



SFU LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2020/2021



SFU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends joined us for a virtual Celebration of SFU Authors, February 2021.

W.A.C. Bennett Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) Nations.

Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Fraser Library is located on the lands of the qíćəy̓ (Katzie), kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem), qíqéyt (Qayqayt), q'wa:ńł'ən (Kwantlen), Səmyámə (Semiahmoo), scəwaθən (Tsawwassen), and Stó:lō Nations.

Acknowledging the benefits of occupying this land, the Library commits to becoming a more welcoming space for Indigenous Peoples by centring Indigenous voices in our collections, services, and programs.

Cover photo: un/settled exhibit at Belzberg Library. Photo credit: Ebony Magnus.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Gwen Bird,
Dean of Libraries

The year documented in this annual report has been truly like no other. Despite the significant challenges brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Library continued to deliver collections and services, collaborate on research, and support remote teaching and learning. Although we had to close our buildings for much of the year, a weekday study hall in Bennett Library provided on-campus students with a much-needed safe place to study. Contactless pickup for library books has been operating at all three library locations, research appointments in Special Collections were reinstated, and the take-up of virtual services has never been stronger. And, as you will see in the pages of this report, we did more than just survive—we launched a new Writer in Residence program, hosted vibrant online events, provided digital publishing services, and continued to build responsive and enduring collections.

Providing library services during the pandemic taught us many lessons that we will use to strengthen our post-pandemic work—for example, by including more digital resources in the course reserves system, maintaining our new membership in HathiTrust, and offering students a choice of virtual or in-person research consultations to meet their needs.

I have been inspired by the innovative ways the SFU community, and the outstanding team in the Library, have responded to the considerable challenges of the past year. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of the library team, and to the campus community for your support.

WELCOME TO SFU LIBRARY

OPEN FOR RESEARCH

OPEN FOR LEARNING

OPEN FOR COLLABORATION



Joshua Whitehead and Vivek Shraya in conversation at our virtual One Book One SFU 2021.

Over the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Simon Fraser University Library's expansive online collections and services were critical, as students, faculty, and staff transitioned to a remote learning environment. We extended our virtual services and gradually introduced some in-person services at our three physical branches, the W.A.C. Bennett Library at SFU Burnaby, the Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library at SFU Vancouver, and the Fraser Library at SFU Surrey.

