well as for off-campus users.

When he took over as chief librarian in 1964, Stuart-Stubbs established specific goals for the Library which he pursued relentlessly. He set out to continue to develop the strong collections necessary for a top ranking research university; to decentralize operations, developing a system of branch libraries and reading rooms across campus; to improve library services, including teaching students how to use the Library effectively and hiring more specialized staff; to establish links with other libraries in the post-secondary system in order to help support the planned decentralization of higher education in the province; and to make the most effective use possible of computers, both for the Library's clerical work and for the purposes of information retrieval.

“The goals and objectives we established then were both appropriate and vital for a university attempting, as ours was, to maintain its position as a world leader,” says Stuart-Stubbs. “Unfortunately, we had two major things working against us: inflation, and the continuing devaluation of the Canadian dollar, both of which adversely affected the costs of buildings, materials and staff. For instance, because of inflation, there were enormous pressures on all universities to continue to raise salaries. Meanwhile, the costs of library materials rose at a faster rate than inflation itself.”

In spite of the many problems they faced, the library staff continued to work hard to maintain and augment the collections, making this their first priority. As in the 30s, they were forced to trim periodicals from their lists, and forego the purchase of important new publications. “During the MacMillan years, we were able to compensate for the 30s by picking up old volumes that were still



available,” says Stuart-Stubbs. “Tomorrow, we are not going to be so fortunate. Publishers are estimating their print runs so carefully that books and journals are often not available even five years after they are printed. In many cases, we are not going to be able to pick up volumes until the contents of someone’s private library becomes available to us many years from now.”

The program to decentralize library operations continued during the 70s and was very successful. Three library buildings were constructed during this time — the Sedgewick undergraduate library, the law library and the library processing centre, and today there are 15 branch libraries (three off-campus).

Library services themselves were improved continuously, in spite of budget cutbacks. The improvements were due mainly to the increased use of automation, development of the branch library system, and the growing opportunities for cooperation with other libraries. The Library continues to search for ways to improve the service it provides, and increase efficiency.



The Sedgewick library provides much needed study space for undergraduates.

Through a tri-universities organization — TRIUL — with the libraries of the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, UBC Library collaborated to develop collections and shared services. Close cooperation with the younger post-secondary institutions in B.C. led to the establishment of the B.C. Post-Secondary Library Network (NET) in 1977. UBC continues to be the major lender of materials through NET, and administers the network on behalf of the participating libraries, reinforcing our central role in the provincial library system. In 1985-86, UBC provided 6,711 items to other NET libraries and borrowed 773. The NET system operates on a partial cost-recovery basis, with participating libraries sharing only the staff costs for the loans they request.

UBC was also a founding member of the B.C. Union Catalogue, intended, in conjunction with interlibrary lending arrangements, to make the collections of the libraries of B.C. accessible throughout the province. While the union catalogue succeeded in its purpose, funds have not been available in the 80s to maintain and reissue it.



The Making of a Library

The final part of Stuart-Stubbs' original plan — to make the most effective use of computers — has been an essential part of the Library's bibliographic control system.



In 1978, the manual cataloguing system was phased out, and new materials were catalogued on the UTLAS (University of Toronto Library Automated System) database.

In 1978, the Library phased out the manual cataloguing system, cataloguing new materials on the UTLAS (University of Toronto Library Automated Systems) database. Instead of waiting for catalogue information to be provided on cards from the Library of Congress, or developing catalogue information at UBC for approximately \$30 per book (in 1986 dollars), the Library extracted most of the information it needed directly from the UTLAS database, reducing the cost of cataloguing to approximately \$19 per book (in 1986 dollars). In addition, the Library has since been able to reduce the numbers of staff required for cataloguing, from 96 in 1978 to 78 today. In 1986, the cost of maintaining those 18 extra staff positions would be about \$350,000. In other areas, technical service staff were also reduced, resulting in an additional annual cost saving of \$112,000 in 1986 dollars.

Although it was possible to have UTLAS produce the new library catalogue on microfiche, UBC systems staff developed the software to produce a UBC microfiche catalogue locally, saving about 75 per cent of the UTLAS costs. The Library also produces microcatalogues for a number of post-secondary institutions in B.C., on a cost-recovery basis for UBC and at considerable cost saving to the province.

Today, on every floor of the stacks, and in many locations around campus, are microfiche records of the Library's holdings. Library computer experts are currently working to put information about collections on-line, so that people on and off campus can access the bibliographic information quickly and more conveniently, without coming to the Library. While the development of the on-line catalogue will not save money for the Library, it will save valuable time, and therefore money, for users, and permit a very expensive and unique resource to be fully utilized.



Recession, Inflation and Retrenchment

From the mid-1970s onwards, the growth and prosperity of the 60s and early 70s have given way to prolonged recession, inflation and, in the 80s, retrenchment. As a result of these factors, today's chief librarian, Douglas McInnes, faces many challenges that UBC's first librarian, John Ridington, would have understood only too well — how to maintain a first class service with resources that diminish each year.

In spite of this, McInnes and his staff continue to build for a brighter future. The mandate McInnes carries forward is based upon his determination to continue to build upon the strengths of the Library, incorporating new technologies to continue to increase efficiency while maintaining library services.

Like other librarians before him, he is committed to maintaining the strengths of the collections, but has been obliged to prune acquisitions, limiting the collections' scope and flexibility, and to reduce staff, affecting service in some areas. "While the University has protected the collections budget as a matter of policy," says McInnes, "it has not been possible to offset extraordinary reductions in purchasing power over the past five years."

In this period of budgetary constraints, the continuing support of the University community has been of special importance to the Library. One vital support is the Senate Library Committee, which keeps the University community informed about the work and needs of the Library. The Senate Library Committee and the University's librarians have had a close and productive relationship throughout the Library's history. The Committee advises the librarian on matters of policy and helps to set priorities, especially with regard to the collections budget and to the services the Library provides to its users. Hundreds of faculty members have served on this committee, ensuring that the development of the Library has been in step with the academic program.



Browsing through the stacks is an important activity for many library users.

