

# SFU W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY MASTER SPACE PLAN





Located in the centre of the Burnaby Campus, the W.A.C. Bennett Library is an active campus partner supporting the learning, research and community engagement goals of Simon Fraser University.









## CONTENTS

01 Executive Summary	2
02 Introduction	5
03 Masterplan Methodology	9
04 Outcomes	12
05 Renewal Highlights	17
06 Phasing	20
07 Campus Master Plan Coordination	24
08 Appendices	25







A NEW CONNECTION FROM THE NORTH CAMPUS TO CONVOCATION MALL



# 01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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SFU has the opportunity to transform the W.A.C. Bennett Library into an inspiring learning and research hub for future generations of students and faculty.

Located in the centre of the Burnaby Campus, the W.A.C. Bennett Library is viewed by the campus community as a place of knowledge discovery, creation, and exchange; a central hub where students and faculty connect across communities to collections, research tools, and expertise.

Supporting faculty and students across all disciplines on the Burnaby Campus, the Library is open 350 days a year, 100 hours a week, 24/7 for exams, and averages 3,750 visitors a day, and nearly double that at peak periods. Unlike other institutions, the Bennett Library is the only library on the Burnaby campus, serving all graduate, undergraduate, and faculty needs.

The SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan has identified the W.A.C. Bennett Library as part of the historic campus core, and one of the ensemble of iconic buildings at the heart of the Burnaby campus to be celebrated and preserved.

Constructed over 50 years ago, the Library's systems and infrastructure are in need of a significant half-life upgrade to create a safe and environmentally sustainable building. With these upgrades SFU has the opportunity to transform the Library into an inspiring learning and research hub for future generations of students and faculty, one that enables discovery, enhances learning, engages research, and fosters, respects and sustains our community.

## Enabling Discovery and Preservation

Electronic information and digital tools create an increasingly open learning and research environment. The Library connects the physical and digital world and makes it easy to discover, evaluate, analyze and share information. To ensure information is available to future generations, the Library preserves scholarly and cultural materials, encompassing both physical

and born-digital objects. The renovation will allow **modern displays, efficient storage**, and a state-of-the-art **digitization lab**. Space for Special Collections and Rare Books will be doubled, with **secure archival storage, a new conservation lab**, and a **dedicated teaching lab**.

## Enhancing Learning

Valuing social collaboration and peer-to-peer contact, today's learners see themselves as authors of their academic journey, one they design rather than passively accept. Through hands-on exploration and peer-led experiential learning, students and researchers will develop the literacies needed to navigate complex digital environments. The renovated Library will be technology-rich and will more than double the current learning space with inviting **social spaces, many collaboration rooms, inspirational study spaces, expanded student learning commons, innovative media and maker commons, and new learning labs**. The landscape of unique spaces – quiet, loud, focused, dynamic – will support students in becoming highly qualified lifelong learners and engaged citizens.

## Engaging Research

Emerging technologies, computational tools, and data have enabled researchers to ask new questions and explore new methods. The new **faculty commons, visualization lab, digital scholarship centre**, and a much expanded **research commons**, will connect emerging research agendas with the Library's expertise in data and information discovery, analysis, visualization, management, and preservation. These new research spaces will foster collaboration and interaction across disciplines, and support the development and dissemination of high-quality research and the exploration of new forms of scholarship.



### Respecting Indigenous Cultures

At Simon Fraser University, we live and work on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wəta4 (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As a step on the path of Reconciliation, Indigenous communities will be consulted on how to best reflect Indigenous heritage and serve Indigenous needs in the building.

### Fostering Community

The Library respects and values diversity, and engages our community by creating and hosting vibrant programs in interdisciplinary, shared spaces like the planned **learning and events room**. Using design, adaptive technology, staff presence, way finding, interpretive elements, and diverse workspaces, the revitalized Library will provide **universal accessibility**, connecting people with their own health and natural surroundings.

### Sustaining Support

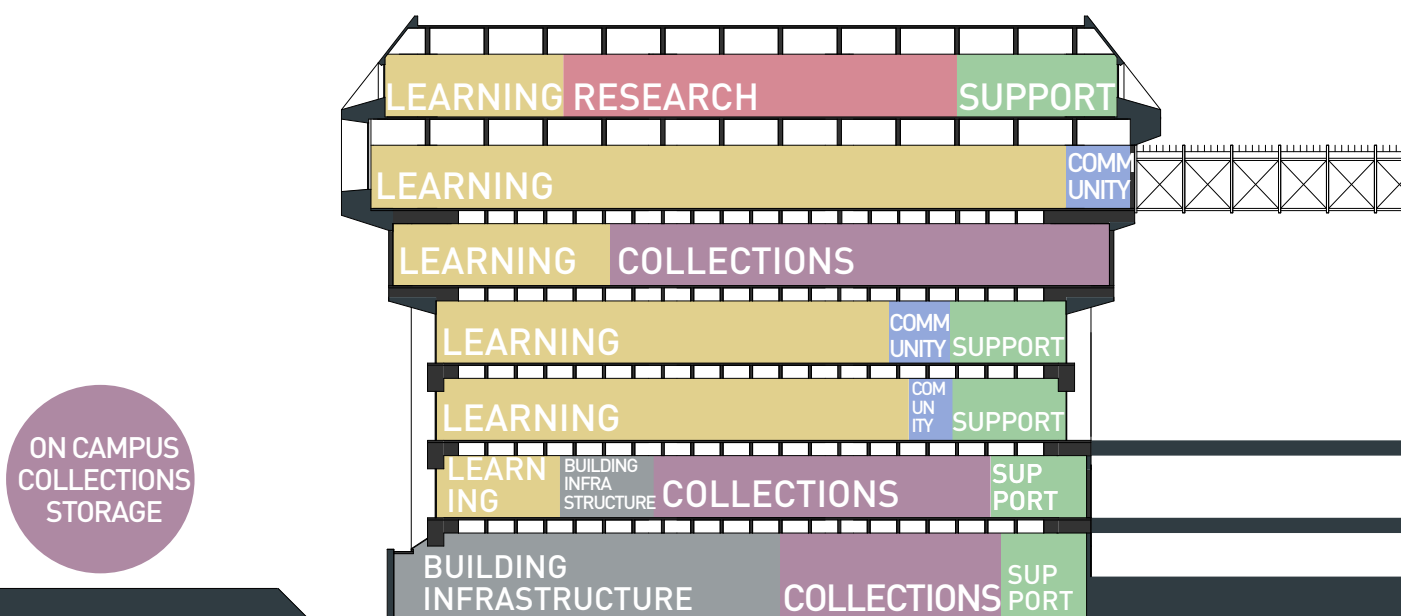
**Inclusive, healthy and flexible** support areas enhance Library operations. **Consolidating** support areas adjacent to service points will allow efficient use of space and save employee time. **Collocating** staff who work most closely together will encourage collaboration.

