

Library FRIENDS

WINTER 2011

startanevolution.ca



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The garden-level renewal project at Woodward Library is an inspiring example for other space-related priorities at UBC Library.

THE BIG PICTURE

“start an evolution” with UBC and the Library

On September 28, 2011, the University of British Columbia launched the most significant fundraising and alumni engagement campaign in Canadian history. And UBC Library is a keen participant in this historic effort.

With dual goals to raise \$1.5 billion and double the number of alumni engaged with the University by 2015, the *start an evolution* campaign will support student learning, research excellence and community engagement at UBC’s Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

In a dazzling kick-off event held at War Memorial Gym with guest speakers ranging from undergraduate students to campaign donors, the University announced that a total of \$760 million had already been committed in the period leading up to the public launch.

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“start an evolution” with UBC and the Library

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The Library’s role

As the information landscape continues to transform, UBC Library is creating new opportunities to connect people and ideas. Services and resources are expanding, spaces and user needs are changing and the Library is pursuing an ambitious digital agenda.

As part of the *start an evolution* campaign, UBC Library aims to raise \$25 million over the next three years to support a range of initiatives.

Priority projects

As one of the treasures of Asian culture and heritage in Western Canada, UBC’s **Asian Library** embodies an evolving multicultural identity in Vancouver.

Having marked its 50th anniversary in 2010, the Asian Library is looking to shape the next 50 years by re-envisioning its physical spaces to include a family history resource centre, a learning commons, environmentally controlled space for rare books, technology upgrades and a series of endowments for each language group and librarian.

Koerner Library, home to students and faculty in the humanities and social sciences, is in the planning stages to design an innovative Research Commons.

Combining instruction, services, space and technology, the Commons will offer a dynamic venue for academic inquiry and collaboration.

Koerner’s third floor (the entrance level) will also be transformed into an enhanced study space.

Woodward Library was built in two phases in 1964 and 1970 for students in the life sciences. Today, it is in need of a redesign and technology upgrades to provide a combination of new study, collaborative and research space.

The first step of the Woodward Library renewal project was completed in October 2010 on the garden level, which is now at full capacity. Further improvements will help rejuvenate the entire facility.

UBC Library aims to expand its digital collections and steward existing print collections so they remain accessible to future generations. The Library has innovative digitization plans to enhance access to B.C.’s history.

Thank You!

As UBC Library continues to develop its capacity to respond to the needs of the 21st-century user, we would like to thank all current and past supporters for their generous assistance, passion and enthusiasm.

For more information on the *start an evolution* campaign and the Library’s priority projects, please contact Shakeela Begum, Director of Development, at shakeela.begum@ubc.ca or 604-822-8926. 

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

On evolutions and IFLA

The fall session is always a hectic time in the world of higher education. Summer skies begin to fade, classes get underway and the campus once again fills with students, staff and faculty.

This autumn has been particularly busy – and that’s due in no small part to the inspiring campaign, dubbed *start an evolution*, launched by UBC in Kelowna and Vancouver near the end of September. Indeed, with

twin goals to raise \$1.5 billion and double alumni engagement by 2015, the campaign marks a record-breaking effort in Canadian university history.

UBC Library is proud to be part of *start an evolution*. As noted in our cover story, the Library, an integral hub of life and learning within the University, aims to raise \$25 million over the next few years for a range of initiatives.

These include compelling new spaces at the Asian Library, Koerner Library and Woodward Library; the continued cultivation of our print and electronic collections; and the adoption of technologies that will enable UBC Library to keep developing an inspiring digital agenda.

Throughout its history, the Library has benefited greatly from the generosity of its many donors. We are grateful for this support, and look forward to navigating the road ahead with your help. Together, we really can start an evolution – and foster a spirit of lifelong learning for our users near and far. I encourage you to visit <http://startanevolution.ca> for more information on the UBC campaign.



Libraries have the power to change people’s lives.
– Ingrid Parent,
University Librarian



I think the Library is the most efficient place to study. I think people come here with a real 'study' mindset; they respect each other's space and time.

– Kawee Sakawee, third year, Political Science

A force for change

Other developments have added to an already eventful fall agenda. In August, I was named as the President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

IFLA, founded in 1927 and headquartered in The Hague, has more than 1,600 members from 120 countries. It is the only organization that speaks for library associations, institutions and librarians around the world.

