Date: April 19, 2021

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Libraries

Re: **2020/2021 Annual Report**

The Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Libraries define its scope and relationship with Senate and other Senate committees. Annually in May, the committee presents a report to Senate on its business and proceedings over the previous academic year.

The Senate Committee on Libraries (SCL) met six times during 2020-2021:

24th September 2020
29th October 2020
26th November 2020
21st January 2021
25th February 2021
25th March 2021

The committee is due to meet on April 22nd and May 20th, 2021

Issues considered over the course of the year

Membership of the SCL Appeals Sub-Committee
At the September meeting, the committee established the membership of the SCL Appeals sub-committee. The Chair thanked the following members for agreeing to sit on the SCL Appeals Sub-Committee during this period: Hélène Cazes, Kirk McNally, Robert Howell, Sylvia Pantaleo & Louise Page.

Covid-19 : Libraries' Strategies and Forward-Planning
At the September meeting, the committee discussed a number of strategies to continue to provide service and add value to the UVic community during COVID. It was reported that enlargement of the Re:Quest system had proved extremely popular across the academic community. Originally set up to help Faculty, the program was expanded to students as a direct result of COVID-19. Users were able to request print copies or scans (the latter subject to licensing in some cases). These were then available for collection from the McPherson library entrance during specific times. (UVic was the first academic institution in the country to have started a curbside service during the Pandemic.).

In terms of study stalls, the Biblio Café had been stripped and re-set as a bookable study space. Plans were already underway to open the lower level and first floor of the McPherson Library to offer 150 individual bookable spaces under similar arrangements.

The Committee expressed thanks for all the hard work that Library colleagues had put in place to ensure that the community had the best service possible during these times.

Ry Moran – Introduction and Discussion about His Role as AUL Reconciliation
At the October meeting, the University Librarian introduced the new Associate University Librarian, Reconciliation – Ry Moran. This is the first role of its kind at a Canadian University. The role is based in the Libraries but will have wider context across campus, with focus on advancing the University's commitment to Reconciliation. A UVic Alumnus and winner of a Distinguished Alumni Award (2018), Ry has sat on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) and was the original Director of the National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation, running this from its base at the University of Manitoba.

LTSI and The Learning Commons
Additionally at the October meeting, the committee was apprised of the *Student Academic Success Portfolio*, with a focus on the main centres of the Learning & Teaching support, such as the Centre for Academic Communications (CAC) and the Math & Stats Assistance Centre (MSAC). Support offered by the Learning Commons was available across campus, with various partners working to assist students. The recent shift to remote teaching and learning had meant that all Learning Commons partners were offering online support, backed by the LearnAnywhere portal (https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/).

The committee was also made aware of the new (and free) *Learning Strategies* service to all students. Three Learning Strategists had recently started and their priorities were to build resources and start student appointments. They would be working with CAL and the First Peoples House on specific supports, but their first priority would be to assist students with test and exam prep. They would also work on building resources: helping with time-management; avoiding distractions, etc. (learningstrategies@uvic.ca)

Advanced Research Support for Faculty Members
At the November meeting, the committee was given an introduction to the Grants Menu (https://www.uvic.ca/library/about/ul/grants/). The Grants Menu had been set up a few years ago so that Faculty and colleagues could see the variety of support and services offered by the Libraries, including guidance at the start of projects and the type of in-kind support available, etc. The service aimed to engage with users at start-up but also help with digital preservation and give advice ref appropriate platforms etc. There was also guidance about how best to store and

protect key research data. The Grants Menu has already proven to be very popular across campus. It is also a key relationship-building tool – not just within the University, but there is increasing interest from further afield as other partners learn about it, and seek to develop their own versions.

The University Librarian concluded this session on advanced faculty research support by noting that continuing care and thought was being given to capacity, sustainability and other key issues to ensure research data was protected and stored. There is increased provincial, national and international focus on these issues and the Libraries are very well placed to be a helpful force in these discussions, as well as across campus.

COVID Update and Discussion
At the January meeting, the committee revisited work being done related to challenges brought on by COVID-19. It was noted that the retrieval / doorstop collection system had proved very successful – again adding that the UVic Libraries had been one of the first (if not the first) in the country to offer access to print collections.

