



UBC LIBRARY

2025/26 Senate Report



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Library

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*Julie Mitchell,
University Librarian pro tem*

1.1

Message from the University Librarian *pro tem*

The 2025/26 Senate Report celebrates UBC Library's achievements over the past year, reflecting the depth of our work and the dedication of our librarians, archivists and staff.

This year, we made important progress advancing the library's Indigenous Strategic Plan and Inclusion Action Plan, reinforcing our commitment to Indigenous engagement and to fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment across our services and spaces.

We also strengthened our support for research, learning and scholarship, including initiatives in open scholarship, research data discovery and data management planning. Our work continues to position the library as a key partner in the creation and mobilization of knowledge at UBC.

Through exhibitions, events and collaboration, the library remains an active and engaging presence within the broader community.

While there is much to celebrate, we continue to navigate financial pressures and a rapidly evolving information landscape shaped in part by advances in artificial intelligence. These developments, which are transforming how knowledge is created, accessed and evaluated, underscore the enduring importance of strong academic libraries.

We now look ahead with anticipation as we prepare to welcome our new University Librarian, Dr. Dale Askey. This transition offers an opportunity to build on our strong foundation and continue advancing the library's mission in support of the UBC community. We extend our sincere gratitude to our outgoing university librarian, Dr. Susan Parker, for her exemplary leadership over the last nine years, including what is represented in this report.

It is a privilege to serve in this role and reflect on a year of meaningful progress, made possible by the expertise and commitment of our colleagues.



1.2

UBC Library and the Indigenous Strategic Plan

Work continues on the priorities identified in UBC Library's Indigenous Strategic Plan Performance Measurement Framework.

As part of this work, the library holds "Basic Indigenous Reference Training" for employees. The training supports library faculty and staff to practise their reference skills for Indigenous topics in an interactive environment. The library also supports employee cohorts to complete an *Indigenous Learning Pathways* training course and training on the First Nations Principles on Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP®).

Continuing from the success of previous Indigenous Strategic Plan reading circles, UBC Library hosts a film viewing and discussion session for *Finding Dawn*, a documentary by acclaimed Métis filmmaker Christine Welsh that addresses the national emergency of missing and murdered Indigenous women.



1.3

UBC Library and the Inclusion Action Plan

UBC Library encourages participation in training opportunities for employees to broaden their awareness of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles, including a comprehensive EDI Training Program. The training consists of six online modules and discussion groups, providing space for employees to connect and deepen their learning. In partnership with the Centre for Workplace Accessibility, the library also delivers training on providing respectful and inclusive service for library users with accessibility needs.

UBC Library employees are the recipients of two Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism (StEAR) Fund grants. A grant supports librarian Allan Cho and library assistant Edlyn Lim with graduate students Celia Hagey and McKenzie Will, to create and lead a workshop on trauma-informed care in academic libraries. Dr. Xuan Zhang at the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication receives a grant for her project, "Raising Awareness on Raciolinguistic Discrimination at UBC."



ADVANCE RESEARCH, LEARNING AND SCHOLARSHIP

*Anne Lama, UBC Library's
Conservator, with students from the
UBC French Education program*

2.1

UBC Library supports Canadian research data discovery in European open scholarship platform

OpenAIRE is added to UBC Library's suite of data discovery systems, and further metadata is made available through Lunaris via a collaboration with the Digital Research Alliance of Canada. Led by Research Data Management Librarian Eugene Barsky, the project increases access to Canadian research metadata to support collaborations with partners in the European Union.

UBC student studying at the Research Commons



2.2

Library and Archives Canada resumes harvesting of UBC theses and dissertations

In collaboration with UBC Library, Library and Archives Canada re-establishes harvesting of UBC's open access theses and dissertations, held by cIRcle, into its Theses Canada program. More than 56,000 online records from 1919 to 2025 are now accessible via Theses Canada, with more records added on an ongoing basis.

UBC graduates attending graduation ceremony

2.3

New library resources support research data management at UBC

New data management plan (DMP) templates customized for the UBC research community are available on DMP Assistant, through a project led by Marjorie Mitchell, Copyright, Scholarly Communication and Research Data Management Librarian at UBC Okanagan. The templates encourage researchers to incorporate best practices in research integrity and impact while also fulfilling grant application requirements.

