



# SFU LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2019/2020

SFU LIBRARY



Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, Professor in the Beedie School of Business, ►  
keynote speaker at the Celebration of SFU Authors

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SFU Library's Numbers at a Glance



2019 Celebration of Authors at SFU Library



Opening of the Media and Maker Commons at Bennett Library

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It has been another remarkable year of growth and change at SFU Library. A highlight of the past year was the launch of the new Media and Maker Commons in Bennett Library. We celebrated with a formal launch in January 2020. The space immediately filled with students eager to use the 3D printers, podcasting, audiovisual and virtual reality studios, laser cutter, antique letterpress, sewing machines, and other equipment. Walking through this busy space on any given day illustrates the reality that research libraries are now sites of knowledge production and great creativity, alongside the more traditional role of providing access to formally published scholarship.

Another highlight of the year was finalizing the [master space plan](#) that will guide a comprehensive renovation of W.A.C. Bennett Library in the years to come. After thorough consultation with the community, we were pleased to present an exciting plan to guide the transformation of this building into a contemporary space for serious study, contemplation, creation, and learning.

The year ended strangely in mid-March when all instruction at SFU transitioned to remote and we closed our library buildings on short notice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedicated and flexible library team adapted impressively, highlighting our robust electronic collections and moving many services online in just days.

I hope you will enjoy this report featuring a selection of our activities from the past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwen Bird'.



Gwen Bird, Dean of Libraries



# WELCOME TO THE SFU LIBRARY

## *Open for research Open for learning Open for collaboration*

SFU Library continues to provide welcoming, inclusive spaces and services, both online and in-person at our three locations: 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 the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we helped to advance academic and research excellence across SFU through our highly used research and learning services, our rich and robust collections, and our dynamic research and community partnerships. Our new Media and Maker Commons extends our capacity to cultivate exploration, creativity, and learning. As leaders in open access and knowledge mobilization, we're proud to be the home of SFU's new Knowledge Mobilization Hub, which helps disseminate research to public audiences.

Our welcoming and innovative spaces, services, and initiatives are core to SFU Library's values of openness, diversity, and creativity, and serve to enhance learning, foster creativity, and advance research at SFU and beyond.



Early in 2020, SFU Library welcomed authors Esi Edugyan and Omar El Akkad for One Book One SFU. The onstage energy and enlightening conversation drew enthusiastic feedback from the audience, and one attendee shared that they loved the "feeling of intimacy, like listening in on a brilliant conversation between friends."

During the year, we partnered on events and initiatives with collaborators on campus and in the community, including with Vancouver Public Library, Burnaby Art Gallery, and UBC Library. In one highlight, we furthered our collaboration with SFU Galleries by curating reading materials to accompany their exhibitions. We were delighted to recognize the contributions and creativity of the SFU community in our Celebration of SFU Authors in early March 2020, and to support other vibrant conversations on writing and creativity through our partnerships with the Vancouver Writers Fest and the Indian Summer Festival.



"The collection has been curated with dedication and appreciation for the workers who built this province, and provides a visual display that brings British Columbia's rich labour history to life. It helped us to highlight the work we do to preserve and promote this heritage, and labour leaders & activists present were excited to see their history reflected in the collection."

Bailey Garden, Project Manager,  
BC Labour Heritage Centre

# WE BUILD CAPACITY

Union pins and buttons from the David Yorke Collection

## LABOUR HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

Tactile items such as union membership pins, dues buttons, convention ribbons, and memorial pins are just some of the materials in the David Yorke Collection of SFU Library's Special Collections and Rare Books. The collection focuses on the labour history of the Lower Mainland, though it also includes material from across Canada, the US, the UK, and France. Retired lawyer and SFU alumnus David Yorke began donating items from his personal collection of labour history as in-kind gifts to SFU Library in 2017. "I hope that the collection serves as a witness to the labour movement," Yorke said. "It reflects how much energy and commitment was necessary to build the unions and how much is necessary to keep them going." The materials supplement existing union and labour history collections in Special Collections, and support SFU's Labour Studies program, as well as researchers in other disciplines and in the community.

"Placing SFU Library at the centre of efforts to enhance the university's commitment to knowledge mobilization is innovative in the Canadian university landscape. It has been exciting for me to be part of this impressive effort and to see first-hand how dedicated members of SFU Library are to supporting researchers like myself."

