Date: 18 April 2023

To: Senate

From: Senate Committee on Libraries

RE: **2022/2023 Annual Report**

The Senate Committee on Libraries (SCL) has met seven times during 2022-2023:

29th September 2022
20th October 2022
22nd November 2022
15th December 2022
25th January 2023
23rd February 2023
22nd March 2023

The committee is also due to meet on April 19th and May 24th, 2023.

In submitting this report, the Chair acknowledges with gratitude the support of Acting University Librarian Lisa Goddard (Fall) and University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson (Spring), secretaries Kaelan Smith and Jennifer Wells (December 2022), and the members of the Committee.

What following describes items that came before the SCL over the course of this academic year.

1) Review of Terms of Reference
Early in the year, the SCL reviewed its Terms of Reference (ToR). Because the SCL ToR have not been updated since 2016, the committee discussed potential changes, though these centred on minor clarifications. The Associate University Secretary advised that all language in our ToR is currently in line with other Committees of Senate, and ultimately no changes were needed. This review was, nonetheless, useful and culminated in consideration (led by Ry Moran) of what changes might be necessary in such documents to bring the University into alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

2) Mearns-McPherson Lobby Renovation
Renovation of the lobby in the main floor of McPherson/Mearns began in December and will be completed by September 2023. This renovation phase was developed in 2015, alongside planning and seismic updates that need to be done in a phased, multi-decade approach. To mitigate disruptions for students, contractors are doing most of the work at night. There is no change to seating availability during this time — chairs and tables typically near the loan desk have been moved elsewhere. The construction crew has been instructed to be cautious of noise as exam season approaches. The current renovation is the first phase of the longer project, and the second phase will be implementing Indigenous design into the space. Further plans include the design of the Bibliocafe, the main stairwell, and the outside entry to center Indigenous art and history.

3) New Initiatives

Members of the SCL were consulted on several Libraries' initiatives this year, as follows:

- In the summer of 2022, the Libraries successfully migrated to **a new service platform** (https://search.library.uvic.ca/).
- **"Faculty Success"** an outreach initiative of the 2020 Strategic Communications Committee, tells success stories about Libraries partnerships with faculty research and teaching. 12 researchers from across campus were featured this year ([Partner with UVic Libraries -](#) [Faculty & staff - UVic\).](#)
- The **research data management strategy** is now online. This was mandated by the Tri- Agencies and provides the roadmap to consistent research data management practices.
- **Zoom pods** have been installed in the former periodical reading section on the first floor of McPherson Library. These are a pilot program for the University, eventually being placed in various locations around campus.
- Associate University Librarian Lisa Goddard sits on the **West Shore Campus Library Committee.** Library services will be part of [West Shore campus](#).
- **ChatGPT and AI:** The Libraries continues to engage with development of AI. The LTSI is leading a group on the intersections of AI and teaching (which includes Library rep.), and the University Librarian's lecture on June 2nd will also follow this topic.

4) Awards and Grants

Guests Samantha MacFarlane and Christine Walde updated the SCL on the Libraries' Grants and Awards Portfolio. The portfolio has grown significantly in the past 10 years, leading to a need to increase internal capacity. Current goals are to formalize processes to increase long-term stability of grants and awards; improve resources for library staff, faculty and students; and to track data for organizational analysis. **Grants** include support for research funding, both internal and external.

Support for Grants involves consulting with researchers, providing guidance on writing applications, providing letters of support and in-kind contributions. Grants also include the Young Canada Works program and Work Study. **Awards** include support for professional recognition, sometimes with monetary value, both internal and external. These can include honorary degrees, UVic-specific awards, and local/provincial/national awards. **Student Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships** are awarded to recognize student achievement and support student research. These are administered by SAFA and Graduate Studies to promote and advance UVic Libraries' goals and values, with broad campus engagement. The "On The Verge" writing contest is administered in partnership with EQHR: https://www.uvic.ca/library/about/awards-contests/vergecontest/index.php).

