

# UBC Library Friends

WINTER 2013

## Discovering BC History through Digitizing Community Newspapers

Image: Don Erhardt

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By Linda Ong

**Digitization of historical newspapers at the Library has led to unexpected surprises and research discoveries for curious library users.**

The BC Historical Newspapers portal, online since 2011, allows users to browse through newspapers from various BC communities including Agassiz, Kaslo, Nelson, Fernie, and Nanaimo. Web users can discover a trove of historical information dating back to the late 1890s and explore BC through newspaper headlines and stories.

For researchers, the newspapers have unearthed valuable data and information that can be used in a variety of ways. The Heritage Vancouver Society used the Daily Building Record to locate previously missing Vancouver building permits from 1912. The Revelstoke Museum and Archives used various newspaper titles in their research on the history of snow and avalanche for an exhibition. The Museum also included select information on previously unknown avalanche events in the Canadian Avalanche Centre Database.

"I appreciate the easy availability to newspapers from other communities, especially when I'm working on research that involves more than just Revelstoke,"

says Cathy English, Curator at the Museum, adding that she often recommends the portal to historians and other researchers.

The portal, generously inspired and supported by a private family foundation, continues to grow with the addition of more than 100 titles for 2013/14 including the Peninsula Times, the Coast News, and the Creston Review. UBC alumni will also note that the student publication, the Ubyyssey, is being digitized and content added to the portal with issues dating as far back as 1918.

"This is an excellent example of the Library's digital agenda and connecting with communities around the province," says Allan Bell, director of Library Digital Initiatives. "We're grateful for the support and excited about pursuing projects that bring the Library to the world."

**To find out more about the BC Historical Newspapers, visit [historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca/](http://historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca/). Have you used the BC Historical Newspapers for your own research or project? Share your story with us by emailing [library.communications@ubc.ca](mailto:library.communications@ubc.ca).**



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Message from the Provost

**A number of exciting initiatives were underway when students returned to campus this fall.** Our commitment to flexible learning included the development of UBC's first local open online course (LOOC), a proud accomplishment between the Faculty of Education and the Library. We also opened the doors to Vantage College, a gateway for international students to support their undergraduate transition to UBC. And, as a campus, we participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's national event.

The Library has played a critical role in all of these campus-wide initiatives in addition to their daily support of faculty and students.

Increasingly so, there are dynamic new ways to utilize the Library's expertise, knowledge, and resources to help the university achieve its larger goals and visions. This is a time of collaboration and shared services within the university and provincially, and the Library is at the forefront of working with their peers and communities to find innovation solutions for our faculty and students.

To find out more on how the Library is supporting university initiatives, visit [about.library.ubc.ca/](http://about.library.ubc.ca/).

David Farrar  
PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC



## Message from the University Librarian

**The stories in this issue of *Friends* are a good indicator of the transformation that has been happening for some time at UBC Library.** Our Library spaces continue to be shaped by the needs of students and reflect the shift of our collections from print to digital. Digitization projects at the Library enable our collections to be shared and used more broadly by communities within the province. And, our fundraising campaigns have greatly assisted us in being able to provide students with the necessary technology needed for academic success.

That being said, libraries still are all about the people and connections. When the Library branches are closed, we are still able to connect with our users virtually. Even

when library branches are open, many users opt to access us from outside. This enhanced connection is attracting new users to the Library and encourages us to explore ways to serve our growing community. The Library will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. We have met many milestones but have many more to achieve before this celebration.

To find out more on how you can support the Library's vision, please visit [support.library.ubc.ca/](http://support.library.ubc.ca/) or contact me directly at [ingrid.parent@ubc.ca](mailto:ingrid.parent@ubc.ca).

Ingrid Parent  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Image: UBC Library



## Rare photo from Library Collection leads to Personal Journey

A chance glance at a photo from UBC's Chung Collection spurred Bryan Chong on a personal family journey to Victoria, BC.

**About the Collection:**  
The Wallace B. Chung and Madeline H. Chung Collection contains more than 25,000 rare and unique items documenting the early Chinese-Canadian immigrant experience. To explore the collection online, please visit [chung.library.ubc.ca](http://chung.library.ubc.ca).

