Simon Fraser University's Busy Libraries

Simon Fraser University has been a busy place this past year and the libraries are no exception. Bennett Library has seen an increase in reference questions, computer demand, and book circulation. The line-ups for both computers and the reference desk attest to the increase in student numbers.

Elaine Fairey, Head of Reference for the W.A.C. Bennett Library states that there was an 8.5% increase in reference questions over the fall semester when compared to the previous year. Fairey states, “This is a significant increase in library activity.”

In order to handle this increase in demand the library has implemented some new signage including five minute express stations near the entrance of the library and a line-up queue for the computers on the upper floors. Fairey states, “The students here are very fair when it comes to lining up, but giving them a place to line up with clear signage just makes it that much easier for everyone. The five minute stations have been working well too. This way if a student just needs to look up the title of a book or do a quick email, they know they will not have to wait long.”

The Bennett Library isn’t the only branch that is busy. The Belzberg Library at the Harbour Centre campus has seen gate count increases as well during the past fall and is looking to expand collection and study space in its mezzanine area.

Activity at the SFU Surrey Library has been on the increase as Natalie Gick, the new Campus Librarian, continues to establish the collections and services there.

Digital Projects at the Simon Fraser University Library

Simon Fraser University Library continues to participate in national digital initiatives and to expand the services currently offered to students, faculty and staff. Presented here are two of the Library’s major projects.

➤ Our Roots

The SFU Library is participating in the Our Roots/ Nos Racines project, along with the University of Calgary, Université Laval, University of Toronto, and others. This project is a national collaboration amongst libraries, museums, archives and individual Canadians to create a comprehensive collection of Canadian local histories on the World Wide Web. Users can search the database using key words or other search criteria and the items they are able to access are unique primary and secondary materials concerning the cultural and social heritage of Canada. SFU Library is digitizing 50,000 pages of local histories to contribute to the project. See http://www.ourroots.ca/default.htm.

➤ The Canadian Journal of Communication Initiative

The SFU Library is collaborating with the Canadian Journal of Communication, the electronic version of which is edited by Dr. Richard Smith of the SFU School of Communication, to act as technical advisor and host for the electronic version of the journal. A related initiative, in which Rowly Lorimer, Masters in Publishing Programme and the Library are participating, is the Synergies Canada proposal which, if funded, will provide online publishing tools and strategies for Canadian academic journals in the humanities and social sciences, and also provide access to back issues of these journals that have previously only been published in print versions.

Collections News  by Gwen Bird

It’s no secret to anyone who uses academic journals that the world of scholarly publishing has been changing over the past ten years. The widespread availability of academic journals in electronic form has introduced some fundamental changes. For example the “big deal”, bundled packages of all electronic journals offered by a publisher, has emerged as a preferred marketing method for some publishers, in place of title-by-title subscriptions.

The SFU Library now receives a significant portion of our journal literature in both print and digital formats, and pays separately for each. We recognize that paying twice for the same content is not a wise use of limited resources. Therefore, the Library has been undertaking a process of consultation with...
faculty to review dual subscriptions and migrate to electronic-only journals when possible. We recognize the benefits of electronic journals with respect to allowing access outside the library and beyond the campus, and permitting simultaneous use by multiple readers. We have developed a list of criteria for migration to electronic-only format, available at http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/collections/duplicatecriteria.htm.

The funds freed by this process will be applied toward the costs of online packages, acquiring further digital packages, and addressing departmental requests for new individual titles. Access to expanded content is the overall goal. SFU Library’s participation in the first round of the Canadian National Site Licensing Project (CNSLP) added over 550 new online journals to the SFU collection, and our participation in the recent ScienceDirect license through CNSLP resulted in over 900 new journals for SFU.

The formats at SFU have definitely shifted—in 2003 the number of electronic journals (7000+) at our Library has surpassed the number of print subscriptions (5000+) and this is a significant milestone for the Library.

Yet SFU Library’s principles have not changed: SFU Library is committed to building a journal collection that meets the needs of the SFU community; we support independent, alternative and open access publishers; and we are steadfast in our opposition to a pay-per-use model for journals.

New Electronic Resources at the SFU Library

- **Books 24X7 IT Pro Collection**
  Over 2100 electronic books in the areas of IT, multimedia, and business. The books come from many publishers, including Wiley, Sam’s, Oxford, and Peach Pit Press.