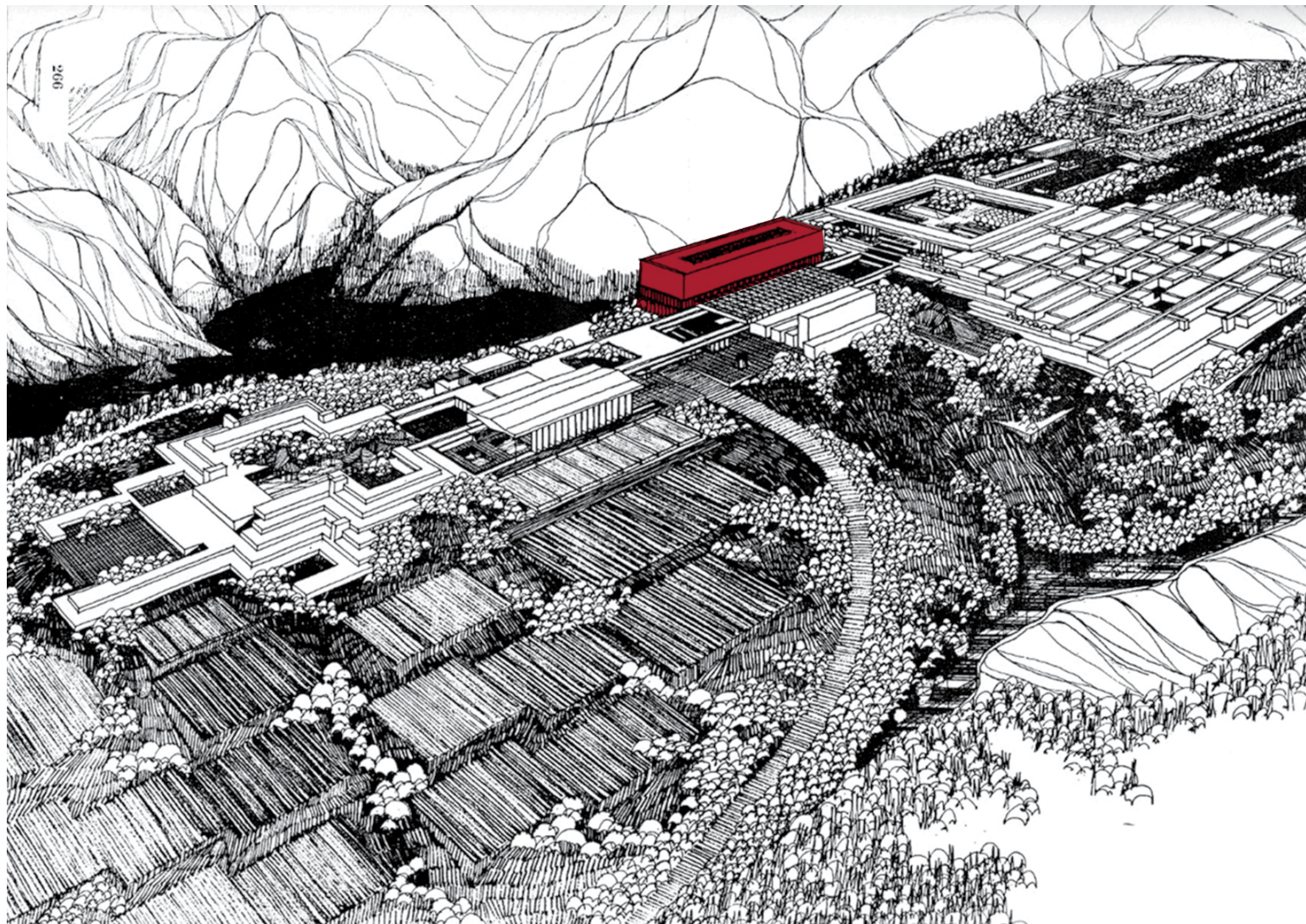
### Planning Process

The planning process began with a high level feasibility study for the renewal of the W.A.C. Bennett Library to meet current code and safety requirements, address its deferred maintenance (see Appendix), and was continued by a master planning process to reimagine the functional layout of the building. An Advisory Committee of University stakeholders and a Working Committee of Planning and Library employees were established to guide the process. To imagine a possibility for a more innovative, forward looking library, the planning team undertook a robust stakeholder engagement process. They reviewed current best practices in the design of academic research libraries; analyzed community demand data; gathered input from faculty, students, and employees through stakeholder workshops, open houses, surveys, and focus groups; and developed a building programme and spatial organization.

### Phased approach

The Master Space Plan has identified a first phase of work to include the necessary structural and systems upgrades as well as comprehensive programmatic renovations to the interior of the existing building. As the planned functional programme cannot be fully accommodated in this phase, a second phase expansion will consolidate the collection, increase space for research, and meet benchmark targets for student learning space.





**30,000**

STUDENTS

**3,000,000**

VOLUMES

**120,000**

ALUMNI

**10,000,000**

DIGITAL FILES

**6,500**

FACULTY  
AND STAFF

**98,000**

JOURNAL  
SUBSCRIPTIONS



# 02 INTRODUCTION

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Rather than being a specific design, a master plan consists of performance criteria that guides future renovations.

A master plan is a nimble road map for the adaptation of a building in order to respond to future need, campus evolution, and relevant trends in education. Rather than being a specific design, a master plan consists of performance criteria for spatial relationships, systems improvements, programme allocations, and growth projections. This criteria will guide future renovations.

Constructed over 50 years ago, the W.A.C. Bennett Library's systems and infrastructure are in need of a significant half-life upgrade to create a healthy and environmentally sustainable building. With these upgrades SFU has the opportunity to transform the library into an inspiring learning and research hub for future generations of students and faculty.

This report is complimented by appended documents:

- i. "W.A.C. Bennett Library Building Space Report February 14, 2017"
- ii. "Feasibility Study Base Building Renewal + Program Changes W.A.C. Bennett Library Building January 24, 2017" by Hlynsky + Davis Architects Inc.
- iii "SFU W.A.C. Bennett Library Load Review, June 12, 2014" by Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd.

## General background

Simon Fraser University is located on Canada's west coast in British Columbia. It opened September 9, 1965 with 2,500 students. Noted Canadian architects Arthur Erickson and Geoffrey Massey designed the original Burnaby Mountain Campus to foster interdisciplinary contact between students and researchers. That same openness and desire to innovate informs SFU's current vision: to be Canada's

most community-engaged research university.

The University now extends to three distinct campuses (Burnaby, Surrey, and downtown Vancouver), used by 30,000 students, 6,500 faculty and staff, 120,000 alumni. SFU is consistently ranked among Canada's top universities in major national and global ranking systems, including Maclean's, Times Higher Education, and QS World University Rankings.