Senate Library Committee Chairmen:	
1915-19	E.H. Archibald
1920-23	G.G. Sedgewick
1923-24	T.H. Boggs
1924-26	D. Buchanan
1927-31	H.F. Angus
1931-35	W.L. MacDonald
1935-37	F.H. Soward
1937-39	A.H. Findlay
1939-40	M.Y. Williams
1941-43	B. Eagles
1944-46	T. Larsen
1947-69	I.M. Cowan
1969-77	M.F. McGregor
1977-84	P.A. Larkin
1984-	J.L. Wisenthal



The Making of a Library



A major concern for libraries today is the preservation of 'self-destructing' books. The loss of vital materials through deterioration would be a major national disaster.

Space shortage, already a problem in the 70s, is now critical in many library facilities. The Library has removed about ten per cent of its collections into non-public storage areas. While these materials can be retrieved on request, usually within 24 hours, they are not available for quick consultation or browsing. The quantity of materials in storage is of particular concern to scholars in the humanities and social sciences who need to be able to browse through little-used volumes to find resource materials on a specific topic.

As storage collections increase and are more frequently located in other buildings, more staff time is spent retrieving requested volumes, selecting others for storage and changing records. In 1984/85, 61,000 volumes were carefully culled from the shelves and selected for storage. But still the shelves are reaching bursting point. "Many books are shelved in very cramped quarters, which accelerates their deterioration. If our collections are to last for future generations, we need to give them room to survive," says McInnes.

'Self-destructing' books are also an increasing concern. "Most books printed since 1900 have been printed on acidic paper, which is literally self-destructing. It is essential that these books are at least put into microform, so that their contents will not be lost to us," says McInnes. "This is expensive and time consuming work, and must be undertaken on a national and international basis by librarians and agencies, such as the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproduction (CIHM), which is concerned with the preservation of our cultural and intellectual heritage.

"This important issue is of critical concern to us and to all librarians across Canada, for the loss of vital materials through deterioration would be a major national disaster. Canada's efforts in this field are being coordinated through the National Library."

The UBC Library continues to work closely with the other universities and post-secondary institutions in the province, providing their students and faculty with free and open access to our collections. It also continues to serve its larger community, for one fifth of the people using its facilities today are from outside UBC. Thus Wesbrook's tradition of a 'People's University' lives on.



The Tradition of Giving Continues

Every year, groups and individuals donate generously to the Library, continuing the tradition of private giving that has been so essential to its growth. Their contributions are many, and it would be impossible to note them all here. But there have been two private donations in recent years that are especially worthy of note.

In 1981, Dr. William Keith Burwell, a prominent Vancouver obstetrician and gynecologist who had no formal connection with the University during his lifetime, died, leaving a substantial bequest to the Library. A sum of \$50,000 was provided to purchase books on medical research and medicine for the Woodward Biomedical Library, but the most substantial endowment, currently valued at more than \$900,000, was provided for the purchase of books in areas of special interest to Dr. Burwell — sociology, anthropology and psychology. Burwell's gift has provided the means to develop these collections and to protect them from the effects of inflation and devaluation.

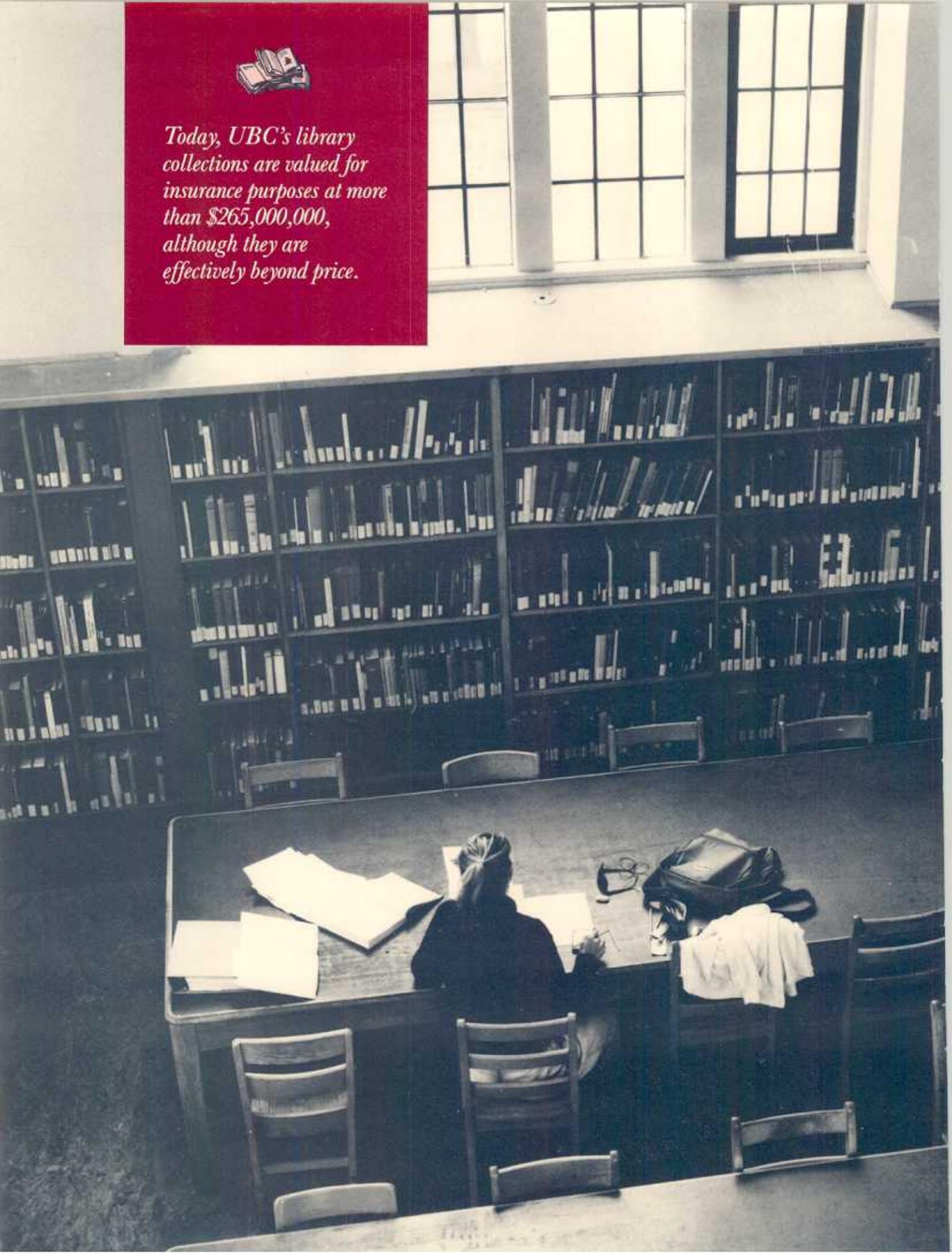
In 1984, Vancouver businessman Mr. David Lam donated \$1,000,000 to the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration for the development and support of a library, today known as the David Lam Management Research Library. This generous donation has augmented considerably the commerce collection, and will provide the basis for a strong specialized library service to support the faculty's teaching and research. Mr. Lam's donation will be formally recognized when he receives an honorary degree this year.