- **Canadian Newsstand**
  New Canadian newspaper source to replace Canadian News Disc, which is being phased out by the publisher. Includes 12 Southam dailies, with backfiles to 1989 in most cases.

- **Elsevier Science Direct journals**
  1200+ online journals in a variety of subject areas, including access from 1998 to current. Over 900 titles new to SFU.

- **EngNetBase**
  Online access to the fulltext of the CRC Press Engineering Handbook series.

- **JSTOR Language and Literature collection**
  A new collection from JSTOR, spanning the literary cultures of many different countries, and providing archival access back to volume one. Includes 34 journals new to the JSTOR project.

- **Oxford English Dictionary Online**
  Web-based version of a premier reference source.

- **Oxford Reference Online**
  Desktop access to 100 key Oxford dictionaries and reference works across a broad subject spectrum. Can be searched as a whole or limited to one or more subjects, or to one or more individual books.

- **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy online**
  Web-based edition of this international reference work.

- **20th Century American Poetry**
  A unit of Chadwyck Healey’s Literature Online product, covering more than 300 poets and including the fulltext of over 52,000 works.

- **Wiley Interscience journals**
  350+ online journals in a variety of disciplines, including over 270 journals new to SFU.

- **Wiley Encyclopedia of Telecommunications**
  Provides a broad, clear overview of both the fundamentals of and recent advances in telecommunications.

- **Wiley Encyclopedia of Electrical and Electronics Engineering**
  Comprehensive coverage of the electrical and electronics engineering field.

Collections Notes

The Library has acquired the complete collection of 1900-1920 Canadian monographs through the Canadian Institute of Historical Microreproductions (CIHM). This set, comprised of over 24,000 monographs from the period, completes our acquisition of the major units of this important Canadian resource.

SFU has recently become an institutional member of BIOMED Central. This open-access publisher provides free, fulltext access to its 80+ peer-reviewed online journals covering biology and the life sciences. Among the benefits of membership, SFU researchers wishing to publish in BIOMED Central journals will have the usual $500 processing fee waived. For details see www.biomedcentral.com. An institutional web page highlighting publications by researchers from SFU is available at www.biomedcentral.com/inst/34206.

Many New Faces at W.A.C. Bennett Library

In total there are seven new librarians at the Bennett Library—from left to right they are: Ivana Nisetteo, Carla Graebner, Kim Minkus, Don Taylor, Leslie Rimmer, Eric Swanick and Sandra Wong.

Carla Graebner is the new Liaison Librarian for Economics, Latin American Studies and Sociology/Anthropology. Carla comes to SFU from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa, where she was responsible for liaison, instruction and reference services. She holds an MLIS from Western and degrees in Anthropology and English and Film Studies from Carleton University.
Kim Minkus is the new Communication Services Librarian for the SFU Library and also the French Liaison Librarian. Kim has extensive arts administration experience and completed an MLIS at UBC in 1999. Previously she was a librarian in the Language and Literature Division of the Vancouver Public Library.

Ivana Niseteo is the Humanities and Linguistics Liaison Librarian, as well as Instructional Librarian. Ivana holds an MA in Russian language and has extensive teaching experience. She completed an MLIS at UBC in 1999 and has worked in public, special and academic libraries.

Leslie Rimmer is the new Reference Librarian at Bennett Library for the departments of Biological Sciences, Kinesiology, and Molecular Biology & Biochemistry. She has a BSc in Biology from SFU, and an MLIS from the University of Alberta. Previously she was the Library Manager at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

Eric Swanick became the new Head of Special Collections in early December of 2002 and he comes to the Simon Fraser University Library with impressive credentials. He was the New Brunswick Legislative Librarian for 16 years and prior to that managed the collection for the NB Legislative Library including the respected New Brunswick Collection. Aside from a BA in History and a Master's degree in Library Science, Eric also holds an MA from the Institute of Bibliography and Textual Criticism from the University of Leeds, England. Eric plans to continue to build the Special Collections in the areas of British Columbia and Western Canadiana, as well as the history of the book, publishing and political cartoons. Other areas under consideration include the environment, multiculturalism and up-and-coming authors.

Don Taylor is the new Electronic Resources Librarian for SFU. Don received his MLIS from UBC in 1997 and comes to SFU from the TechBC Library where he was the reference and resource development librarian.

Sandra Wong was previously science reference librarian at the University of Manitoba and most recently at the University of Calgary. Sandra started her position as Liaison Librarian for Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics & Actuarial Science at SFU in August of 2002.