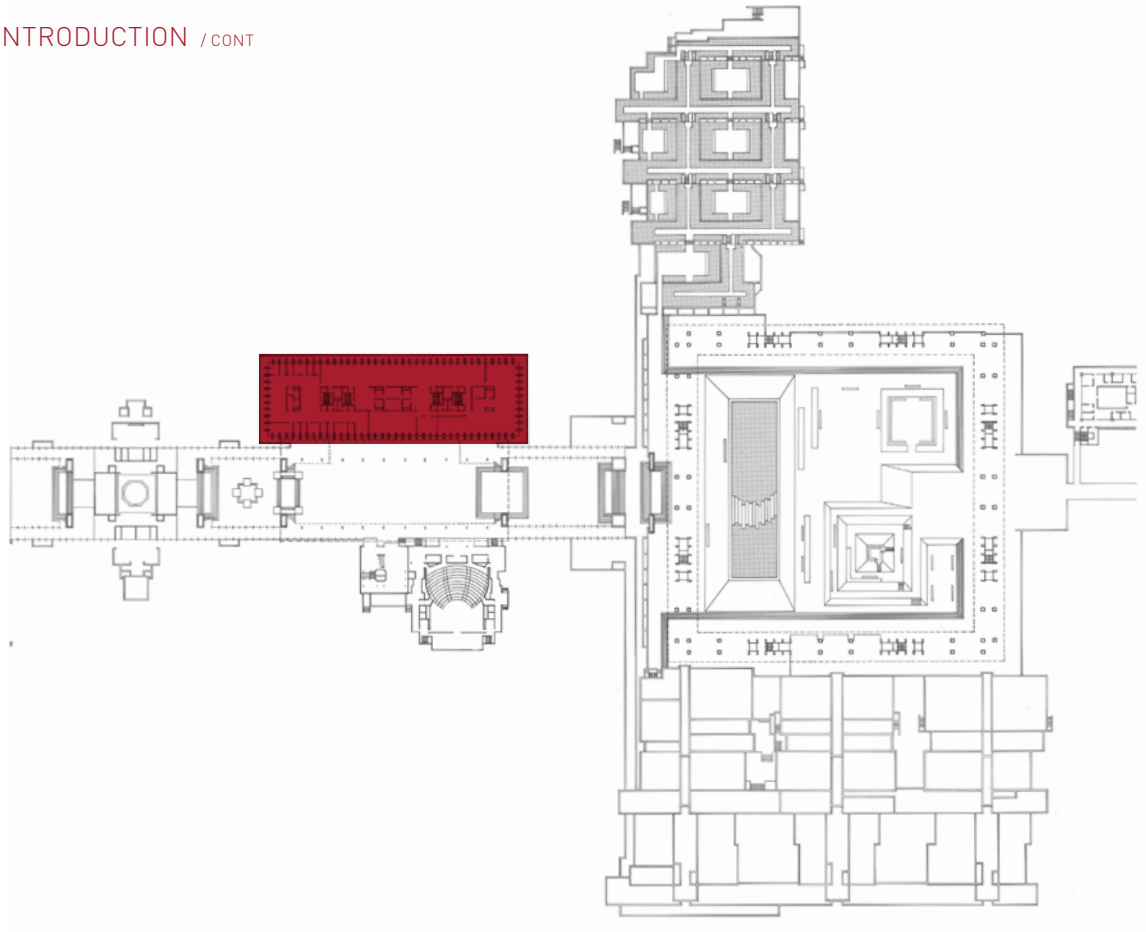
## Library Context at SFU

The W.A.C. Bennett Library is an active learning place, supporting teaching and learning needs and enhancing the student experience overall. Library research assistance and technical support are provided both in person and through online help. Support for the enhancement of writing and learning skills is provided through the Student Learning Commons.

The library plays a central role in SFU's research enterprise. Librarians provide a broad range of specialized subject support to students and faculty. The Research Commons provides a hub for supporting graduate students and advanced undergraduates pursuing research and academic development agendas. The library offers a variety of services and supports for digital scholarship and research data management. The Digitization Lab supports the digitization needs of faculty and the library's extensive digital collections.

SFU library is also noted for its technological innovation, developing software such as reSearcher and the Public Knowledge Project suite, and other collaborative, open-source initiatives.

Located in the centre of the Burnaby Campus, the W.A.C. Bennett Library is dedicated to providing



access to collections, services and facilities of the highest possible quality in support of the learning, research and community engagement goals of Simon Fraser University.

The library houses a physical collection of 3 million volumes comprised of books, journals, microforms, media and maps. Special Collections and Rare Books is home to a broad range of unique content, including book arts, print culture, manuscripts and papers of significant literary and public figures. The library's rapidly growing electronic collection includes 98,000 journal subscriptions, close to 10 million digital files and an expansive collection of maps and datasets.

#### **Library context compared with other research libraries**

Many research libraries are making a shift from 'storage-centered' to 'learner-centered.' In spite of the high level of student uptake of SFU Library services, the overall student experience is currently falling short when compared to other Canadian research libraries. Put simply, there is not enough space in the library for students. The number of seats provided in the library, in proportion to the number of full time equivalent students on campus, is among the lowest of research libraries in the country. Students

seeking ways to engage with the library, and all of the services it offers, need places to work alone and in groups with a variety of support infrastructure.

#### **Historic building preservation**

The W.A.C. Bennett Library is 23,000 GSM and is in poor condition with a current Facilities Condition Index assessment of 1.00 (where Facility Condition Index = \$ Value of Deferred Maintenance + Capital Renewal needed to return buildings to original condition / the Current Replacement Value). The building contains the campus wide boiler heating plant infrastructure and has not been significantly modified since two floors were added in 1976. It now requires a major infrastructure upgrade to extend the life of the building and to address life safety, seismic, and accessibility issues.

The W.A.C. Bennett Library was designed by Robert Harrison, Architect and forms an integral part of the campus composition. The campus consists of a grouping of elongated blocks of buildings running parallel to the campus east west axis. The academic quad is the climax of the composition and the library block is the principal building accent. It is widely recognized as part of the vision that defines the heart of the academic campus.





# IN THE CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES, WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT BENNETT?

Busy

Interdisciplinary  
hub

inclusive

Digital

Student-  
focussed.  
(less used by faculty)

RESEARCH +  
SL  
COMMONS

RESPECTED

SERVICE-  
ORIENTED

siloed  
(SPATIAL).  
LOT OF SERVICE POINTS

FORWARD-  
LOOKING

Multi-Lingual  
(STUDENTS)

User-centred

FARSI + SPANISH,  
CANTONESE @  
COUNTER.

CONCRETE

UNIQUE ARCH.

NO A/C

DIVERSE

+ COLD IN  
WINTER.

NO FOOD SERVICE  
AVAILABLE.

POOR WIRELESS  
- ISSUES W. OLD  
BLDG.



# 03 MASTERPLAN METHODOLOGY

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Changes will take place in two phases, and enable the Bennett Library to meet the needs of the SFU community today + tomorrow.

## A. VISION PROCESS

The Vision Process began in 2016 with the retention of Hlynsky + Davis Architects to carry out a high level feasibility study for the renewal of the W.A.C. Bennett Library. Once the extent of upgrades for the library were known, it became clear that the renovation would provide an opportunity to completely rethink the functional layout of the building. In consultation with Campus Planning and Development, the Library then determined an in-depth program and master planning process was needed to ensure it could continue to support Simon Fraser University's academic mission and respond to future needs, campus evolution, and changing trends in higher education.

