

# LIBRARY FRIENDS

SUMMER 2010



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**Charting a course:**

*This image of a volvelle hails from Cosmographia, a 16th-century text by Petrus Apianus that is found in UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections division.*

**THE BIG PICTURE**

## UBC Library's 21st-century strategy

**It's a daunting question: how do you create a roadmap to guide one of the largest academic libraries in Canada for the next five years?**

**There's no magic answer** – but UBC Library's approach involved asking for input from a wide range of stakeholders, encouraging a Library-wide discussion and posing many probing questions in a short amount of time.

The result is a succinct four-page document – found at [www.library.ubc.ca/strategicplan](http://www.library.ubc.ca/strategicplan) – that sets the stage for UBC Library's direction up to 2015. "These are exciting times for academic libraries," says Ingrid Parent, University Librarian. "This plan will be invaluable to the

Library as we navigate the challenges and pursue the opportunities. I'm grateful to everyone for their input."

**Five directions for five years**

The plan's centrepiece features five strategic directions: Enhance Student Learning; Accelerate Research; Manage Collections in a Digital Context; Engage with Community; and Create an Exceptional Work Environment.

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## UBC Library's 21st-century strategy

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These directions also support *Place and Promise*, the new strategic plan for the University as a whole (see <http://strategicplan.ubc.ca> for more information).

This convergence was deliberate, says Leonora Crema, the Associate University Librarian for Planning and Community Relations who led the Library's strategic plan effort at Parent's request.

Crema notes that the process, which began in the fall of 2009, was framed by two key questions: how can UBC Library best support *Place and Promise*, and what does it mean to be a 21st-century research library?

Over the next few months, Crema and the 16-member strategic plan steering committee tackled these issues by inviting input from many contributors, including Library staff, UBC faculty and Deans, community groups and students.

"Strategic planning is exciting work – it's about envisioning and creating the future," Crema says. "We hope we've hit the high notes from everything that we heard. Our five strategic directions certainly reflect the goals of the University."


### The digital driver

One of the common themes underlying the plan is the need to balance the impact of ever-changing technologies with the Library's more traditional roles.

"Technology is a huge driver – thinking and being digital," Crema acknowledges. "But we also heard from faculty and students that print still has a very strong place in a modern-day research library."

Some highlights for the first two years of the plan include supporting the ongoing growth of cIRcle, UBC Library's digital repository; the continued upgrading of student spaces, including renovations to the Woodward and Asian libraries; the development of new resources and services, such as a Research Commons that combines both physical and virtual spaces; and establishing preservation programs for print and digital collections.

Last but not least, it's important to note that the strategic plan is a "living document" that will be updated periodically to reflect changing times and needs.

So if you have questions or comments about UBC Library and its strategic plan, please let us know – we want to hear your feedback. You can reach us at [lib-plansc@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:lib-plansc@interchange.ubc.ca). 

### PROFILE: INGRID PARENT

## UBC grad returns to lead the Library

Last year, when Ingrid Parent attended interviews to become the next head of UBC Library, the sun shone gloriously.

Since winning the job, however, she's also had to endure the greyer days of winter and a rather sodden spring. And that's just been one of many transitions that Parent, UBC's 14th University Librarian, has faced since taking on her role at her alma mater on July 1, 2009.

Indeed, she's intrigued by the complexities of working for one of the biggest universities in the country. "The Library is the heart of a wider environment," she says. "There's a real breadth of activity at UBC and with our external partners."

### Advancing the opportunities

After earning her BA in Honours History and a library science degree from UBC, Parent relocated to eastern Canada where she held increasingly senior positions, culminating in the role of Assistant Deputy Minister at Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

She took over the helm of UBC Library shortly after winning an award from the Canadian Association of Research Libraries for Distinguished Service to Research Librarianship. In addition, she is the President-elect for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and will serve as its President from 2011-2013.

During her first year at UBC, Parent has been busy pursuing many opportunities. In early 2010, for example, the Library introduced its new strategic plan, which will help guide the organization through 2015 (*see cover story*).

