

LIBRARY FRIENDS

SPRING 2007



Koerner Library:
A hub of activity
at UBC.

KOERNER'S BIRTHDAY

Ten Years Young

It's been quite a journey for Koerner Library – one that's included wretched weather, earthly tremors, an avian birth, sleepovers and a Royal Visit. And throughout it all, the Library has been defined by excellent resources and services for users across the spectrum.

A decade ago – on March 10, 1997, to be exact – the Walter C. Koerner Library opened its doors to thousands of faculty, staff, students and community users. At the time, then UBC President David Strangway noted that “the services and resources available to students and the community have dramatically expanded.”

As the Library has adapted to changing times, this sentiment remains intact. “Ten years ago, Koerner opened with a mission to serve as a cutting-edge library for its users,” says Peter Ward, University Librarian

pro tem. “That remains our mission today, and it is one that we are carrying out thanks to our talented staff and an exceptional facility.”

The building was named in honour of Walter Koerner, a long-time supporter of UBC and its Library. His many contributions included serving as a founding member of Friends of the University Library, and providing funds for the development of Koerner Library and the Main Library's south wing expansion.

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Ten Years Young

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A majestic view from the seventh floor of Koerner Library.

Koerner Library, also known as the green jewel, has become one of the most recognizable and renowned sites on the UBC campus (indeed, it's the University's most photographed building).

With a façade that resembles an open book, the Library is a stirring visual site. It was designed by Architectura in collaboration with Arthur Erickson, the renowned Canadian architect.

When it opened, the \$24-million building totalled 17,200 square metres, including 7,000 square metres of new construction and 10,200 square metres of renovated space from Sedgewick Library, its predecessor.

The contents are equally impressive. Koerner houses material in more than 45 subject areas for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Its resources include more than 1.2 million volumes, more than five million microforms and an exceptional collection of more than 200,000 maps.

About 80 employees work at Koerner, which is the busiest library on the Point Grey campus. It currently serves about 11,000 undergraduate students, more than 1,500 graduate students and about 470 faculty members in the Humanities and Social Sciences. However, its reach extends further; Koerner serves the entire campus and its full range of disciplines. The Library receives about 33,000 visits a week, and staff answer 54,000 questions annually.

Koerner was, and remains, a pioneering branch. For example, during the past decade, it was the first library in the UBC system to offer self-checkout machines; the first to provide wireless access; the first to feature group study rooms; and the first to offer extended studying hours to 1 a.m. during exam periods.

As with any long-standing institution, Koerner has experienced its share of intriguing incidents.

For example, the move into the building in December 1996 – which involved the transfer of more than 600,000 volumes from the Main Library, to be integrated with the Sedgewick collections – was beset by a legendary snowstorm, and the Library also endured an earthquake in the late '90s.

A baby seagull was born on the outside balcony on the 7th floor, where it remained until it could fly on its own. And last semester, two girls with sleeping bags were found in Koerner at 6 a.m. – apparently the result of a sorority dare!

But perhaps the most special events took place during the Royal Visit to UBC in October 2002, made as part of a Canadian tour in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee. One of the highlights included a ceremony on the plaza outside Koerner featuring the Queen, Premier Gordon Campbell and then UBC President Martha Piper. In addition, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen's husband, visited Koerner and spoke with UBC students.

Doubtless, many more memories will take shape as Koerner enters its next decade, and many more innovations will be featured within its walls to support the learning and research needs of users.

Happy birthday, Koerner!

UBC Library will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Koerner Library on May 2, 2007 at Cecil Green House. For more information, please contact Shakeela Begum, UBC Library's Director of Development, at 604-822-8926 or shakeela.begum@ubc.ca. ■

For more information about Koerner Library, please visit <http://www.library.ubc.ca/koerner>

A home to many talents



Peter Ward
University Librarian
pro tem

Welcome to *Friends*, UBC Library's newsletter. Along with the latest updates, this edition provides an in-depth view of the people and processes that make the Library a world-class, research-intensive organization.

It's also an organization that needs to deal with change – in all sorts of ways – on a regular basis. Change in the Library's leadership is no exception, and I'd like to share some of the recent developments that have occurred in this area.

Near the end of January, University Librarian Catherine Quinlan announced that she intended to step down in mid-March, having accomplished many goals. On behalf of all UBC Library staff, I would like to thank Catherine for her unstinting work since she was appointed as University Librarian in 1997.

My role, too, has changed. Since December 2005, I have served as the Interim Deputy University Librarian. After Catherine announced her resignation, I agreed at the Provost's request to serve as the University Librarian *pro tem*.

