

New Dean of Library Services

Happy childhood memories of summer family camping holidays in Ontario and Quebec are one of the many reasons that Charles Eckman moved from Berkeley to Burnaby this summer to become SFU's University Librarian and Dean of Library Services. Eckman replaces Lynn Copeland who is stepping down after 12 years.

Eckman was head of Collections at the UC Berkeley Library. Before that he worked at Stanford University. In 2008 he met Canadian John Willinsky, founder of the Public Knowledge Project, in which SFU is a major partner developing software for Open Access journals and monographs. It was another inspiration for Eckman who says, "I have been watching SFU for some time because what's going on here with Open Access is critical to scholarly publication. It's the future of sustainable scholarly communications, a new way for the academy to take control of a process that it has delegated to large commercial firms."

Eckman is deeply honoured by the challenging opportunity he's been given. "It's a huge change, probably bigger than I even thought," he says. "I've shifted my entire reading habits from the New York Times, Harpers and the New Yorker to the Globe and Mail, The Walrus and Macleans. I'm in a personal immersion process."

He has also been looking through Bill C32, the pending Canadian copyright legislation and other things related to library planning and budgeting that are different from the USA.

You could say Charles Eckman is a pure-bred librarian. He obtained a PhD in political philosophy from Princeton in 1986, but the next year he received




"Younger institutions like SFU offer an opportunity because they are not burdened by huge print collections that keep some libraries thinking about legacy issues instead of the digital future where most faculty and students would like to see us taking a leadership role," says SFU's new head librarian, Dr. Charles Eckman.

a Master of Library and Information Studies from UC Berkeley, perhaps influenced by his parents who are both librarians, as is his sister.

"I have every confidence that Dr. Eckman will facilitate closer linkages between the Library and the academic Faculties, and will enhance the student experience through the Student Learning Commons," says Mario Pinto, VP Research responsible for library services.

Eckman is particularly excited about SFU's context as a young university. After reading Hugh Johnston's *Radical Campus* he said, "It will be a great place to work together to shape the future of libraries in a networked world, and expose material in creative new ways."


He stresses that he's open to anything people want to share: "I'm really approachable, accessible, and want people to feel they have no barriers talking to me about library directions." At Berkeley everyone called him 'Chuck'. 

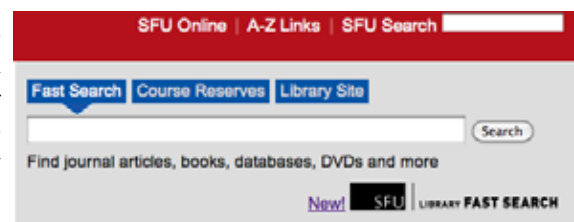
SFU Library Fast Search

The Library's new *Fast Search* instantly locates journals, articles, books, eBooks, electronic databases and other resources from our catalogue and beyond. Results are automatically ranked by relevance in a Google-like fashion. In addition, Fast Search supports *facets*, a powerful way to immediately refine search results by content type, subject terms, publication date, library location, and more. Abstracts pop up for quick review.

Fast Search is a subscription service called "Summon" provided by Serials Solutions in Seattle. Summon includes content from more than 6,800 publishers representing over 94,000 journal titles and 500 million items, including the existing library

catalogue and other digitized local content. It will be a great starting point for students, but users with particular subject or disciplinary expertise will still want to access the Library catalogue and other online databases directly for more specific, and often richer, search capabilities.

Associate University Librarian for Processing and Systems Brian Owen says, "The 'one big search' concept has been a longstanding wish-list item for libraries and Fast Search gets us one very big step closer to that goal." Try it on the Library home page. 



Fund pays to digitize collections



SFU researchers can use the Scholarly Digitization Fund to have Special Collections digitize material already in the Library, such as this poster from the Mai 1968 general strike in France.

In most campus offices old reports languish in boxes or sit on shelves. Often they are the last copies in existence; the original source files, stored 10 or 15 years ago on floppy disks, are no longer readable by today's computers. What's going to happen to these documents?


"It's called grey literature," says Gwen Bird, Associate University Librarian and Head of Collections. Published informally and distributed sparingly, many such studies and technical reports may be of value to a wider public if only their authors would put them into the Library's amazing Institutional Repository. It's not too late to do so.

Don Taylor, Assistant Head of Access Services, is responsible for the Institutional Repository. Recently he announced a new name for it: "SOAR" (SFU Openly Accessible Research). Meanwhile the library has created a Scholarly Digitization Fund to help cover costs of placing raw data, original source materials, reports, lab notes, logbooks, old photos, etc. into the SOAR.