My appointment marks the first time a Canadian has headed this global group, and it is a true honour to be elected to this position. The theme for my two-year presidency is *Libraries: A Force for Change*. I believe libraries have the power to change people's lives, and thus change communities and society.

As places for gathering, study and reflection, libraries worldwide have the ability to support community-building, provide access to information and meet ever-changing needs.

My roles at IFLA have recently taken me to locales such as Puerto Rico, Tunisia and Slovenia. More travels await – but no matter where I visit, the passion for information, knowledge and understanding remains steadfast.

I'm keen to draw on my experience as University Librarian to inform my position at IFLA, and I also hope to bring IFLA values and activities to Canada and to UBC. I'll make sure to keep you up to date on developments – and in the meantime, please visit www.ifla.org for more information.

B.C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unparalleled access

It is certainly no small deed: the new B.C. Bibliography Project endeavors to document the entire history of British Columbia found in books, journals, newspapers and other documents from the province's recorded lifetime.

"The B.C. Bibliography Project will provide users with a single searchable database."

– **Allan Bell**,
Director of Library
Digital Initiatives

The project, jump-started by a donation from a family foundation in 2011, is a collaboration between libraries, provincial archives, museums and educational institutions across British Columbia. The aim is to provide better access to B.C.'s printed heritage than was previously available, even at the largest libraries in the province.

"The B.C. Bibliography Project will provide users with a single searchable database, offering unparalleled access to information about our province," says Allan Bell, Director of Digital Initiatives at UBC Library.

First steps include developing and testing a pilot website and digitizing preliminary materials from UBC Library and several partner institutions, such as the University of Victoria Library, Simon Fraser University Library and the Vancouver Public Library.

For now, the focus is on making early B.C. items – including digital full-text versions of rare and printed material – available for use. Each partner institution



will contribute to the project, and this mega-list of content is expected to grow in tandem with collections in the province. A prototype website should be ready by next spring.

ASIAN LIBRARY

Preserving the Puban

When Zuixin Li arrived in Vancouver from Hangzhou, China in the spring of 2011, he was teeming with excitement. After all, the visiting scholar was going to be able to view books from the revered *Puban Collection* at UBC's Asian Library that couldn't be found in his homeland.

Zuixin Li is studying the Puban Collection, housed at UBC's Asian Library.

In addition, Li says UBC's Asian Library is home to a gem of ancient Chinese collections. "The Asian Library has a reputation as a famous library," he says. "The quantity of books is enormous, and the librarians offer first-rate service."

Li, hailing from Hangzhou Normal University, studies the preservation of ancient books. Drawn to UBC for being "a worldwide university with an excellent reputation," he is spending much of his year in Vancouver perusing the Asian Library's 45,000-volume hand-stitched collection of Chinese literature, history and thought from the 12th to the 19th centuries.

The *Puban Collection* was acquired in 1959 by UBC Professor Ho Ping Ti. However, while the collection receives care, some of its holdings are deteriorating rapidly. "Large numbers of books in the Puban are damaged," says Li. "They need to be re-investigated and repaired."

Current plans for a large-scale renewal of the Asian Library include the preservation, digitization and conservation of special collections. Li supports this initiative not just for the benefit of visiting scholars but also for domestic students and professors.

"Canadians studying Chinese culture can make great contributions that the scholar in China perhaps cannot make because their thought style is different than that of a Chinese person's, and vice-versa." ■



DONOR PROFILES

FANG FAMILY

UBC's Asian Library received a generous donation of rare books from the Fang family, known as the *Pang Jingtang Collection*, which has recently been appraised at US\$1.1 million by a North American authority on East Asian classical literature and ancient books.

Pang Jingtang was a high-ranking government and military official in China from 1927 to 1946. His grandchildren recognized the historical importance of these materials and

donated the collection to UBC in memory of Jingtang's daughter, a UBC graduate.

Jingtang was an avid collector of antiques including books, stele rubbings (images produced from a stone tablet), calligraphic works and paintings. The collection consists of 94 titles, including 841 volumes of books – the majority of which were produced prior to 1796. Some of the manuscripts are considered to be the sole copies in existence.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Paul Fang says the grandchildren



are "grateful to UBC Library for providing a venue for the study and safekeeping of this special collection."