Mr. David Lam recently donated \$1,000,000 towards the development and support of the David Lam Management Research Library in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.



Today, UBC's library collections are valued for insurance purposes at more than \$265,000,000, although they are effectively beyond price.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



The Library Today



The Library Today



The card catalogue is still used daily by library patrons.

Today, UBC's library collections are valued, for insurance purposes, at more than \$265,000,000, although they are effectively beyond price. Among the many treasures can be found one of the finest Asian collections in North America; the best health sciences collection in Western Canada; the definitive set of materials of and about the writer Malcolm Lowry; and a unique library for the visually disabled which sends talking books to users around the world.

Principally, the Library exists to serve the needs of students, faculty and researchers at The University of British Columbia. But it is also B.C.'s primary research library, vital to the economic, cultural and social development of the province. It is extensively used by professionals, researchers and educators from Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, teaching hospitals, colleges and schools throughout the province, as well as by private citizens.

"The UBC Library represents a significant resource to all the people of British Columbia. It is the major and only comprehensive research library in this province.

"We are proud of our library at Simon Fraser University and the resource it offers to our students, faculty and the community. But, as a younger and smaller university, we cannot afford to replicate the unique role of UBC's Library. When the needs of our faculty members and graduate students go beyond the capacity of our own campus resources, they turn to UBC.

"I think this is a wise use of a very important, but expensive, intellectual resource. I am, therefore, extremely concerned about the future of this uniquely important resource to the entire province of British Columbia."

*Dr. William Saywell,
President, Simon Fraser University.*

Following the plan for decentralization laid out in the early 60s, the Library is now a large and dispersed system consisting of a Main Library, organized into nine service departments, and 15 branch libraries, three of them off campus in teaching hospitals.

Each division or branch represents a subject or service specialization designed to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly varied clientele. The branches range in



size and complexity from the Woodward Biomedical Library, with more than 40 staff members and comprehensive collections, to highly specialized service centres like the Data Library, with two library supported staff members and a collection consisting primarily of numerical data files.

The library system contains over 2.5 million books and an additional 4.7 million microforms, films, records and other pieces of material. The collections are growing by about 100,000 volumes per year, with 200,000 additional items in other formats. When a library shelf is 85 per cent full, it is considered at its full working capacity, allowing space for reshelving material. With 47 miles of collections, currently spread over 55.5 miles of shelf space, the shelves are now 84 per cent full, and almost two miles of books are added to the library system annually. Each year, more than 2,000,000 items are loaned, 370,000 questions answered and 55,000 people served. In addition, more than 500 on-line databases are searched a total of 715,000 times annually, to produce bibliographies and data for more than 8,000 library users.

In four years time, every branch of the library system will have reached or exceeded full working capacity, with space for normal collections growth remaining only in the Asian Studies Library — two additional years — and the Law Library — eight years.

Branches and Collections

Main Library

The Main Library, the core of the system, houses the humanities and social sciences, science, fine arts, special collections, government publications, microforms and maps. It also houses a circulation and reserve department, and units responsible for information and orientation, and interlibrary loans. Last year, its combined collections grew by over 55,000 volumes. More than 200,000 volumes from these collections have been placed in storage, and are therefore inaccessible to users, except by request.



Microform recordings of the Library's holdings can be found on every floor of the stacks and in many locations around campus.



The Library Today



The Main Library building stands framed by the University clock tower and the light shafts of the Sedgewick underground library. The Main Library building is in urgent need of renovation today.

The Main Library building is in urgent need of renovation. It is deficient under the building code with regard to fire, earthquake and general safety standards. It is overcrowded and expensive to operate. Currently, sprinklers are being added in the stack areas and fire exits added to the back of the building in order to improve fire protection, but it requires extensive renovation and restoration in order to be able to serve the University.

The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection constitutes about 80 per cent of the material in the Main Library stacks, or some 765,000 volumes. In addition, there are 60,000 volumes of materials relating to these areas in the reference division. Together these collections account for almost one third of the bound volumes in the library system. They are the largest single collection in the Library, attracting users from all over the campus and the community at large.

“For those in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Library is not merely a convenience or even just a useful tool. It is our ‘laboratory’ — an essential part of our professional life.”

*Professor Jean Laponce,
Political Science, UBC.*

“I make use of a number of libraries and archives in Europe for various specialized projects, but it would be fair to say that my basic research depends almost entirely on my local ‘laboratory’ — the UBC Library — one of the finest in Canada, indeed in North America.”

*Professor Laurence Bongie,
Head, French Department, UBC*

The Fine Arts Collection is recognized as one of three major fine arts research collections in Canada, and is used extensively by artists, planning consultants and art students as well as by researchers and professionals. In 1984, the Fine Arts Library was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to develop its collection to support studies in Italian Renaissance art. Its specialized resources have made UBC's Fine Arts Library a regional centre for study and research.



The Science Collection, also in the Main Library, is one of the finest in the country, known especially for the strength of its periodicals holdings. These periodicals are vital to the many scientific researchers on campus and to private individuals and fledgling industries who need access to the most up-to-date information in their particular field. A considerable part of the collection has been moved into storage to make way for current materials.

“If I can supply a hardware or software designer with books, conference proceedings and journal articles from UBC’s collection, time and money can be saved in bidding a contract or meeting a project deadline.”

*Judy Growe,
Librarian, MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd.*

“If the B.C. government is serious about diversifying the economy of the province into the high technology area, we must maintain first class libraries in the province.”