New role based emails have been created for this portfolio: librarygrants@uvic.ca for grants, libraryawards@uvic.ca for awards. Student queries can continue to be sent to libraryscholarships@uvic.ca and the "On the Verge" queries go to otv@uvic.ca. Connect has been updated with resources for those applying for grants or awards as a PI or partner. The site now also identifies resources for grants, awards, and work study and includes spreadsheet of all past grants the Libraries has applied for or been involved with, sample award and grant applications, a calendar with upcoming deadlines. A glossary of common research terms will be added at a later date. The LibGuides have also been revised with a more external focus and identifies resources for specific audiences: students, faculty, librarians/archivists, postdocs. The Grants Resources page can be found here: [Library Services for Grant-Funded Research Projects - University of Victoria (uvic.ca).](#)

5) Textbooks, e-Books, and Open Access

At the beginning of the academic year, the Chair was informed that a proposal was before to the Committee on Agenda and Governance to establish stats on the cost of textbooks and to consider the role the library can play in increasing the number of Open Access textbooks available to students. The Chair brought a pilot project run by Inba Kehoe to the attention of Committee on Teaching and Learning and the Associate University Secretary: eTextbooks via UVic Libraries | Open Educational Resources (OER). The SCL also heard a presentation by Inba on **Leganto,** part of the ExLibris package purchased by the University: this will be a one-stop location for students to access their course resource list, excluding textbooks purchase from the Bookstore. Leganto will integrated with Brightspace to allow instructors to add materials to their course list from a variety of sources, making these available both physically and electronically, and ensuring that the documents are accessible. The **Committee for Leganto** includes members from Course Reserves, Library Systems, LTSI Brightspace Admins, UVic Systems, Instructor and Program Coordinators, and began meeting in November. A soft launch is planned for summer 2023 (with Child and Youth Care, Social Work, and Public Admin) and a full launch in the Fall.

Lisa Petrachenko also advised the SCL that in August 2022 the White House Office of Science and Technology updated U.S. policy guidance to make the results of taxpayer-supported research immediately available to the American public at no cost. The benefits are that many publicly-funded articles and data will be available without an embargo by 2025, an improvement of current policy.

Not all publishers are ready for this shift, and the potential impact is a drop in revenue if subscriptions drop. There is a larger conversation to be had about publishing, the responsibility of compliance with new policies, and the difficulties being seen because we are not separating the research process from the dissemination. UVic has discounts with, and is working on transformative agreements with, many US publishers: funding - University of Victoria (uvic.ca).

6) Digital Collections, Digital Scholarship Commons, and the Legacy Gallery

Several guests and members appeared before the SCL to address these topics, including Dean Seeman and Karen Dykes on the Libraries' Vault platform for Digital Collections, Matt Huculak and Rich McCue on the work of the Digital Scholarship Commons, and Ry Moran on the Libraries' relationship with the Legacy Gallery in downtown Victoria.

- **Vault** is a digital asset management system with over 11 thousand digital objects in over 80 collections. Vault includes digital resources from UVic Libraries and digitized resources from faculty and community partnerships produced from research. It is a place to explore, and a resource for teaching and research, built on open technology, and following clear metadata principles: standardized but hospitable; alignment with metadata from other collections; machine readable; consistent; faceted search in mind; linked open data.

- **The Digital Scholarship Commons (DSC)** provides access to multimedia tools such as cameras, microphones and 3D printers, along with free workshops to learn how to use supported software and digital tools. There has been steady growth in DSC workshop participants since its conception in 2017. Workshops may also be booked to fill in for classes when instructors are sick or away (the vast majority are taught in for-credit classes). The most popular workshops requested by professors are: Infographics with Canva, Podcasting, Video Editing, Twine: Interactive Narratives, and Data Analysis with Excel (such alternate assignment formats may become more

popular with the rise of ChatGPT and AI tools). The DSC is close to capacity in terms of instructors needed to lead these workshops, but a growing percentage of workshops are now being taught in class by professors using the DSC curriculum. Other DSC Workshops that are popular with students are: 3D Design and Printing, Introduction to Data: Visualization with Tableau, Augmented Reality and 360 Tours, Qualitative Analysis with NVivo, Data Visualization and Mapping, Electronics. All DSC workshops and curriculum are publicly available on the website, and are contributed to the BC Campus Digital Literacy, Knowledge and Skills portal. The DSC also offers Knowledge Mobilization training and support, as well as training in RStudio, Excel, Tableau, NVivo, Taguette, ArcGIS and QGIS. DSC offers non-credit digital badges for successful workshop completion. Over 1,500 badges have been issued since late 2018.