UBC students studying at the Research Commons



2.4

Scoping review highlights how language revitalization boosts Indigenous health

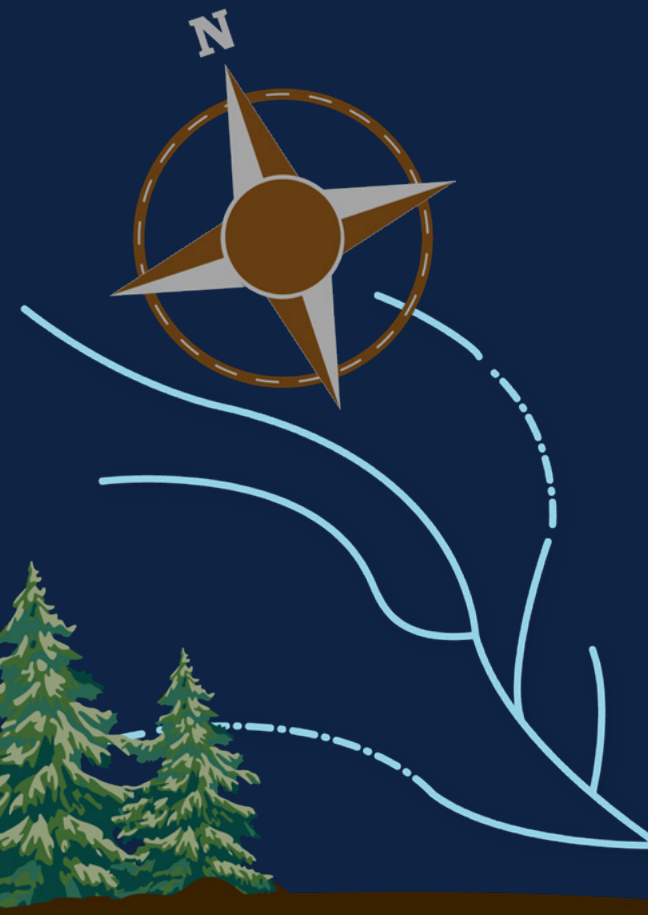
Karleen Delaurier-Lyle, Information Services Librarian at X̱wi7̱x̱wa Library, co-authors a study led by an interdisciplinary team from UBC's Faculty of Arts, with participation from the University of Toronto and the University of Sydney. The study brings academic weight to what many Indigenous communities have long asserted: speaking and sustaining ancestral languages contributes to improved health outcomes among Indigenous people.

*Karleen Delaurier-Lyle, Information Services Librarian at
X̱wi7̱x̱wa Library*

2.5

Urban forestry students dig deep into the archives

A long-running collaboration between UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections and the Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Stewardship sees students accessing historical maps and archives as part of their research into urban ecology, forest systems, greenspace planning, sustainability and more. In collaboration with Woodward Library, students are introduced to resources that can help them find local solutions for local issues and engage in better decision-making.



3.1

FUNDRAISING FOR THE FUTURE

Donor support enables the library to enhance student learning, helps researchers find answers and advances knowledge to its fullest potential. Donations can help build spaces, connect ideas and allow the library to achieve a margin of excellence beyond what public dollars provide.

How donors connect with us



Total funds received*

\$1.14M

Number of gifts

391

Funds received

\$333K	Gifts-in-kind
\$130K	Pledges
\$680K	Outright donations

Numbers reflect the fundraising efforts for UBC Library at the Vancouver campus only



ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES

Guests at the Celebrating 100 Years of UBC at Point Grey exhibition

4.1

Celebrating 100 Years of UBC at Point Grey

UBC Library presents *Celebrating 100 Years of UBC at Point Grey*, in collaboration with the UBC Alma Mater Society, the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic, the Museum of Anthropology and the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre. This free, pop-up exhibition explores the UBC student experience at Point Grey through artifacts, photography and interviews with alumni. A commemorative opening event draws together faculty, students, alumni and many other distinguished guests. Due to popular demand, the exhibition is extended at the Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre until December 2026.

