Supporting evolving library spaces and new collections

Ambitious campus-wide campaign for UBC Library to benefit students, researchers and community.

Running until 2015, start an evolution is the most ambitious fundraising and alumni engagement campaign in Canadian history. The goal of the campaign is to raise $1.5 billion for students, research and community engagement and to double the number of alumni involved in life of the University.

This fall, the Library is celebrating the many generous contributions its supporters have made toward various initiatives and projects. During the 2011/2012 fiscal year, UBC Library received an outstanding $6,209,576 in outright donations and gifts-in-kind. The total amount invested by donors across UBC was a whopping $194,100,157, which has supported research, facilities, equipment, collections, student scholarships, bursaries and academic endowments or program funding.

Thanks to donor support for the UBC Centenary Library Endowment fund and the UBC Library Technology Endowment fund, and to funding from the University, continued on page two...
Supporting evolving library spaces and new collections
continued from page one

the Library is now able to build the new Integrated Research Library facility (see page 6). Other highlights from the past year include the acquisition of two outstanding film collections, the Videomatica holdings (see page 3) and the Halleran Collection (see page 6).

In the meantime, work continues on the Chinese Canadian Stories Project, funded by the Government of Canada; the Pang Jingtang Collection, funded by the Fang family; cataloguing of the Douglas Coupland archives; and outreach and promotion for the Chung Collection, which was funded by Canadian Pacific Railway (see page 8).

As of the past fiscal year, UBC has raised a total of $900 million toward the start an evolution campaign. UBC Library aims to raise $25 million by the end of the campaign. For more information, visit startanevolution.ubc.ca.

Planned capital improvements over the next few years at UBC Library include a new arts hub at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre incorporating visual and performing arts collections and services, redeveloping Woodward Library as an integrated science library, a new state-of-the-art Research Commons at Koerner Library and a language laboratory in the Asian Library.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other developments. For details about upcoming Library projects, including naming opportunities, please contact Ingrid Parent, University Librarian, at ingrid.parent@ubc.ca or 604-827-3486.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Accelerating the pace of change in libraries

As UBC Library navigates new waters, opportunities arise for donors and alumni to be involved in discussing and presenting solutions for change.

It comes perhaps as no surprise that libraries around the globe are changing for the benefit of our users. New digital agendas, new technologies, and new ways of engaging with public spaces and learning environments have enacted a ripple-effect in the way libraries are evolving. Over the past year, in my role as President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), I have seen first-hand what this means to library organizations worldwide.

UBC Library is no exception, and we continue to closely examine the role of libraries as a force for change. What is the role of a librarian in a 21st century library? Why is the preservation of print materials, last-copy records and historic collections vital in a digital world? What do changes to physical spaces and services mean to students, faculty, staff and members of the community, near and far?

As UBC Library navigates new waters, opportunities arise for donors and alumni to be involved in discussing and presenting solutions for change. How do learners and researchers prefer to use the library? What do they need most? As we strengthen our position as a valued partner in research, teaching and learning both within and beyond UBC, we invite you to join the conversation.

In this issue of Friends, you’ll hear about our first year in the campus-wide start an evolution campaign as well as details about some of our latest projects, initiatives and acquisitions. I am pleased to report that we are well on our way to reaching our campaign goals and look forward to what the next few years will bring.

We are moving ahead to address changing space needs at UBC, transforming many of our existing services and locations to best serve our students, faculty, staff and members of the community. In the past, the importance of a library was based on how big its spaces and physical collections were. As we go forward, UBC Library is focusing on how well we provide services, the extent of our digital reach, and increasing the accessibility of unique collections that our users truly need and want.

This November, I am delivering a keynote speech at The University of Hong Kong in celebration of its centenary year. The topic of the conference is “Leveraging the Digital Age: 21st Century Libraries in a Global Context.” Indeed, it is an exciting time for libraries. I look forward to the chance to hear your thoughts on the transformation.

Ingrid Parent
University Librarian
Local video store’s prized film collection comes to UBC

The bulk of the collection – some 28,000 DVDs, 4,000 VHS titles and 900 Blu-rays – has been donated to UBC.

