

UBC Library: Winter update

By Glenn Drexhage.

UBC, SFU welcome Videomatica film collection

An exceptional film collection valued at \$1.7 million will be housed and preserved by the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University.

Videomatica – a long-loved video rental store that opened in 1983 and specialized in rare and esoteric titles – is donating the bulk of 28,000 DVDs, 4,000 VHS titles and 900 Blu-rays to UBC. The collection will be housed at UBC Library with more than 5,000 duplicates available at UBC's Dept. of Theatre and Film. SFU receives about 2,800 documentaries from the collection.

The collection includes feature films, literary adaptations, cult and art films, foreign films from more than 75 countries, Canadian works and selections from the Vancouver International Film Festival.

"After spending three decades building a unique film library and the better part of a year trying to preserve it, how wonderfully rewarding it is to know the interests of both the public and film students will be served with the collection finding a home at UBC and SFU," says Videomatica co-founder Graham Peat.

Access to the collection at UBC will be developed over the next 18 months for students, staff, faculty and community borrowers. SFU's collection is slated to become available for borrowing in early 2013.

"We're honoured to serve as the new home for an outstanding collection of films," says Ingrid Parent, UBC's University Librarian. "These titles, which number in the tens of thousands and cover a huge array of genres and topics, will serve as a valuable source of research and enjoyment."

Peat and Videomatica co-founder Brian Bosworth are both former UBC students (in creative writing, and history and film, respectively).

Please read the [press release](#) for more information and visit [here](#) to view the resulting media coverage.

Historical B.C. newspapers digitized by UBC Library

For the first time, more than 45,000 pages chronicling B.C.'s storied past are available online following the completion of the British Columbia Historical Newspapers Project.

The University of British Columbia project, led by UBC Library's Digital Initiatives unit and generously supported by a private family foundation, features digitized versions of 24 historical papers from around the province. It was announced in November 2011.

The newspapers, which range from the Abbotsford Post to the Phoenix Pioneer, date from 1865 to 1924. All are available for free online viewing at <http://historicalnewspapers.library.ubc.ca>.

It's likely that more titles will be added to the historical newspapers site in the future.

"This is an excellent example of UBC Library advancing its digital agenda and connecting with communities at UBC and around the province," says Allan Bell, Director of Library Digital Initiatives. "We're grateful for the support and excited about pursuing projects that bring the Library to the world."

Please read the [press release](#) for more information and visit [here](#) to view the resulting media coverage.

UBC and the Library start an evolution

The new issue of *Friends*, UBC Library's newsletter for its community of supporters, is now available. The Winter 2011 issue focuses on *start an evolution*, the fundraising and alumni engagement campaign that launched in September 2011.

With dual goals to raise \$1.5 billion and double the number of alumni engaged with UBC by 2015, *start an evolution* will support student learning, research excellence and community engagement at UBC's Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

The latest issue of *Friends* offers an overview of the campaign, highlights UBC Library's role and priorities, profiles prominent donors and examines some recent successful initiatives.

You can view the Winter 2011 issue [online](#), and obtain a hard copy by contacting glenn.drexhage@ubc.ca. More information about the UBC campaign is available at <http://startanevolution.ubc.ca>.

CLIR Fellows at UBC Library

In January, UBC Library hosted 15 CLIR (Council of Library and Information Resources) Fellows as part of the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Academic Libraries Program. The Fellows “work on projects that forge, renovate and strengthen connections between academic library collections and their users.”

The two-day meeting, a first for the Library, was held at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, with a mix of UBC and CLIR programming. Simon Neame, the Learning Centre's Director, worked closely with Allan Bell, Bronwen Sprout and others from the Digital Initiatives team to develop the UBC portion of the program, including an overview of projects such as Chinese Canadian Stories (<http://chinese-canadian.ubc.ca>), which has received funding from the federal government's Community Historical Recognition Program. Tours of the exceptional Chung Collection and the Library's Digital Initiatives Unit were also provided.