## GETTING RESEARCH INTO COMMUNITIES

A commitment to community-engaged research is at the centre of this year's launch of the Knowledge Mobilization Hub. Located in the Research Commons in SFU Library, this partnership between the Library and SFU's Office of the Vice-President, Research, supports students and faculty across SFU in communicating and disseminating their research beyond academia. Dr. Valorie Crooks is SFU's Strategic Lead for Knowledge Mobilization. "Simon Fraser University is committed to enhancing its support of knowledge mobilization, and SFU Library is central to this vision," she said. This collaboration facilitates training and learning opportunities for SFU researchers, and supports integrating and implementing knowledge mobilization strategies that enable communities to understand and make use of the research.



Dr. Valorie Crooks, Professor in the Department of Geography and SFU's Strategic Lead for Knowledge Mobilization

## CRITICAL INTEGRATED ONLINE CLASSROOM SUPPORT

In 2019, the Library designed a learning module to introduce key research and writing skills to students who have English as an Additional Language. It was developed to support the Cornerstone program at Fraser International College (FIC), which is located on the SFU Burnaby campus and focuses on English language and academic skills that students need to transfer into SFU programs.

SFU Library staff replaced one-time in-class workshops with a self-paced online module, in which relevant and timely instruction, support, and opportunities to practice, interact, and reflect can be integrated with the FIC course curriculum. "The whole team behind this project has absolutely enhanced the learning opportunity of all Cornerstone students," shared Jerry Block, the FIC Cornerstone Program Coordinator, "and has better engaged students in the process."

After a Fall pilot session, the program launched in eight Cornerstone classes in Spring 2020, bringing this enhanced learning experience to approximately 200 students.

## STUDENTS SHARE STORIES OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS

In January, the Student Learning Commons hosted “How I Raised My GPA,” an event featuring a panel of six SFU students and recent graduates who shared their experiences in the classroom, as well as strategies and tips for their fellow students. The response to this event was extremely positive – attendees and panelists stayed for an additional hour to continue asking questions and sharing stories. “I liked the multiple perspectives and panel format,” said one student who attended. “I learned general study tips and received encouragement. I really appreciate this type of event!” The Student Learning Commons is continuing to host student panels to offer more opportunities for students to share academic challenges and achievements and to encourage peer-to-peer learning.