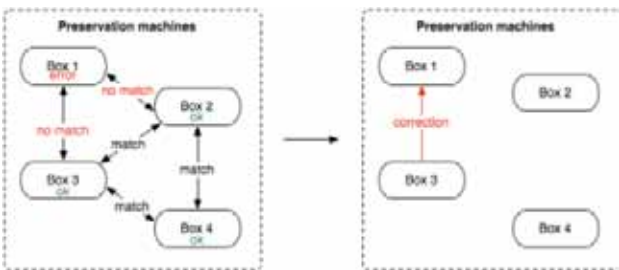
Documents will be scanned, catalogued, indexed by Google, made available to the world, and maintained forever. Up to \$5,000 is available for a given project. Digital files in any format will also be accepted.

"The library is delighted to be supporting this important campus initiative," says University Librarian Lynn Copeland.

As an example, Taylor points to John Welch, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Heritage Stewardship, an archaeology professor with 25,000 pages of land and resource management records from the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona. It's of interest to SFU scholars in its own right, but also due to parallels with native land claims issues here in BC. Welch has submitted a proposal to digitize and store some of these records in SOAR.

Anyone in the SFU community can apply for money from the Digitization Fund. For details visit <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/collections/digitization-fund>. 

LOCKSS repository strategy




Boxes represent identical digital repositories at four different sites. Automated LOCKSS software constantly compares checksum data, looking for mismatches, which are immediately corrected.

How do we preserve bits so they are usable 500 years from now? asks Mark Jordan, Head of Library Systems at SFU, referring to the ever growing digital repositories and collections held by the Library. His answer: Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe or LOCKSS. Jordan won the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries (COPPUL) 2010 Outstanding Contribution Award for his work in this area.

"Call it bit rot," says Jordan. "Data can have copy errors, media failure or software bugs. If you have one backup copy, it's not enough." He calls single-backups an unmanaged system. To properly manage a digital repository, at least two formal processes must be in place. One to constantly test and rectify problems such as unreadable CDs or hard-drives, and also a periodic regular migration of data to new media. "We call it 'refreshing' in the digital preservation field," says Jordan. It's basically the same as moving family videos of toddler birthday parties from VHS to DVD formats.

Currently, almost all SFU graduate theses are submitted digitally as well as on paper. In future, paper copies may not be required at all. Add the countless items now scanned and digitized every day under programs such as Multicultural Canada or through SFU's new Digitization Fund. All of it must be managed. LOCKSS allows a group of libraries to maintain and manage multiple copies of the same digital content over a widely dispersed geographical area—around the world or around a country. Documents or files are stored as "bit for bit" copies. "It's highly unlikely you'll ever lose that data," says Jordan. COPPUL is a consortium of 22 university libraries located in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

A key component of LOCKSS are checksums, a fixed-size number computed from an arbitrary block of digital data for the purpose of detecting accidental errors that may have been introduced during its transmission or storage. This number is stored in a companion meta-data file with the source document. Jordan and his team decided to use common open file formats such as TIFF and XML to encode source and metafile data respectively. "I'm confident that 500 years from now people will still know how to view these files," says Jordan. 

Multicultural Canada

A new scrapbook interface recently became available for Multicultural Canada. This fascinating SFU-led project puts little known stories of Canada's many minorities online by digitizing and translating newspapers, booklets, interviews, photographs, and other media which up to now have been hidden in archives and library special collections across the country.


Using the online scrapbook, accessible from a home computer, a young student might paste in an article about her great grandmother from an 1898 pamphlet on Doukhobors. Then beside that she can add a picture of herself scanned from the family photo album and her own story about her Baba. "You can then publish your scrapbook as a webpage on the Multicultural Canada website for anyone in the world to see," says Mark Jordan, Head of Information Systems at the SFU Library, and project leader. The new functionality was launched at a ceremony in the Library on March 23. A second round of funding (\$400,000) from Heritage Canada has allowed the addition of many new resources such as a collection of films on Indonesian shadow puppets from the SFU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Check it out today at multiculturalcanada.ca.

Doukhobor and Indonesian communities now join Chinese, Jewish, Ukrainian, Japanese and many other groups already enjoying Multicultural Canada's incredibly rich trove of online digitized



The online scrapbook interface for Multicultural Canada

content. There are over a million digitized items in the collection. Project partners include SFU, the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, UofT, University of Calgary, and UBC. The collection includes photographs, diaries, books, newspapers, oral histories and more—all downloadable for free by anyone with a web browser.

A true library resource for the 21st Century, the Multicultural Canada site must be used to be appreciated, which is now easier than ever to do thanks to the new scrapbook interface developed by SFU Library IT staff. 


One stop library research AND writing skills

Renée McCallum is the Writing Services Coordinator in the Library's Student Learning Commons (SLC). In addition to helping students in one-to-one consultations, she also works with faculty and instructors to integrate academic writing skills into university courses. For instance, McCallum provides sessions on writing literature reviews and term papers for communication and sociology undergraduate courses. She has also delivered a presentation on how to develop argumentation for qualitative research design projects for graduate students in the school of Interactive Arts and Technology in Surrey.

