

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a grey sweater over a plaid shirt, is smiling at the camera while sitting at a library desk. He is using a laptop. In the background, other students are studying at desks, and bookshelves filled with books are visible.

SFU LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2021/2022

SFU LIBRARY

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It is my pleasure to present this review of some of the activities and developments at SFU Libraries over the past year. This year has been a time of change and regrouping. We successfully re-opened all library locations and reinstated in-person services. We were delighted to welcome students back to campus and into the libraries again. We were thrilled to launch a beautiful new Research Commons space for graduate students on the Vancouver campus, and to continue development of the Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre, supporting Indigenization of courses across SFU.

Now we turn our attention to applying the lessons learned during the pandemic. For example, we see that our newfound expertise in offering virtual services and programs has, in some cases, increased access to the Library. Even with the return to in-person classes, many students still prefer to attend a workshop or consult with a librarian or peer mentor online. We can conveniently offer virtual research help and writing appointments to students in different time zones. Yet we know the physical presence on campus, and having welcoming and inclusive spaces, is still tremendously important.

We continue to build responsive and enduring collections in all formats, and to carefully steward the materials in our care. This is an essential role of the library at the university, and remains a constant. Around this, we adapted our services, refurbished our spaces, and engaged our community. My sincere thanks to the outstanding team in the Library who made it all possible. It is an honour to work with such a dedicated and innovative group.



Gwen Bird,
Dean of Libraries



Robyn Maynard (left) and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (right) were in conversation for our virtual 2021 Dean's Lecture on Information + Society.

W.A.C. Bennett Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and kʷikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) Nations.

Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Fraser Library is located on the lands of the q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie), kʷikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem), q̓iqéyt (Qayqayt), q'w̓a:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), Səmyáma (Semiahmoo), s̓cəwaθən (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.



WELCOME TO SFU LIBRARY

**OPEN FOR RESEARCH
OPEN FOR LEARNING
OPEN FOR COLLABORATION**

*TOME: Passages from Black History.
Mixed-media installation by Chantal Gibson, artist-educator & 2021 3M Teaching Fellow
Displayed at Belzberg Library in spring/summer 2022.*

The 2021-2022 fiscal year highlighted Simon Fraser University Library's role as a critical partner at the university, providing essential services, collections, and expertise for SFU students, faculty, staff, and postdoctoral fellows. During the period of remote learning, this included expansive virtual services and, as the university returned to on-campus learning in Fall 2021, SFU Library maintained many of our virtual options while we welcomed the community back into our 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.

We build and curate responsive collections, and provide instruction and consultation on research, writing, and study strategies. Innovative spaces and initiatives such as Special Collections, the Knowledge Mobilization Hub, the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab, and the Media and Maker Commons provide specialized expertise to students and researchers, as well as opportunities for learning and creativity. This year, we completed exciting renovations to library spaces at Vancouver campus, and our Digital Library Services team coordinated major upgrades to the Library website and our Library Search tool, improving the usability of one of the primary points of access for our community. We also hosted vibrant online events, including Robyn Maynard and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson for our Dean's Lecture on Information + Society, and Hiromi Goto, Sarah Leavitt, and Erica Hiroko Isomura for our One Book One SFU event.

Through our deeply rewarding partnerships, our rich and responsive collections, and our indispensable expertise, SFU Library continues to advance the learning, research, and creativity of the SFU community.



Sara Florence Davidson (Sgaan Jaadgu San Glans), a Haida/Settler author and professor in the Faculty of Education, was the featured speaker at our 2022 Celebration of SFU Authors, an annual event that celebrates the creative and academic publications of the SFU community.

Providing critical support for students, in-person and online

As the university transitioned back to in-person learning in Fall 2021, the Library opened our physical spaces and services to our community. At the same time, our virtual workshops, consultations, and resources continued to be in demand. Addressing a range of student needs, our mix of online and in-person services included discipline-specific expertise from liaison librarians, real-time research help from AskAway online chat, academic writing, learning, and study skills from the Student Learning Commons, and graduate writing, research, and publishing skills from the Research Commons.