When Videomatica closed its doors after nearly 30 years of serving Vancouver’s video rental market, co-founders Graham Peat and Brian Bosworth were unsure of what to do with their valuable stock of films, many of which have long been unavailable or out of print.

Peat and Bosworth, both former UBC students, had spent three decades building the store’s extensive collection of feature films, literary adaptations, cult and art pictures, foreign films, Canadian works and selections from the annual Vancouver International Film Festival. Vancouver film buffs counted on Videomatica to have more classic, foreign or obscure titles than any other movie rental outlet in the city.

Initially, a variety of individuals and organizations expressed interest in purchasing or obtaining titles in the collection. But Peat and Bosworth felt strongly about keeping the Videomatica films together and acknowledging their value as a whole collection, rather than dispersing separate items.

The bulk of the collection – some 28,000 DVDs, 4,000 VHS titles and 900 Blu-rays – has been donated to UBC.

Early in 2012, with the help of philanthropist Yosef Wosk, the two business partners came to an agreement with their alma mater. The bulk of the collection – some 28,000 DVDs, 4,000 VHS titles and 900 Blu-rays – would be donated to UBC, where the films would continue to be available to the public as well as being used for research and learning.

Most of the titles in the collection are now stored at UBC Library. More than 5,000 duplicates have gone to UBC’s Department of Theatre and Film. Of the total number of titles in the collection, approximately 2,800 Canadian and international documentaries were donated to SFU for use in a new cinema studies program.

The Videomatica collection was appraised at $1.7 million in 2011.

“We wish to heartily thank our many customers and supporters who, through their encouraging wishes and contributions, helped ‘send the movies to university,’” said Peat.

UBC Library acquired the Videomatica collection, appraised at $1.7M, earlier this year.

Library Changes

Transforming to a 21st century library

Research libraries across North America are evolving to suit user needs and services and UBC Library is no exception.

As part of its strategic plan and budgetary forecast, UBC Library has announced a number of changes to services at various campus branches and sites. While this process has just begun and will take up to three years to complete, some changes are underway and take effect this fall. These changes include combining some of its collections, realigning services and units to achieve efficiencies, and reimagining our spaces to reflect user needs. These transformative changes will allow the Library to strengthen its position as a valued partner in research, teaching and learning on campus.

We invite you to find out more by visiting library.ubc.ca for updates on Library changes for our users and the campus community.
Philanthropist and visionary leader for education

Dr. Irving K. Barber, one of UBC Library’s longtime friends and supporters, passed away peacefully at his home in Tsawwassen, B.C., on April 13, 2012.

In 2006, Dr. Barber donated an exceptional gift of $20 million to construct the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC’s Vancouver campus. Built around the heritage core of the former Main Library, the Learning Centre is now a focal point of the campus and main hub for students.

Dr. Barber’s other donations include a 2004 gift of $10 million to establish the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Interface Program at UBC’s Okanagan campus. Dr. Barber also established an Enhanced Forestry Laboratory at the University of Northern British Columbia, the Irving K. Barber Diabetes Research Endowment Fund at UBC and the Ike Barber Human Islet Transplant Laboratory at Vancouver General Hospital.

Dr. Barber received numerous awards and distinctions during his lifetime, including the Order of Canada, the Order of British Columbia and the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal.

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life service for Dr. Barber was held on June 11, 2012 at the newly renovated Old Auditorium. The public event was also available for viewing as a live webcast.

The program included remarks from UBC President Stephen Toope, B.C. Premier Christy Clark, some of Dr. Barber’s friends and colleagues and former UBC President Martha Piper. His son, James Barber, delivered a touching tribute.

The event concluded with a casual reception in the Learning Centre where others were encouraged to share their fond memories of Dr. Barber.

The webcast can be viewed at: tiny.cc/barbercentre.

Dr. Barber was born in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1923. He began his studies at UBC in September 1945 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1950. Dr. Barber founded Slocan Forest Products in 1978, growing it into one of Canada’s leading forestry companies. He retired as chairman in 2002.