Live-in for Literacy at the Learning Centre

From January 17 to 26, UBC students once again “camped” at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre in order to raise funds to build one or more libraries in a developing country.

Two students were housed in tents set up on the second-floor foyer of the Learning Centre, with other students providing support.

This year, the goal was to raise up to \$3,000 at UBC over the 10-day event through a series of fundraisers. The program is running at 10 Canadian universities, which have set a goal of \$27,000 for projects in India that support local language publishing, education equality for girls and a library reading room.

Find out more about this inspiring initiative at UBC on Twitter ([aRoomtoReadUBC](https://twitter.com/aRoomtoReadUBC)), on Facebook and at blogs.ubc.ca/literacy.

Past Live-in for Literacy events at UBC have helped raise money to construct libraries in Nepal and India.



Past Live-in for Literacy campers at UBC Library.
Photo by Martin Dee.

RBSC exhibitions: on literary awards and affairs of the heart

UBC Library's Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) division has started 2012 with two illuminating and entertaining exhibits, both of which are free and open to all.

During January, RBSC hosted *75 Years of Controversy* – a display highlighting some of the more contentious episodes that have taken place during the first 75 years of the Governor General's Literary Awards.

Since their establishment in 1936, the Awards have served as Canada's premier literary honour. Yet over the years, they have often been noted as much for their controversy as for the writing they've sought to recognize.

A more romantic theme will be the focus in February, when RBSC hosts *Love! In the Library?* This exhibition will display how lovers speak to each other through books, and offer an examination of how love is expressed through poetry, erotic books and illustrations. And for the more jaded attendees, the show will also look at some of the hazards of love.

Great Reads: leisure reading at UBC Library

For the past few months, users looking for some tasty literature have been able to curl up with UBC Library's Great Reads Collection, located on the third floor of Koerner Library.

The pilot program, which launched in October 2011, features nearly 300 books – from bestsellers to Canadiana to popular fiction. This innovative offering provides campus residents, community members,

faculty, staff and students easy access to leisure reading materials on UBC's campus.

The program's website, found at <http://greatreads.library.ubc.ca>, features a "virtual bookshelf," a comments form, an RSS feed of new titles and links to book reviews.

Popular reading collections, a staple in public libraries, aren't typically as common at their academic counterparts. However, 94 per cent of respondents to a recent survey stated that they might, or definitely would, use a leisure reading collection at UBC.

As a result, UBC Library's Great Reads Collection was launched, providing community and campus members with a handy location for leisure reading. So far, the response has been encouraging, as about 35 per cent of the collection is regularly checked out, often by undergraduates, grad students and faculty.

A Great Reads collection is also set to debut at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre in the spring of 2012.

ciRcle mines conference opportunities

ciRcle, UBC's digital repository found at <https://circle.ubc.ca>, made a big impression at a recent mining conference by making valuable content freely available for attendees – and, indeed, users around the world.

The Tailings and Mine Waste 2011 conference, organized by the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering at UBC, in conjunction with Colorado State University and the University of Alberta, was held in Vancouver from November 6 to 9, 2011. Issues of environmental science and engineering, geochemistry and other topics related to tailings and mine waste were covered.

More than 70 conference papers were made available on the [ciRcle site](#) ahead of the conference. Big challenges included obtaining the papers and licenses ahead of time, uploading them to ciRcle and embargoing them until the event began.

All went well, however, and the ciRcle collection was officially released at the conference to great acclaim. The most popular paper has been viewed nearly 400 times from countries around the world, including Canada, the US, Brazil, Peru, the UK, Iran, Chile, Australia, Japan and Mexico.

This is the first time that such papers have been made available online, and there is great interest in submitting past and future proceedings to ciRcle.

If you are interested in mining, then make sure to check out the [BC Mine Reclamation Symposium](#) proceedings (1977-2010), also publicly available in ciRcle.

Glenn Drexhage is the Communications Manager at UBC Library.