### Next steps

The plan, which featured an impressive amount of input from an array of stakeholders – including many staff participants – was completed in a tight timeframe in order to capitalize on the momentum of UBC's new strategic plan and set the stage for the Library's path



*Ingrid Parent, UBC's 14th University Librarian.*

forward. “Now the hard but exciting part begins – the implementation,” Parent says.

The Library’s digital strategy remains key. “Addressing digital challenges and exploiting the potential of the opportunities that the digital environment presents is one of my top priorities,” she says. As part of that process, the Library will soon hire a Director of Library Digital Initiatives.

There have been various other highlights during Parent’s tenure, including the continued success of

the B.C. History Digitization Program, an initiative of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre; the Asian Library’s 50th-anniversary celebrations; and the ongoing establishment of a new advisory committee for UBC Library.

Now, with summer underway, Parent looks forward to basking in some more West Coast sunshine and enjoying Vancouver’s vibrancy. “It’s an exciting city to wander about in,” she says. “It’s also a city that’s deserving of a great university, and a great library.” **1**

## GIS LAB

### Visualizing research

**As a boy, Tom Brittnacher was obsessed by transportation and maps – interests that ended up playing a pivotal role in his career choice.**

**Graphic results:**  
*UBC Library’s Tom Brittnacher heads up the new GIS lab.*

**Brittnacher**, UBC Library’s first Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Librarian, arrived last year to develop a new service to support research on campus with spatial analysis.

In June, an opening reception was held for the new GIS/Research Data Lab in Koerner Library. The lab houses six workstations that allow users to manipulate data and produce graphic representations of the results in geographic settings.

That may mean tracking changes in sea levels, displaying the complexities of overlapping territories in First Nations land claims, or analyzing movements of improvising modern dancers. All this can be depicted visually and used for disciplines such as health policy, geography, political science, forestry, economics, history and social policy.

#### **A desire for data**

Pent-up demand means researchers have already started accessing the expertise of Brittnacher, who is working with an established team of data services personnel.

The lab is also fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. “People come to me, saying ‘I need this data, where can I get it?’” Brittnacher says. For example, two researchers from different departments were asking



for information on 19th-century British parliamentary constituency boundaries, but neither had any idea where to turn. Brittnacher found the data at the University of Portsmouth in the U.K., introduced the researchers and brought them together. He continues to assist them.

“The lab is geared toward people who don’t have access to GIS and statistical software in their own departments,” Brittnacher adds. Teaching will be another area of emphasis, with workshops geared towards GIS neophytes as well as more experienced users.

Brittnacher comes to UBC Library with extensive experience in library settings and the private sector. Prior to attending library school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), he worked as a GIS Analyst, Urban Planner and Cartographer. Upon graduation, Brittnacher became the GIS Librarian at the American Geographical Society Library at UWM.

The prospect of coming to build a GIS service from the ground up proved impossible to resist. “I wasn’t looking when I saw the job advertised,” he says. Brittnacher had a long-time interest in BC, dating back to a cross-country family trip he navigated at age 14 that passed through Vancouver. “I knew that this was a part of the continent I wanted to live in,” he adds, “so I jumped at the opportunity.” **1**



Douglas Coupland speaks to UBC graduates in May after accepting his honorary degree.

#### LIBRARY DONATION

## UBC Library welcomes Douglas Coupland archives

The extensive archives of Douglas Coupland – one of Canada’s most renowned authors, an internationally recognized visual artist and a cultural icon who coined the term “Generation X” – have a new home at UBC Library.

**Coupland’s** archives consist of a vast array of records dating to 1980, including manuscripts, photos, visual art, fan mail, correspondence, press clippings, audio/visual material and more. Coupland plans to continue adding to his archives, held at the Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections division (RBSC), in coming years.

“For me it’s a great honour for UBC to accept my papers. I hope that within them, people in the future will find patterns and constellations that can’t be apparent to me or to anyone simply because they are there, and we are here,” says Coupland, who also received an honorary degree from UBC on May 27. “The donation process makes me feel old and yet young at the same time. I’m deeply grateful for UBC’s support and enthusiasm.”

#### Gen X, Gen A and beyond


Coupland is perhaps best known for his first and seminal novel, *Generation X*, which chronicles the tale of three 20-something friends grappling with their lives. *Generation X*, which originally began as an article for *Vancouver* magazine, went on to become a global cultural phenomenon. Coupland’s archives feature original copies of the book manuscript and a copy of the magazine article.