Display case at Celebrating 100 Years of UBC at Point Grey exhibition

4.2

Cultivating sustainability through action at the library

UBC Library commits to seeking certification through the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#) over the next two years, further advancing the library's engagement with sustainability-focused action.

[Seed Lending Libraries at UBC Library](#) continue to grow with five locations across both campuses and new workshops to invite the communities to grow gardens, share seeds and cultivate a movement rooted in sustainability and connection.

Seed Lending Library at [Xwi7xwa Library](#)

4.3

[Xwi7xwa](#) librarians expand community ties

[Xwi7xwa](#) librarians visit the Vancouver Public Library's náča?mat ct Strathcona Branch to promote the UBC Indigenous Community Borrower Cards. At the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, the [Xwi7xwa](#) team provides programming and resources for Pride Month events.

Kayla Lar-Son, Head, [Xwi7xwa Library](#), at the Vancouver Public Library's náča?mat ct Strathcona Branch





4.4

The Old Auditorium at 100 and Rise Up! Sights, Sounds and Spaces of Protest exhibits

The Music, Art and Architecture (MAA) Library presents an exhibit of photographs and archival materials focused on the Old Auditorium and its 100-year history on UBC's Vancouver campus. The MAA Library's *Rise Up!* exhibit showcases library materials on the myriad forms of creative expression that acts of protest can take.

Rise Up! exhibit display case at the MAA Library

4.5

New collaborations

Walter C. Koerner Library collaborates with graduate and post doctoral students from the Centre for Migration Studies and School of Information to create a Latin American Heritage Month display.

Asian Library and Rare Books and Special Collections organize a viewing session of Asian-language rare materials for librarians visiting from European, Asian and North American institutions to coincide with the Council on East Asian Libraries' annual conference.

UBC Library welcomes special guests from Japan for a weekend of public gatherings and lectures on Japanese incense tradition in a program presented by the Dōjin Japanese Arts Society in partnership with UBC Library, UBC Department of Asian Studies and Nitobe Memorial Garden.

UBC Library's cIRcle creates new public access through Open Collections to the Kaska Language Website and Kaska Cards language-learning app, created by the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society and Liard First Nation Language Department.

Experience Kōdō: The Way of Japanese Incense educational exhibits at Asian Library



CREATE AND DELIVER RESPONSIVE COLLECTIONS

Digitizing UBC's Japanese Special Collections

5.1

Preserving and digitizing UBC's Japanese Special Collection

A collection of unique premodern Japanese texts undergoes conservation, preservation and digitization at UBC Library, funded by a grant from the Toshiba International Foundation. Japanese Studies Librarian Tomoko Kitayama Yen initiates the project and involves several teams with special expertise, from fundraising through to website support. Anne Lama, UBC Library's Conservator, receives training on traditional Japanese lining techniques for silk and paper to complete the conservation. Afterwards, digital reproductions are made available on UBC Library's Open Collections using detailed photographs and metadata. Altogether, the project makes these materials widely available for researchers and scholars at UBC and around the world.



5.2

Slocan History Series made available through UBC Open Collections

Canadian geographer and UBC Professor Emeritus Cole Harris' brochure series examining the early settler and colonial history of British Columbia's Slocan Valley is digitized and made available in UBC's cIRcle repository. The project is initiated by Dr. Harris's son and wife, who are also current and former UBC faculty.

Boom Days in the Slocan, The Slocan History Series, Booklet 1, Harris, J. C., & Harris, Cole, 2014. "First house in Three Forks, 1892." (Royal BC Museum, BC Archives)

5.3

UBC Library receives the David Suzuki fonds

Dr. David Suzuki, a UBC professor emeritus, and wife Tara Cullis donate a treasure trove of materials for preservation and archiving at UBC Library. The collection includes book manuscripts, handwritten notes and correspondences, audio cassettes, photographs and much more from across his career, first as a geneticist in UBC's Department of Zoology, and later as a renowned TV presenter and environmentalist.