Highlights from the *Student Survey*, which had been taken in November, were also shared. One implication of note from the survey was the request that more student study space be made available on campus. Such space in the Libraries was hovering at about 27% usage – so it was clear that there was a need for further promotion, including via Learn Anywhere
https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/.

Bibliometrics, Research Impact & Research Visibility (an introduction)
The University Librarian (UL) explained that this was a key and wide-ranging topic, which merited its own SCL meeting in February. In anticipation of that meeting, the UL felt it would be good to have some context in terms of how the Libraries fit into broader campus activity in these areas. He noted that there is a need for open, unstructured discussion across campus on these issues, and the Libraries are well placed to help. With a rounded perspective and oversight across a complex range of materials, expectations and requirements, the Libraries could help ensure that relevant data is updated and then made available – and thus counted – on Open Access repositories, etc.

Bibliometrics, Research Impact & Research Visibility
At the February meeting, the committee revisited this topic with a number of presentations and a more fulsome discussion of the issues. Bibliometrics was further defined, not only in how this data might be gathered, but also in how this data could be used. Various examples were given of potential uses for bibliometic data, to include helping with: strategic planning and advocacy; rankings and reputation; funding and grants; recruitment; and Library collection development. It was stressed that a responsible approach to metrics needs to be accounted for,

which means that we need to ensure there is the right context: how are we using them, and why? How do we sort data – what to include or exclude – and why? What data points will best support our values and vision?

Overview of Libraries' Website Project
At the March meeting, the committee was given an introduction to the content management system used by the University. The Libraries' website is a research platform and gateway to an enormous range of material/resources and information – to the tune of several million dollars' worth of services. While it has evolved over the years, to include the addition of a mix of vendor products and platforms developed and built in-house, it is now straining to cope with many of the specific needs of Library users and is in need of an update. A key goal for this project is to have a single search box from where a person could draw any type of information that they were looking for across the Libraries' systems.

In order to move forwards on all this, the Library is very keen to reach out and hear from as many members of Faculty as possible. It would be ideal to have a pool of participants who would be prepared to give up an hour for interviews and user tests, etc.

At the (currently scheduled) April and May meetings, the committee plans to review the following items:

- *COVID – the Year in Review*
- *Future Planning*

Continued Projects for the Upcoming Year

The work of the SCL this past year has been particularly focused upon monitoring COVID-19 and devising strategies to continue to do the great work that it is committed to, as well as continuing to be innovative and provide additional value. Some areas that the committee would like to speak to in the coming year include:

- The ongoing Federal and Provincial government focus on cultural property (in relation to Aboriginal and Indigenous societies and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). Specifically around identifying features which could be given formal protection.
- The new Research & Creative Workplace/Visibility project being run by the VPRI – and how best the Libraries can support and integrate with this work.
- The evolving Transformative Agreements currently underway in Canada, along with work around Open Publishing.
- Integrated learning – open textbooks and educational resources and opportunities to build on what has been learnt over the past year in this area.
- The Libraries' support for non-English speakers/resources and the development of non-English collections: Cultural Literacy and fluency.

All of this work will be carried forward and deepened in 2021-22.

In closing this report, I would like to particularly acknowledge the ongoing and outstanding work of University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson and Secretary Sheila Cresswell, and to express my gratitude to both the new and the continuing members of this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
2020-2021 Senate Committee on Libraries
Richard Marcy (Chair), Public Administration
Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian
Adrienne Boyarin, English
Hélène Cazes, French (President's nominee)
Peter Driessen, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian Robert Howell, Law
Inba Kehoe, Libraries (FALC)
Wency Lum, Chief Information Officer
Kirk McNally, Music
Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian
Louise Page, Biology
Sylvia Pantaleo, Curriculum & Instruction
Lisa Petrachenko, Associate University Librarian
Andrew Rowe, Representative of Council of Centre Directors
Drake Rushford, Student Representative GSS
Wren Shaman, Student Senator
Tusa Shea, Continuing Studies
Linda Welling, Economics
Hao Zhang, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Sheila Cresswell (Secretary), Libraries