Date: April 20, 2022

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Libraries

Re: **2021/2022 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 2021-2022:
29th September 2021
27th October 2021
24th November 2021
20th January 2022
17th February 2022
17th March 2022

The committee is due to meet on April 21st and May 26th, 2022

Issues considered over the course of the year

A)   Administrative and Organizational Matters

1. 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:

- Adrienne Boyarin
- Samuel Holland
- Martha McGinnis
- Tusa Shea

2.   This year involved the creation of an Appointment Committee for the Review of the University Librarian. The Senate Committee on Libraries performed its role in providing to Dr. Elizabeth Adjin-Tettey, Acting Associate Vice-President Academic Planning and Chair of the Appointment Committee, a list of recommended nominees to fill the position of three members of faculty on the Appointment Committee. Dr Adjin-Tettey had kindly attended the meeting of the Senate Committee on Thursday, January 20th, 2022 (in camera by zoom without the University Librarian) and explained the process to the Committee. After Dr. Adjin-Tettey retired from the meeting, the committee provided a list comprising 14 nominees and the Chair duly passed these nominations on to Dr. Adjin-Tettey. Three members were duly selected.

Members of the Committee were also invited by Dr. Adjin-Tettey to offer comments on the position criteria for the University Librarian.

B)   Select Substantive Matters

3.   A consideration of the re-opening of the libraries following the restrictions that had been in place during the Covid period in 2020-21 and of the libraries' strategic directions for 2021-22 and beyond. In an earlier year, the Senate Committee had been involved in the creation of three pillars: Open, Engaged and Enduring with four areas of activity under each pillar. See https://www.uvic.ca/library/about/ul/strategic/index.php. The strategic directions are designed to be forward looking and re-emphasize equity, diversity, inclusion, and reconciliation as a foundation. The libraries have been fully open for business as of January 4th, 2022 in keeping with the university's COVID-19 protocols.

4.   A consideration of the organizational restructuring of the libraries that had taken place over 2020-21 in conjunction with key colleagues from the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business (Elango Elangovan and Rick Cotton) and all employee groups to provide a structure that will best serve the community as a 21st Century Library. Essentially there were three Standing Committees, which were open for anyone to attend:

- Student Academic Success (SAS-SC)
- Research & Collections (RC-SC)
- Reconciliation & Community Engagement (RCE-SC)
  - *NB: These have now been streamlined into a single Standing Committee to which a variety of working groups report.*

Various Working Groups sit under these and take forward the strategic work of the libraries. E.g. *Digital Preservation; Info Services* – and there will soon be an *Indigenous Knowledge Keepers & Elders* Advisory Group. Time-limited task groups provide for more specialist project focus.

5.   A consideration of the new Library Management System (Alma. Primo). This system will be operational with effect from June 28, 2022. It supports most of the libraries' critical processing e.g. purchases and ordering of physical and e-materials; cataloguing of all data; inventory control (circulation/tracking/user records); and access control to licensed resources. The current system was over 20 years old and was designed chiefly to deal with physical material. The shift to the new interface enables the inclusion of the electronic resources which now make up the majority of the collection. It is acknowledged that there will be some disruption around this changeover. Outreach and communication has been undertaken by the library.

6.   The Committee received an update from Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian-Reconciliation on his role and future plans. These include key structural aspects and staffing appointments, including Indigenous recruitment where possible. The Indigenous Law & Indigenous Outreach Librarian position remained unfilled and there would be further discussions with the Faculty of Law with respect to the unique opportunities and challenges around this. The ideal candidate would have strong knowledge and background in Indigenous and Common law, as well as hold a MLIS degree since there would likely be some very specialist work involved.

A top priority would be the Indigenous Law section within the Law Library: how to foster interest and also ensure respect in terms of different traditions around protocols and anchors for memory-keeping and sharing.

An Indigenous Studies Librarian is also planned for the McPherson Library to help with related staff development and training opportunities across campus.