**Ask Us Live**

SFU students, faculty and staff have probably been noticing the ads, posters and bookmarks for SFU Library’s Ask Us Live reference service. The service allows faculty, staff and students to interact with reference librarians in a real time chat environment. Here is an example of the positive comments the Library is getting about the service:

“... I stumbled on to the ‘Ask Us (Live)’ help facility. Well, it changed my life. My able researchers, walked me through a web-enabled interactive tour of the facility, and showed me exactly where to find the material I was looking for. ... they ‘taught me to fish’, so to speak. The best part - they email you a complete transcript of your session, links and all. Two thumbs up to the ‘Ask Us (Live)’ facility - they were a great help. Try them!”

**SFU Faculty Appreciate the Library**

“I would like to thank you and your team for the concise and very useful content presented in today's session. I am very impressed and have recommended tomorrow’s session to my colleagues. Hopefully, some of my colleagues will attend and learn to use the useful resources.” - an SFU faculty member who attended the Library’s Faculty Update session in February.

“... the average essay grade ... is a whole 2 grade points improved over last year. I suspect this is in no small part due to you and your excellent orientation. Can we book again for next September? I will get to you with the dates, but consider it a gold plated invitation...” - an SFU faculty member to an SFU Librarian.

**News from SFU Surrey Library**

**New Faces at the SFU Surrey Library**

Natalie Gick (left) has worked at the Bennett Library since 1999 when she was appointed Science Librarian. In the summer of 2002 she was appointed Campus Librarian for SFU Surrey.

Gordon Coleman (right) graduated from the MLIS program in 2001 and began work immediately at SFU Library. Gordon is currently the Liaison Librarian for Computing Science and Engineering, and the Information Technology program at SFU Surrey.

**SFU Surrey Access**

Current faculty, staff and students from other SFU campuses can now visit the SFU Surrey Library. SFU Surrey Campus and Library visitors will be required to have a valid SFU ID card and a second piece of photo identification. Visitors must check in with Security and leave a piece of identification in exchange for a visitor’s pass.

All current SFU faculty, staff and students are welcome to visit the Library and borrow materials, although some specialized collections are available to Surrey patrons exclusively. Visitors may also pick up requests and interlibrary loans at the Library.

A Surrey book drop is now also available to SFU Library patrons. The book drop is located in the Surrey Central Mall next to the main entrance to the SFU Campus. SFU Library materials except for equipment, reserves or special loans can be returned here during mall hours. This access is being offered on a trial basis due to the limited size of the Surrey Campus and Library.
Events @ the Library

The Bennett Library has hosted a number of lectures, tours and readings over the past few months. Here are a few of the highlights:

**George Bowering and Roy Miki: A Campus Celebration**

The Library hosted a reading by George Bowering and Roy Miki on Thursday, February 13 in its Special Collections Division to celebrate their respective honours as Canada’s first poet laureate and the Governor General’s Award winner for Poetry.

**Chalk Talk: The World of the Political Cartoonist**

The Friends of the Library hosted an event to thank its donors on Tuesday, March 11 at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

Chalk Talk: The World of the Political Cartoonist was a wonderful event; over 100 people attended and listened to a lively presentation by cartoonists Dan Murphy, Graham Harrop, Bob Krieger, and Roy Peterson. The event was moderated by John L. Daly of BCTV News.

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**News from Belzberg Library**

**Improved study space at Belzberg Library**

Vice President, University Advancement Warren Gill and Belzberg Library head Karen Marotz unveil the newly renovated Belzberg Library mezzanine at a ceremony on February 7. The restoration of six windows, bricked over decades ago, has added natural light to the mezzanine and greatly enhanced the study environment for students at the Harbour Centre campus. Karen Marotz states, “Thanks to the Harbour Centre contractors and Operations department, the project was completed on time and on budget with minimal disruption for library users.”

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**SFU Library and the Community**

Once again the SFU Library took part in a number of community activities.

United Way Campaign: The 3rd Annual United Way Garage Sale, held on November 6 and 7 raised $2,000, largely due to the hard work of the United Way Library volunteers.

Food Bank Donation: Seven full boxes of food were donated by library staff to the Vancouver Food Bank.

SFU Library staff also participated in the 2002 Sun Run, the 2002 Terry Fox Run at SFU and the James Cunningham Seawall race.