- **Legacy Gallery:** Ry Moran was asked by the Vice President External to assist with a strategic review of the Legacy Art Gallery and collections after the recent retirement of its long-time Director. This is a 4-phase process, of information gathering and formulation, consulting on methodology, engaged dialogue, and a final report with recommendations. The report will be framed around the concept of respectful relationships and the following questions: Where does Legacy come from, where is it going, what is it and why is it here? The report is forming around issues of the location (is the downtown location a strength or a weakness? Is the linked Maltwood Gallery in the lower level of the Library utilized to the full extent?), collections (what UVic materials are stored there, are the repositories suitable, and what about future acquisitions?), academic/scholarly integration (the collections is not used or known as much as it could be), repatriation (what is in the collection, and how did Legacy obtain them, particularly those items that were 'collected' in the 1800s), and clarified scope (what is the Legacy responsible for?—though the gallery director has been a PEA position, should it be academic?), and mutual use (are we displaying collection items in the Library with intention? Is Legacy using UVic's collection in its exhibits consistently?).

7) Budget and Operations

Over the past few years, the library has been working to close the gap in the acquisitions budget. A substantial portion of the budget goes to purchasing of collections and licenses for users. These are purchased mostly in packages rather than by individual title. The cost of packages inflates at around 3% per year, which in turn shrinks the acquisitions budget if there are no supplements. The other challenge is that these packages from publishers are in USD, as are most items purchased for the University: when the US dollar is strong, purchasing power is low. We are currently keeping an eye on the USD exchange rate. The Libraries are close to budget parity, though the 4% base budget cuts have likely extended the time it will take to reach parity. Nonetheless, the Libraries have received confirmation from the deputy provost that the acquisitions core budget (half of the Libraries' annual budget) will not be affected by the 4% decrease in base budget.

The Libraries have been working closely with Accounting to purchase USD at a fixed rate for the year to ensure price certainty. The University Librarian has been meeting frequently with vested parties to consider pathways through the current 4% budget cut, almost exclusively with open positions and retirement incentives. There are currently five librarian positions open with the hopes of filling them soon if possible. Fewer fines and fewer students printing over the years and especially during the pandemic has left about $100,000 gap in those line items. Looking for revenue generating opportunities is becoming more necessary. The Libraries' has offered enhance severance to a number of CUPE 951 staff in order to reach the 4% budget reduction. The Libraries have also been able to go through with a few hires that were on hold or cancelled during the hiring freeze with the last round of budget cuts.

Since 2018, the strategic directions of the Libraries has been Open, Engaged, Enduring. The time is approaching for considering what do next. Many things have changed over the past five years — COVID, budget cuts, AI, etc. — and how does the Libraries' want to move forward in this new phase? Every seven years there is a mandated external review of the Libraries: the next one will fall in 2025. Libraries will use the next 18 months to consult with students and faculty, and identify key strategic goals to meet prior to the review. In anticipation of an external review, the Libraries will also undergo a self-study and then move onto a more robust and longer-term planning process after the external review. The University will be publishing their strategic framework and principles in April, which the Libraries can use as a reference. SCL will be a sounding board to build a two-year plan leading up to an external review before a heavy planning process of a new strategic plan.

8) Reconciliation and Indigenization

SCL (and the Libraries) have devoted much time to reconciliation planning and initiatives this year, led by Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation.

- This year, *Taapwaywin*, **a UVic Libraries Podcast,** was launched. Ry Moran, in collaboration with Karina Greenwood, wrote and produced the podcast, funded through the Strategic Impact Fund. This podcast is grounded in Indigenous perspectives and focused on Indigenous voices. The name *Taapwaywin* is the Michif word for *truth*: the name came to them from Norman Fluery. Karina, Ry, and their team spent five months interviewing thirty- four people across Canada and the world. Over half the interviewees are Indigenous. **Podcast episodes may be accessed here: https://www.taapwaywin.ca/blog**