I first joined the Library in December 2005 in a temporary role on a secondment from the Faculty of Arts. With this latest appointment, I will remain with the Library's administration for a lengthier period, although my position remains an interim one. In the longer term, the University plans to hire a permanent University Librarian.

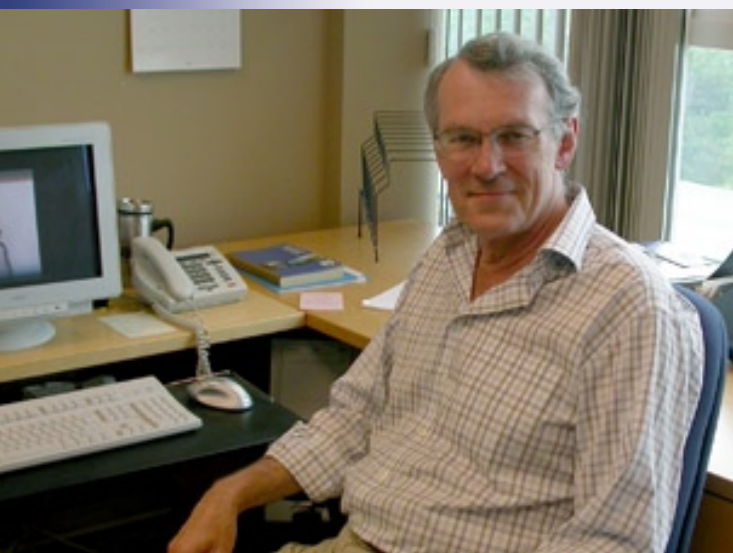
That said, I'm delighted to have this opportunity, and at the moment I'm deeply preoccupied with the Library's affairs. During my many years at UBC in the Department of History (see sidebar for details), the Library has always stood at the centre of my professional life. Since joining the Library I've had the pleasure of discovering it from the inside.

As a result, I've gained a better understanding of the Library's work and a deeper appreciation of the many contributions made by staff. Above all, I've learned about the deep commitment that people bring to their work in the Library every day.

Having worked here for well over a year, my strongest impression is that the Library is home to many talents, talents that have supported our past accomplishments, talents that will be invaluable to us as we move ahead. We have every reason to be optimistic about our ability to attain our future goals, among them the opening of phase two of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, enhanced cooperation with other academic libraries in B.C., and the definition of shared objectives through broad discussion across the Library community.

I look forward to building on our past successes as we work together to deal with the rapidly changing research library environment. I am confident that the energy, talent and vision of our staff will help UBC Library meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities that lie ahead. ■

A PASSION FOR LEARNING



Peter Ward, recently appointed as the University Librarian *pro tem*, brings a lifetime of learning to his role. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees from the University of Alberta and his PhD from Queen's University.

Professor Ward joined UBC's Department of History in 1973. In 1991, he was appointed as Head of the Department, and in 2003 he was appointed as Associate Dean, Strategic Initiatives in the Faculty of Arts.

His scholarly interests include Canadian social history and the history of health in the modern West.

Professor Ward has authored and edited numerous books, articles and proceedings. His major works in Canadian history include books on the history of the anti-Asian movement in B.C., the history of courtship and marriage in 19th-century Canada, and the history of domestic space in the Canadian home. He has also published a comparative study of newborn size, women's reproductive health, and economic change in Western Europe and North America between the mid-19th century and the 1930s.

INTERVIEW: STEPHEN TOOPE - PART 2

“Libraries have a real future”

Given that Stephen Toope is a reading buff, it's not too surprising that he speaks with passion about libraries, learning and research.



“I think libraries are still inspiring”

– Stephen Toope, UBC President

His enthusiasm comes across in the following conversation, which is the second part of an edited interview that *Friends* newsletter conducted with the UBC President shortly after his installation last September (for part one of the interview, please see the Fall 2006 issue).

Here, Toope discusses the roles of UBC Library and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, talks about his earlier experiences at McGill and offers some thoughts on the future of the academic library.

Q Do the Library and Learning Centre have a role to play in terms of the recruitment of new students and faculty?

A Certainly, for faculty, there's no question. Because faculty will come to a place where they think that they can get the materials to work on. A person who works in a lab wants his or her lab to be fully equipped. Someone who works primarily in the Library needs the Library to be fully equipped. Some of that is just the collections that are physically held here. But increasingly, that is also: what are the areas of online access that we have, what subscriptions do we have, what electronic databases do we have access to. All of those things are fundamental for the success of a researcher. So I think that that does matter for recruitment. And it is noted that UBC is one of the strongest libraries in the country, and that matters.

