News from Langara's Library & Information Technology Program

By Carol Elder.

As the college settles into the summer term and the pressures of a teaching term ease off, it's time to share news of changes in the Library & Info Tech Program.

Program Move

Langara has been experiencing a recent construction boom, with a new library building which opened a couple of years ago, a new student union building to open this fall, and renovations in the old library which will open as classroom and office space in July. As a result, the Library & Info Tech Program will be moving onto the third floor of the new library building during the summer. Students will work in larger classrooms fully equipped with network and Internet access, they will have an expanded and updated Resource Room within close proximity, and instructors will have new offices in the same area. The move will be completed by the end of August, with classes in the fall being held in our new space.

Thank you!

As field placements for our program students wind down for the year, we'd like to send a big thank you to the library community for being so welcoming and helpful. Our students do two field work placements, two weeks in the middle of their studies, then four weeks just prior to graduating. These experiences are invaluable for the students, and we really appreciate your willingness to work with them on an annual basis.

Changes to Program Requirements

Two big changes have been made to our program requirements, effective this summer. First, students can now take any university transferable arts or science course to meet their elective requirements. We will continue to encourage students to focus on Canadian history and political science, aboriginal studies and computer courses for these electives, but there are now many further options open to them. The other change is that even though we still require

students to graduate with the ability to keyboard a minimum of 45 wpm, they no longer have to take a keyboarding course to meet this standard. Instead, they have to provide documentation proving their keyboarding speed, and testing can be arranged through Langara or any other suitable institution.

Online Courses

This summer we are offering LIBR 1395 Creating and Managing Digital Collections online, taught by Dean Giustini who is a medical librarian with UBC. We continue to offer a full roster of online courses every fall and spring, and students are able to complete their diploma online from anywhere, if that suits their needs better than having to come to campus.

Program Advisory Committee

We are happy to welcome Linda Woodcock, Technical Services Librarian at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and a new student representative, Tanya Knox, to our Program Advisory Committee. This committee meets twice a year, and helps us ensure that the needs of libraries are being met through our curriculum. Linda and Tanya join the ongoing Advisory Committee members:

- Rhona Giles, Burnaby School District
- Rob Golbeck, Clark Wilson LLP
- Ann Goodhart, West Vancouver Memorial Library
- Mary Anne Guenther, North Island College
- Kim Lawson, Xwi7xWa Library, UBC
- Christine Manzer, SFU
- Anne Olsen, VPL

We also have a new student representative on the BCLA Board, Mary Afonso.

Carol Elder is the Chair of the Library and Information Technology Program at Langara College.