Other key activities included a Task Group which would focus on matters such as:

- Decolonization – especially in relation to descriptions and metadata.
- The majority of Indigenous material held throughout the libraries had been catalogued and indexed through the eyes of colonialism. This was often inaccurate or inappropriate – some racist, some touching on human rights issues too. It would require detailed and sensitive focus. Offensive systems and descriptive practices would need to be changed. But nor would it simply be a case of re-naming everything since material might need to keep some form of its original title in order to ensure it could be found from all related reference sources. So this would be a huge and extremely delicate task. Accurate and appropriate descriptions would be key.
- How and where Indigenous material should be shared or kept is another area of focus and would form part of wider Library space discussions.
- Advocacy work would also be important – there is a need to push back against publishers to ensure they were using culturally sensitive and appropriate terminology and descriptions.
- Within the Library itself areas of focus include:

  - Highlighting the collections – e.g. small displays in the front lobby of the main Library building, such as the one on Lee Maracle (a revolutionary Indigenous author and poet who had recently passed away).
  - The architect working on the new ground floor welcome/reception space was sensitive to our requests that the area reflect indigenous priorities and approaches.
  - 'Inclusive' spaces – more thought about how to bring elements of the land inside the building – the Indigenous approach is that the land itself is a library and includes archives. So we should aim to bring this interpretation and understanding to all our visitors.
  - Aside from a more enlightened and sensitive approach to the cataloging and indexing of Indigenous collections already here, there would also be a need for more respectful curation of new donations.   Donors would need to feel assured that their material would be cared for properly, with associated handling protocols, legal care and respect. If we are seen and known to do this with sensitivity then hopefully UVic could set a good example and lead the way in this field.
  - Enhancing Library guides within UVic Libraries

- Activation or rejuvenation of some existing partnerships will help increase access to collections held elsewhere. E.g. UVic's Memo of Understanding with LAC (Libraries & Archives Canada) that should evolve so that Faculty and students would have more access to materials held in wider archives.

- Ry is also working group on Cultural Heritage with the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Libraries can play a key role in raising awareness around the protection of the cultural heritage of Indigenous people and to promote respect for Indigenous knowledge and traditions around the world.

7.   John Durno gave a presentation on the historic computing collection which is held in the Libraries. The collection covers equipment from the 1980s through to about 2000 and is held in the lower level of the McPherson library. It includes Commodore equipment; Macs; early PCs; institutional computers etc. Also a very early Kontex system which arrived in basic box form from Physics.

There were also some 'kit' computers; floppy discs; early games; software and associated documentation – not just hardware.

The aim of the collection was to illustrate the evolution of this technology. It was therefore important for everything within to be operational if possible. That being the case, some modern interventions had been required to activate/re-activate components. There was also some conversion and some emulation (i.e. using new computers to mimic older ones - though old hardware was retained).

The collection had initially come to life through IdeaFest in 2016. Purchasing Services had a warehouse collection and then more community donors came forward. Eventually Libraries' budget and space enabled everything to be pulled together into one collection.

Key uses for this collection have so far included Exhibitions (e.g. 'Endangered Data Week'); collaborations; Open Houses; inclusion in the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in 2019; data recovery (some digitized materials were then sent to the Special Collections & University Archives).

Moving forwards there was more scope for interaction with Media Studies; Digital Humanities; computing history and game studies etc.
The link to his presentation would be sent to members and John would welcome any questions or inquiries.

8.   The Committee reviewed the ways the libraries communicate with faculties, departments, divisions and centres as well as with individual members of faculty, graduate and undergraduate students.

Existing methods include:
- A robust website.
- Various social media platforms.
- Events sponsored by the libraries.
- Departmental Library faculty Representatives (DLFRs).
- Subject Librarians, who build close relationships within their fields.
- The attendance by AULs at Faculty Council meetings (or equivalent) across campus to give more personal updates and answer questions.
- Focused newsletters: the Faculty Newsletter and *Ampersand* (more directed to the wider community and for those who specifically signed up to receive it).

