


Welcome from the Dean of Library Services

SFU Library is a vibrant place, busy with students year round. With the advent of the Internet and our extensive online collections and support, the reasons people come to the library may be changing, but still stem from a desire to use library resources for research and learning. We are working to reconfigure our building to provide improved space for group study, for quiet research, and for the specialized needs of graduate students.

We are proud that the annual campus campaign over the past four years has supported the creation

of new casual seating areas on floors 2 and 3, and will shortly result in the opening of a spectacular study area on floor 6, with study carrels as well as vistas to the north and west of the building. We have drawn on our generously funded Alumni Endowment income to match these donations, thus bringing our staff and alumni together to improve the learning experience for our current students. This is truly a partnership to warm any university librarian's heart and my thanks go out to our generous supporters. 



Lynn Copeland, Dean of Library Services

Goldsmith tends media gold mine

The library's media collection is one of SFU's remarkable hidden treasures. When the film collection came over from the Instructional Media Centre in 2003, the function of the Fine Arts Room on the 5th floor changed. It expanded to serve the whole campus community and the film collection became more accessible. "Anyone can borrow anything," says Carole Goldsmith, Media Resource Librarian. For instance, on Friday afternoons people come to borrow DVDs and VHS films for the weekend. "It's not like at other universities where the collection is only available to Fine Arts people," she says.

Last year the collection moved from the 5th floor of the library to a greatly expanded space on the 3rd floor that includes a media preview room. Funding for this came in part from the SFU Alumni Association. One of the Library's most impressive resources, the preview room includes state-of-the-art equipment for viewing DVDs, slides, VHS video, and even old 16mm films. Instructors can hold classes or tutorials with room for about 20 students. A special climate controlled vault contains racks of old 16mm celluloid classics from the silver screen such as Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* or Jean Renoir's *Grand Illusion*. Staff will help set up the 16mm projector if necessary. Take a few minutes to browse the SFU library catalogue's impressive film and video section. The result could be an entertaining video night at home, or an inspired addition to a class lecture.


According to Goldsmith, SFU professors use film to teach much more than fine art. English and History professors are frequent borrowers, but



Carole Goldsmith demonstrating the library's 16 mm projector.

so are faculty from archaeology, communication, education, geography, health, sociology and women's studies. Goldsmith points out that films rented from a video shop for home use cannot legally be shown to a class. However, much of SFU's film collection is specially licensed for this purpose. "We pay for the rights for classroom use," she says.

People are rediscovering vinyl LPs, too, in the library's media collection. The music racks feature a large and rare selection of electro-acoustic and opera recordings. Goldsmith adds that student film makers frequently borrow from SFU's huge sound-effect library. Royalties are not a problem because the sounds are licensed for student use.

Media collection room hours:
9:00am - 7:00pm Monday - Thursday,
9:00am - 4:30pm Friday, and
12:00 - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday. 

Open Journal Systems for the third world



Brian Owen, Processing & Systems Associate University Librarian is looking forward to the upcoming PKP Conference here in July.


Processing and Systems Associate University Librarian Brian Owen is excited about a new open source publishing tool that SFU Library will introduce to the world at the upcoming Public Knowledge Project (PKP) conference in July. It's called Open Monograph Press. A beta release is scheduled for the end of June. Owen says, "It's going to do for scholarly monographs what OJS has done for scholarly journals." He's referring to Open Journal Systems publishing management software developed to a large extent at SFU.

PKP is a federally funded research initiative based out of SFU, UBC and Stanford University. SFU Library hosts over 150 online scholarly journals based in dozens of countries including England, Germany, Spain, Israel, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and many more.

Contract programmer Alec Smecher has been devel-

oping OJS for many years. He recently returned from Asia where he worked on a major project called Asian Journals Online that uses OJS to build national journal publishing portals in Vietnam, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh. "We partner with INASP (International Network for the Advancement of Scientific Publication), a UK-based non-profit organization that does a lot of development work. The approach INASP is pushing, with our tools and help, is to get developing nations to publish their own content online," says Smecher. The Internet is a great leveler in this regard; it's possible for anyone to inexpensively host a web site that's as attractive and professional-looking as Nature or BMJ. Nevertheless, online publishing in the developing world has a long way to go. A key goal is to train people in each country so that online journal hosting can be moved there, building expertise abroad and ending an ongoing aid relationship. "Pushing Open Access, both in the West and in the developing world, further decreases the gap between them by providing each access to the other's research free of charge," says Smecher.

Owen points out that OJS and Open Monograph Press offer a complete publishing package including review process workflow management all the way through to publication. Both free and subscription models are supported. Open Humanities Press is looking at the new SFU Open Monograph publishing system.

The 2nd International PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference will attract about 250 delegates from around the world and will be held at SFU's downtown Vancouver campus July 8 - 10. 