By Linda Ong

A 1926 photograph from the Library's Chung Collection triggered a personal journey for Bryan Chong and his family. Unbeknownst to Chong, his uncle—Wong Siu Boon—was a goalie for a soccer team that went on to defeat the UBC varsity team in 1933. It struck Chong that he knew very little about his uncle and his family roots despite being a third generation Chinese-Canadian. His curiosity led him to explore his genealogy with his son and trace his family roots to Victoria.

In Victoria, Chong connected with university professor Dr. David Chuenyan Lai and discovered that his grandfather, Chong Hing Young, was a prominent and well-respected figure in Chinatown, having served as the English Secretary for the Chinese Freemasons and then as President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

Traveling with his wife and son, Chong was able to find his grandfather's gravestone

at Harling Point Cemetery, Victoria's first and only Chinese cemetery and now a national historic site. The journey was so moving for Chong's son Jeffery that it inspired him to create a documentary on the Chinese gravestones and their permanence in the pantheon of early BC history.

"We are our history," Chong reflected when asked about the impact of the Chung Collection on his extraordinary journey of family discovery. "Tracing back my roots allowed me to get to know my grandfather and the previous generation and reinforces who I am today. Connecting with these artifacts has made my personal story come alive. For that, I am grateful that the Chung Collection has led me down this path."





Madhu Varshney (front) in conversation with University Librarian Ingrid Parent (back) at the launch of her latest book of poetry, *Uthati Hilorein*  
Image: Chandra Bodalia

## Asian Library hosts Poetry Launch

By Linda Ong

**The Library is indispensable for authors and a gathering place for sharing, reflected poet Madhu Varshney at a launch of her most recent book of poems, *Uthati Hilorein*, at the Asian Library.** Notable guests who attended the event included the extended Varshney family, Shri Ravi Shankar Aisola, the Consul General of India, members of the Library's Advisory Board along with emeriti and faculty members from UBC's Department of Asian Studies and the UBC Library. Varshney, an active member of the South Asian community in Vancouver, has published eight other books focused on religion, spirituality, and folk songs, all available in the Asian Library. During the book launch, Varshney read a selection of her poems in Hindi and members of her family read the same passages in English translation for the audience. Mrs. Varshney along with her husband, Hari, have a deep connection with UBC as volunteers and generous supporters. This commitment is also shared by their three children who are all UBC alumni.

During the event, Varshney was interviewed by University Librarian Ingrid Parent and shared her thoughts on her inspirations and writing process. Language is not a barrier, Varshney noted, adding that she strives to capture family values, societal harmony and the beauty of nature in her works. Asked what advice she would provide young writers—she passionately noted that it was important to write and practice your craft daily. The event concluded with a Hindi community reading led by local poets and hosted by the Asian Library staff.

**As one of the top Asian research libraries in North America, the Asian Library is renowned for its extensive collection of South Asian languages with 70,000 volumes in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Sanskrit and other dialects. To find out more about the revitalization of the Asian Library's physical space, visit [startanevolution.ubc.ca/projects/asian-library/](http://startanevolution.ubc.ca/projects/asian-library/)**



## Arkley Croquet Collection goes Online

By Jessica Woolman

**Croquet fans can rejoice now that the Arkley Croquet Image collection has been made available online.** Hundreds of paintings, illustrations, photographs and postcards dating from the 1850's to the 1950's are now easily accessible via the Web. More than 1,400 items in the collection have been

Additional digitized images like this one have been recently added to the online Arkley Croquet Collection.  
Image: UBC Library Digital Collections

digitized thus far, with a second phase of digitization planned for early 2014.

The images show a rise in the popularity of croquet and offer a glimpse into one of the first recreational sports that men and women played together.

The collection was donated by Tremaine Arkley, a former U.S. National Croquet Team member and avid croquet fan. Funding from Tremaine and Gail Arkley provided the necessary support to digitize the majority of the collection. The remaining 300 items will be digitized, completing the project in 2014. The Arkley family also donated a substantial children's literature collection to UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections.

**Visit [digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca](http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca) to start exploring.**



# Parent Funds Advance Loaned Technology Program

Loaned laptop use for students is a direct benefit of the Parent's A+ Library Fund.

By Andrea Coutts

Through the generous support of parents of alumni and current students, the UBC Okanagan Library has been able to expand its loaned technology program. Laptops made available through this program support students who do not have access to mobile technologies, helping advance their research and learning.