Going Forward, the following initiatives are under development:
- An Operational task Force to oversee and coordinate the Faculty Newsletter. Currently, there are three issues per year.
- A logging of the most used elements in the Faculty Newsletter as well as hits to the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of the library website to track the type of information most commonly sought by the library users.
- Improvement of the library website with, perhaps, an enhancement of the "Frequently Asked Questions" as well as on Library guides or Library Resource Guides.
- A series of "Pathways to Scholarships" workshops
- A reinstatement of social events for DFLRs and subject librarian as well as cross discipline events including with graduate and undergraduate student organizers and representatives.
- Liaison with Faculty and Departmental "Library Committees" where such committees exist eg. Within the Faculty of Law.
- Liaison with Faculty and Departmental graduate secretaries who have a direct line to students. This component can be enhanced ad developed towards undergraduate students.

9.   Alex Burdett, Director Law Library, provided a detailed informational session as to proposed renovations to the Diana Priestly Law Library that will occur as part of the additions to the Murray and Anne Fraser Building to encompass the National Centre for Indigenous Law. A major component will be the incorporation into the Law Library of the Centre for Asian pacific Initiatives (CAPI). Construction will begin in Summer 2022.

10.   The Committee was kept appraised of proposals for the University of Victoria to endorse the Open Access 2020 principals to (OA 2020), a global alliance to accelerate the transition to open access with respect to library materials. In particular, Inba Kehoe made a presentation to the Committee concerning the component of "Open Monographs".

Key features of the presentation included:

Open Monographs definition:
- License, costs, formats (print on demand, with a PDF or HTML online version that is free. Advanced formats, like Epubs, have a charge) peer review, royalties (based on print publication sales) and dynamic (can include links)

Benefits of Open Access:
- Increased readership and access, wider readership in terms of geographical reach and socioeconomic status, reader interaction, multimodal publishing, links to primary sources and use in teaching

Challenges of Open Access:
- Academic culture highly favours traditional publishing. Monographs are vital for career progression, recognition and status. Some tenure committees do not recognize publications that are open access.

Various Open Access Business Models:
- **Gold**: authors pay book processing charge, print on demand for paperback/hardcover, PDF free and EPUB to purchase, Creative Commons license

- **Green**: deposit in repository, embargoes, versions that can be deposited, funding agencies requirement
- **Diamond**: Libraries and SCOAP3 partnership to contribute to central fund
- **Delayed/embargoed:** Monographs are published open access after recoup of money from sales
- **Subsides for institutions with press:** local authors don't pay, strong relationship with libraries, will sell POD and make an open access version
- **Freemium** – Basic HTML (read-only), libraries pay for premium PDF

Library consortia/ partnership support:
- Libraries pay fixed costs for open access collections. The published can sell print and e-book editions. No charge to authors.
- MIT Press allowing open access to ~90 titles per year via recurring participation fees
- Cambridge University Press publishing select lists of titles to be made open access once the published works meet a revenue threshold. Knowledge Unlatched, a third party vendor that offers libraries and publishers the opportunity to work together for sustainable open access in all disciples

In submitting this report, the Chair acknowledges with gratitude the ongoing support of University Librarian, Jonathan Bengtson, who each meeting provided the Committee with a detailed and comprehensive update of internal and external matters concerning the Libraries. These updates provide an essential vehicle of communication with Committee. The Chair also expresses thanks to secretaries Kaelan Smith (from January 2022) and Sheila Cresswell, who retired in December 2021. Finally, the Chair expresses thanks to all the members of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
2021-2022 Senate Committee on Libraries
Robert Howell, (Chair), Law
Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian
Adrienne Boyarin, Humanities
Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian, Advanced Research Services
Samuel Holland, Student Senator
Inba Kehoe, Librarian selected by Faculty Association Librarians' Committee
Wency Lum, Chief Information Officer
Richard Marcy, Human & Social Development
Martha McGinnis, Grad Studies
Kirk McNally, Fine Arts
Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian, Reconciliation
Adair Ng, Student Representative (GSS)
Louise Page, Science
Sylvia Pantaleo, Education (*on Leave Jan-June 2022)*
Lisa Petrachenko, Associate University Librarian, Collections & Open Scholarship
Victor V. Ramraj, Representative of Council of Centre Directors
Tusa Shea, Continuing Studies
Henning Struchtrup, Engineering
Linda Welling, Social Sciences
Hao Zhang, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Kaelan Smith (Secretary) Libraries