Multicultural Canada Phase 2 funded




Image from the Vancouver Public Library dated 1900, one of hundreds of thousands of images now available online at multiculturalcanada.ca.

The ministry of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages just announced grants to the SFU Library of \$400,000 to digitize additional content for the Multicultural Canada web site: multiculturalcanada.ca. Project partners include Dr. Barbara Winter (SFU Museum) Dr. Öslem Sensoy (SFU Faculty of Education), Burna-

by teacher Craig MacLeod, the Multicultural Historical Society of Ontario, the University of Toronto, the University of Calgary, and the University of British Columbia. Over 400,000 photographs, diaries, books, newspapers, oral histories and Indonesian shadow puppets will be added to the existing half million items already digitized thanks to an earlier grant.

Chinese, Japanese, Italian and Ukrainian materials will be a focus this time. New content is coming from the Multicultural Historical Society of Ontario, including 200 hours of oral history tapes of Italian immigrant women. Chinese historical content will be digitized by UBC.

The funding also covers web site improvements together with the development of related curriculum materials that will add more value. The collection demonstrates Canada's strong multicultural values and forms a significant part of a multicultural learning module and web site for Canadians. Dean of Library Services, Lynn Copeland says, "We're delighted to further develop this project to enhance support for SFU students and researchers and strengthen our community ties." 

How to make friends and influence research

Mark Bodnar has always followed the Five Laws of Library Science formulated by the great Tamil library philosopher S. R. Ranganathan. “One biggy is the fourth law: Save the time of the reader. If you can improve the efficiency of users finding information, that’s what I’m after,” says Bodnar who is a Liaison Librarian at SFU specializing in business reference, though he is temporarily assigned to help researchers in the schools of Communication and REM (Resource and Environmental Management).

Students often come to him and say, just tell me what the right article is. But Bodnar prefers to give students what he calls “the right path” by asking them questions about their research. It’s not what students want at first, but ultimately it helps them develop researchable questions. One graduate student responded through the library’s Kudos & Kvetches system saying, “Thank you so much for your questions. By answering them I am much clearer about what information I need.”

“I ask good dumb questions,” says Bodnar. “I know from experience what info is not normally publicly available and why, which is important, so I help Business Administration students pose new research questions and to explore and build their own picture.” It’s a great exercise for the student and ultimately results in a valuable alternative to proprietary and typically expensive market reports.

One day a student came to Bodnar for help researching eco-tourism in logged out areas of Northern BC. She had already

exhausted the usual business databases and was having trouble finding academic papers on the subject. “I showed her how to approach her question from different perspectives that might also touch on such a topic:

Geography, Environmental Management, Economics, Public Policy; and then I showed her how to use the databases for those subjects,” says Bodnar. He taught her how to apply academic theory to the specifics of popular news stories, and demonstrated how to find relevant government documents. “I also showed her how to make more efficient use of the items she’d already found by mining the bibliographies and focusing on specific journals,” he says.

Her feedback: “I have been checking out the ideas that you sent me and I think that they are terrific. I thought I was finished with my research the other day because I had started hitting brick walls, but now I have a whole new direction to go in.”

Janis McKenzie, reference division head says, “We have over a dozen expert liaison librarians in all areas of study and you can contact them where and how you need them. They can come to your class, meet




At the Ask Us Desk. Janis McKenzie, Head of Reference and Mark Bodnar, Liaison Librarian for Communication and Resource and Environmental Management.

with your study group, chat online, help by email or in person, or by phone.” The Library’s “Ask Us Here” mobile service cart moves liaison librarians out of the library into public locations all over campus for several hours a week. “We’ll find a way to help,” says McKenzie. The SFU library is a major participant in AskAway, a province-wide free online chat service available on all public and academic library web pages. Anyone can

get immediate help from a librarian with a few mouse clicks. SFU students and faculty are some of the highest users of this service in the province.

A favourite technique Bodnar and other reference librarians enjoy demonstrating to students is called “cycling a search”. “It’s a method of growing your information,” says Bodnar. Percilla Groves, liaison librarian specializing in psychology, calls it “snowballing”. She says, “Once you find one really great reference, take a look at the subject heading that professional indexers have attached to that. If you click on one of these, it’s like rolling a snowball across your snow-covered yard. It takes one good citation and results in a full bibliography that can be used to write a great term paper.”

The SFU Library liaison service can be summed up by one Kudo submitted by a student earlier this year: “Wow, that really really helps. I also really like the way you broke down the topics. It gives me a better idea of what I should be looking for and how I can relate everything. I’ll read over the articles you provided and I’ll continue researching in the areas you suggested. I really appreciate your help and thanks for your speedy reply.” 

“One biggy is the fourth law: Save the time of the reader. If you can improve the efficiency of users finding information, that’s what I’m after.”