I had a wonderful conversation

with a student at UBC Okanagan. She was a student who had been at Okanagan University College, then moved to UBCO with the transition. She said the single greatest difference for her was that all of a sudden she had access to UBC Library. And she said that it just completely changed her educational experience – because all of a sudden, researching papers, etc., was so much more rewarding for her. She'd been frustrated before – she knew there was stuff out there, and she just couldn't get it. And now she can get it, and that was great.

So I would think that that's highly relevant for a student. Again, not just the materials, but whether or not we're doing a good job in mentoring students, helping them to understand how they gain access and process materials – that is fundamental as well. So I do see that as relevant to recruitment. Because I know that when you don't have it, you've got a problem. In a sense, for a great university, it's a bottom line – you just are expected as a recruitment vehicle to have strong library resources, both in terms of staffing and in terms of collections.

Q You were the youngest dean at McGill University's Faculty of Law, and you led what was then the largest capital campaign in Canadian law faculty history. That resulted in the rebuilding of the McGill Law Library – how was that experience?

A It was fabulous. We had been talking about building a library for about 15 years. We knew it was desperately needed. So I really do see the difference it makes when you have good facilities and when you don't.

We had to obviously go through the whole planning process, all the user committees, etc., which you've all been going through with the Barber Learning Centre. But I actually found it tremendously inspiring. Because one had to try to think

through what the library should look like 25 years from now, not what it was going to look like on the day that it opened. And so there were some obvious things, such as an expansion for collections.

But then the less obvious things were to think through the extent to which, in that case, legal periodicals and legal publications would continue to be in printed form, and how much would go online, did you need to collect cases in the same way that we'd done historically. We had loads of really interesting intellectual discussions about the nature of collecting, and archival materials. How do you treat archival materials? And also rare book collections. We had a very good rare book collection. How do you properly treat that – do you want to continue collecting in the rare book area, and why do you do that? Plus the actual architectural questions. We knew, for example, that more and more students worked in teams for projects, etc., so the library had to be designed so there was more access to spaces where students could work together without disturbing other students.

Then of course there's the whole fundraising challenge. And we raised every penny from private resources – there wasn't a penny of government money in that building. And that was really interesting as well, to connect with our own graduates, people who had been very successful.

I found it an absolutely fascinating process, and I enjoyed it. Not to say there weren't some frustrations – there were (laughs).

Q Did that experience at McGill inform how you view the prospects here for the Library or the Learning Centre?

A Yes, in the sense that it made me realize that there's been a lot of,

I think, rather loose rhetoric about how libraries probably weren't going to be as important in the future, because we were all going to sit at home and get everything on our computer terminals. That just isn't true. We still need libraries fundamentally, I think. Partly because libraries are also places to be. They're not just repositories of collections. When they're well-designed, libraries are also places where students want to spend time and professors want to spend time. There's an ambience. If well-designed, there's a possibility of working together, you're not sitting in your own dorm room or what-not, but you're working with other people if you have access to those kinds of facilities.

And there are still, as I said, many disciplines where you've got to be able to go and pick a book off a shelf, or have a robot find it for you. We're still going to be reading and interpreting novels, we're still going to be reading monographs in political science and sociology, and we're not going to read it all online. I don't think that's going to change for a long time. Short articles presenting scientific information from highly ranked journals, sure, that's changing. A lot of that may now be subscriptions online or database access rather than hard copy collections. But I became convinced in that whole process around building the new library that libraries have a real future.

Q Any other thoughts on the role of academic research libraries in the 21st century?

A Only to emphasize three things: One, libraries not just as collections, but as places where you gain access to services and mentoring around information.

Secondly, libraries as places to be. And so the physical environ-

ment is, I think, fundamentally important. We can all, I'm sure, think back – especially people who have had the privilege to go to older universities, which I have – to those moments when you're sitting in one of these beautiful rooms and you're surrounded by centuries of accumulated knowledge and wisdom. It's inspiring, and I think libraries are still inspiring.

But we have to move on, and so the old reading room concept may no longer be the principal focus for the library, it may be that we need small study rooms, so that two or three people can be talking about things, working on projects, etc. So we have to think about space differently.

And then lastly, I still think that despite the proliferation of new technologies, there are many disciplines in which traditional hard copy library holdings will remain relevant. So we shouldn't be afraid of collecting those things.