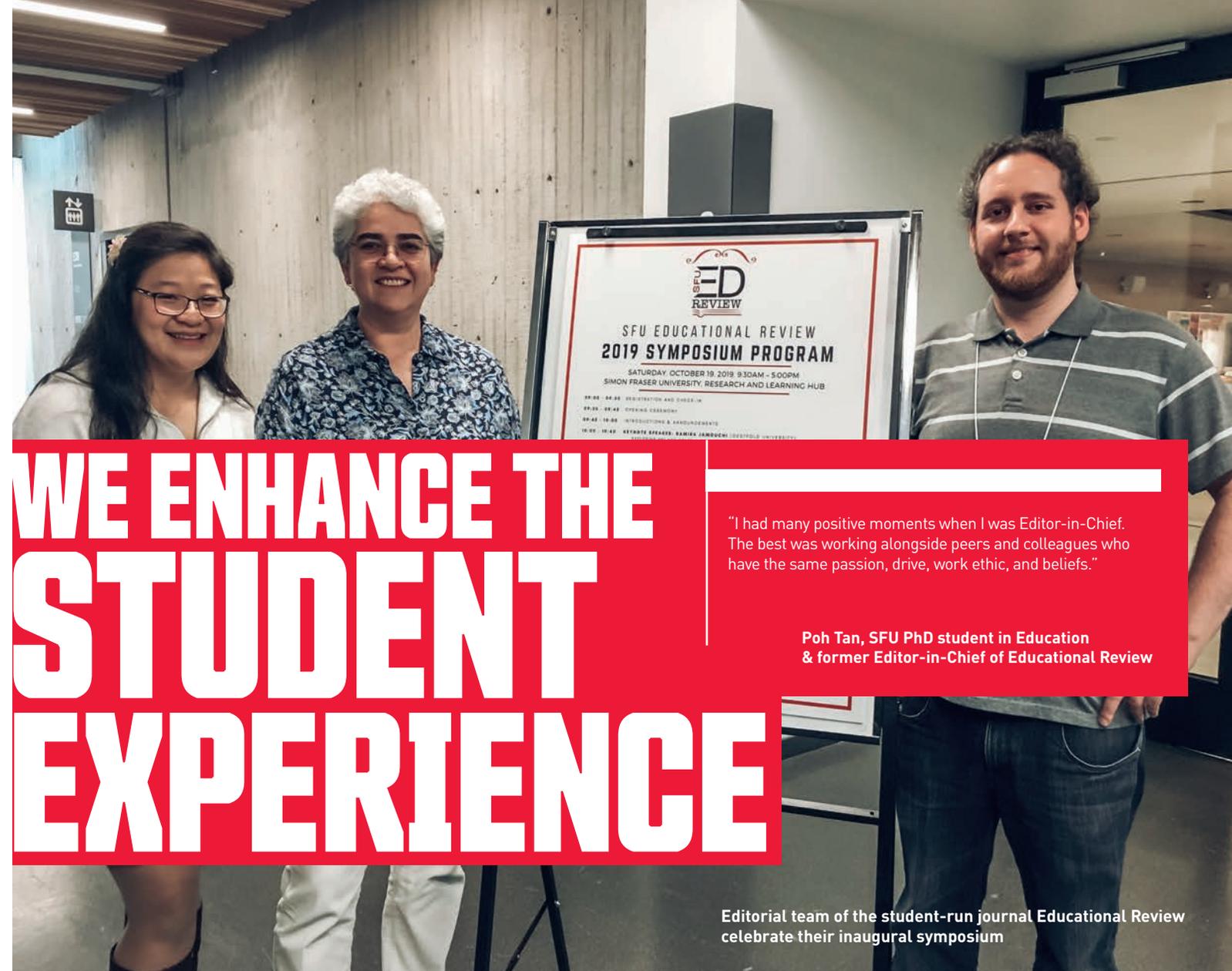
## ENGAGING STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Librarians in SFU Library partnered with a faculty member in the Faculty of Applied Sciences to develop and deliver a unit for upper division students to improve their ability to find and evaluate sources, and to engage in critical thinking. In alignment with SFU Library's Instruction Plan, this learning unit included a workshop and set of assignments, which required more than 120 students to review information sources and critically assess the authority of the authors and their chosen publication venues. One student noted that finding sources is “a skill that requires practice and careful attention.” Another student reflected on their own research strategies: “I learned to be more aware of what I am reading and where I am reading it from.” This learning unit is an innovative and promising model of collaboration between librarians and faculty for enhancing student learning.

## PUBLISHING STUDENT-RUN OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

In early 2020, the editorial team of the student-run journal Educational Review, based in SFU's Faculty of Education, celebrated their inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals. This achievement, supported and championed by SFU Library's Digital Publishing team, was part of the students' efforts to ensure the journal's ongoing sustainability and quality.

Educational Review is hosted on Open Journal Systems (OJS), an open source software used around the world and developed by Public Knowledge Project, whose administrative home is at SFU Library. The Library offers training and expertise in using OJS for SFU instructors developing course journals that showcase student work, researchers establishing open access journals, and students contributing to student-run journals. By championing OJS and online scholarship, Digital Publishing enables the SFU community to publish open access, advance knowledge mobilization, and engage students' learning and creativity.



# WE ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

“I had many positive moments when I was Editor-in-Chief. The best was working alongside peers and colleagues who have the same passion, drive, work ethic, and beliefs.”

Poh Tan, SFU PhD student in Education & former Editor-in-Chief of Educational Review

“I liked that panelists discussed and shared relatable experiences in topics like mental health, doing poorly on exams, not knowing what to do with school/career decisions. Excellent advice from the panelists!”

Student attendee





"I designed then I became the instructor of TEKX 101, a new 3D printing and 3D scanning course. The course is oriented to students without traditional mathematics, engineering, or technical education. The staff at the MMC provides excellent support by offering hands-on training to students. This makes a great addition to the learning experience, as it provides the hands-on practice needed to support what we discuss in lectures."

Dr. Juan Ferrer, TEKX 101 Instructor

# WE COLLABORATE

3D scanning in the Media and Maker Commons

## CREATIVITY SHINES IN THE MAKERSPACE

The SFU Library's Media and Maker Commons (MMC) celebrated its opening in January. This collaborative, hands-on learning space includes 3D printers and scanners, studios for video, audio and virtual reality, and other tools and technologies.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members eagerly visited for tours, consultations, and training. One Contemporary Arts course used the laser cutter to create and assemble an intricate prop for their stage production. Meanwhile, students from the Passport to Leadership program recorded podcasts in the MMC's audio studio. "Without exception, the students had an incredibly positive experience," said Helena Fehr, Student Development Educator. "It was both exciting to witness the process and to listen to the final product."