*Jeff Dahn,
Project Leader, R and D, Moli Energy Ltd.*

Another resource currently housed in the overcrowded Main Library is *Special Collections* — a division whose collections owe so much to the support of private donors. It is here that the Library keeps some unique and treasured items, including the great Howay-Reid Collection, the Murray Collection, the Colbeck Collection, and the Beans’ collection of rare Japanese maps. It also houses manuscripts and working papers of many eminent British Columbian authors such as Ethel Wilson, Roderick Haig-Brown and Malcolm Lowry.

“During the last five years I have researched the life of Emily Carr for a piece that will be produced in 1987. It was from Special Collections that I found my most valuable information and insights. How could I possibly have depended on the National Archives for sustained study and information? Expensive trips to Ottawa are not in the budget of the average Western writer or researcher.”

*Joy Coghill,
Vancouver actress and director.*



Special collections houses many rare and priceless volumes.



The Library Today



The Asian studies library is one of the very few UBC branch libraries that still has space for growth.

The Government Publications and Microforms Division is responsible for obtaining and servicing materials issued by governments at every level, and by international bodies. The collection, containing about 56,000 items, is especially strong for Canada and the provinces, for the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the United States. The division is also responsible for most of the 3,500,000 items of microform in the library system.

The Map Library collects and services maps and atlases from all over the world, with 140,000 maps and 8,400 volumes in the collection. It is widely used by off-campus groups, including government departments, engineering firms, geological and geographical professionals.

Asian Studies Library

A superb Canadian resource, the UBC Asian Studies Library has been designated the national repository for official Japanese government publications, and is regarded as one of the best collections of Asian materials in North America. It was actually started in the late 50s when William Holland, at the request of President Norman MacKenzie, moved himself and the Institute for Pacific Relations from New York to UBC. Holland became the first head of the Asian studies department at UBC, bringing with him the Institute's fine collection of Asian materials. This was quickly supplemented by the P'u-Pan collection, and has grown in strength every year since then.

Today, this library, housed in the striking Asian Centre, has about 180,000 volumes, primarily in Chinese, Japanese and Indic languages. Its collections are heavily used by university, business and cultural groups in the province, growing each year to meet the rapidly developing need for information concerning the Pacific Rim.

The collection receives support from many donors, including organizations such as the Japan Foundation, the National Library of China and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and individuals such as Mr. and Mrs. Tong Louie. Major donations in 1986 included 2,000 books in Korean on Korean history, language, literature and sociology from the Daehan Kyokuk Insurance Co.



“I am concerned that Vancouver not lose its position as an Asian research centre just at the time it becomes recognized as Canada’s centre for Asian economic trade, arbitration and financial relations . . . If UBC falls behind the University of Toronto in providing this research base, then we will be less well equipped to ‘do our homework’ in developing our future roles in the newly emerging Pacific community of nations.”

*Dr. Jan W. Walls,
Vice-President, Education and Cultural Affairs,
Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.*

“There is no other place where I could have access to such a rich selection of offerings without actually going to Japan.”

*Sonja Arntzen,
Assistant Professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures,
University of Alberta.*

The Woodward Biomedical Library

The largest biomedical library west of Toronto, the Woodward Biomedical Library serves the needs of the medical profession and the health sciences community throughout the province. The collection is accessible to every doctor in the province, and many of them depend very heavily upon its services.

The UBC biomedical collection actually began in 1915 when Sir Charles Sherrington sent Dr. Wesbrook a surprise present of a first edition of Bidloo’s *Anatomy*, published in 1685. Over the years, the collection gradually increased, including unique contributions of historical medical materials from Dr. P.A. Woodward.

In 1964, it was established as a separate branch library and substantially enlarged in 1970, both times with thanks to very generous funding from the Woodward family, through the P.A. Woodward Foundation. Dr. William C. Gibson, now Chancellor of the University of Victoria, played a very vital role in bringing the new building to reality, and in developing its historical collections when he was head of the department of history of science and medicine at UBC, and chairman of the Biomedical Library Committee.

The Woodward Biomedical Library is running very close to full working capacity today, with collections in excess of 300,000 volumes.



The first volume in the excellent historical biomedical collection, Bidloo’s Anatomy, was given to the first president of the University, Dr. Wesbrook, by Sir Charles Sherrington in 1915.



Dr. William C. Gibson, now chancellor of the University of Victoria, played an important role in bringing the Woodward biomedical library to reality.



The Library Today



Professor Emeritus Dr. E.L. Margetts is one of many medical professionals in British Columbia who rely on the specialized resources of the Woodward biomedical library.

The Woodward Biomedical Library provides an invaluable service to the University Health Sciences Centre Hospital. Three branch libraries in other Vancouver teaching hospitals — Vancouver General Hospital (biomedical branch library), Children's Grace and Shaughnessy Hospitals (the Hamber library) — are linked via a daily delivery service. Last year, 37,500 items were delivered through the network; 4,400 items were lent to the B.C. Medical Library Service for delivery to physicians, health professionals and hospitals throughout B.C., and 3,500 items were lent to the Cancer Control Agency of B.C.

"The Woodward Library has been the major backup and support in the provision of library materials to physicians and hospitals throughout B.C. for a quarter of a century."

*Dr. C.W. Fraser,
Director, B.C. Medical Library Service*

The Data Library

The Data Library has the strongest collection of machine readable data sets of any academic data archives in Canada. Created as a separate branch in 1972, it provides access to a wide spectrum of numerical data in machine-readable format.

It serves every faculty on campus, and a broad range of groups within the general community, from market research firms wanting results of major Canadian surveys to government agencies looking for census data. The library supplies research data in disciplines ranging from social sciences to physical, biological and natural sciences.

"Without the contributions provided by the (UBC) Data Library, the establishment of a Canadian Union List of Machine Readable Data files would have remained a wish, rather than a reality."

*Harold Naugler,
Director, Machine Readable Archives, Public Archives of Canada.*



The Crane Library

The Crane Library, founded in 1968, was named after UBC's first blind and deaf student, Charles Crane, whose extraordinary talents were never fully realized because of the limitations and handicaps he had to face.

The library is a unique resource in Canada. In addition to serving blind and visually impaired UBC students, its seven staff members and over 150 volunteers create 'talking books', recording about 300 new titles every year. They create both essential text books and quality support materials, shipping copies of their books to libraries and individuals around the world.