For many students, access to technology means access to UBC Library's expansive resources and collections. Time and again, Library staff get requests from students for additional computers. Given space limitations in the Library at UBC's Okanagan campus, a laptop loan program plays a significant role in expanding computing capacity.

In the past year, the Library has added digital cameras to their collection of materials available for loan, thanks to the Parent's A+ Library Fund, whose Okanagan-specific contributions are currently at just over \$21,300.

The UBC Vancouver's Parent Innovation fund also supports the needs of students, providing them with a suite of learning tools to position them for academic success. The Parent Campaign for both UBCO and UBC Vancouver has grown each year. Over \$90,000 has been raised through this campaign since 2007.

Moving forward, part of the fund will be used to replenish laptops and related technology. However, as Heather Berringer, Deputy Chief Librarian, points out, the Library is also prepared for emerging technologies and teaching methods. "We plan to engage in a student consultation process and needs assessment over the course of the coming months to determine what

**\$90 000+**  
raised since 2007

students are doing with the technology they borrow," says Berringer, Deputy Chief Librarian, adding that this will help inform the Library's decision on future acquisitions.

Cathy Hawkins, Library Services Assistant at UBC Okanagan Library, has a daughter attending UBC Okanagan, and a son who recently graduated. "The bottom line is that the laptops are one of the most valuable assets the Library holds for situations when students cannot find an available workstation, which happens more frequently with the rise of enrolment," she says, noting that student usage increases when their personal computers break down or if they don't have any laptops.

Learn more about the Parent's A+ Library Fund and the Parent Innovation Fund and how your support provides the necessary resources for knowledge exploration and discovery by visiting [startanevolution.ubc.ca/projects/welcome-all-ubc-parents/](http://startanevolution.ubc.ca/projects/welcome-all-ubc-parents/)





More than 10,000 students access services at the Chapman Learning Commons annually, says Teri Grant, Student Development Coordinator.

## Student needs drive changes to Library spaces

By Jessica Woolman

**Students returning to campus this fall noticed some big changes at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC).** Over the past year, the Library has transformed its reference and circulation desk, added additional space for partnership programs and welcomed the Music Library collections and services to the building. The renamed Music, Art and Architecture Library opened in August.

A multi-service desk model offers one-stop support for reference questions, technical issues and checking out books. The refurbished space also has more space dedicated to distinct pavilions where students can access Peer Academic Coaching, AMS tutoring and Writing Centre programs.

For some students, the transition from high school to university life can make it hard to

find a balance between work and academic life. "Time management skills are necessary for anyone in life," says Majid Talebian, a fourth-year undergraduate science student and a peer coach, adding that it's precisely these services that help students get on the right track.

An estimated 10,000 students annually access these services, illustrating how highly valuable student focused services can be. Getting help with these kinds of skills crosses faculty disciplines and is available to all students, notes Teri Grant, Student Development Coordinator, who oversees the coaching services.

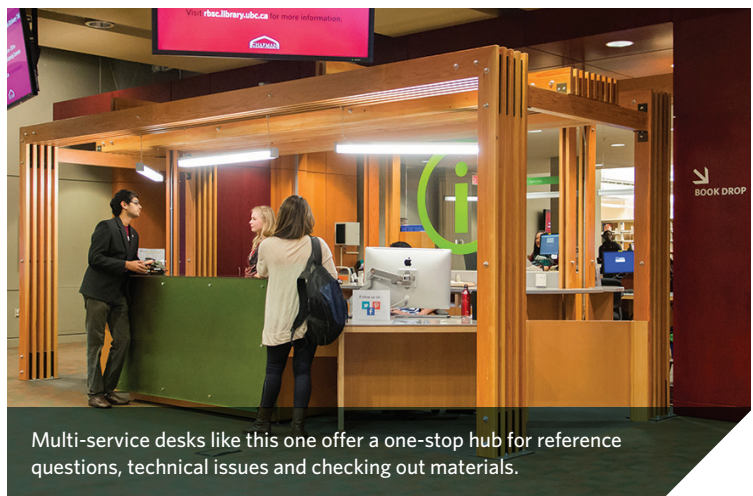
Consultation with School of Music faculty and students was taken into consideration with the development of the Digital Media Commons, a new space, resulting from the relocation of the Music collection to IKBLC. The space includes four high-tech, acoustically buffered multimedia rooms and carrels with Mac computers.