Dr. Suzuki delivering a speech in 1971 (UBC Open Collections)





5.4

UBC Library digitizes William Shakespeare's Second Folio

UBC Library's Digitization Centre makes Shakespeare's Second Folio publicly available through UBC Open Collections. Originally donated to UBC by Walter C. Koerner in 1960, the Second Folio is the second edition of Shakespeare's collected works. The digitization is made possible following extensive conservation work on the book through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canadian Conservation Institute.

William Shakespeare's Second Folio (UBC Open Collections)

5.5

Expanding UBC's collection of influential art periodical *Bijutsu Techō*

UBC Library significantly expands its collection of one of the most influential, independently published periodicals on visual art in Japan, with funding support from the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies. This acquisition further supports the study of classical Japanese literature and premodern art.

A row of Bijutsu Techō periodicals from 2006 to 2007





5.6

Visiting at Xwi7xwa exhibit invites community to connect

Visiting at Xwi7xwa explores the concept of what it means to “visit” through Xwi7xwa Library’s collection. With displays that centre on themes of storytelling, oral tradition, Elders, land, food and intergenerational sharing, the exhibit invites library users to connect with collection materials through their own lived experiences.

6.1

UBC LIBRARY AT A GLANCE

Vancouver Campus

51K

Total patron questions answered

11K

Online patron questions answered

1,161

Group presentations delivered

31.9K

Presentation participants

4.3M

Total e-books

5.7M

Total physical items

2.7M

In-person visits*

9.7M

Website visits

** Excludes UBC Okanagan and X̱wi7̱x̱wa Library*

UBC Library E-Resource usage*

100.9k

Unique users

6.9M

Number of logins

68

Average logins per user

**Based on data for 10 months in FY 2025/26*

7.1

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Vancouver Campus

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

	Programs	Grants	Gifts	Projects	TOTAL
REVENUE	52,537,313	0	936,272	1,500,000	54,973,585
SALARIES	21,960,668	0	213,913	1,293,560	23,468,142
BENEFITS	5,051,368	0	39,980	206,202	5,297,551
COLLECTIONS	20,799,347	0	508,712	8,573	21,316,634
OTHER	5,282,630	64,186	114,880	0	5,461,697
TOTAL	53,094,015	64,186	877,487	1,508,336	55,544,026
SURPLUS/ DEFICIT	(556,702)	(64,186)	58,784	(8,336)	(570,441)

LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

38%

COLLECTIONS

42%

SALARIES

10%

OTHER

10%

BENEFITS



INSPIRE WITH INNOVATIVE SPACES AND SERVICES

*The Empress of Asia model
at the Chung | Lind Gallery*

8.1

Chung | Lind Gallery milestones

The Chung | Lind Gallery celebrates its one-year anniversary on May 4, 2025, and marks the occasion by launching a self-guided virtual tour in partnership with UBC Studios, making online visits to the gallery possible from anywhere in the world. The following month, the gallery launches an audio guide for on-site visitors, and hosts *Coming Home*, a thesis exhibition by Elder Margaretta James (Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation), a master's student at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at UBC.



8.2

Writing, speaking and understanding through scholarly communication

The Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication at UBC Vancouver hosts several new workshops that directly address current challenges facing faculty and students.

“Write to Flourish, Write with Flourish” is held as a two-day retreat where 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows make meaningful progress on their research projects while developing sustainable writing habits.

Attendees at the workshop “Speaking as a Researcher” explore academic speaking as a distinct genre and are guided through the process of transforming research findings into compelling narratives.

Through a partnership with the Faculty of Forestry, undergraduate and master’s students learn core principles of academic writing and storytelling strategies in support of their development as emerging researchers.

In *Hearing Beyond the Accent: Recognizing Language Prejudice*, workshop participants examine the often-unseen biases embedded in educational spaces by drawing on lived stories and linguistic frameworks, question myths of “correctness” that shape belonging, and consider ways to build more inclusive, responsive learning environments.