As testimony to the value of the Crane, nine blind students graduated from UBC last year, including one who received degrees in both commerce and law.

"There are few facilities or services in B.C. that are as important to disabled people as 'the Crane'."

*Rawnie Dunn,
British Columbia Coalition of the Disabled.*

Curriculum Laboratory

The Curriculum Laboratory for education has about 100,000 volumes, including both professional and kindergarten to Grade 12 materials. It serves the UBC Faculty of Education, and provides a resource for the B.C. teaching profession. A significant portion of the titles are in non-print format. In addition, attached to the Laboratory is a separate film and videotape library, used by all UBC faculties and many off-campus groups. Over the past ten years, the collection has been constantly pruned, and thousands of volumes removed. Because of space constraints, UBC's education collection is divided, practical materials in the Curriculum Laboratory, and theoretical materials in the Main Library. The Curriculum Laboratory is one of the best collections for teaching practice in Canada, and the only research education collection in B.C. It is housed in an inadequate and poorly designed space, and study seats have had to be eliminated to accommodate essential shelving.



State-of-the-art recording equipment enables the Crane Library to record 'talking books' which are sent to users around the world.



The Library Today

Law Library



The Law Library is one of the leading law libraries in Canada. It is used heavily by lawyers and judges throughout the province, as well as by UBC's law faculty.

The UBC Law Library is one of the leading law libraries in Canada, and the principal law library in the province. Lawyers and judges in British Columbia regularly draw on the resources of this library, making heavy use of the collections of American materials and specialized Canadian items which are not available anywhere else in B.C. The Law Foundation of B.C. has consistently supported the development of this branch's collections. The Law Library, with over 141,000 bound volumes, is fortunate to have enough space to be able to accommodate normal growth for the next decade.

"Any reductions in the quality and scope of your collection and in the services offered to the legal community would have serious ramifications for our firm and its clients."

*Diana Inselberg,
Legal Librarian, Russell and DuMoulin.*

The MacMillan Library

Started in 1967, the MacMillan Library serves as the primary research collection for researchers and professionals concerned with two of B.C.'s major industries, forestry and agriculture, as well as for three levels of government, and numerous consultants in forestry, biotechnology, agricultural engineering and animal sciences. In addition, the library is a primary source of materials for researchers in food science, food processing and the food industry. It is a vital collection, very heavily used by students, researchers and industry alike.

Of its collection of 55,000 volumes, 15,000 are now in remote storage because the library has long since run out of space for normal growth. The collection is currently growing at a rate of about 5,000 volumes a year, so that older materials must be continuously removed from user-accessible shelves.

"The UBC Library collections in general, and particularly the research materials relating to forest products, are invaluable to the business community."

*Peter Woodbridge,
Forestry Consultant, Woodbridge, Reed and Associates, Division of
H.A. Simons (International) Ltd.*



Music Library

The Music Library, located in the music building, has a strong collection of books and periodicals in musicology, as well as musical scores and recordings, plus an outstanding collection of European music manuscripts on microfilm, covering all areas of music from the Middle Ages onwards.

The library has an exceptional collection of complete works and historical sets. For example, a musician at UBC can compare the works of Mozart in several reprinted editions: the famous first edition of 1798 (on microfilm), the 19th century edition edited by Brahms, and the new edition begun in the Mozart bicentennial year of 1956. The library serves the university community and provides scores and recordings and acts as a reference source for many musical groups throughout the province.

It also receives many donations. Recently, Mrs. Janey Gudewill and Mr. Peter Cherniavsky contributed two valuable music manuscripts — the Terzetto, Op.116 of Beethoven, and the orchestral score for Debussy's ballet "Khamma," and important related materials.

With over 43,000 volumes, the library is already seriously overcrowded, and is located in an area that does not allow for further expansion. Plans are progressing to annex additional study space adjacent to the existing library in the School of Music, and to transfer to storage materials that are not frequently used.

"Without the Music Library's resources, our instruments would be mute."

*The Towne Waytes,
Renaissance music performing artists, From one of their album jackets.*

"The UBC Music Library is the only source of information and material which we often need for our early music concerts. Visiting artists frequently are not familiar with the requirements of radio and consequently do not provide scores for the producer who may have to edit."

*Ellen Enomoto,
Music Library of the CBC.*



Housed in the music building, the music library has already outgrown its quarters, and is in urgent need of additional space.



Sedgewick Library



The Sedgewick library has the longest hours of any of the branch libraries, and is heavily used by on- and off-campus patrons.

This imaginative and attractive underground library was built in 1973 to serve the needs of undergraduates in the Faculty of Arts, and those in the first two years of Science. It maintains the longest opening hours of all the campus libraries, seats more than 1,250 users, and is one of the campus focal points. The upper limit of its capacity is intended to be 200,000 volumes, and it currently houses approximately 190,000 volumes. The library is used not only by UBC students but also by students from local post-secondary institutions. The small, highly efficient staff coordinate a program of instruction in the use of the library for undergraduates, and assist students to learn how to use a library for research.

The Wilson Recordings Collection, which is located in Sedgewick, is the largest library collection of classical recordings in B.C. Named after two founding members of UBC's 'Friends of the Library', Dr. Wallace Wilson and Ethel Wilson, the collection is extensively used by the general public, including international and local musicians who select music for performance. International opera singer Judith Forst, who lives in B.C., says it would not be possible for her to maintain her career while living here without access to the Wilson Collection.

David Lam Library

The David Lam Management Research Library consists of journals, working papers from about 40 universities with business schools, financial and economic newsletters published by chartered banks, investment houses and other research organizations, annual reports from top Canadian companies, and a microfiche collection of annual reports from public companies in the U.S. A special collection on Pacific Rim business has been developed which consists of over 60 periodical titles, plus books and reference materials. Access to over 70 bibliographic, numerical, statistical and financial business databases is provided.



This library, which is heavily used by the Vancouver business community, is not yet officially part of the library system, but is developing rapidly as a source of specialized research materials for commerce. When new space is available, the David Lam library will become a UBC branch library.

Marjorie Smith Library

This library serves social workers throughout the province as well as the University's own academic and student social workers. Its collection numbers some 17,500 volumes of bound journals, monographs, reports and documents.

