



Date: April 17, 2024
To: Senate
From: Senate Committee on Libraries
Re: **2023/2024 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 four times during 2023/2024:

September 27, 2023
November 22, 2023
January 24, 2024
March 27, 2024

The committee is due to meet on May 21, 2024.

In submitting this report, the Acting Chair acknowledges with gratitude the support of University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, Associate University Librarians Lisa Goddard, Ry Moran and Lisa Petrachenko, secretary Kaelan Smith, and the members of the Committee.

Issues considered over the course of the year

A. Administrative and Organizational Matters

1) Sub-Committee on Appeals

The membership to the Sub Committee on Appeals is Simon Minshall, Kelvin Lee, Danielle Geller, Martha McGinnis and Tatiana Shumilina.

2) Events Policies and Procedures

Library staff created a draft policies and procedures document to align with the completion of the first-floor renovations and new student space by the main door. With the opening of the new space, there is a need to create regulations around who can use to space, and for what purpose. Library staff will consider space bookings made by "Primary Users" (students, faculty, and staff and events in alignment with the Libraries' strategic directions). All requests for space require a sponsor from within the Libraries to consult on and support the event. Committee members considered that the lobby space is small with no audio separation from the Ask Us desk and student study

spaces. How can the Libraries be flexible with the space while respecting the student use of the environment? The Committee engaged in a discussion about a fee for using the space, and the opportunity to have the space available as an in-kind contribution on grants as the DSC often is.

3) External Review

The External Review of the Libraries is taking place May 30th and 31st. A task group has been struck to set the agenda and draft the unit self studies that need to take place before the external review. Rather than providing self-studies for each unit in the organization, self-studies will be done based on common themes in work across the Libraries to accurately capture the work done across units. Several members of the Senate Committee on Libraries will meet with the external reviewers over lunch on May 30.

4) Budget

Libraries, including their acquisitions, are implicated in the budget reduction conversations. The acquisitions budget continues to be challenged by a low Canadian dollar against the US dollar, the high cost of the bundled journal article packages, and the cost to faculty members of unsubscribing from some of these packages that have had benefits for offsetting articling processing charges for faculty. The Committee noted the publishing conglomerates' lack of consideration for Canadian institutions and the budget pressures we face.

B. Substantive Matters

1) Special Collections and Book Arts Space Tour

Heather Dean and Jake Maddison reported on the 79 new acquisitions and gifts from over 20 donors have been added to the collections in the past year. Recent acquisitions include the work of Edward Jenner on vaccines, Christine Welsh's fonds, Open Space Arts Society fonds, and Margaret Hollingsworth's fonds. New digital collections include the work of Oluna and Adolf Ceska, Barbara Hepworth's letters to Herbert Read, as well as work from E.J Hughes and Alexander Hutchison.

A new book arts space in the lower level of the Mearns McPherson library was created with the help of Jake Maddison, a letter press printer and artist. The space is arranged with book arts on one side and printing presses on the other. The letter press section has hand presses and letter type, and the left-hand side of the space is kept clean for book arts, with all the tools required to bind one's own book. A tour of the book arts space include letter press machinery and book binding materials. Continuing studies classes will begin using the space in 2024, with smaller class sizes to allow for hands-on work.

Libraries welcomed over 100 class visits in 2023 from departments that include Anthropology, English, Gender Studies, History, Religious Studies, Social Work, Writing, and Visual Arts.

Libraries saw 6252 uses of materials in-house, 2733 research questions engaged with, and 2 documentary films shot in the Special Collections / University Archives.

2) Digital Scholarship Commons Update

Matt Huculak provided an update on the DSC (Digital Scholarship Commons), located on the 3rd floor of the Mearns-McPherson Library. The DSC allows students to engage with resources in ways that go beyond words and provides extensive training on a range of contemporary skills and tools.

Informal Credentials: The DSC offers informal credentials for successful completion of workshops and courses. These are used widely by students, who include them on their CVs for finding co-op jobs. Over 800 Excel workshop badges have been administered since the course began.

Multi-Media Tools: Equipment available for use include cameras, microphones and 3D printers, microphones for podcasting, laser cutters and laser engravers.

Workshops: There is a steady growth and engagement in DSC workshops since their conception in 2017. For example, in just October of 2023 there were 1000 workshop participants. The primary audience for workshops is graduate students, who account for 37% of participants. Workshops offered include 3D Design and Printing, Introduction to Data, Visualization with Tableau, Augmented Reality and 360 Tours, Intro to Podcasting, Video Editing, Smartphone Photography, Qualitative Analysis with NVivo, Data Visualization and Mapping.

3) Indigenous Initiatives & Taapwaywin

Ry Moran reported on the continued decolonizing efforts within the Libraries. The Decolonizing Spaces working group is looking to the future and engaging critically with the libraries' digital and physical spaces. This work began in 2022 with a survey of the art on the walls in the libraries, and will result in a reimagining of the use of the walls in the main stairwell. The staff portraits will be taken down and replaced with a design that incorporates the three Vancouver Island Nations and more of the Legacy Gallery's Indigenous collections.

A Call for Artists went out for the creation of etchings for the glass panels along the new renovated lobby and student space.

The Libraries Podcast Taapwaywin now has seven episodes that are live. Taapwaywin, coming from the Michif word for truth, or speaking truthfully, explores the intersections between truth, power, history and human rights. The podcast is being used in courses at UVic as a part of instruction, and even has a radio station in Nelson interested in syndication.

4) Course Reserves — Inba Kehoe

Inba Kehoe reported on the implementation of the new Course Reserves, which became fully operational in 2023. Course Reserves is a tool integrated into

Brightspace to allow instructors to create course lists, maintain resources across multiple semesters, and allows for student engagement.

Over 131 courses have used Course Reserves since it was introduced, with over 2600 citations processed. The disciplines primarily using Course Reserves are Public Administration, Child and Youth Care, Law and Social Work.

5) UVic Art Collections

Following a comprehensive review of the UVic art collections, and many years of discussion, the art collections are moving from the portfolio of the VP External to the Provost and Libraries. Relocating the Legacy Gallery to the Libraries was one of 65 recommendations that emerged in a report following the review. One of the next steps is to hire a new director. Library staff are in discussion with the Faculty of Fine Arts and other departments as to how the change will come into effect.

Respectfully submitted,

2023/2024 Senate Committee on Libraries

Deborah Curran (Chair), Faculty of Law
Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian
Adrienne Boyarin, Faculty of Humanities
Samuel Fielder, GSS student representative
Danielle Geller, Faculty of Fine Arts
Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian
Matt Huculak, Libraries, Systems Services
Matthew Koch, President's nominee
Kelvin Lee, Student Senator
Wency Lum, Associate Vice-President Systems & CIO
Martha McGinnis, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Catherine McGregor, Faculty of Education
Simon Minshall, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian
Sudhir Nair, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Lisa Petrachenko, Associate University Librarian
Victor V. Ramraj, Director, Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives
Tatiana Shumilina, Division of Continuing Studies
Brian Thom, Faculty of Social Sciences
Lina Zhou, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science
Kaelen Smith (Secretary), University Librarian's Office