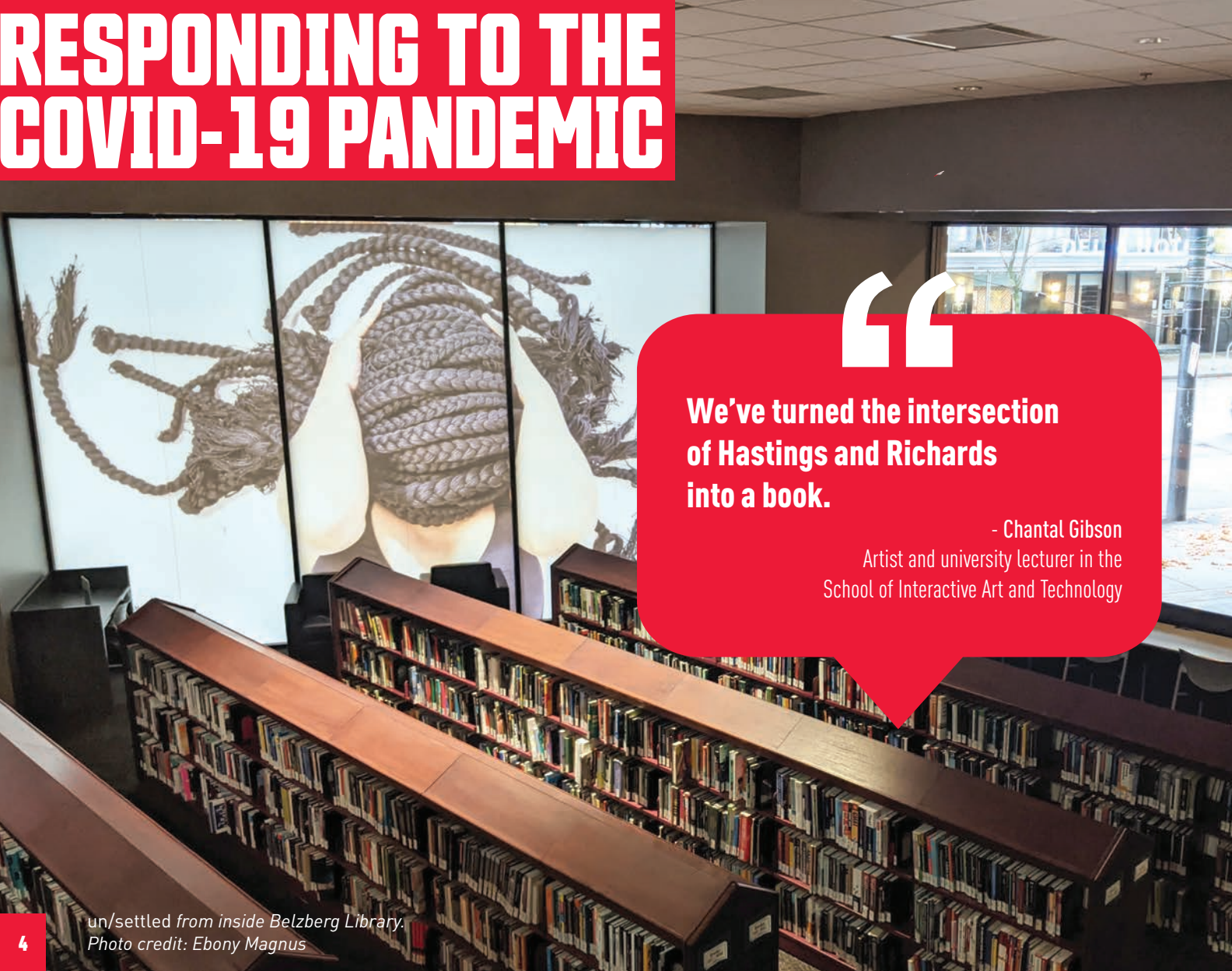
Throughout this challenging and unusual year, we advanced learning and research at SFU through our rich online collections, in-demand instructional and consultation services, and innovative partnerships. Our new Non-Fiction Writer in Residence program and our existing Knowledge Mobilization Hub (a partnership between the Library and SFU's Office of the Vice-President, Research) both enhance the SFU community's ability to share research beyond academia. Collaborative spaces and initiatives in the Library such as the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab and the Media and Maker Commons continue to foster creativity and exploration in learning and research. Over the year, we also hosted dynamic online events, including recognizing the accomplishments and creativity of the SFU community in our annual Celebration of Authors, and continued to sponsor vibrant public events at the Vancouver Writers Fest and Indian Summer Festival.

We take pride in offering welcoming, inclusive services, spaces, and collections that cultivate and enhance SFU's research, learning, and creativity.



Ashley Kyne, a student in Criminology and Indigenous Studies and an English as an Additional Language Peer in the Student Learning Commons, is the winner of the 2020 SFU Library Mike McIntosh Undergraduate Student Award.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



“
**We’ve turned the intersection
of Hastings and Richards
into a book.**

- Chantal Gibson
Artist and university lecturer in the
School of Interactive Art and Technology

*un/settled from inside Belzberg Library.
Photo credit: Ebony Magnus*

***un/settled* art installation celebrates Black womanhood**

In November 2020, the literary art installation *un/settled*, a tribute to Breonna Taylor, was draped over an astonishing 240 square feet of Belzberg Library’s streetfront windows in downtown Vancouver. Centring Black womanhood and Black creativity, *un/settled* also speaks to the displacement caused by the pandemic as well as the ongoing systemic violence against Black people, Indigenous people, and people of colour. The installation combines poetry from Otoniya J. Okot Bitek, 2020 Ellen and Warren Tallman Writer-in-Residence and a 2021 Shadbolt Fellow, with portraiture by Chantal Gibson, award-winning writer and artist and university lecturer in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology, in collaboration with Mily Mumford and Adrian Bisek.

