

# UNBC Update

By Paul Burry.

*The staff at the Geoffrey R. Weller Library of the University of Northern British Columbia have been busy working on a number of exciting projects and initiatives. Here a few highlights!*



UNBC Campus, Prince George

## iRoom Reference Service

In September of 2010, the UNBC Library moved in a new direction for its reference services. Under the leadership of librarians Kealin McCabe and James MacDonald, UNBC has begun a pilot project in which reference librarians roam the library building armed with **Apple iPads**, helping students and faculty with their research wherever they are located in the library. To request help at their study carrel, computer station, or study room, library users make use of a chat widget on the library website to "message" the librarian, or simply signal to the librarian as he or she roams the library building.

## A Place to Gather

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, The UNBC First Nations Centre officially opened its new **Gathering Place**, or in the Lheidli dialect of the Dakelh language, "Lhuhuhwhezdel." Housed on the first floor of the Geoffrey R. Weller Library building, the Gathering Place includes two classrooms and an event space for cultural events, sharing of oral traditions, art and material displays, language revitalization and circle teachings. A new entrance to the library adjacent to the Gathering Place encourages traffic between these spaces and provides increased access to library resources and services from the Gathering Place. As the Library moves toward the goal of

creating a new learning commons on the first floor of the building, such collaborative efforts represent an important step in the process of increasing student access to well-designed services and spaces.

## New Acquisitions Vendor

UNBC Librarians have begun to order library materials using **GOBI**, the online collection management tool of UNBC's new acquisitions vendor, **YBP** (Yankee Book Peddler). After some onsite training from the vendor representative, collection development librarians are now able to take advantage of a number of features that help to streamline the selection and ordering of new materials for the library's collections. With MARC records for new YBP materials coming from the **OCLC Cataloguing Partners program**, UNBC has also realized new efficiencies in its technical services workflow.

## Northern BC Archives Update: Grants Galore!

The Library's Northern BC Archives & Special Collections (NBCA) is currently working on 3 grant projects. The **Cassiar Asbestos Mining Company Fonds Processing & Access Project** involves processing approx. 2000 photographs, 200 X-rays and over 25 maps, as well as creating a virtual exhibit that will provide an overview of the significance and history of both the Cassiar Corporation & Townsite.

The **NBCA Backlog Photo Digitization Project** aims to digitize a total of 3610+ original photographs from collections related to historical, social, political, environmental, religious & industrial development of Northern BC from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These images and their descriptions will be uploaded to the Archives' new online database

The goal of the **Holzworth 1923 Field Report Access & Digitization Project** is to work collaboratively with the Smithsonian Institution Archives to provide electronic access via NBCA's website to the John Holzworth 1923 Field Report entitled *Mountain Sheep and Caribou Distribution*. Currently this valuable report is housed at the Smithsonian Institution Archives within the holdings of The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Field Reports.

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