

University of Victoria Libraries – Winter Update

By Susan Henderson

International Commons Opens at UVIC Libraries

UVic celebrated the opening of the new Marnie Swanson International Commons on November 19. Located in the Learning Commons of the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library, the International Commons is a welcoming place where international students can find academic help, information, resources, programming and services to support their success at UVic.



Photo Credit: UVic Photo Services

This new initiative is designed to provide academic support to the increasing number of international students at UVic, as well as to promote intercultural activities and events for both international and domestic students. The creation of this inclusive global community enriches domestic students through connection with their peers from around the globe.

The International Commons is dedicated to Marnie Swanson, University Librarian from 1988 to 2011, in recognition of her long and outstanding service to the University of Victoria Libraries.

Libraries are on the Cusp of a Golden Age

Three feature articles on UVic Libraries appeared in the "Monitor" section of the *Times Colonist* early in November. View the articles at this [Times Colonist](#) link. Once the link is opened, click on the "More on This Story" section to read *Library a central hub of university campus* and *Medieval tome a highlight of UVic library's collection*.

UVic Helps Fill Food Bank Shelves

During the holiday season, two University of Victoria food drive initiatives helped fill local food bank shelves instead of collecting fines. The annual UVic Food for Fines program offers relief from library and parking fines in exchange for food donations to the Mustard Seed Food Bank and the UVic Student Society's Food Bank. UVic Libraries is discounting fines by \$2 for each non-perishable food time, to a maximum of \$20. Library users could also pay for their fines by diverting up to \$20 of the money to Mustard Seed as a donation from Nov. 26 through Dec. 7.

Digitization Program Review

Robin Chandler, visiting Associate University Librarian, Collections and Library Information Systems from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) conducted her review of UVic library's digital programs October 10-12. A series of meetings were arranged for Robin to meet with staff and faculty involved with digital projects. The review report will be incorporated into our current strategic planning process.

Research Help Videos

UVic Libraries is now offering research help videos, made by a UVic Humanities Co-op student, who worked with reference librarians to deliver the new service on our website. Currently, there are over 50 videos (and counting) and they have had over 5000 views since launched this fall. They're all around two minutes, designed to address the most common research questions and to promote the many services offered by UVic Libraries.

Chester P. Lyons Archival Fonds

Material from the Chester P. Lyons archival fonds held at UVic was featured in Ben Bradley's article "Behind the Scenery: Manning Park and the Aesthetics of Automobile Accessibility in 1950's British Columbia" in Issue #170 of BC Studies (Summer 2011). A description of the Chester P. Lyons fonds is found on MemoryBC.ca:

<http://www.memorybc.ca/chester-p-lyons-fonds;rad>

Macbeth, Shakespeare, and Music: Exhibit

Engagement with Victoria's cultural community continued with the staging of the Macbeth and Music: Exhibit in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. The exhibit display cases contained books, scores, manuscripts and theatrical ephemera from UVic Special Collections, the Shakespeare Music Project fonds, and the private collections of faculty and friends. The exhibit was curated by Dr. Janelle Jenstad, Department of English with the assistance of student curators to celebrate the staging of Verdi's Macbeth by Pacific Opera Victoria.

Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada Exhibit

Canada's most beautiful books went on tour and the University of Victoria Library was one of the Canadian university library stops. Since 1981 the Alcuin Society has sponsored the only national competition for book design in Canada. Each title, published in Canada in 2011, represents the work of a Canadian designer. These award-winning books went on display in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room until November 30.

Transgender Archives

The Transgender Archives at UVic Library was highlighted in the [Times Colonist](#). University Archivist Lara Wilson was interviewed about the transgender collection, which is one of the largest if not the largest collections of archival and published transgender material in the world.

<http://transgenderarchives.uvic.ca/>

Commemorating the 14th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and in celebration of The Transgender

Archives @ UVic, UVic Libraries and Cinecenta presented the 2012 award-winning feature-length documentary, TRANS to a full house. Following the showing a questions and answers session was offered with speakers, Gail Knudson, Founding President of the Canadian Professional Association of Transgender Health, a PFLAG parent of a local trans man, Dr. Aaron Devor, Academic Director of The Transgender Archives and University Archivist, Lara Wilson.

Treasures from UVic Special Collections Showcased at TEDxVictoria

An event scheduled in November at the Victoria Conference Centre had a library connection. Jamie Kemp, a Ph.D. Candidate from the department of History in Art, showcased some rare treasures housed in UVic Library's Special Collections at TEDxVictoria. Her presentation, called "Heads in the Cloud", discussed how including first-hand encounters with medieval and renaissance documents in her classes has made her teaching more meaningful. At this event more than 400 people got to see a video that displays several manuscripts, charters and seals from Special Collections.

<http://tedxvictoria.com/>

Building the Grateful Dead Archive Online: Public Talk

In October, Robin Chandler, a librarian and archivist who served as the project manager of digitization for the Grateful Dead Archive and creation of the project website, gave a public talk, **Building the Grateful Dead Archive Online**. The event was co-sponsored by the University of Victoria Libraries, the Faculty of Fine Arts, CFUV 101.9 FM, and the Greater Victoria Public Library.

The Grateful Dead Archive (GDA) documents the Grateful Dead's 30-year history from 1965-1995. It is one of the most significant popular culture collections of the 20th Century. Several years in the making, the Grateful Dead Archive Online (<http://www.gdao.org/>) was made accessible to the public in June of this year.

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