Dr. Xuan Zhang, Senior Program Manager at the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication, in a writing workshop with students



Jesse Carson, Xwi7xwa Library's archivist, with Bev Berger and Dr. Verna Jane Kirkness

9.1

Xwi7xwa hires first full-time archivist for Indigenous collections

Jesse Carson joins Xwi7xwa Library as the branch's first full-time archivist. Xwi7xwa Library serves as a repository for both published and archival materials related to Indigenous communities external to UBC, as well as individuals and organizations at UBC such as the First Nations House of Learning. Managing archival materials introduces a whole new set of considerations, particularly around informed consent, data sovereignty and permissions. Part of Carson's work is to develop and recommend policies and procedures for processing and preserving the Xwi7xwa archives, as well as the culturally appropriate handling of materials, managing access and implementing an Indigenous and decolonized approach to the archives.



9.2

Archivist recognized by UBC Athletics and Recreation

UBC Library archivist John Moran and UBC Archives receive the Honourary Blocker Award, presented by UBC Athletics and Recreation, for the creation of the UBC Department of Athletics and Recreation fonds. The award celebrates exceptional commitment to the archives and history of UBC's varsity sport programs.

John Moran, UBC Library archivist, receiving his award

9.3

Librarian honoured for outstanding service

Eugene Barsky, Research Data Management Services Librarian at Walter C. Koerner Library, receives the 2025 Ron MacDonald Outstanding Service Award from the Canadian Research Knowledge Network. The award acknowledges Barsky's visionary leadership and sustained national impact on advancing research data infrastructure and persistent identifiers.

Eugene Barsky inside the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre





9.4

Collaboration brings voices of incarcerated writers to Vancouver communities

Supported by UBC's Partnership Recognition and Exploration Fund, Pandora's Collective Outreach Society partners with UBC Library to archive and, with consent, showcase selected writing from incarcerated persons in UBC Library exhibits, zines and chapbooks. The project aims to establish connections and foster empathy between the community outside and the writers inside Canadian corrections facilities, increasing among the non-incarcerated an understanding of life inside and the systemic influences that lead to incarceration.

BC Prison Arts Practitioners Network "Arts-In-Corrections" gathering



10.1

UBCO Library highlights

UBC Okanagan (UBCO) librarians and archivist co-author 12 journal articles, one chapter, and one research protocol, lead teams working towards major goals as part of the university's Research Data Management (RDM) Strategy implementation and deliver eight conference presentations. In addition, library instruction topics expand and online module usage continues to grow with users receiving more than 8,300 completion certificates across nine modules.

The Student Learning Hub team embeds education concerning risks and responsibilities of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and the Senior Manager for Writing and Language Learning Services is instrumental in developing UBC's GenAI Student Competency Framework. The Academic Integrity Matters program updates their Canvas course modules to help students navigate the complicated and ever-evolving academic integrity landscape due to GenAI and includes sections on Indigenous Academic Integrity.

Centre for Scholarly Communication (CSC) writing and academic communication consultations increase, with 661 consultations provided. A funding partnership with the Department of Biology provides research data consultation support services through the CSC for the entire Okanagan campus.

Other highlights include the annual Queer Zine Fair, Student Zine Fair, the establishment of the UBCO Seed Library, and the creation of StEAR-funded loanable neurodiversity kits. Community partnerships continue to flourish through the British Columbia Regional Digitized History project and maker space.



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2: Coast Salish Two-Spirit Pride Mosaic
produced and installed by Liz Calvin, based
on and reproducing Mack Paul's print design
(Martin Dee Photography)

6: UBC graduates attending graduation
ceremony (Paul Joseph / UBC Brand &
Marketing)

7: Karleen Delaurier-Lyle, Information Services
Librarian at X̱wi7x̱wa Library (Martin Dee
Photography)

10: Seed Lending Library at Xwi7xwa Library
(Carolyn Pires)

10: Kayla Lar-Son, Head, X̱wi7x̱wa Library, at
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13: Boom Days in the Slokan, The Slokan
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Cole, 2014. "First house in Three Forks, 1892."
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13: Dr. Suzuki delivering a speech in 1971 (UBC
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21: John Moran, UBC Library's archivist,
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21: Eugene Barsky inside the Irving K. Barber
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22: BC Prison Arts Practitioners Network
"Arts-In-Corrections" gathering (Mycelium
Network)



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