Through a competitive bid process the University retained the Miller Hull Partnership, a Seattle based architectural firm that specializes in Library planning and design and Vancouver based Public Architecture + Communication who focus on higher education buildings. Their scope of work began in 2017. The project working group consisted of:

### **Simon Fraser University\***

Ian Abercrombie, Director Campus Planning and Development  
Garth Lauer, Building and Equipment Operations  
Heather De Forest, Community Scholar Librarian  
Jenna Thomson, Acting Head, Learning and Instructional Services

Nicole White, Head, Research Commons  
Megan Crouch, Collections  
Flora Liu, Loans/Receiving employee and Undergraduate student  
Mark Westwood, SLC Peer and Undergraduate student  
Natalie Gick, Associate Dean of Libraries, Administrative Services

### **Miller Hull Partnership**

Ruth Baleiko, Miller Hull, Principal, Architect  
Molly Taylor, Miller Hull, Associate, Architect  
Claire Shigekawa Rennhack, Architect

### **Public Architecture + Communication**

Brian Wakelin, Principal, Architect  
Elyse Kavanagh, Intern Architect  
Jennifer Whelan, Intern Architect  
\* Refer to Appendix for complete list of participants.

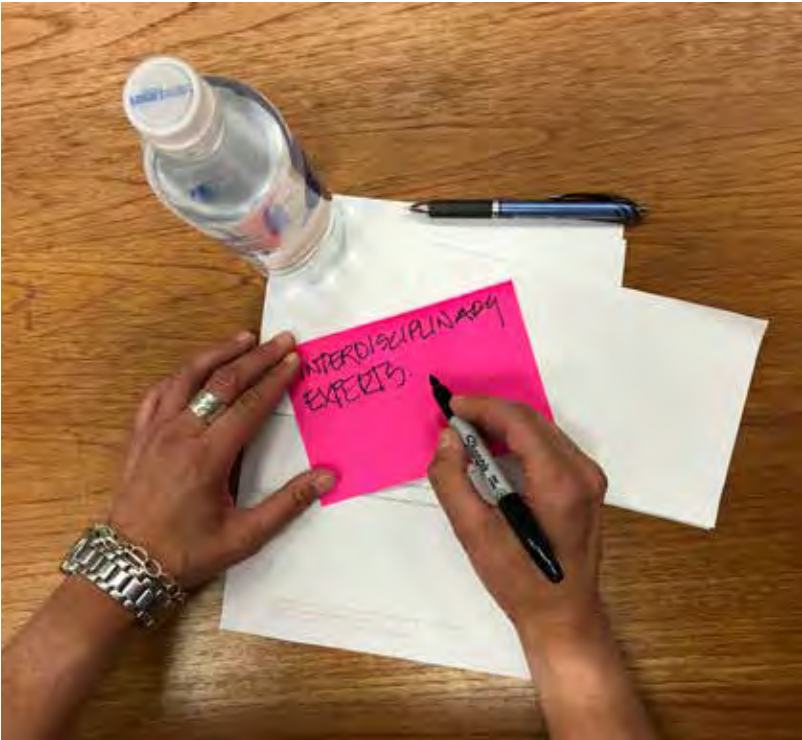
## B. CRITICAL ANALYSIS

To gain a broad understanding of the issues facing the library, the consultants and project team undertook a robust stakeholder engagement process. Through stakeholder workshops, open houses, surveys and focus groups:

1

We reviewed current trends and practices.

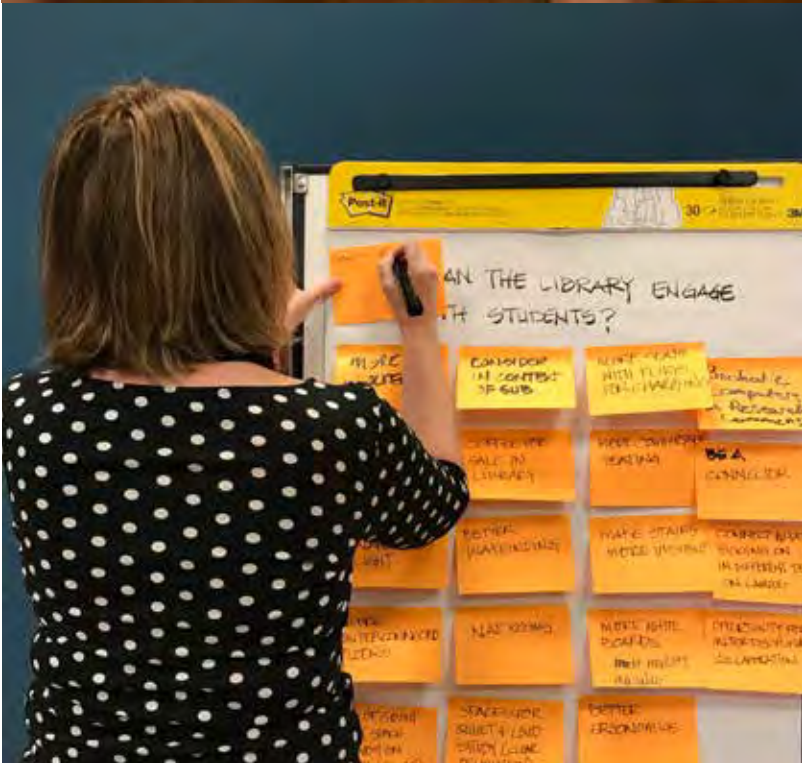
The draft of current trends and best practices in the design of 21st century academic research libraries was crafted alongside the study. The most relevant and applicable to the context of the Bennett master plan goals informed the final outcome.



2

We reviewed community demand data.

Input from faculty, students, Library managers and employees, and other stakeholders was gathered and communicated to stakeholders during the planning process and applied to the proposed plan.



3

We prepared a building programme.

A building programme with detailed spatial, affinity, environmental, technical and infrastructure requirements of current and projected Library activities was developed with benchmark data from peer institutions, input from, and for approval by, the Library.

<b>BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
Mechanical/Electrical				
<b>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>				
Special Collections		1,005.00	1,171.00	
Digitization Lab		64.00	125.70	
<b>SUPPORT</b>				
Processing		702.00	221.70	
Staff Meeting Rooms 10%			24.10	
Staff Lounge & Kitchen 20%			15.00	
<b>Floor Total</b>			<b>1,557.50</b>	
<b>BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
Mechanical/Electrical		1,341.00	1,341.00	
<b>SUPPORT</b>				
Shipping & Receiving		212.00	194.40	
Special Collections Quarantine		50.00	50.00	
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>				
Compact Stacks (33% area reduction) (30% GC)		5,904.00	593.35	
<b>Floor Total</b>			<b>2,178.75</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY</b>				
Coffee Shop		0.00	42.80	
<b>LEARNING</b>				
Learning & Instruction Consultation 7%			14.25	
Tech Help Desk			15.00	
Service Desk			153.90	
Makerspace			231.40	
Student Learning Commons			356.60	
Learning Labs				
Student Printing and Copying			27.00	
Study Space 10%			745.00	
<b>Floor Total</b>			<b>1,162.85</b>	
<b>SUPPORT</b>				
Computer Operations (less storage)				
Building & Equipment Operations				
Staff Meeting Rooms 10%				
Staff Lounge & Kitchen 20%				
Wellness				
BC ELN & eHLbc				
<b>LEARNING</b>				
Student Printing and Copying				
Study Space 8%				
Group study rooms, 4 seats (40)				
Group study rooms, 8 seats (30)				
<b>COMMUNITY</b>				
Indigenized Spaces				
<b>Floor Total</b>				
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>				
Open Stacks (40% GC)				
Microforms				
Media				
Curriculum				
Maps				
<b>LEARNING</b>				
Student Printing and Copying				
Study Space 5%				
Small study rooms for 1 or 2				
<b>COMMUNITY</b>				
Indigenized Spaces				
Computer Equipment Storage-Imo				
Furniture & Equipment Storage-Imo				
<b>Floor Total</b>				



# 4

## We explored options for spatial organization.

Options for spatial organizations which accommodate the approved programme in the current facility were presented and discussed. The options/alternatives were proposed to stakeholders during the planning process, for selection based on advantages and disadvantages of each approach.