Coupland has written another 19 books, including *Generation A*, published in 2009, and a recent biography on legendary scholar and critic Marshall McLuhan.

His UBC archives include first editions of many titles, numerous foreign editions, manuscripts and more. The entire holding is stored in 122 boxes and features about 30 metres of textual materials. “This is a very comprehensive look at Doug’s activities – we’re grateful for his generosity,” says Ralph Stanton, the Head of RBSC.

A finding aid describing the collection’s contents was organized by Stephen Russo from UBC’s School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. It is available at [www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/AZ/PDF/C/Coupland\\_Douglas.pdf](http://www.library.ubc.ca/spcoll/AZ/PDF/C/Coupland_Douglas.pdf). Users can view the collection’s contents and make a request to view material.

“I’m terrible at archiving and am glad pros are handling this,” adds Coupland. “And they need to know that there are hundreds more boxes coming their way.”

While best-known as a novelist, Coupland is also an accomplished graphic designer, journalist, visual artist, playwright and filmmaker. Since 2000, he has created or contributed to a wide array of visual art projects, installations and exhibitions. A recent public work, the 25-foot-tall *Digital Orca*, was installed at the Vancouver Convention Centre, on the west terrace of the West building. 



## “A Historian Who Looked Forward”

Dr. William C. Gibson, one of the Library’s strongest and most enduring supporters, passed away last year at the age of 95. His UBC legacy endures in the generations of medical students he taught, in the vast body of his scholarly work, in his books of wry wisdom, and most visibly in Woodward Library, one of his proudest achievements.



Main photo (L to R): William Gibson, P.A. Woodward and Dr. R.E. McKechnie examine the Leake Collection of rare books, acquired for Woodward Library, circa 1963. Inset: Dr. Gibson and the Right Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, at UBC’s Green College in 2000.

**Born in Ottawa in 1913**, Gibson grew up in Victoria. He completed a bachelor’s degree in 1933 as part of UBC’s first graduating class in commerce, then pursued medical studies at McGill and a Ph.D. at Oxford. Gibson’s distinguished career at UBC spanned 30 years, including successive posts as Researcher and Clinical Associate Professor, Director of the Kinsmen Laboratory for Neurological Research, and Professor and Head of the History of Medicine and Science Department.

At a memorial service in Vancouver, Gibson’s son-in-law described him as “a historian who looked forward,” says Gibson’s daughter Kate. “That’s exactly who he was.”

### Passions and projects

Legendary stories abound about Gibson’s love of medical history books and his ability to convince wealthy friends to fund worthy projects. These two passions united when in 1960, he and several colleagues brought P.A. “Puggy” Woodward, scion of the department store family, to a dim and musty hole in the core of the Central Library. All they had to do was show him the sorry conditions in which a small treasure trove of rare and early medical texts were being stored.

Woodward emerged from the basement ready to bankroll the construction of a medical library. Gibson was instrumental in bringing rare treasures to campus that would be showcased in the building, including Laurentius Valla’s *Elegant Latin Language*, printed in 1476, and a rare first edition of William Harvey’s revolutionary 1628 work on blood circulation, *De Motu Cordis*.

“If there was something he thought was a good project, he would raise heaven and earth to get it done,” remarked Anna Leith, an Emerita UBC Librarian who became Head of Woodward Library in 1967.

“So we modestly designed a building to last 200 years, in which any wall, counter or catalogue could be moved within 20 minutes,” Gibson wrote in a 1982 speech to the National Library of Medicine. “I don’t want to build a book cemetery,” he quoted Woodward as saying. “I want milestones of science – the first time any new discovery was published. I want the students to see these, and appreciate that UBC has them!”

Gibson’s contact with the neurology greats of the 19th and 20th centuries made him want to share those experiences with students and faculty at UBC, said Dr. Patrick L. McGeer, a student of Gibson’s in the 1950s, and now an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry. “He recognized the aura that went with greatness. He brought it here physically – the evidence of it – it’s all those rare books in the Woodward Memorial Room. That’s his attempt to expose UBC and the Medical School to some aspect of greatness.”