A selection from the Pang Jingtang Collection.



It's nice that it's really quiet and there are lots of computers to access in Koerner Library. It would be better if it was a bit of a larger area, however.

– Elspeth McKown, History Ph.D (first year)

RESEARCH COMMONS

A hub for the humanities

The launch of UBC Library's GIS/Research Data Lab in June 2010 marked the beginning of an ambitious concept – a Research Commons, based in Koerner Library, with the space and tools to spur innovation and inquiry.

Right: Tom Brittnacher assists students in the GIS/Research Data Lab.

The GIS (or Geographic Information Systems) Lab – which offers spatial and statistical analysis to support research – is the first part of the Research Commons project, which will serve those working in the humanities and social sciences. The goal is to have researchers and subject specialists collaborate, supported by a suite of services and technology. “The Research Commons is going to be an exciting addition to our offerings,” says Tom Brittnacher, GIS Librarian. “It will provide enhanced services, instruction, spaces and technology that are tailored to researchers’ needs.”

Recommendations for the space – which also features a naming opportunity – are being reviewed following a survey of graduate students and faculty in the Faculty of Arts to determine their needs.

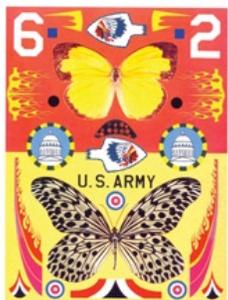
GIS enthusiasm

Users of the GIS/Research Data Lab come from a range of UBC departments and units, including Environmental Science, Geography, the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), and Pathology and Lab Medicine. “They’re really eager to use the lab,” says Brittnacher.

“The lab is an invaluable resource that allows me to run the software suite when I need it, for the time I need it,” says Simon L’Allier, a graduate student at SCARP. “I recommend to all students who think about using GIS in their work to do so. You’ll never consider doing GIS work on your laptop again!”

For more information, please visit <http://hss.library.ubc.ca/gis-research-data-lab>.

For more on naming opportunities, please contact Shakeela Begum at 604-822-8926 or shakeela.begum@ubc.ca.



A collage from the Douglas Coupland archives.

DOUGLAS COUPLAND

“I think my donations, and my ongoing donations, are the testing grounds for the future of archiving,” says Douglas Coupland, the renowned Canadian author, visual artist and cultural icon. “How do you archive a laptop? What on earth do you do with CDs? How do you store a website?”

In 2008, Coupland donated his personal archives to UBC Library, providing scholars and the public with a significant new perspective

on his work. The collection, including book manuscripts, photos, fan mail, correspondence with editors and other insights into Coupland’s creative process, dates to 1980.

Sarah Romkey, Rare Books and Special Collections Archivist, is well aware of the questions regarding the preservation of digital records.

“Digital records have inherent preservation problems associated with them, such as file format obsolescence and file corruption,” says Romkey. “While research in this field has been happening for more

than a decade, only in recent years are we starting to see practical solutions implemented in libraries and archives.”

UBC Library is running a pilot project to develop a digital preservation strategy, which will include methods to preserve born-digital materials from donors.

“Douglas Coupland’s work is a great example of why these solutions are needed because so much of what he does is in the digital realm,” adds Romkey.



Paul Cubbon from UBC's Sauder School of Business was one of the speakers at the Smart Business, Small Business session in Vancouver.

SMALL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

Entrepreneurial engagement

A combination of technology, expertise and the personal touch has led to an innovative business information service that engages UBC Library and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre with communities throughout British Columbia.

The Small Business Accelerator (SBA), which launched in November 2010 at www.sba-bc.ca, is a gateway to business information for small firms and entrepreneurs throughout the province. It is also a valuable tool for public and college libraries, economic development organizations and other business support agencies to assist their clients and share resources and expertise. The result is a free, comprehensive resource to boost business-planning efforts and foster an online community for this crucial segment of the economy.

"A great tool"

"The Small Business Accelerator is a great tool for us. We send our clients to it as a starting point in their market research, and we use it ourselves to reference market research that our clients have sent to us," says Jolene Koch, Client Services at the Women's Enterprise

Centre in Kelowna. "We also find it useful to keep up with industry trends and learn about events happening around B.C."