- The Libraries acquired the **Wilton Littlechild Collection**. Littlechild, with whom Ry Moran has had a working relationship with since his time with the TRC, is Cree, a residential school survivor, a lawyer and one of the primary architects on the UNDRIP (The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). His archives contain records from the mid 1970s to the present, representing over 40 years of international advocacy on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is one of the largest collections of international Indigenous law materials in the world. Major series in the collection include the development of various UN Mechanisms including the permanent forum, UNDRIP and the Expert Mechanism; reparation of the constitution and various legal interventions domestically and abroad; Meech Lake; Treaty Rights. Season 2 of the podcast *Taapwaywin* is aiming to focus on the development of UNDRIP, using the archive to guide their work. Special Collections and University Archives is currently coming to the end of an item-level description of **the Wilton Littlechild collection.** The archive consists of 64 boxes.

- On December 15th, Ry reminded us of Murray Sinclair's address at the closing events of the TRC (which happened in Ottawa on December 15th, 2015). This speech was played for the members of the SCL to commemorate the 7th anniversary of this event and as an introduction to consideration of National Council on Reconciliation – Proposed Legislation (https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-29), and a **National Reconciliation Research Strategy**, in response to **TRC Call to Action 65: "**We call upon the federal government, through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, post-secondary institutions and educators, and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and its partner institutions, to establish a national research program with multi-year funding to advance understanding of reconciliation." The Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research is setting Guiding Principles, and Strategic Directions to change how granting is administrated and managed in the country. SSHRC has recently partnered with the Truth and Reconciliation Centre. A schedule of action is contingent on federal budget and funding.

- A **Decolonizing Description Task Group** is currently working on changing the Indigenous headings used for UVic collections. Many unacceptable terms are still used to describe resources by and about Indigenous peoples. The Decolonizing Description Task Group was created a few years ago, with current membership: Ry Moran, Laura Doublet, Jessie Lampreau, Jane Morrison, Pia Russel and Lisa Petrachenko. The Task Group is looking into sustainable solutions to removing disrespectful terminology in UVic's records and setting principles to follow, building the practical and mechanical efforts on top of these (see Principles of Indigenous Description - Describing Indigenous Resources - LibGuides at University of Victoria Libraries (uvic.ca). Phase 1 of this project has been changing the description *Indians of North America* to *Indigenous peoples*. This is still in line with the Library of Congress Subject Headings system. This has been completed in Vault, UVic Space, AtoM, and ArchiveIt. Phase 2 is changing other *Indian* subject headings such as *Indian Art, Indian school children.* These are being examined on an individual bases and replaced with more appropriate headings from the Library of Congress. This has been completed in Vault, UVic Space, AtoM, and ArchiveIt. Phase 3 is names of peoples and communities. The word *Indian* is still a prevalent way of describing communities, which is not representative of what the communities call themselves. Not only is the term outdated, but often nations themselves are utilizing terms consistent with their own histories, and this needs to be accurately described in our databases. Phase 3 work needs to be developed on the basis of community relationships and Indigenous-led. The priority for the Task Group is to create our own local metadata for southern Vancouver Island, going back to individual communities.
- Finally, a posting for the Indigenous Initiatives librarian recently went up. The IIL position will be a limited hire for an Indigenous person.

Respectfully submitted,
2022/2023 Senate Committee on Libraries
Adrienne Williams Boyarin (Chair), Humanities
Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian (*on leave Jul–Dec 2022*)
Deborah Curran, Faculty of Law
Fraser Hof, Faculty of Science
Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian (*Acting University Librarian Jul–Dec 2022*)
Inba Kehoe, Librarian selected by Faculty Association Librarians' Committee
Matthew Koch, President's nominee
Sarah Lane, GSS representative
Wency Lum, Associate Vice-President University Systems & CIO University Systems
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Kirk McNally, Faculty of Fine Arts
Simon Minshall, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian, Reconciliation
Sylvia Pantaleo, Faculty of Education
Lisa Petrachenko, Associate University Librarian
Oliver Schmidtke, Representative of Council of Centre Directors
Tusa Shea, Division of Continuing Studies
Brian Thom, Faculty of Social Sciences
David Wu, Student Senator
Hao Zhang, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Kaelan Smith (Secretary), Library Administration