## UBC OKANAGAN UPDATE

## Thinking big, acting green

Thanks to the efforts of a student-led survey and a staff-led Green Team, UBC Okanagan (UBCO) Library is re-making itself as an outstanding sustainable site on the Kelowna campus.

In the fall of 2009, two nursing students at UBCO conducted a survey – part of a broader campus study called VOICE – about student perceptions of sustainability at the Library. Students were asked about current practices and changes that they would like to see (sustainability is one of the nine key commitments in *Place and Promise*, UBC's new strategic plan).

Melody Burton, Chief Librarian at UBCO Library, notes that all of her colleagues agree on the importance of a sustainability strategy. "It's a real positive initiative that has a lot of traction among and across staff," she says.

At the time, many students were unaware of the green steps being taken by UBCO Library. However, recent efforts should help put the organization on UBCO's sustainability radar. A Green Team, consisting of five Library employees (two librarians and three support staff) is working alongside the VOICE project and other campus sustainability partners to consider and implement changes.

In January, special tiles were installed on the main level's ceiling to dampen noise. In addition, UBCO

Library has sent titles to Better World Books ([www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com)), an organization that accepts and sells unwanted tomes and directs part of the proceeds to literacy projects.

UBCO Library received a few hundred dollars from the sales, and hopes to invest those funds into additional sustainability initiatives (UBC Library in Vancouver also works with Better World Books).

Other steps include the acquisition of new printers that allow for double-sided printing, making scrap paper available for students and using recycled supplies.

"We're always looking at ways to improve printing and recycling," Burton says. "They're not necessarily the most innovative items, but they are high-traffic areas where the impact and visibility is obvious."

Other survey recommendations include planting a rooftop garden to decrease the need for excess heating and the installation of solar panels. While these ideas have yet to come to fruition, Burton is inspired by the students' vision. "They were really thinking big, and that's a good thing," she says. ■

## CHUNG COLLECTION



A CPR scene from the Last Spike 100th anniversary ceremony.

A reporter's walk through the Chung Collection on Chinese New Year drew the entire Board of CP Rail to pay UBC Library a visit in February.

In town for an annual general meeting during the Winter Olympics, Fred Green, CP's President and Chief Executive Officer, read a full-colour article in the *Vancouver Sun* profiling the collection and its namesake, Dr. Wallace Chung.

Starting with newspaper clippings and scrapbooks, Chung spent 60 years assembling what would become a national treasure

depicting the early history of British Columbia, its immigration and settlement, and "The World's Greatest Travel System": the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Unaware that a world-class assemblage of archival materials, memorabilia and artifacts documenting CP's history existed beyond CP's archives, Green was determined to see the collection and meet Chung.

A week later, the full board, as well as Chung's wife and family, attended a reception in the Dodson Room of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

Chung guided two groups of board members through the collec-

tion, accompanied by Ingrid Parent, University Librarian and Ralph Stanton, Head of Rare Books and Special Collections.

The visit culminated with the gift of three valuable and original documents from CP's archives, including a telegram determining that Vancouver, rather than Port Moody, would serve as CP's terminal port in the Lower Mainland. The leather-bound originals will become part of the Chung Collection, serving as primary resources for students and researchers.

For more on the Chung Collection, please see its new website at <http://chung.library.ubc.ca>.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bottom left: Patricia Richardson Logie (seated) with her family at her exhibition opening; other images taken from the *Chronicles of Pride* collection.

## A B.C. Painter’s Portraits of Pride

**A handsome collection of First Nations portraits donated to UBC Library by B.C. artist Patricia Richardson Logie will soon be available to all as an online exhibit.**

**The effort** follows a recent showing, which took place at the Learning Centre Gallery in March and offered art aficionados a chance to view a project that took nearly a decade to complete. “I’ve waited for years to have them appreciated,” says Richardson Logie, who lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband Bob. “It’s a thrill for me to see them at UBC, as you can well imagine.”

“Patricia brought her skill, her medium and her careful thought to a genre of painting that had often memorialized the most privileged members of society,” says Linc Kesler, Director of the First Nations House of Learning and Senior Advisor to UBC President Stephen Toope on Aboriginal Affairs. “She used it to bring a kind of visibility and attention to Aboriginal people who were her contemporaries, but often not yet at the points of public visibility that some had in their later roles.”