New graduate student space at Vancouver campus

In Fall 2021, SFU Library opened a new space for graduate students, faculty, and postdoctoral fellows at Vancouver campus, joining our popular Research Commons in Bennett Library. Providing services and expertise to users at all stages of the research process, the Research Commons fosters an empowered, collaborative, and transformative research culture across SFU. This new flexible, technology-enabled space will anchor and expand the Library's specialized programs and services at Vancouver campus, and includes spacious individual workstations, bookable group consultation rooms, flexible learning space, and areas for discussion and relaxation.



Students Mahindhar Kumar (left), Melissa Ho (middle) and Jaden Thom (right) are the 2021 winners of the SFU Library Mike McIntosh Undergraduate Awards.



The new Research Commons offers specialized spaces and services for graduate students and researchers at SFU's Vancouver campus.

WELCOMING (BACK)

For me the Research Commons at Harbour Centre has been exactly the resource I have needed to support me in bringing together various aspects of my practice as a scholar, sessional instructor, and grad student. The workshops, expert support, and meeting spaces have allowed me to carry forward and further my work with others, as well as individually.

- Melora Koepke
PhD candidate in Geography and instructor
in Geography and Semester in Dialogue

ENHANCING TEACHING + LEARNING

HIGHLIGHTS OF LIBRARY USAGE 2021-22



8,151
research and
learning consultations

Over
126
digital items accessed per
student, faculty and
staff member

Approx.
800
research, course and
subject guides

4.6mil
digital items used
(includes downloads
of articles, ebooks,
book chapters,
database searches)

3097
questions answered on
AskAway online chat



808
writing consultations
provided by WriteAway

1,027
workshops with
18,530
participants



32,196
views of instructional
videos on YouTube



Expanding recognition of diverse undergraduate writing

The Student Learning Commons Undergraduate Writing Contest celebrates undergraduate writing excellence across disciplines. As they entered the contest's fifth year, the organizers restructured the submission categories to invite even more student participation. The addition of a First Year category allows for submissions from first year, first semester students. This change was made based on feedback from students and professors from programs, like Engineering, that include writing-intensive courses early in the academic program. The new Plurilingual Prize recognizes the excellence of plurilingual writing, including incorporation of multiple languages or multiple forms of English into academic writing. Steve Marshall, a professor of education whose research focuses on plurilingualism and academic literacy in higher education described the prize as "groundbreaking and exciting." This year, sixteen exceptional undergraduate student papers were published across four categories, serving as samples of strong undergraduate writing that can be read and shared across SFU. "I am excited to go and apply my writing skills to real-world solutions," shared Mireta Strandberg-Salmon, first place winner of the Fourth Year+ category and recent Resource and Environmental Management graduate, "and will do so now with an extra bounce in my step."

Deepening understanding of Indigenous research methods

Four Indigenous researchers from across SFU, Alanaise Ferguson, Dorothy Cucw-la7 Christian, Lyana Patrick and Dara Kelly, shared their expertise in a new online speakers series, Indigenous Research Methods in Action. Over four sessions, the researchers spoke to 258 attendees about their experiences using Indigenous research methods in their work.

The featured speakers were: Alanaise Ferguson, an Anishinaabe psychologist and assistant professor in the counselling psychology program; Dorothy Cucw-la7 Christian, whose cultural roots are in Splotsin, one of the 17 communities of the Secwepemc Nation; Lyana Patrick, Dakelh from the Stellat'en First Nation and Acadian/Scottish and an assistant professor in health sciences; and Dara Kelly from the Leq'á:mel First Nation, part of the Stó:lō Nation, and an assistant professor in business. The Library is grateful to Elder Margaret George for opening and engaging in each of the events. The Library also expresses thanks to these four researchers for generously sharing their time and expertise.