Often described as a visionary, Dr. Barber was passionate about education and research in British Columbia. Through his work in the forest industry, Dr. Barber maintained close ties with communities across the province and he was keen to fund projects that would strengthen and improve the quality of life for all B.C. residents, regardless of income, especially in remote areas.

Tell us...

What would you like to read in Friends? Tell us in our first readership survey.

As part of our commitment to curate Library content for Friends subscribers, we invite you to take our online survey and share your thoughts on content, online preferences and any other suggestions you might have. Online respondents can enter to win a $50 gift certificate from Amazon.com - our way of saying thank you for taking the time to respond.

Take the online survey at about.library.ubc.ca before December 7, 2012.
Innovative library leader and publishing advocate

UBC’s eighth University Librarian and Professor emeritus, Basil Frederick Stuart-Stubbs, passed away on May 29, 2012 in Vancouver.

Stuart-Stubbs was born in Moncton, New Brunswick, in 1930. His family moved to Vancouver in 1946 and Stuart-Stubbs completed an honours degree in Philosophy at UBC in 1952. He went to Montreal for a Bachelor of Library Science degree and then started his professional career as a reference librarian at McGill University.

In 1956, Stuart-Stubbs returned to UBC and worked as a cataloguer. In 1960, he became the first Head of the newly created Special Collections Division of UBC Library. In 1964, at the age of 34, he was appointed University Librarian.

With a profound interest in supporting and connecting authors, readers, publishers and libraries, Stuart-Stubbs was instrumental in furthering Canadian authors’ rights, strengthening the B.C. publishing industry and founding UBC Press and two UBC-based academic journals. He also played a key role in establishing the Association of Book Publishers of B.C., the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, the SFU Centre for Canadian Publishing and the Alcuin Society. He served as the first president of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

One of his career highlights was a trip to Europe in the mid-1960s to acquire precious manuscripts and books with funds from a $3 million donation to UBC Library by H.R. MacMillan.

Stuart-Stubbs stepped down as University Librarian in 1981 to become Professor and Director of the UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. Having served as the school’s director for two terms, he took an early retirement in 1992 and continued his research and publishing. He also became an advisor for the National Research Council’s Advisory Board on Scientific and Technical Information, the National Library Advisory Board, the Canada Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the B.C. Arts Council Board.

Stuart-Stubbs received many awards and honours during his lifetime, including the Order of Canada, the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award and the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 1984, he was appointed as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, one of the highest honours in academics. Stuart-Stubbs is remembered by students, friends, family and colleagues as a fierce intellect, innovative leader and tireless advocate for authors, publishers and libraries.

The Basil Stuart-Stubbs Book Prize
A new award has been created in Basil Stuart-Stubbs’ name for books of outstanding scholarly merit about British Columbia by Canadian authors.

It is a fitting subject for Stuart-Stubbs who, together with his wife Brenda Peterson, had a particular interest in books about B.C. as well as supporting Canadian authors.

The annual book prize, to be offered for the first time in 2013, will be coordinated by the Pacific Book World News Society and administered by UBC Library. Canadian authors of scholarly books pertaining to British Columbia will be considered for the award. More details about the book prize can be found at support.library.ubc.ca/giving/basilbookprize/.
What’s new at UBC Library

Enhanced spaces, new collection acquisitions, and details on a new on-campus facility were just some of the highlights that marked the 2011/12 year for UBC Library.

Koerner Library space renewal
Earlier this year, Koerner Library’s main floor was renovated as part of its commitment to enhance student spaces. The renovation, coinciding with Koerner’s 15th anniversary, was completed in April 2012 and includes updates to approximately 4,000 square feet of individual and group study space in the library.

Student responses to the refurbished main floor of Koerner Library have been overwhelmingly positive. “It’s extremely up-to-date and modern,” said one student. “When I study there, I feel good and therefore get more out of studying.”

Enhancements include new reference computers, a new print station, study-area tables equipped with large-screen Macs and PCs, seven study carrels with LED lighting, three large soft-seating areas, informal meeting tables, a fireplace, upholstered armchairs and a popular reading display.

“The relaxed atmosphere helps me to concentrate better,” said another student. “The environment is very inviting.” The renovation is part of UBC Library’s commitment to enhancing student learning.