Mathematics Library

This library holds virtually all of the library's mathematics collections, as well as some collections in computer science and statistics. Its holdings number about 28,000 volumes.

“Research and education do not stop with a degree, and the material available from UBC meets a demand beyond most institutional budgets.”

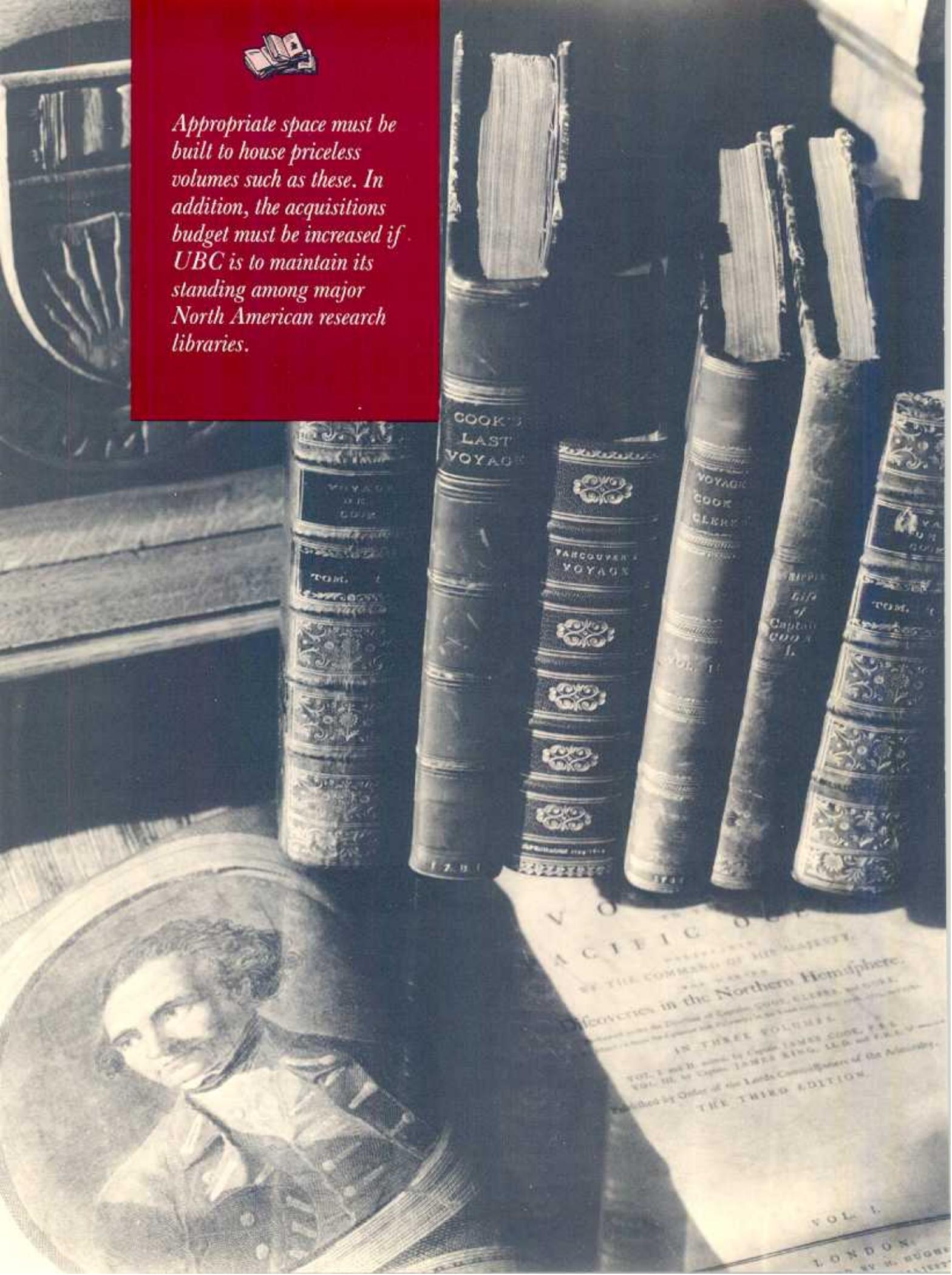
*Mary Javorski,
Reference Librarian, Okanagan Regional Library.*



The Wilson recordings collection is the largest library collection of classical recordings in the province.



Appropriate space must be built to house priceless volumes such as these. In addition, the acquisitions budget must be increased if UBC is to maintain its standing among major North American research libraries.



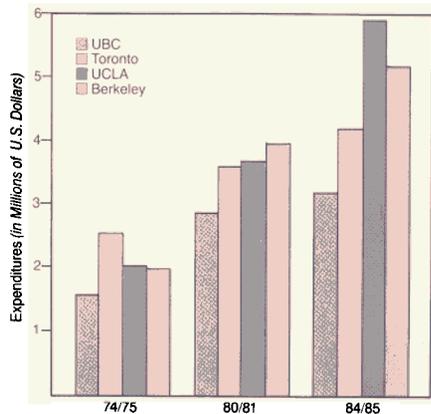


Challenges for Tomorrow: The Bottom Line



Challenges for Tomorrow: The Bottom Line

Collections expenditures of UBC compared with three other major North American libraries (1974-85)



Among the 106 members of the ARL, in 1984/1985 UBC ranked 40th for the amount spent on collections.

Source: Association of Research Libraries; ARL Statistics

For the past fifteen years, the UBC Library has consolidated, retrenched, reorganized and streamlined its operations, preserving and enhancing its resources in spite of constantly shrinking buying power.

Automation, particularly where it has permitted savings in staff costs, has been a top priority. The Library has also examined services carefully, eliminating less essential ones, and improving its operating efficiency and productivity, especially with regard to ordering, cataloguing, receiving and recording journals, and circulation systems.

Throughout all this time, the Library has struggled to preserve purchasing power for collections, although the combined effects of inflation and devaluation have meant that many journal subscriptions have had to be cancelled — 900 journals were discontinued in 1986 alone. The titles were selected carefully to avoid, as much as possible, the loss of valuable research materials. Perhaps the most serious effect has been on the smaller collections, particularly those in the teaching hospitals.