Dr. Juan Ferrer taught the Applied Sciences course TEKX 101 in the MMC and noted that after the course, students were "still going to the MMC regularly to work on personal projects or to learn how to use other technologies, such as laser engraving or recording and editing presentations." These innovative spaces, tools, and training enable SFU students and researchers to make, create, prototype, and play.

## CONNECTING WITH THE INDIGENOUS STUDENT CENTRE

In 2018, SFU Library designated one of the Library's group study rooms for use by the Indigenous Student Centre (ISC), whose students needed a safe and dedicated place to study and connect after the ISC closed for the day. This is just one of the ongoing collaborations between the Library and the ISC, which also includes regular drop-in writing sessions; offering customized workshops on writing, learning, and research in the ISC; and hosting tours and events in the Library. In one of the year's highlights, ISC students and staff toured the brand new Media and Maker Commons and joined a "kitchen table" conversation with Library staff from the Decolonizing the Library Task Group. These collaborations help to foster relationships, build trust, and directly support Indigenous students across campus.



## PARTNERING WITH FACULTY ON DIGITAL PROJECTS

SFU Library's Digital Humanities Innovation Lab (DHIL) fosters interdisciplinarity and collaboration, and advances digital scholarship through training and consultation. The DHIL also partners with SFU researchers on projects ranging from digital exhibitions to interactive maps. This year's collaborators include Dr. Leith Davis, Professor of English, whose "Reconstructing Early Circus" project establishes a database of performances, and Dr. Frédéric Lesage, Associate Professor in the School of Communication, who traces YouTube communication practices in "The Photoshop Inscription Project."

Dr. Lesage shared that the DHIL has "continued to perfect an approach to research that is practical yet still open-ended enough to lead to innovation and exploration." Dr. Davis' experience was similar: "The process of working with the DHIL personnel really made me think differently about the kinds of research that I want to do and the methods I can use to share knowledge."

DHIL Co-Directors Dr. Michelle Levy (left) and Dr. Colette Colligan (right), both Professors in the English Department, are stepping back from their roles this coming year. SFU Library is grateful for their collaborative partnership and their significant contributions to developing and coordinating the DHIL since 2016.

# SFU LIBRARY'S NUMBERS AT A GLANCE



Students at Belzberg Library, SFU Vancouver

## DISCOVERING THE LIBRARY

**3.89 mil** visits to the SFU Library website

**1.49mil** in person visits to all SFU Library branches

**19,143** square metres of space

**256** total open hours per week

## ADVANCING LEARNING + RESEARCH

**8,103** consultations with Library staff

**1,437** workshops offered

**\$245,896** awarded by the Open Access Fund to fund 123 articles by SFU authors

**27,500** individuals attended workshops offered by the Library



**426** computer workstations



**2,109** seats for individual and group study



## ENDURING + RESPONSIVE COLLECTIONS

**10.2mil** online items



**3.1mil** physical items



**67,991** electronic subscriptions



**6.82mil** digital items used (includes downloads of articles, e-books, book chapters, database searches)

**over 200** digital items accessed per student, faculty, and staff member

**281,965** physical items borrowed

**5251** InterLibrary Loans delivered to users

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2019-20, 341 generous donors contributed

**\$1.81 mil** in support of the SFU Library

Donor support enables SFU Library to enhance and expand our collections, spaces, and initiatives to help students and researchers succeed.

**\$629,841** in gifts in kind to Special Collections

**\$118,280** for the W.A.C. Bennett Library Development Fund to improve resources, pilot new services, and enhance physical spaces

**\$44,276** to the Alumni Library Endowment to update learning spaces

**\$9,100** to the Ralph J. Stanton & Sabine F. Mabardi Rare Book Endowment Fund to build and grow our Special Collections



# CONNECT WITH US

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We acknowledge the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəʔəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish),  
Səlilwataʔ (Tseil-Waututh), ḡíćəʔ (Katzie), and k<sup>w</sup>ik<sup>w</sup>əʔləm (Kwikwetlem) Nations and  
peoples on whose ancestral and unceded lands the three SFU Library branches are located.



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**SFU LIBRARY**