Integrated Research Library is a go
A new facility on the south end of UBC’s Vancouver campus will be built with UBC Library endowment funds and a matching contribution from the University to house low-use books and serve as a last-copy storehouse. An on-site digitization centre will provide online access to the materials as well.

The Integrated Research Library (IRL) will allow the Library to increase research and learning spaces for students and faculty at prime, central locations. It will also enable the Library to partner with other local and national institutions to retain important print materials for generations to come.

Environmental film collection acquired by UBC Library
Earlier this year, one of the largest private film collections in Canada arrived at UBC Library. The Halleran family donated the bulk of the collection while the Library purchased the remainder. The Columbia Basin Trust provided an additional gift of $100,000 to cover the digitization costs of approximately 250 videotapes.
The Wu Han-Chi: One Family – Two Nations exhibition

The extraordinary tale of a man who helped shape the future of modern China was part of an exhibition at UBC’s Asian Centre.

Wu Han-Chi: One Family – Two Nations celebrates the life of Dr. Wu Han-Chi, a native of Taishan, Guangdon, and an elected member of the first formal Chinese parliament in 1913. He played an active role in political uprisings before he was assassinated on political grounds.

With the support of his descendants, 47 panels of relevant relics, photos, documents, and other supporting materials were created for this exhibit, which highlight his life. Dr. Wu’s daughter, Dr. Wu Zhimei, came to Canada to fundraise for the Guangdong Provincial Library as its first library curator. After the destruction of the Nanzhou Private Library during the wars in the first half of the 20th century, part of their collections – including the valuable Puban resource for ongoing environmental education in the province.

Westland filmmaker Terry Halleran says UBC Library was a natural choice for the donation as UBC faculty and students have made many contributions to the development of the series. Some former UBC faculty members are even featured in various programs.

“We anticipate that with increasing interest in natural resource management, environmentalism and sustainability, this collection will be of considerable interest to a variety of researchers at the University and in the broader community,” says Chris Hives, University Archivist.

UBC Okanagan library completes renovations

This summer, the first floor of the library at UBC Okanagan underwent a $1.4 million renovation to increase the amount of space available for students.

Both quiet and group study areas have been improved and a total of 75 new seats were added to the library.

Updates include new soft seating areas, a refurbished circulation desk, a self-serve kiosk, a second quiet reading room and more electrical outlets for library users. Library staff have been eager to show off the new space this fall.

The Halleran Collection includes nature programs known collectively as the Westland series, which was broadcast on the Knowledge Network between 1984 and 2007. Exploring issues surrounding forestry, fresh water fishing, endangered species and ecosystem restoration in B.C., the films are an invaluable resource for ongoing environmental education in the province.

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Broader Access to UBC’s Chung Collection

A new film and book about UBC Library’s reknowned Wallace B. Chung and Madeline H. Chung Collection will be launched this fall, showcasing the stories behind the collection to an even larger audience beyond the university.

Digitization of the Chung Collection will also enable library users, scholars, and interested community members to explore the collection virtually from their home, desk or office.

Funding for the film, book and digitization came from a generous donation by Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway in November 2010. The donation was given to mark the 125th anniversary of the “Last Spike” and the completion of Canada’s first transcontinental railway.

The Chung Collection features 25,000 treasures that tell the journey of early British Columbia history and the development of the Chinese community Canada. Whether it is the building of early British Columbia, immigration and settlement, or the Canadian Pacific involvement in Chinese Canada, the Chung Collection reveals how events from the past shape our distinctive Canadian identity today.

The film, Passage of Dreams: The Chung Collection, was produced by Gemini-award winning filmmaker Karin Lee (Canadian Steel, Chinese Grit) and combines archival photos, images from the physical collection and animated recreation of Dr. Chung’s personal childhood stories. The book, Golden Inheritance, weaves together the themes of early BC history, immigration and settlement and the building of the CP Railway and features glorious images of the exhibition which is housed at UBC Library’s Rare Books and Special Collections at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

For more information about the Chung Collection, visit chung.library.ubc.ca.