Unique hands-on learning in the Media and Maker Commons

TEKX 101 offers experiential learning opportunities for SFU students inside the Media and Maker Commons (MMC), a collaborative, hands-on makerspace inside Bennett Library. Designed specifically for non-engineering students by Dr. Juan Ferrer, a lecturer in engineering, the popular course provides foundational knowledge and skills for students new to using 3D printing and scanning technologies. Throughout their scaffolded assignments, students can select, scan, and design their own 3D prints, giving them freedom to experiment with and customize their projects. "I really appreciated that we didn't lose marks if our print didn't work," shared a student who took the course in Spring 2022. "It doesn't discourage me from 3D printing but instead, encourages me to improve the best I can. ... I loved the hands-on nature of the assignments and the fact that we could work on them at our own time and pace." Supporting students with the software and technology throughout the course, the makerspace librarian, Mikael Kriz, also finds that many of them become regular users of the MMC's 3D printers and other technologies.

"I have found AskAway to be extremely useful and I rely on this service so much. The research experts are always very kind and helpful — I owe a lot to them. Thank you."

—SFU undergraduate student

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The UGRS gave me a taste of presenting science to the public. Specifically, it gave me a better understanding of why science communication is sometimes considered challenging. It's now something that I keep in mind moving forward.

- SFU student and presenter at the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium

Poster exhibition in Bennett Library featuring student research, part of the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Showcasing undergraduate research

The 5th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (UGRS), coordinated by SFU Library in partnership with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, celebrates undergraduate research excellence. More than 60 students from across disciplines created research posters which were presented live at the Symposium, displayed in Bennett Library, and published in the open access journal. The poster exhibition in Bennett Library was a new opportunity for 2022 participants, expanding the visibility of undergraduate research beyond the symposium event. The *Undergraduate Research Symposium Journal*, hosted on the open access software Open Journal Systems, provides a permanent record of the student research, and also enables students to gain experience with research activities such as open access publishing and peer-reviewed journal submissions. One student shared: "I hope it will raise awareness to the kind of research that is possible at SFU and allow more students to take advantage of that in their undergraduate degrees."

Making an impact beyond the university

Over its two and a half years, SFU's Knowledge Mobilization (KM) Hub has been inspiring action and building capacity for researchers to engage the wider community in knowledge exchange and sharing research. In addition to holding in-depth consultations and popular skill-building workshops, the KM Hub launched a story series in collaboration with SFU News to showcase SFU researchers' KM activities and approaches. Additionally, in summer 2021, the KM Hub's weeklong summer institute enabled graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from across disciplines to learn directly from experts in the field about how to communicate with a policy audience.

The impact of the KM Hub's expertise is also evident in the \$3.4 million in funding awarded to research proposals supported by the KM Officer, Lupin Battersby. "Thanks also for helping me understand KM and iKM much better, setting me up for more successful applications in the future and more effective research output!" shared Sonya Cressman, a professor of health sciences.

Building non-fiction writing expertise with Eternity Martis

Eternity Martis joined SFU Library in the spring semester as the second Non-Fiction Writer in Residence. An award-winning journalist and author of the bestselling memoir, *They Said This Would Be Fun: Race, Campus Life, and Growing Up*, Martis offered a program of well-attended virtual events, workshops, and consultations to support the SFU community's non-fiction writing for public audiences. Topics included pitching to media outlets, drafting non-fiction book proposals, and writing about topics such as trauma and violence. "Thanks to Eternity and SFU Library for such an excellent lineup of events!" one attendee shared. "So many great insights. I look forward to applying some in my own work."