As student needs evolve, so too will the shape and form of library spaces. While technology tools and resources dominate the list of needs, it's also clear that the need for in-person contact and human connection remains unchanged.



The Digital Media Commons was a result of the Music collection relocating to the Barber Learning Centre.

Images: Martin Dee



Multi-service desks like this one offer a one-stop hub for reference questions, technical issues and checking out materials.



# Supporting Peer-to-Peer Learning in Today's Libraries

Image: Martin Dee



By Linda Ong

Student focused learning at the Library creates a sense of peer connection and support.

“Libraries are evolving to facilitate a more holistic way of learning for students.”

– Sandra Cawley

**As a Library Advisory Board member, Sandra Cawley believes that in today's academic libraries are catalysts for change—change that physically transforms learning spaces, the research process, and the information available to students.**

“Libraries need to anticipate and be proactive in helping navigate the student experience,” she said recently in a phone interview.

Cawley is a big believer in student focused learning—so much so that she recently shifted the focus of her giving to reflect investing in peer-to-peer learning. Having toured the Chapman Learning Commons at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, she was struck by the space created for student collaboration and the camaraderie and energy of students connecting with each other and with experts.

For Cawley, a UBC BComm alumna, the Library is the main hive of activity on any campus. She adds that libraries represent intersections for undergraduate students to intermingle with their peers in an interdisciplinary environment, sparking intellectual curiosity and conversations.

And with e-learning platforms and technological changes occurring so rapidly, today's wired students need abundant tutorials and instructional support.

“Libraries are evolving to facilitate a more holistic way of learning for students,” she reflected, adding that students benefit not only from the breadth of information, articles, periodicals and books and the friendly expertise of library staff but also from the various personal development programs offered at the Library, such as coaching and tutoring.

To find out more about how students benefit from the Library's Learning Commons, please visit [learningcommons.ubc.ca](http://learningcommons.ubc.ca).





# Reimagining Woodward Library: 50 Years in the Making

The generous support of Woodward Library donors has a lasting impact for generations to come. Learn more about how to support the Reimagine Woodward Library campaign please contact the Library Development Office at (604) 827-3402 [support.library.ubc.ca](mailto:support.library.ubc.ca)

Woodward's renovated Garden Level, a popular light-filled, technology-replete haven for students.

By Andrea Coutts

**As Woodward Library looks forward to its 50th Anniversary, spaces are being reimagined to further advance its integrated partnerships with UBC science programs.**

Faculty and students in cross-disciplinary areas now have access to additional resources and increased opportunities for collaboration, thanks to the integration of several Library units into Woodward Library earlier this year. Kyle Huang, a fourth year Science student majoring in Integrated Science, Genetics and Molecular Biology, calls Woodward Library his second home, pointing out the great atmosphere for studying, excellent resources and staff expertise. Huang, and students like him, will benefit greatly from the reimagined multidisciplinary Woodward Library.

Bernhard Zender, Engineering Technician (UBC Physics and Astronomy) and project sponsor of the UBC Engineering Physics Project Lab, recently collaborated with UBC Library to arrange for lending of open source Arduino computer kits. He applauds the expansion of such resources for students, noting future collaborations are already in the works to develop tools and techniques that

could benefit students in the same way.

The possibilities for Woodward Library are limitless, as it could play host to a creative Maker Space where future scientists engage with state-of-the-art technologies; a legacy room to display unique objects in museum-grade glass cases; seminar, teaching, silent study and meeting spaces; a flexible lounge; and a conservation lab.

Woodward Library, as home to the largest biomedical collection in western Canada, serves over 20,000 students and faculty annually from UBC's faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Science, Engineering, Forestry and Land and Food Systems. The location is poised to emerge as the premier research hub at UBC, supporting advances in science discovery and scholarship.

Future doctors, nurses and pharmacists meet tomorrow's computer scientists, biologists and forest engineers, and their learning and research will lead to breakthroughs impacting millions, whether through new cancer treatments or innovative approaches to sustainability.

For information on how to support the Library, please contact our Library Development Team or visit [support.library.ubc.ca/](http://support.library.ubc.ca/).

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