# 5

## We developed a preferred phased option.

The preferred option was developed with corresponding phased and prioritized renovation options with rough order of magnitude cost estimates for each phase, plans, elevations and drawings suitable for the creation of a fund-raising prospectus.



# 6

## We compiled a final report.

With the preferred option, the project team compiled a final report to capture the process and study outcomes.



## 04 OUTCOMES

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The Library is seen as a place of knowledge discovery, creation, and exchange.

### **Key findings**

The master planning process helped to define key aspects of the Library as seen by its staff and user community. To build upon these attributes, five key themes were identified to help foster and enhance these key attributes and guide future improvements.

Overall the Library is seen as a place of knowledge discovery, creation, and exchange that acts as a central hub for all disciplines of study and research. The collaborative spaces are valuable for teams to work together on a variety of pursuits. The quiet contemplative spaces are equally essential to students seeking an environment for focused individual efforts.

### **Enabling discovery and preservation**

The Library has a deep and far-ranging collection of materials, both physical and digital. Its spaces and staff members should continue to help users discover this information, as the trend to increased digital collections continues. At the same time, the Library is actively keeping rare materials intact, safe and accessible for future generations. To accomplish this, spaces for conservation, digitization, access and storage within appropriate environmental conditions will be essential.

### **Enhancing learning**

For the Library to be integral to how students learn today — and how curriculum is increasingly being developed — it will need to include a landscape of spaces that support those learning experiences. In today's world, learners are authors of their own academic journey in which hands-on exploration and peer-led experiential learning are at the forefront. Spaces that support these learning activities should provide quiet spaces for focused work as well as areas that encourage dynamic interaction between team members working together.

### **Engaging research**

For the Library to maintain — and expand — its reputation as an academic research facility, it will need to include spaces that support new technologies and computational tools. High tech spaces such as these facilitate the exploration of new methodologies, enriching the quality of faculty research at SFU. These spaces should help connect a student or faculty member's emerging research agenda with the library's expertise in data discovery, analysis, visualization, management and preservation. In addition to connections between researchers and the library staff, these spaces should also foster and encourage collaboration across disciplines.

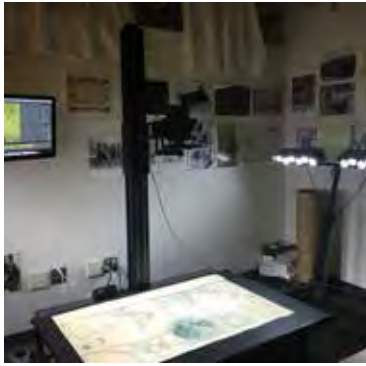
### **Fostering Community**

The Bennett Library is already seen as a central hub on campus (physically and academically). Equally important is its perception as a community hub, welcoming to all. To better accomplish this, the library should be able to host a vibrant events program in interdisciplinary and shared spaces. Increasingly, libraries and public institutions are creating Indigenized spaces that celebrate and recognize Indigenous cultures through materiality, programming, collection, and other resources. In addition, connecting people with their own health and with natural surroundings should be emphasized. Lastly, providing equal access for all regardless of ability will be essential.

### **Supporting Staff**

The Bennett Library staff are the energized front face of interaction with users—and this renovation aims to improve their ability to provide services. The master plan recommends collocating staff work areas such that staff are better able to work efficiently, collaborate more frequently and access shared resources conveniently. This should enable staff to do their best work, and support each other in engaged delivery of services.





Library Digitization Centre, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of British Columbia



James B. Hunt Jr. Library + Teaching + Visualization Lab, North Carolina State University. Photo by Michael Moran. Snøhetta



Xthum Gathering Space at Kwantlen Polytech University provides students a cozy place to connect. PUBLIC



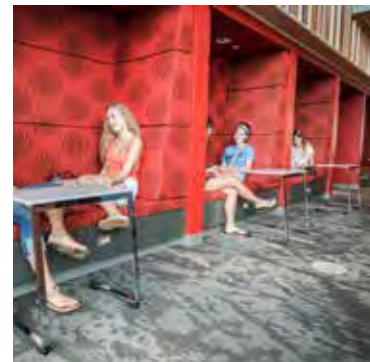
Seattle Public Library. OMA, LMN



Concordia University Vanier Library compact storage



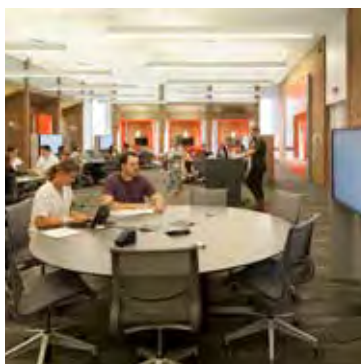
Design and Innovation from Accenture Interactive, Berlin Studio. Fjord



Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University. Stantec



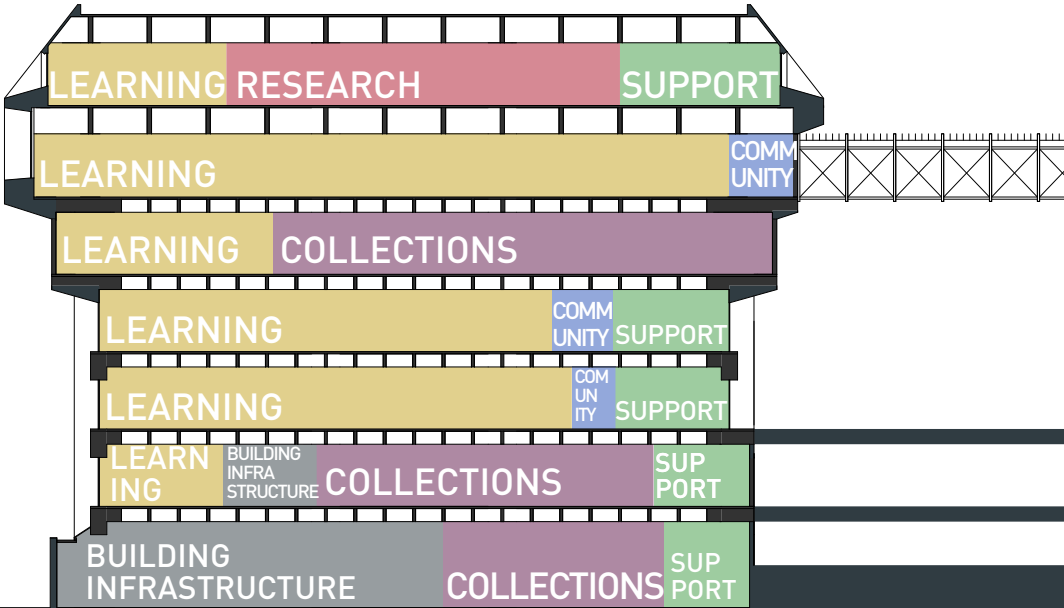
Mary Idema Pew Library, Grand Valley State University. Stantec