Eternity Martis (left) in conversation with journalist and author Kamal Al-Solaylee (middle) and undergraduate student moderator Emily Lam (right) at the Non-Fiction Writer in Residence launch event. ▼



Key support for graduate student theses

As part of their degree requirements, most SFU graduate students complete a thesis or extended essay that is made openly accessible through SFU's research repository, Summit. To assist with preparing theses for Summit, SFU Library's Theses Office team provides critical and timely support for students through in-depth consultations and workshops. In addition, as graduate students increasingly look at unconventional and novel ways of presenting their research, or incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing, the team helps identify ways to enable students to present their research authentically, while still allowing readers to readily access their work. One graduate student shared how vital these services were at such a key point in the graduate student experience: "Every single thesis-related support I accessed more than surpassed my expectations. All of the staff were supportive, knowledgeable, available, clear, and caring. I felt recognized as a whole human, with physical, intellectual, and emotional needs and those needs were recognized and supported through the stress marathon that was researching and writing a thesis during a pandemic."

Preserving information on SFU's COVID-19 response

Seeking to document SFU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the major shifts in operations at the university and the Library, Janice Banser, Digital and Web Services Librarian, started [the SFU COVID-19 web archive](#) collection in March 2020. The collection, which continues to grow, includes more than 80 pages of web content, containing almost 700,000 unique items of data, including updates from the university president, the Library's swift change to online services, COVID-19 research efforts, and information about the impacts on students. Given increased interest in digital research and tools that support text and data mining, this web archive is a valuable primary source of information about the university during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growing our online collections

New scholarly electronic resources added to our collection over the past year include:

- Bloomsbury Design Library
- Project Muse 2022 eBook collection
- Policy Commons
- SAGE Skills: Business
- Periodicals Archive Online
- Wiley's Evidence-Based Acquisition eBook collection

Expansive Indigenous literature collection

The Hartmut Lutz Collection of Indigenous Literature was generously gifted to SFU Library's Special Collections and Rare Books in 2018, significantly expanding our collection of 20th century Indigenous literature. Centering Indigenous voices and authors, the collection includes over 1500 works for adults and children in multiple languages and includes fiction, storytelling, poetry, criticism, and biography. Dr. Lutz amassed his library over the course of his academic career which lasted almost 50 years. "It is [an] act of tremendous generosity that at the moment of his retirement he decided to return this book collection to Canada," shared Deanna Reder, professor in Indigenous studies and English.

Special Collections library assistant Ewa Delanowski has been applying a modified version of the Brian Deer Classification system to this collection in collaboration with Indigenous Initiatives librarian Ashley Edwards. The Brian Deer Classification System prioritizes Indigenous subjects, communities, and worldviews, ensuring that the materials are organized and accessible in a way that reflects the uniqueness of the collection. This invaluable collection of Indigenous literature will continue to be of significant interest to students and scholars in English, history, publishing, Indigenous studies, and many other disciplines.

GROWING COLLECTIONS AND CAPACITY

The Lutz collection is a tremendous legacy, a rich resource that can be used by a future generation of researchers.

- Deanna Reder,
Associate Professor,
Indigenous Studies and English

A selection of books in the Hartmut Lutz Indigenous Literature Collection.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Bringing geospatial knowledge into the community

Deepening our commitment to public engagement, SFU Library partnered on two community events that drew on librarian expertise to share information about geospatial data and tools. The first event, a collaboration with Coquitlam Public Library, offered an introduction to GIS (geographic information systems), while the second, Mapping Equity, offered a hands-on workshop on creating thematic maps that make social and demographic inequities visible, as part of SFU Public Square's 2021 Community Summit, Towards Equity. Designed and delivered by Sarah Zhang, Librarian for Geography, GIS, and Maps, both workshops addressed the need to make GIS education for the public more available and equitable. The sessions were positively received by the participants, one of whom said: "I feel like I learnt so much in such a short period of time! I want to do more." Another shared: "I am inspired to begin creating a GIS map of my own neighborhood."