Q Lastly, aside from briefing notes, what are you reading at the moment?

A I'm going through a José Saramago phase, he won the Nobel Prize a few years ago. I read *Blindness* a while ago, and I just finished reading *Seeing*. It was wonderful, I really enjoyed it very much. And I've also just read Myriam Toews's *A Complicated Kindness*.

I never stop reading. I have to say that even when I'm extraordinarily busy, for me, at least a small part of every day I want to be reading some novels or history or poetry or something like that. That's important to me. It may only be 15 minutes before I fall asleep – if I'm lucky it's half an hour or even an hour. But that's something that's always been part of my life. **■**

THE BIG PICTURE

Anne McMaster (Carson) Yandle, 1930-2006



Anne at a Special Collections party in 1984 celebrating the acquisition of the Malcolm Lowry papers.

Right photo (circa 1966): Anne developed many fine collections during her time at UBC Library.

Anne Yandle, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at UBC Library from 1964 to 1991, died on December 12, 2006. She was loved and admired, and is now mourned, by many. Here, we provide a tribute to Anne, along with some recollections.

Anne McMaster (Carson) Yandle was born in Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, on December 29, 1930. After obtaining her commerce degree in Dublin, she came to Canada. She worked as a library assistant for Vancouver Public Library before attending McGill Library School. After graduating in 1961, she was hired at UBC Library. She worked in Special Collections, where Basil Stuart-Stubbs confidently left her in charge when he became University Librarian.

Anne was responsible for the development of many fine collections, including British Columbia and Canadian history and early children's literature. She encouraged colleagues to build the manuscript collections, University Archives, and the historical maps and cartographic archives, and was one of the first librarians to realize the value of ephemera and alternative literature.

Anne fostered relationships with book dealers in British Columbia and around the world. She was well-known in Vancouver's Irish community, and provided a home away from home for many visitors and new residents.

Following early retirement in December 1991, Anne was active in many societies and groups, and also ran Marco Polo Books. Anne left UBC Library with one of the most notable special collections in North America, a legacy that is a source of pride and joy for the University of British Columbia.

With special thanks to Frances M. Woodward

Peter Ward, *University Librarian, UBC Library:*

"When I was a member of the history department, I was writing a book about courtship and marriage in 19th-century Canada and wanted to find out more about Catholic teachings on matrimony. One possible source was *Butler's Catechism*, a widely used instructional text in early 19th-century English Canada. I'd never found a copy in my various visits to libraries and archives across the country. Certainly it wasn't in



the UBC Library catalogue and I couldn't find it in the Special Collections catalogue either. I mentioned the problem to Anne and she replied, 'Just a minute.' She disappeared into the vault and quickly reappeared with a copy of the catechism in hand. Apparently it was in the pamphlet collection, then one of the darker mysteries of the division. To me that moment summed up a lot about Anne, her curiosity, her rich knowledge, her collegiality, her wish to help. It was only one of many occasions when she gave me her advice but it was one that's stayed with me to this day."

Basil Stuart-Stubbs, *Head of Special Collections, UBC Library 1961-1964; University Librarian, 1964-1981*

"Anne was a prodigious worker, very focused, absorbing everything. She knew her collections, book by pamphlet. She knew the community she so brilliantly and generously served, through active membership in scholarly, professional, cultural and community organizations, often serving on the executive and frequently involved in their publishing programs. Her individual friendships with scholars, librarians, collectors and booksellers were countless. I doubt that there are many books written about any aspect of B.C. in the past 40 years that do not acknowledge her assistance." ■

A legacy of giving

Suzanne Dodson spent much of her career working with library assistants (LAs) – and now, she’s giving them something back.

Suzanne and Earl Dodson – passionate supporters of UBC Library.

In December, the long-time UBC Library employee and supporter gave \$20,000 to set up the Suzanne Dodson Professional Development Award Endowment Fund. UBC Library provided a matching amount.

The fund’s annual income will be used to help LAs at UBC Library pursue professional development opportunities.

Suzanne, who retired in 1999, said she made the donation “to acknowledge the valuable part played by library assistants in the Library system.”

She worked closely with LAs during her 36 years at UBC Library, which included stints as a Librarian in the Circulation Division, Head of the Government Publications and Microforms Division, and Manager of Facilities and Preservation.

“Library assistants do so much, we certainly couldn’t run the place without them,” says Suzanne.

Her gift is the latest example of the unwavering support that she and her husband, Earl Dodson, have offered UBC Library over the years.