Richardson Logie’s portraits are also available for viewing on the UBC Library Vault ([www.ubcvault.ca](http://www.ubcvault.ca)), and an online display is planned to launch this summer.


### Artistic ambitions

During the 1970s, Richardson Logie taught art at UBC Continuing Studies. Indeed, the painter – who was born in Ontario in 1925 – has spent much of her life pursuing artistic endeavors. She studied in London, England, and her works have been displayed and featured in collections in Canada, the US, the UK and Japan.

She began painting *Chronicles of Pride* in 1982, after becoming frustrated with First Nations imagery that she viewed as clichéd. The project was completed in 1991.

The collection includes portraits of Yvonne Dunlop and Lyle Wilson, who were students in the Native Indian Teacher Education Program at UBC; Verna Kirkness, the first Director of UBC’s First Nations House of Learning; actress Margo Kane, who is the 2009/10 Aboriginal Distinguished Artist in Residence in UBC’s Department of Theatre and Film; Judge Alfred Scow, the first Aboriginal to graduate from UBC Law; singer, Senator and UBC alumnus Leonard Marchand; and many others.

Last November, UBC Library held a standing-room only event at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre to celebrate the donation and honour Richardson Logie and her family. University Librarian Ingrid Parent also used the occasion to announce the Richardson Logie *Chronicles of Pride* Fund, which will help promote and maintain the collection.

*Chronicles of Pride* is also accompanied by a book (*Chronicles of Pride: A Journey of Discovery*, published by Detselig Enterprises Ltd.), a teacher resource guide and a video that contains profiles of the portrait subjects. These resources are available at various UBC Library branches, including Xwi7xwa Library, the only Aboriginal branch of a university library in Canada. 



## ASIAN LIBRARY

## Where research meets community

More than 150 supporters came to celebrate the past and anticipate the future as they commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Asian Library in early March.

**Emeritus librarians and professors** who helped build the Library joined students, staff and dignitaries in the Asian Centre, including the President of Sanyo Canada, Koshi Terakawa; the Consul-General of Indonesia, Bambang Hiendrasto; the Consul-General of Japan, Hideki Ito; and longtime UBC Library supporter Dr. Wallace Chung.

“We are here to note the accomplishments of the past,” said Wes Pue, UBC Vice-Provost, “but also to embrace the future – to look forward with great confidence to the directions in which the Asian Studies Department and the Asian Library will go.”

Ingrid Parent, the University Librarian, highlighted the pivotal role of two Asian Studies professors – Ho Ping Ti and Ronald Dore – in bringing two collections to UBC that formed the foundation of the fledgling Library: the 45,000-volume Puban collection purchased in 1949 in Macau, and one of three North American depositories for Japanese government documents.

Eleanor Yuen, Head Librarian, reflected on many roles played by the Asian Library. “We have always been the Library where research meets the community,” she said.

### Not just there, but here

Priorities for the next five years will focus on serving a global community of researchers and building digital collections. Yuen also highlighted the need for a




*Ahead of its time: UBC's Asian Library*

renovation of the Asian Centre and Library in order to accommodate the changing nature of users' needs.

Other highlights included the launch of a database documenting the history of the Asian Library, and the awarding of the inaugural Peter Ward Prize to UBC student Alan Lau for his essay about the Asian Library's impact on his work.

“The reason we can celebrate a 50th anniversary is that UBC's Asian Library was in many ways ahead of its time, and that it recognized that Asia was not just over there, Asia was here,” said Henry Yu, Professor of History at UBC. “We live in a place where Asia is.”

The donation of two significant collections that reflect this dual heritage was celebrated: the Pang Jingtang from mainland China, with its valuable and historic Ming-period volumes; and the Ron Bik Lee Papers, which provide unprecedented insight into the immigrant experience, economic development and philanthropy in the Chinese-Canadian community.

Paul Fang, grandson of Mr. Pang Jingtang, spoke movingly of the scholar who painstakingly collected the volumes in his namesake collection, and the family journey that brought the collection to Canada. 

## FRIENDS

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