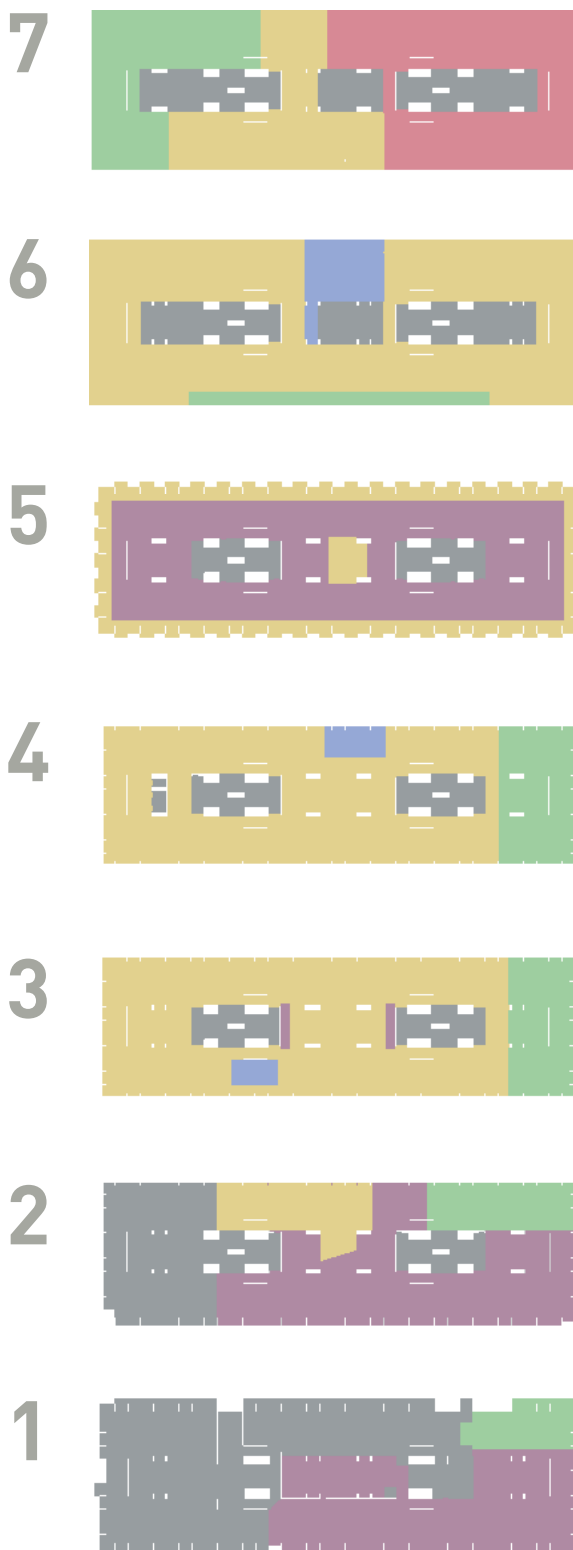
Odegaard Undergraduate Library + Learning Commons, University of Washington. Miller Hull Partnership



ON CAMPUS  
COLLECTIONS  
STORAGE







## LEARNING

A full ecosystem of learning spaces: social spaces, team rooms, individual study spaces, expanded Student Learning Commons, Media and Maker Commons, and new learning labs.

## RESEARCH

The Digital Scholarship Centre, expanded Research Commons, Digital Publishing, and Faculty Commons will support researchers, foster interdisciplinarity, and accelerate research discovery.

## COMMUNITY

Indigenized space improves the Indigenous student experience and contributes to cultural awareness on campus. Programming in the new Learning and Events room supports community engagement.

## COLLECTIONS

Collections displayed in open stacks, as well as in preservation-quality, efficient compact shelving. A portion of the collection temporarily stored on campus with same-day retrieval, until the completion of Phase 2.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Expanded, secure, environmentally-controlled vaults, a new conservation lab, and expanded digitization lab ensure cultural materials are preserved for the future. A dedicated teaching lab allows rare and valuable materials to be experienced first-hand by students and researchers in a secure facility.

## SUPPORT

Inclusive, healthy, and flexible support areas encourage employee collaboration and enhance Library operations. Library support services create meaningful contact that help with student retention and graduation.



"It's so great to have more **inspirational spaces** in the new Bennett library."



"The new **visualization lab** is so useful - it's changed the way I'm reviewing my data."



"The new **collaborative spaces** are amazing for connecting with both colleagues and technology."



"The **meeting rooms** in the Faculty Commons are perfect for our research circle of practice."



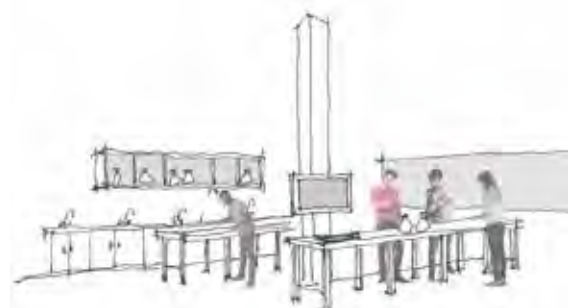
"Love the new **learning and events room** - I'm actually meeting other students during workshops."



"I really appreciate the new **collections organization** - it is so much easier to find what I need."



"It's nice to refuel, decompress, and connect with friends at the **library café**."



"Having a proper **conservation lab** is wonderful - we're preserving cultural materials for the future."



# 05 RENEWAL HIGHLIGHTS

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The revitalized Library will provide universal accessibility, encourage diversity, and will promote health and well-being.

In order to accomplish these goals, the renewal of the Bennett Library will include an improved landscape of spaces serving the entire University community. The revitalized Library will provide universal accessibility and encourage diversity, and will be designed to link people with their natural surroundings and promote health and well-being.

## Discovery and preservation

The Library's diverse and inclusive physical collection will be optimized to respond to the changing needs of students and

researchers. Physical and digital display spaces will be created throughout the Library to engage users with collections. High use material will be housed in open shelving adjacent to study areas, and other material will be efficiently stored in mobile shelving.

Providing researchers with access to a vast array of rare and archival materials, Special Collections and Rare Books will be doubled in size, with secure, preservation-quality storage for print and media collections. A reading room and

dedicated teaching lab will allow users to interact with valuable and unique materials, while maintaining environmental control and security.

Focused on preserving cultural materials for the future, the Conservation Lab will be equipped with historical tools such as book presses and guillotines, and modern equipment such as HEPA vacuums, fume hoods, and suction tables. The new Lab will be dedicated to improving the condition of rare books, archival materials, manuscripts, posters, maps, and media.