New institutional partnerships expand reach for community scholars

Since 2016, SFU Library's Community Scholars Program has provided staff members in charitable and non-profit organizations in BC with access to online paywalled scholarship and research support from the Community Scholars Librarian, Heather De Forest. Over the last few years, new partnerships with University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and University of Fraser Valley have enabled the program to offer localized librarian expertise and expanded access to the latest research and knowledge for scholars and practitioners working in communities across the province. The expanded partnerships also allow for deeper relationships between librarians and community scholars, ensuring that needs and gaps can be meaningfully addressed and the program can continue to improve.

In Spring 2022, the MISinformation exhibit at Fraser Library on SFU's Surrey campus showcased posters on misinformation designed by students in a first year Interactive Arts and Technology class.

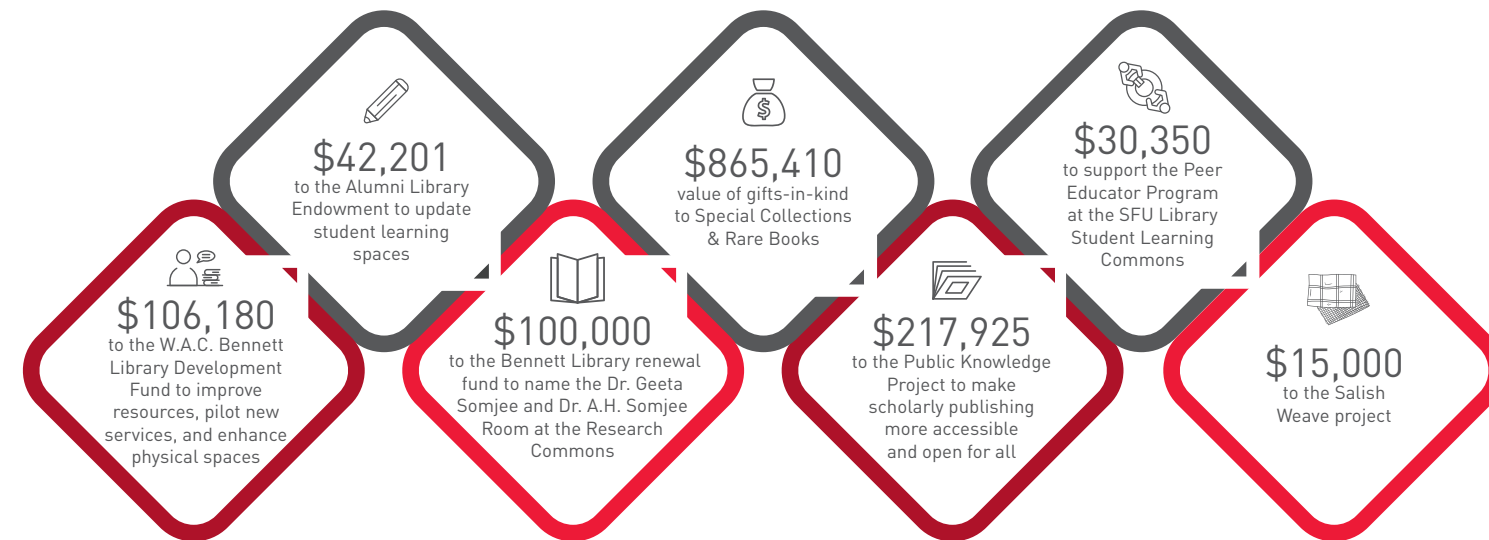


BUILDING THE FUTURE

In 2021-22, **416** generous donors contributed

\$1,487,760

in support of the SFU Library including:



EXPANSIVE ACCESS AND PROGRAMMING

4.85M

visits to the website

500

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

34

events from our Knowledge Mobilization Hub with

1106

participants

\$333,523

awarded through the Open Access Fund to fund **155** articles by SFU authors

570

attendees of the Celebration of SFU Authors, One Book One SFU, and Dean's Lecture on Information + Society

215

participants in our Non-Fiction Writer in Residence events

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