The Library has eliminated 50 staff positions since 1980, through effective use of automated systems, other operating efficiencies, and some reductions in services. At the same time, the Library has added new services. In 1982, the health sciences library network was added, funded through allocations from the medical undergraduate expansion program. Faculty and students in the teaching hospitals are now able to receive, through the network, the journals and texts they need from the Woodward Library and elsewhere. The film library and special reference services for UBC's distance education students were added in 1983 and 1984, respectively. And in 1986, the Library established the UBC Patent Information Search Service, funded through a federal-provincial agreement on science and technology development. This service is planned to become self-sustaining in the future, providing an essential link between University research and high tech industries in B.C.



The library recovers costs wherever possible for services such as on-line searches, extensive reference assistance, borrowing privileges for non-UBC users, and inter-library loan. For example, last year, the library recovered over \$500,000 of its overall costs by the use of cost-recovery schemes.

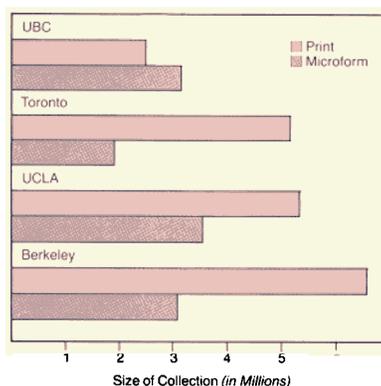
In spite of every effort made to maintain and improve the Library, it has fallen in ranking from 15th in 1981 to 21st in 1986, according to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) composite index ranking of research libraries in North America. In order simply to maintain its current status, the Library must address three pressing needs within the very near future: space, development of collections, and further incorporation of new technologies.

Space

During the 1970s, most universities constructed substantial new central library facilities to accommodate their growing collections. UBC was unable to follow this course, and today the Library is critically short of space. Most collections are housed in increasingly cramped quarters, accelerating the deterioration of the materials and creating inefficient conditions for both users and staff. And, as I have already mentioned, some users, especially those in the humanities and social sciences, are placed at a disadvantage when materials are culled from open shelves and moved into closed storage.

Very conscious of the space required to house collections, the Library has given high priority to the purchase of microforms, with the result that UBC has the largest collection of materials on microform in Canada, and the seventh largest among the 106 ARL libraries. This, of course, has increased enormously the richness and depth of our relatively young collection, but its use as a means of saving space has been fully explored.

Comparison in size of UBC collections with three other major North American libraries (1984-85)



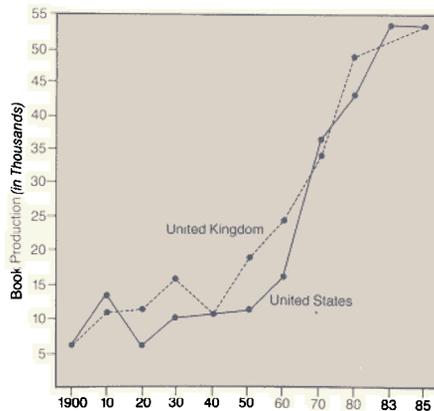
Among the 106 ARL Libraries, UBC ranks 35th by no. of print volumes, and 7th by number of microfilm holdings.

Source: Association of Research Libraries; ARL Statistics



Challenges for Tomorrow: The Bottom Line

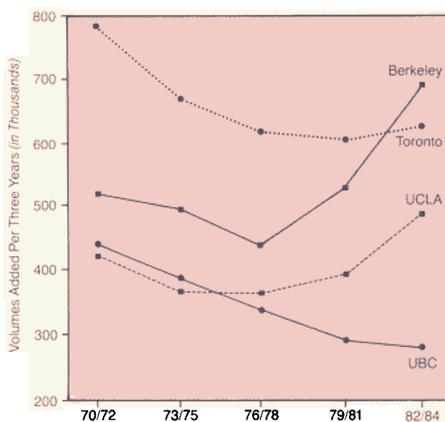
Growth in book title production in the United States and the United Kingdom (1900-85)



Growth of Technology appears to have accelerated the rate at which books have been published

Source: The Bowker Annual of Library and Book Trade Information

Additions to UBC collections compared with three other major North American Libraries (1970-84)



UBC is losing ground in collections acquisitions each year, as compared with other major research libraries

Source: Association of Research Libraries; ARL Statistics

The Library needs to add a substantial amount of additional space in order to meet its primary requirements to the beginning of the 21st century. The space will be used to house science and applied science collections, commerce, fine arts, special collections, and map divisions. In addition, the Main Library building must be renovated soon.

Space will also be needed for fresh acquisitions, since it seems likely that, in our society, we will continue to create more and more print materials every year. We need room for these materials, but we also need space and appropriate equipment so that we can continue to use new ways to store and transmit information. The new building, together with renovation to the Main Library, will make it possible for us to accommodate new technologies while providing space for housing and using print materials.

Collections

The Library collections are rich in materials covering the broad range of UBC's teaching and research interests. Having been systematically developed for 72 years, they contain many items that are no longer available at any price, and constantly receive valuable additions.

For example, each year the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada recognized our Library's position as a national resource by awarding annual grants to their maximum of \$50,000. Last year, the funds were provided to purchase large sets of provincial gazetteers from China for the Asian collection, and this year to acquire a vast and important microfilm collection of early English music manuscripts.

As a charter subscriber and strong supporter of the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM), the UBC Library is also helping to ensure both that older, rapidly deteriorating Canadian publications are preserved for future generations, and also that space needs are kept to the absolute minimum. CIHM has identified and reproduced on microfiche more than 30,000 pre-1901 Canadian publications. UBC has acquired this invaluable microfiche collection for users in B.C., enriching its collections of Canadiana and helping at the same time to preserve Canada's cultural heritage.



The Library is a member of the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago, which collects and shares highly specialized library resources, giving UBC access to an additional 3.5 million volumes and 1.1 million units of microform. It is also a member of the Association of Research Libraries and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries, organizations which are actively working to improve the sharing of library resources in North America so that all libraries can provide access to the widest range of materials possible at acceptable cost.