## LEARNING AREAS

- Makerspace
- Learning Labs
- 50+ Group Study Rooms
- Technology-rich, sustainable, active learning spaces



## RESEARCH AMENITIES

- Faculty Commons
- Visualization Lab
- Digital Publishing
- Digital Scholarship Centre
- 2X Larger Research Commons



## COMMUNITY

- Indigenized space
- Coffee Shop
- Events Room



## COLLECTIONS

- 2X more Special Collections
- Vault Space

Transforming physical artifacts into digital surrogates with accompanying descriptive information, the Digitization Lab supports digital scholarship, knowledge transfer, and open access to resources. The expanded Lab will house a variety of book, map, and manuscript scanners, plus audio and video digitization equipment.

### Research

A cornerstone of the Library's research support services, the innovative Research Commons provides both expert and peer-led programming and consultations to build graduate student skills in research, analysis, software and coding, writing and publishing, and networking and community building. An expanded **Research Commons** will accommodate the increasing demand for workshops and consultations, double the individual and collaborative study space, and add employee space to support these services.

The **Thesis Defense Room** will be relocated, with improved technology, acoustics and capacity,

to support candidates for graduate degrees in this very significant event.

Building on the success of the Research Commons, a **Faculty Commons** will be created to facilitate training and renewal, and to foster collaboration and interaction across disciplines. The Commons will include hoteling space, quiet and social areas, and access to technology-forward meeting rooms and workshop space.

Providing consultation, training, mentoring, research software development and technical support to researchers, the **Digital Scholarship Centre** will facilitate the study, exchange, and preservation of digital culture.

Connecting emerging research agendas with the Library's expertise in data and information discovery, analysis, and management, the **Visualization Lab** will allow the 360 degree projection of images or data, creating an immersive learning and research experience.

### Learning

The SFU Library offers face-to-face, online, and blended instruction in research strategies, data and information literacy, and academic learning, EAL, and writing instruction. The Library takes a results-oriented, programmatic approach to instruction, which will be facilitated by the new technology-enabled active **Learning Labs**.

With a focus on improving the student experience, the renovated Library will include a landscape of varied **study spaces**: quiet, loud, focused, and dynamic. Student seating will be doubled, and group study rooms quadrupled. These technology-enabled collaborative and contemplative spaces will support students as they engage with physical and virtual research resources.

The **Student Learning Commons** will be expanded to increase space for expert and friendly help to students with academic writing, learning, and study strategies, in an environment of collaboration, discussion, and peer learning.

## Library seating as a percentage of total full-time enrolled students



**15%**  
McGill



**15%**  
McMaster



**15%**  
UVIC



**7%**  
SFU





A NEW SOCIAL SPACE ON LEVEL 2 CONNECTS THE NORTH CAMPUS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WITH THE ENTRY LEVEL AND CONVOCATION MALL.

**Learning and Instructional Services** will continue to help students develop the literacies needed to navigate complex digital environments, and to support students in becoming highly qualified lifelong learners and engaged citizens.

Supporting video and audio podcasting, virtual reality, book arts, electronics, sewing and 3D printing, the **Media and Maker Commons** will foster cross-disciplinary learning, collaboration, and engagement through hands-on exploration and peer-led experiential learning.

#### **Community**

At Simon Fraser University, we

live and work on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the **xʷməθkwəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **Səlilwəta4** (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. As a step on the path of Reconciliation, Indigenous communities will be consulted on how to best reflect Indigenous heritage and serve Indigenous needs in the building.

To engage our community and facilitate large workshops such as Thesis Boot Camp and Getting Ready for Academic Success, an expanded **Learning and Events Room** will support vibrant events and programs in an interdisciplinary space.

A **Library café** will provide a place for students to refuel, decompress, and connect with friends.

#### **Support**

**Inclusive, healthy and flexible** support areas enhance Library operations. Consolidating support areas adjacent to service points will allow efficient use of space and save employee time. Collocating staff who work most closely together, for example programmers and librarians, will encourage collaboration. Meeting and social spaces will be shared across departments, ensuring both equal access and space efficiencies.

# 06 PHASING

## Contextual analysis

The original SFU Burnaby campus was built in its entirety within a 2-year period 1963-65. Constructed primarily of concrete, wood, and glass, the campus is comprised of a series of buildings that connect via outdoor walkways, plazas and sectional relationships. Organizing the heart of campus is the Convocation Mall, anchored by the W.A.C. Bennett Library.

Typical universities are an accumulation of buildings built over many decades of use. As such, these campuses have annual maintenance or capital considerations each year reflective of the ages of the various buildings. With SFU being constructed all at once, maintenance concerns for the existing facilities are all coming due simultaneously. This provides a complicated scenario for renewal, with many structures vying for care or expansion at this time.

## Building history

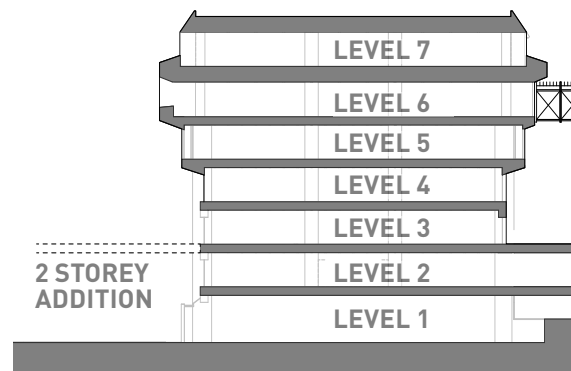
The library opened in 1965 as part of the original Burnaby campus, with 2 stories being added to the structure in 1976. In addition to collection and support space, the library also houses campus-wide boiler equipment serving other buildings.

Similar to other buildings on campus, the library is in desperate need of life safety upgrades, updates to building systems, and repair of the exterior envelope. In addition to these necessary improvements, the functional organization of the building requires updates to bring it up to date with regard to current practices and peer institutions.

In 2017 the library conducted a feasibility study of the existing structure. It identified necessary electrical and mechanical system improvements, structural upgrades and envelope repair. These items were



**Option A: Additional Footprint**



**2017**

SFU W.A.C. Bennett Library Master Plan RFP issued



**Dec 2017**

Review current trends and practices



**Mar 2018**

Review community demand data



**May 2018**

Prepare building programme



required in order to bring the building into current code compliance or to ensure the integrity and performance of the structure going forward.

### Conservation aspects

The Library is a significant structure on SFU's historic campus, anchoring Convocation Mall. Its concrete exterior is showing wear. Since the two additional floor levels were added the building has experienced a number of recurring water ingress problems related to windows, skylights, and precast and cast-in-place concrete assembly details which will impact the library's conservation mandate.

Concrete spalling has occurred on the 6th and 7th floor levels where the face of the building projects beyond the face of the building at lower levels. At some locations corroded rebar is visible. These conditions have life safety implications and should be repaired as soon as possible. Refer to the appendix for more information.



**Option B: Additional Footprint**

### Coordination with concurrent projects

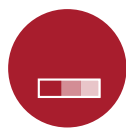
There are a number of efforts already in progress at the library intended to further the goals of the Master space plan and to create near term impact for users.

- Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre: In consultation with Indigenous colleagues, a portion of the W.A.C. Bennett Library will be renovated in a culturally appropriate way to house a distinct book and media collection, publicize an online collection, provide space to comfortably access the materials, and display visual representations of Indigenous peoples, including art and Indigenous language signage.
- A student-focused Media and Maker Commons will be established on the main floor of the W.A.C. Bennett Library, creating opportunities for experiential learning, innovation and entrepreneurship through cutting edge, user-



**Sept 2018**

Explored options  
for spatial  
organization



**Oct 2018**

Develop preferred  
phased option



**July 2019**

Compile final  
report



**2020**

PHASE 2

friendly media facilities, 3D printing options, laser cutter, Arduinos, sensors and a variety of other DIY tools. Students from all disciplines will be able to use the Media and Maker Commons services, tools and resources for creative projects.

- The Library plans to create and staff a Book Arts Studio at W.A.C. Bennett Library. The Studio needs to accommodate vintage printing presses, a book binding machine, as well as work space and observation areas. This hands-on book arts program will introduce the fine arts of print and paper making, binding, and design to a new generation of bibliophiles, students, faculty, and community members.

### Construction Logistics

In terms of execution, it is recommended that the University obtain swing space for the library to decant program and collection for the duration of construction. The required upgrades to the building structure and systems are comprehensive and invasive enough that maintaining operations during construction would be difficult. While floor by floor work could be performed if necessary, it would result in a longer, costlier and more disruptive process.

### Phase 1

The MSP has identified a first phase of work to include the necessary structural and systems upgrades as well as comprehensive programmatic renovations of the interior.

- Learning spaces will be spread throughout Levels 3-7 with access to daylight
- Research spaces will relocate to level 7 for closer access to librarians and digital experts. This allows users to seek out a contemplative or focused work environment away from the busier areas of the building.
- Community spaces will be located on levels 3 and 4 for greater accessibility and visibility
- Support spaces will be strategically collocated and adjacent to service areas and teaching labs
- Collection will be housed within open stacks and compact shelving. For materials stored offsite the library will provide on-campus same-day retrieval..
- Special collections will be expanded to accommodate a fuller range of technical support and accessibility. This includes a new conservation lab, an expanded teaching lab and digitization lab, as well as twice the vault space.

### Phase 2

Phase 2 of the MSP recommendations provide an expansion of the existing Bennett library to increase space for research and to meet benchmark targets for student learning space. The addition will provide consolidated space for materials stored offsite during Phase 1. The logical place for this new addition is to the north/northeast side of the existing structure, without obscuring the iconic façade. This location would allow for a direct and generous connection to the existing spaces and take advantage of an available, centrally located campus site.

### Short Term Projects

The needs of the Library are ongoing. Phase 1 will require extensive construction on all levels, however projects that may be done in the short term without undermining Phase 1 and 2 include:

- Offsite: identify and prepare offsite storage facility;
- Level 1: create compact collection storage;
- Level 4: new learning and community areas;
- Level 6: new learning and community areas;
- Level 7: expand Research Commons.

### Cost estimate

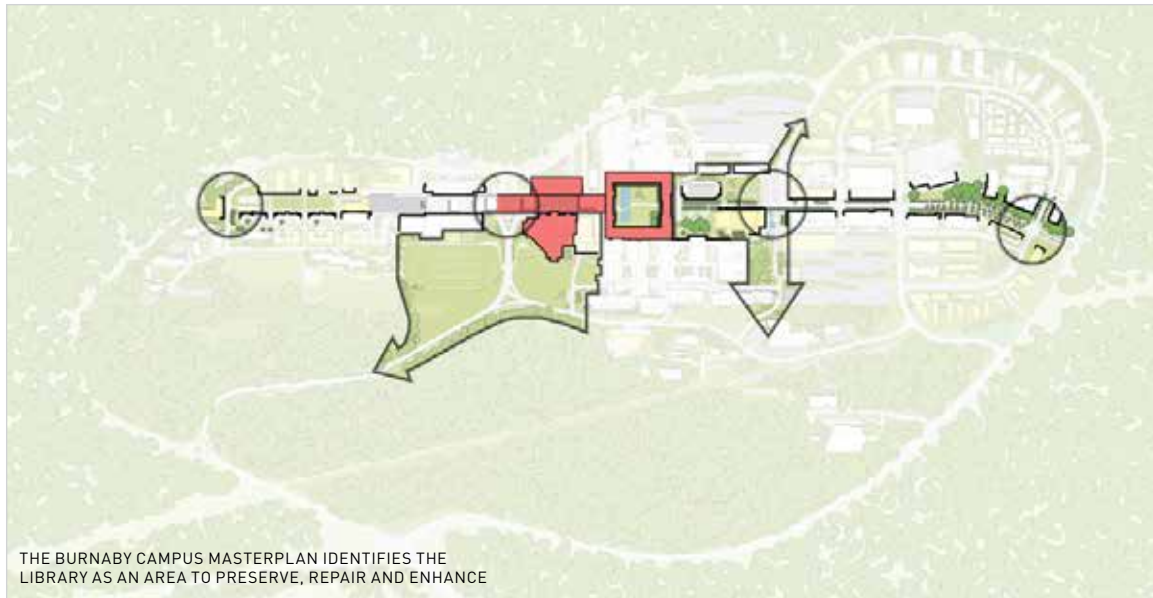
Based on a gross building area of approximately 254,800 sf and the extents of the work outlined in the following pages, the project costs for Phase 1 would be in the order of \$XXX million escalated for a construction start in summer of 2021. Based on a gross building area of 39,084 sf, the project costs for Phase 2, would be in the order of \$XXX million escalated for a construction start in the summer of 2022. Costs associated with swing space and offsite storage are not included. Refer to the appendix for more information.





# 07 CAMPUS MP COORDINATION

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The SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan identified the W.A.C. Bennett Library as part of the core historic campus, and one of the ensemble of iconic buildings at the heart of the Burnaby campus to be celebrated and preserved.

The MSP team had conversations with the SFU Campus Masterplan group in order to capitalize

on synergies and to ensure compliance with larger campus considerations. Campus buildings that are visible from the ring road — such as the Library — have heightened expectations for maintaining their distinctive facades. This will likely influence the design of the Phase 2 expansion to the north in height and massing location.

The campus masterplan also calls for increasing connections from the ring road through the library to Convocation Mall. An addition could facilitate this movement of users from the level 1 elevation up and into the building, exiting onto Convocation Mall at level 3.

“Preserve, repair, and enhance the ceremonial axis and ensemble of iconic spaces and buildings.”



# 08 APPENDICES

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- A. COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES
- B. "W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY BUILDING SPACE REPORT  
FEBRUARY 14, 2017"
- C. "FEASIBILITY STUDY BASE BUILDING RENEWAL + PROGRAM  
CHANGES W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY BUILDING JANUARY 24,  
2017" BY HLYNSKY + DAVIS ARCHITECTS INC.
- D. "W.A.C. BENNETT LIBRARY LOAD REVIEW", JUNE 12, 2014 BY  
READ JONES CHRISTOFFERSEN LTD.
- E. ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK
- F. FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM
- G. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LIBRARIES: INFLUENCES,  
TRENDS + BEST PRACTICES
- H. CLASS D ESTIMATE UPDATE, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 BY JAMES  
BUSH AND ASSOCIATES LTD.