For Ebony Magnus, Head of Belzberg Library and co-curator of *un/settled*, the closure of the Library due to COVID-19 presented an opportunity to meaningfully reimagine the Library’s role in the community. Profiled in several media venues and student publications, the exhibition was also central to panel discussions featuring Okot Bitek, Gibson and Magnus about Black art, identity, and place at events for Word Vancouver 2021 and SFU’s Black History Month celebrations.

Okot Bitek shares that *un/settled* compels passersby to stop and look up: “*un/settled* is about the inability to settle because of the systems that oppress and alienate people. It’s also about the constant reminder that some people cannot be seen to be of these lands.” Unapologetically raising up and celebrating Black art and communities, *un/settled* will be on display until November 30, 2021.

Critical services and support

As the majority of Library staff transitioned to fully remote work in mid-March 2020, the Library IT and Building and Equipment teams provided crucial support in ensuring staff were equipped with technology, software, and ergonomic furniture to successfully work from home. Adapting to the remote learning environment, Library staff continued to offer a wide range of learning and research services to the SFU community.

Some in-person services were gradually restored over the year, including contactless pickup services at all three libraries and study space at Bennett Library. Recognizing that some students were facing challenges due to a lack of access to technology, the Library loaned out laptops for whole semesters. In addition, one-on-one appointments were available for researchers to work with materials in Special Collections and to use the video and audio spaces and technology in the Media and Maker Commons.

Expanding access to ebooks

As a result of the closure of our physical locations due COVID-19, many of the print materials in our collections were inaccessible to students and researchers. In 2020 and 2021, SFU Library signed Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA) agreements with two major academic publishers, Taylor & Francis and Oxford University Press, providing SFU users with access to over 170,000 high quality academic ebooks. The EBA model allows library users to access the publisher’s entire catalogue of ebooks, including both new and older titles, with the Library deciding which titles to purchase at the end of the year. These deals represent an expansive increase in access to high quality academic resources for research and learning at SFU.

*Otoniya J. Okot Bitek (left)
and Chantal Gibson (right)
collaborated on
the photo-poetic
installation un/settled.*



New guide promotes antiracist writing practices

In the Student Learning Commons (SLC), the staff and the student peer educators recognized the need for resources to support the development of writing practices that do not unintentionally exclude groups of people or perpetuate harm. Originally just 5 pages, [the Inclusive and Antiracist Writing Guide](#) grew to 6 interconnected webpages and a downloadable PDF with over 30 pages of content. The guide was shaped through consultation with campus partners, such as Out on Campus and the Centre for Accessible Learning, and continues to evolve and adapt based on feedback.

Offering accessible strategies and exercises, the guide also includes steps on how to start questioning assumptions and habits in writing, a glossary of terms, and examples of inclusive, antiracist writing. It covers focused topics such as gender identity and sexual orientation; Black Peoples, Indigenous Peoples, and Peoples of Colour; and ableism, disability, mental health, and neurodiversity. "I thought the guide was a really important thing to do," shared Emily Lam, a health sciences major and SLC peer. "If you don't know how to write in a way that includes certain populations, and if there's nowhere to look it up, it can be overwhelming for students—even if they have good intentions to write inclusively."

Interactive series of modules develops critical skills

Multiple courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences have embraced a new series of online modules that introduce students to research and information literacy concepts. Developed by liaison librarian Holly Hendrigan, the series guides students through interactive, self-paced modules on topics such as identifying and refining research topics, and finding, evaluating, and citing sources, including resources such as technical standards, patents and intellectual property, and secondary market research. "I think it's excellent," shared a faculty member in engineering science. "The material gradually introduces students to the more complex topics and is engaging along the way. Thanks for developing a great course."

Since Fall 2020, nine courses in the Schools of Engineering Science, Sustainable Energy Engineering, Mechatronic Systems Engineering, and Computing Science have integrated the modules into their curriculum, with Hendrigan often joining the class for a follow-up session to further develop students' understanding. By customizing examples and highlighting resources from the applied sciences, the modules enable students to develop relevant and critical research skills.