Their generosity has resulted in an elevator at Koerner Library to accommodate people with disabili-



ties, an air conditioning system for rare materials, a microfilming project and more.


As a sign of appreciation, in 1999 UBC Library dedicated a space in the then Main Library as the Suzanne Cates Dodson and Earl D. Dodson Reading Room (Earl has also been a member of the President’s Advisory Council on the University Library).

The reading room is currently closed due to the construction of phase two of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, which is set to open in late 2007.

The Dodsons’ support of UBC Library has been inspired largely by Suzanne’s experience with the organization.

“I knew what the Library wanted and what we needed. And I was fortunate to have a generous husband who listened to me,” she says, laughing.

“We both agreed that the Library was really important to the University.”

For more information on the Suzanne Dodson fund for library assistants, please contact Shakeela Begum, UBC Library’s Director of Development, at 604-822-8926 or shakeela.begum@ubc.ca. 

LUKIN JOHNSTON AWARD BENEFITS LEE



Teresa Lee, 2006/07 Lukin Johnston Award recipient

Just go for it!

That’s the advice Teresa Lee offers young UBC librarians thinking about applying for the Diana Lukin Johnston Award.

“It’s such a great opportunity for the new librarians,” says Lee, who won the 2006/07 Lukin Johnston Award.

Lee, 32, is based at Woodward Biomedical Library, where she’s a

Reference and Liaison Librarian for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Lukin Johnston Award enables professionals, or those studying to become librarians, to benefit from professional development prospects. It was established by Derek Lukin Johnston – a long-term benefactor of UBC Library – in memory of his wife, who was an avid reader and supporter of libraries.

Lee applied some of her award money to attend the annual meet-

ing of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, held in San Diego last year. There, she learned about educational trends and met with many other librarians in her field. “The AACP conference was an excellent venue for networking,” she says.

Lee has some award money remaining, and plans to use that to attend the Medical Library Association conference, held in May in Philadelphia.

PROFILE: JANICE KREIDER

A Life in Libraries

It's been quite the career for Janice Kreider, one that has led her to both coasts of North America as well as stints in England and France.



Janice Kreider, Assistant University Librarian at UBC Library, predicts an exciting future for libraries.

Now, after decades with UBC Library, Kreider – the Assistant University Librarian for Collections & Technical Services – is preparing to bid farewell to her professional life and embark on new journeys.

Although Kreider, 64, has worked at UBC Library for nearly 25 years, the time has passed swiftly. “When you’re challenged, it’s interesting – time goes very fast,” she says. “Unfortunately so, in some ways, because it’s been great.”

An accidental occupation

That said, librarianship wasn’t a chosen calling for Kreider, who grew up in northwestern Ohio.

After receiving her undergraduate and Master’s degrees in math from Goshen College and Indiana University, respectively, Kreider arrived at a turning point. She didn’t want to keep pursuing math studies; at the same time, a friend recommended that she take a few library science courses.

She did so, and ended up obtaining her Master’s in Library Science

from Indiana University in 1968. “When I look back, I realize I always had this great urge to read everything that was in front of me,” she says.

Kreider began her career as a Physics and Astronomy Librarian at New York’s Columbia University. She spent ensuing years accompanying her husband J. Evan Kreider (currently UBC’s Associate Dean of Arts) to various academic postings, and came to B.C. in 1975.

Seven years later, Kreider arrived at UBC Library, where she remained for the rest of her career. Her positions included Science/Engineering Bibliographer and Coordinator of Collections, and she took on the role of Assistant University Librarian in 1999.

During her time at UBC, Kreider also spent three years overseas in London, Oxford and Paris.

Not bad for an accidental occupation – even though Kreider recalls getting a bit bored with librarianship shortly after she entered the profession. “But I haven’t been bored since,” she adds. “And that’s not only because I’ve had more responsibility;

it’s because it’s simply more interesting with all the online content and new ways of doing things.”

The next juncture

Indeed, technologies such as CD-ROMs, online catalogues and resources, integrated library systems and e-journals have redefined the role of librarians.

Although the vocation has changed and adapted, Kreider feels more big shifts lie ahead – especially in the burgeoning area of search technologies and their influence on young users.

“I think we’re at another juncture, and in a way I’m sorry to leave the profession at this time because it’s going to be very exciting,” she says. “The challenge for libraries now is to get their search interfaces into really good shape and out there where the users are. As well, librarians will be getting more involved in selecting materials for preservation, likely in a digital format, materials that could otherwise be lost in the future.”

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