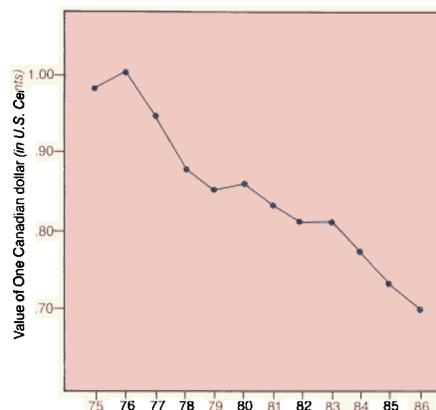
In addition to listing our collections with the National Library of Canada and the UTLAS database in Toronto, the Library is also taking steps to work with the Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC) in Dublin, Ohio. This enormous database will provide the Library with improved access to information needed for our own cataloguing and will list UBC's holdings for the benefit of other libraries throughout North America.

In spite of new technologies, UBC must still acquire hard copy of materials that B.C. researchers need. The essential books, journals and other materials to be purchased must be continuously evaluated in order to keep the Library vital, responsive to the current and changing needs of its users.

Most of the materials we buy for the UBC collection come from countries other than Canada. Devaluation of Canadian currency relative to major Western nations' currencies has seriously eroded our buying power in recent years. In spite of the fact that the Library has taken heroic steps to safeguard its collections, the librarians are increasingly making critical decisions in the purchase of publications, decisions that will seriously affect the long-term value of the UBC collection.

In order both to ensure our competitive position in teaching and research among North America's leading universities, and also to continue to serve as the major resource for Western Canada, the Library must obtain additional funds soon in order to add needed materials to the collections.

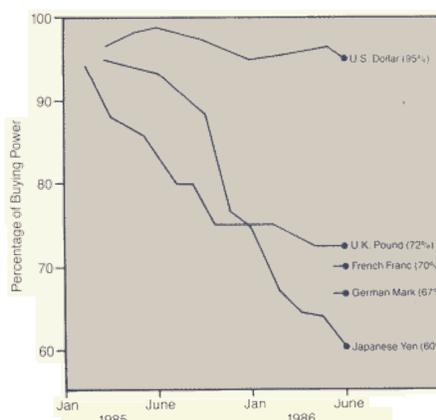
Value of Canadian dollar vs U.S. dollar over the last ten years



55 percent of the Library's current acquisitions are in U.S. materials

Source: Bank of Canada Review

Drop in value of Canadian dollar versus major world currencies (1985-86)



28 per cent of the library's current acquisitions are in European materials, and a further 5 percent come from Asian countries.

Source: Bank of Canada Review



Challenges for Tomorrow: The Bottom Line

New Technologies

New technologies are constantly opening up new opportunities for us all, and we can see this clearly in the effect these technologies have had on the Library, its staff and users.

It would not be possible for the Library, with its current staff, to provide the range and quality of services it does today without automation. If we did not have access to cataloguing information through other libraries, it would cost us at least 50 per cent more than it does to catalogue each book. If we had no computers to help us circulate materials, it would cost us at least twice as much as it does to provide this basic service to users.

In the next few years, we will need to replace our circulation system with an on-line system that will allow us to monitor the use of all library materials more effectively, wherever they are in the system, and further protect us from the ever-increasing costs of managing a large research collection. It will enable us to find out how the collection is being used, influence our buying policy, determine which items should be put into storage, and ensure that the Library's collections are as accessible as possible for its users. Ultimately the quality of library service depends upon the extent to which our collections have been successfully organized and indexed, and on the ease with which library patrons can use our records to find what they require.

A high priority is the development of the on-line catalogue system by the Library's innovative and expert systems and processing staff. This system will improve access for users, first on campus, and ultimately throughout the province. Already, enhanced library computing facilities have led to a more efficient operation of all the Library's record-keeping systems, and have resulted in improved access to information about the collections.



New mass storage systems, such as laser discs, are likely to hold great promise for the future, although they are expensive to develop and implement. We will be evaluating these systems for our own use as they become available.

I believe it is vital that the UBC Library be in a position to make use of new technology to continue to improve the efficiency of its operations, to save space, and to improve the essential services it renders to its dependent community.

But at the same time we must remind ourselves of the less obvious, but just as important, facets of the Library. In our increasingly technical world, we can easily forget how it feels to hold a good book, or browse the stacks, looking for a particular work. The quality of this experience depends upon the quality and ambience of the Library itself, the concern and caring of its staff.

So, as we incorporate new technologies, we must also take with us the sense of tradition and humanity that founded this University and upon which we continue to build.



Postscript

“The founding of a university is rather like throwing a stone into a deep pool. As the stone strikes the water it makes a hole in it, and then, when it has sunk to the bottom, and you might think it had never gone in at all, you see circle after circle of ripples spreading over the surface of the pool, each one wider than the last.”

*Edgar Allison Peers,
Founder of the Modern Humanities Research
Association.*

In concluding this report, I should like once more to draw your attention to the many private individuals who, by supporting the University, have “thrown their stones” into the deep pool of higher learning in B.C. The ripples that their intellectual and financial contributions have made extend beyond the confines of the Province of British Columbia, as UBC graduates and faculty make their mark in internationally competitive markets.

The UBC Library has been the vital heart of this outstanding University, and the individuals who have dedicated their lives and resources to the Library’s health and strength are part of its backbone.

Today, new efforts by those who love and cherish the Library are necessary to maintain its health and strength.

The Library needs assistance and commitment from a new group of public and private supporters; individuals, companies and government organizations who recognize its vital contribution to their lives and the lives of all the people of British Columbia. Indeed, we intend to institute, once again, the ‘Friends of the Library,’ to encourage those interested in the future of the Library to come to its aid.

I am optimistic that the needed support will come, for I know that the vision and the dream begun by President Wesbrook is vital to the future of this province. In Wesbrook’s own words “We have been so richly endowed in British Columbia that we owe it to ourselves and the rest of the world to properly conserve and intelligently develop and use our material resources, the chief of which are men and women, both those who are here now and those who are coming”.

Dr. David W. Strangway
*President
The University of British Columbia*

“The Library needs assistance and commitment from a new group of public and private supporters: individuals, companies and government organizations who recognize its vital contribution to their lives and the lives of all the people of British Columbia”.

Dr. David W. Strangway
President
University of British Columbia

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*Additional information about UBC
is available through*

The Community Relations Office
The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5