UBC Library News

Melody Burton honoured with CLA award
Melody Burton, Chief Librarian at UBC’s Okanagan campus, has received the Canadian Library Association’s highest honour, the Miles Blackwell Outstanding Academic Librarian Award.

The award recognizes Burton for tireless service to the profession, unwavering commitment to mentorship and excellent leadership within various libraries. Through her career, Burton has made an impact at many academic libraries: Concordia College in Edmonton, University of Alberta, York University, University of Windsor, Queen’s University, and UBC’s Okanagan campus where she has been Chief Librarian since 2005.

“This is a tremendous honour for Melody, and reflects the leadership, professionalism and dedication she has shown here at UBC and throughout her career,” said Doug Owram, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal at UBC’s Okanagan campus.

“Since 2005 we have seen our Library grow from serving 3,500 students to meeting the needs of more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students,” he said. “It has been a remarkable time of growth, and Melody’s experience and passion have allowed us to expand and continue to deliver excellent Library programs and services.”

Burton is known as an inspiring leader with an imaginative approach to problem solving. Nominators described her as a “natural leader,” “a woman of insight” and “an advocate and an activist.” The Miles Blackwell Award was presented to Burton in May at the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries (CACUL) Annual General Meeting, during the Canadian Library Association’s national conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Joy Kirchner named ACRL Visiting Program Officer
Joy Kirchner, UBC Library’s Scholarly Communications Coordinator, has been appointed as a Visiting Program Officer to the Association of Research Libraries (ACRL). The 12-month appointment was made to support the ACRL’s scholarly communications initiatives.

Kirchner remains in her role at UBC Library, but has been granted some release time to assist the ACRL. She will work with members and staff to develop a sustainable model for the Scholarly Communications 101 workshop, support the work of the Scholarly Communications Committee and develop other initiatives to advance ACRL’s work in this area.

“We are very pleased that Joy has been asked to work closely with ACRL to support evolving approaches to scholarly communication,” said Allan Bell, Director of Library Digital Initiatives at UBC. “Joy’s work with ACRL will have a direct connection to our institutional and Library strategic plans. Her work with ACRL will dovetail with UBC’s goals to increase the impact of UBC research by making it widely available in open access digital repositories and promote open access and open source methods and tools.”

You can view the complete announcement here.

UBC Library launches inaugural Community Report

You can find out more about these topics in UBC Library’s new Community Report, which highlights some milestones related to the Library’s five strategic directions: Enhance Student Learning, Accelerate Research, Manage Collections in a Digital Context, Engage with Community and Create an Exceptional Work Environment. The report – available online and in hard-copy format – has been

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distributed to the campus community and external audiences.

As Ingrid Parent, UBC’s University Librarian, notes in her introduction, “Change is no longer a consequence, but an acceptance of what we must do to remain relevant to advance research, learning and teaching excellence by connecting communities to the world’s knowledge.”

UBC Library released its Strategic Plan in 2010 after engaging staff and stakeholders in a process that resulted in a five-year blueprint for action. The document was also developed to be in direct alignment with the initiatives of Place and Promise (http://strategicplan.ubc.ca), UBC’s overarching plan.

We’re happy to report on our progress, and excited about the opportunities ahead.


For more information on the Library’s Strategic Plan please visit http://strategicplan.library.ubc.ca.

For more UBC Library news, read UBC Library: Summer 2011 update in this edition of the BCLA Browser.

Okanagan College librarians receive national innovation award

Okanagan College librarians are the winners of the 2011 Innovation Achievement Award, presented by the Community & Technical College Libraries (CTCL) section of the Canadian Library Association.

The award recognizes the development and implementation of Course Integrated Library Research Instruction (CILRI) at Okanagan College.

Born as a pilot project, CIRLI now formally integrates librarian-led instruction into every first-year English class across the college’s four campuses.

CTLC states: “While the primary achievement of CILRI is the expansion of instructional opportunities for students to develop research and critical thinking skills, one of CILRI’s additional benefits is the strengthening of relationships between librarians and teaching faculty. Because of CILRI, the Library is now better placed to be a full partner in the teaching and learning role of the College.”

The award was presented at May’s CACUL Annual General Meeting, during the Canadian Library Association’s national conference. Read the full press release here.

Member News is compiled by Leanna Jantzi, Librarian at Okanagan College Library in Kelowna, B.C.