Helping students to succeed in remote learning

As the university shifted to remote learning during COVID-19, the Library's online instruction and consultation services expanded rapidly. The Student Learning Commons offered online workshops for undergraduate students on academic writing and learning, including ensuring students could claim co-curricular credit. The Research Commons' regular lineup of workshops for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on writing, publishing, research tools, knowledge mobilization, and more also shifted successfully online. Liaison librarians and other specialists offered one-on-one remote consultations, and popular existing services such as AskAway and WriteAway saw record amounts of use by SFU students and researchers. By adapting and expanding existing services, Library staff continued to provide strategic, integrated instruction and consultation to support student learning.

AMAZING! Quick Response and they answered my question! They also gave me tips and examples so I know what to do.

- Third-year SFU student and AskAway user

ENHANCING TEACHING + LEARNING

4247

questions answered on AskAway online chat

30%

increase from last year



35,653

views of instructional videos on YouTube

23%

increase from last year

1053

writing consultations provided by WriteAway

23%

increase from last year



965

online workshops with

19,393

participants



4.8mil

digital items used (includes downloads of articles, ebooks, book chapters, database searches)

1477

articles or book chapters scanned

8159

research consultations

Over
130

digital items accessed per student, faculty and staff member

20,000+

online course reserves downloaded

LASTING IMPACT

This project was a unique opportunity for us to create a 'living artifact' that we can leave behind for the younger generations.

- Sophia Nguyen, student in the Beedie School of Business & Jesika Kula, student in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology

IAT 330 students Irene Dinh, Jesika Kula and Sophia Nguyen show off the cover of their book.

Student publication raises awareness about sustainability

Recognizing the lack of education around textile sustainability, a group of students in an Interactive Arts and Technology course, part of SFU's Make Change Studio program in the Charles Chang Institute for Entrepreneurship, proposed an innovative solution to this real-world problem. Working with the SFU Library Digital Publishing team, the students designed and published a digital children's book, *Jordan and the Magic Cape*, to encourage children and their parents to learn about textile recycling. Facilitating student publications through Open Monograph Press, an open source publishing software developed by the Public Knowledge Project, is one way that Digital Publishing supports students to be knowledge creators and to make an impact beyond the classroom. As instructor Dr. Naghmi Shireen shares: "Engaging students to be in charge of their own learning and encouraging them to bring innovation to their processes, motivates them to think outside of the box and invent solutions that cannot be hatched in a traditional classroom."

Library staff recognized

Dal Sohal, Learning Services Coordinator, is the winner of the 2020 SFU Staff Achievement Award in the area of Equity and Inclusion.

Julia Lane, Writing Services Coordinator & Ruth Silverman, Learning Services Coordinator are winners of the 2020 Learning Specialists Association of Canada Team Award. This recognizes their role in coordinating Procrastination Avoidance Week, a collaboration between 19 institutions which provided a week of comprehensive online support for students.

Nicole White, Head of the Research Commons, is the winner of the 2020 BC Academic Libraries Section Outstanding Contribution Award.



Dal Sohal



Ruth Silverman



Nicole White



Julia Lane

Decolonizing and Indigenizing classrooms

Launched in 2020, the virtual Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre (ICRC) is a direct response to the calls to action shared in Walk This Path With Us, SFU Aboriginal Reconciliation Council's 2017 report on Truth and Reconciliation. The ICRC offers support and resources for SFU instructors working to interrupt the repression or negation of Indigenous knowledge within post-secondary education systems. Centring Indigenous approaches to teaching and learning, the ICRC provides a place for instructors to explore all stages of this work, including curriculum materials, resources for Indigenizing classrooms, and Indigenous pedagogy.

Planning for the physical ICRC, to be located on the 4th floor of W.A.C. Bennett Library, has been delayed by COVID-19, and we look forward to its opening in the next year.



This eagle wing relief was created by Marissa Nahanee MaykwCha7em, (Skwxwú7mesh & Nisga'a, Eagle Clan) for SFU Library's Indigenous Initiatives.