A highlight of the SBA, which has been generously supported by the Sutherland Foundation, is its range of research guides that provide tailored information for specific industries. So far, the site features more than 100 in-depth guides, developed with the expertise of business librarians and library students, which cover sectors ranging from accounting to yoga studios.

In October, the SBA presented its first speaker series – entitled *Smart Business, Small Business* – that featured compelling guests sharing their insights with audiences in Vancouver and Kelowna. The series was held in conjunction with Small Business Week, organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada.

For more information, please visit www.sba-bc.ca. **■**



If there's a positive response from a librarian, you feel you're not just getting information, but that the whole institution of UBC is supporting your research.

– Stephen Peplow, Ph.D Candidate, Land and Food Systems

UBC OKANAGAN UPDATE

New spaces, enhanced learning

This year, the student population at UBC's Okanagan campus totalled 7,801 – representing more than double the number of students who attended the school when it launched in 2005.

As the numbers have grown, so too has the need for more space, and UBC's Okanagan Library – the largest academic library situated between Vancouver and Calgary – is no exception. It's aiming to increase its footprint by nearly 46,000 square feet of new space, essentially doubling the size of the existing facility.

Certainly, more room is needed. But the goal isn't just extra square feet – it's about enhancing the Library's spaces and resources for its users. "I'm often asked why we need more Library space when 'everything is digital,'" says Melody Burton, Chief Librarian in the Okanagan and Deputy University Librarian for the UBC Library system. "Bottom line, we aren't adding space for collection growth, we are adding spaces for student learning. At the end of the day, I want spaces that make learning easier. The whole process of discovering knowledge is exciting and liberating. Imagine if every student had that experience and the Library helped them get there."

Phase one: formal and informal

The expansion's first phase, scheduled to begin in the near future, will feature a greater mix of formal and informal study spaces for individuals and groups. Spaces tailored for the use of media and/or data will be developed, as will research spaces for graduate students and group study rooms for undergraduate students. Computer labs and seminar rooms are planned. Public and group presentation space will help showcase student and faculty presentations, and serve as sites for dialogue, debate and forums involving students, faculty, staff and the community.

"Our goal is to help those students who want to maintain high grades, but also to encourage others to improve their scores and achieve their academic goals," says Burton.

For more information on UBC Library's Okanagan expansion, please contact Melody Burton at melody.burton@ubc.ca. 

UBC's Okanagan Library is eager to add spaces for student learning.





A 1912 issue of the Bella Coola Courier.

THE DIGITAL AGENDA

Bringing B.C.'s past to the world

For the first time, more than 45,000 pages chronicling B.C.'s storied past are available online following the completion of a UBC Library project.

The British Columbia Historical Newspapers Project, led by the Library's Digital Initiatives Unit and generously supported by a private family foundation, features digitized versions of 24 historical papers from around the province. The titles, which range from the *Abbotsford Post* to the *Phoenix Pioneer*, date from 1865 to 1924. All are available for free online viewing at <http://historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca>.

"UBC Library's digital collection of British Columbia newspapers makes the exciting history of the province's early development readily available to a wide reading public," says Robert McDonald, an Associate Professor in UBC's Department of History. "These newspapers tell the story of logging at Alberni, farming in the Fraser Valley, silver mining in the Kootenays and social conflict at Cumberland."

Collaboration and connections

The publications are fully searchable and browsable; single pages can be downloaded in the JPEG format, while entire issues are downloadable as PDFs.

Another intriguing item is the *Today in History* feature, which allows users to discover the news stories of small-town B.C. that correspond to the present date but took place in centuries past.

The project involved the scanning of microfilm from BC Archives. Publications were then separated into single pages and sent to UBC Library on DVDs, where they were uploaded to the project website. A student from the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies wrote descriptions of the newspapers, while members of the Library's IT team developed an innovative and user-friendly viewer that can be used for future projects.

It's likely that more titles will be added to the historical newspapers site in the future. "This is an excellent example of UBC Library advancing its digital agenda and connecting with communities at UBC and around the province," says Allan Bell, Director of Library Digital Initiatives. "We're grateful for the support received to embark on this effort and excited about pursuing projects that bring the Library to the world." 

FRIENDS

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