These collaborations are marvelous, but McCallum is going a step further. She is increasingly team-teaching with liaison librarians to combine library research techniques and writing skills in a single session. "A core goal of placing the SLC in the library has always been to take full advantage of the location, and to provide integrated writing and library research services," says SLC Director Elaine Fairey.

For students facing term-paper deadlines, literature review challenges, or graduate level research and writing projects, it opens a door to resources they often didn't realize were there. Some programs, such as Surrey's Te-



chOne, have an established history of involving both librarians and writing specialists in presentations for their students; others, such as the Interdisciplinary Research in the Mathematical and Computational Sciences Modeling of Complex Social Systems graduate program, have recently discovered the benefits. "Students say, 'Wow! I didn't realize the Library had so many resources,'" says McCallum. The integrated approach acts as a starting point for future student contact with the entire spectrum of SFU Library services. 

Renée McCallum (L) and Education/Polisci Liaison Librarian Hope Power team up in a classroom. "It makes the whole experience for students richer because it combines library research with writing skills, creating a continuum," says McCallum.

Digital collections bring the world to you




Save a trip to Europe by using State Papers Online, one of the library's amazing new digital collections. Here is a page penned by a court scribe in 1546, now accessible via any web browser.

Digital collections are increasing. "There was a big wave of digitization in the sciences a while ago," says Gwen Bird, Associate University Librarian, Collections. "Now we're seeing things like periodicals from the 18th and 19th Century from the

British Library as well as declassified security documents from the British Foreign Office." Historians used to hunt in the stacks of distant libraries as part of their research. Now tens of millions of old books and documents are available in digital form, so researchers can save on travel expenses and delve much deeper

into primary source documents. State Papers Online alone makes three million pages available, such as this page from the court of King Edward VI written by hand in 1546. Users can zoom in to make out the finest detail.

Assistant professor Jeremy Brown specializes in modern Chinese history. He is delighted that SFU now has China Academic Journals and British Foreign Office Files for China (1949 - 1980). China Academic Journals is a central resource for anyone studying China. "It's basically the Chinese version of Jstor," says Brown. Such resources allow SFU researchers to see what Chinese scholars are writing about. Brown says it's not just for his own research but for the many Chinese-speaking students at SFU who benefit. Meanwhile the British Foreign Office files are a window into the Mao period in China, an area of focus for Brown.

Gwen Bird thinks everyone should have a look at recently acquired Primal Pictures, a 3D online anatomy archive. "You can watch videos of the complex interaction of your knee ligaments," she says. 

New Open Access Fund

Last year, more than one third of the SFU Library's collections budget—\$4 million—was spent on the renewal of e-journal subscriptions. Of that, over half went to just four commercial publishers. "Each year it costs more, leaving less and less money to purchase monographs and smaller independent journals," says Gwen Bird, Associate University Librarian, Collections. "These large companies post very large profits on their balance sheets every year, while the University finds itself in an environment of ever tighter budgets. The current situation is unsustainable." Since one of the central goals of the Library is to provide access to scholarly literature, SFU continues to renew the large publisher packages, but carefully tracks usage to ensure those high-priced journals are still in demand. "At the same time, we recognize that reform of scholarly publishing is imperative," says Bird. Nevertheless, it is the prerogative of faculty and Senate to mandate any open access publishing requirement.

At its January 2010 meeting, the Senate Library Committee adopted sweeping recommendations that will make SFU one of only three Canadian universities to embrace Open Access (OA) publishing. "We're going to put our money where our mouth is," says Bird. OA Journals are scholarly peer-reviewed journals freely available on the web without subscription fees, but they are often supported through Article Processing Charges (APCs) levied to authors. Fees range from a few hun-

dred to several thousand dollars per accepted paper. Prominent examples are BioMed Central, Public Library of Science, and Hindawi.

In February 2010, SFU created an OA Central Fund to encourage SFU authors to publish in OA Journals. The fund pays the APCs for SFU authors lacking other sources to cover these fees. It's all part of the Library's new Open Access Strategy, which includes:


- Continuing support for the Public Knowledge Project and its open source software
- Improving SFU's Institutional Repository for sharing research output, reports and raw data
- Making OA journals more accessible at SFU

"With the establishment of the Open Access Fund we join a growing movement worldwide," says Bird. Hal Weinberg, Director of SFU's Office of Research Ethics, adds, "The new look in

"We recognize that reform of scholarly publishing is imperative."

academia is free public access to all data collected with public money. Research data should be available to the public so that there can be expansion of knowl-

edge related to that data." The SFU Library maintains a public repository where researchers can put their data to fulfill new public access requirements of granting agencies.

For more information about Open Access initiatives at the SFU Library, including the OA Central Fund, contact Gwen Bird, gbird@sfu.ca. The Library's full OA Strategy document is available on the web: tinyurl.com/yl2h4aa 

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