Innovative 16th century books resonate today

The first complete edition of the letters of St. Catherine of Siena, published in 1500 by Venetian printer Aldus Manutius, is one of the new acquisitions in our Wosk-McDonald Aldine collection. A pioneering figure in the Italian Renaissance, Aldus published editions of Greek and Latin classics in pocket-sized octavos, making these works more portable and accessible. Also known for his innovations in typefaces, this edition of St. Catherine's letters contains the first use of italics; designed by Aldus' typesetter, Francesco Griffo, this became the model for many italic-type designs still used today.

More than 20 works from our Aldine collection have been digitized and shared in the Aldus@SFU online resource. Consistently in the top three most accessed of all of our digitized collections, these remarkable works continue to interest and engage researchers and students from diverse disciplines, including Publishing, Contemporary Arts, and English, who are interested in publishing history and practices, print culture, and book design.



In this woodcut, the first use of italic type is visible on the book held in St. Catherine's hand.

EXPANSIVE COLLECTIONS + EXPERTISE

The collection is an amazingly valuable resource for the study of the history of publishing, the history of printing, the form of the book, and the ways that publishers do business. Even 500 years later, so many of the things that Aldus established are still the model of publishing practice today, really setting the modern world in motion.

- Dr. John Maxwell, Director and Associate Professor, SFU Publishing

Pre-COVID, Melissa Salrin, Head of Special Collections, shows students the Aldine collection.



FOSTERING RESEARCH + SHARING KNOWLEDGE

New writing residency fosters writing for public audiences

Over his 8-month term, the inaugural SFU Library Non-Fiction Writer in Residence, Dr. Mark Winston, offered intensive workshops and manuscript consultations to SFU students and researchers, enhancing their capacity to write effectively for public audiences. “[He] guided me in shaping up a piece I’d been struggling with for months,” shared PhD student Alice Fleerackers, “giving me the advice I needed to turn my half-formed ideas into a polished story that I was proud to pitch and, eventually, see published.”

For Winston, winner of a Governor General’s Literary Award and professor in the SFU Centre for Dialogue and in biological sciences, writing for public audiences is about fostering mutual connections and communication. “I’ve always had this fundamental commitment to communicate with the widest possible audience, feeling that it’s a great joy but also an obligation that we have as academics,” Winston explained. “It’s certainly not a one-way street. What I’ve gotten back from community has probably been greater than anything I might have given.” The writing residency emphasizes the power of non-fiction writing to share research beyond academia.

Online writing group supports graduate students

The Research Commons launched a virtual Thesis Writing Group during COVID-19 to provide a supportive environment for graduate students working remotely on their theses or dissertations. Over three terms, 131 graduate students from more than 20 academic departments joined the 8-week sessions. Similar to past in-person workshops, Research Commons experts were on hand to offer support in writing, research, citation, and formatting.

One participant shared the impact of the interdisciplinary writing group on their research and writing: “Please know that you are immensely valuable and a huge contributor to the success of graduates at SFU. I can only speak for myself, (though many of my academic peers would echo the same sentiment), it takes a village - and you are one of the significant reasons for my mental health leaning positive during these tough times navigating Covid-19 and thesis research.”

*Non-Fiction Writer in Residence
Mark Winston speaking at our
Celebration of Authors event in 2016.*

Transformative agreements support open access

SFU Library is proud that as a member of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), we have signed new transformative agreements with two scholarly publishers. These contracts with SAGE Publishing and Public Library of Science (PLOS) offer new ways for SFU researchers to publish their work open access without cost to the authors. Also through CRKN, a new deal with Elsevier delivers a significant cost-reduction for the Library and increases options for SFU researchers to publish open access. In signing these agreements, SFU Library deepens our commitment to open access and ensures SFU research is more accessible worldwide.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

In 2020-21, **260** generous donors contributed

\$1,013,179

in support of the SFU Library including:



EXPANDING ACCESS

3.5M
visits to the website

500
non-profits in BC who have access to academic research through the Community Scholars Program

25
events from our Knowledge Mobilization Hub with
1150
participants

\$253,397
awarded through the Open Access Fund
to fund **124** articles by SFU authors

438
attendees of the Celebration of SFU Authors and One Book One SFU



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