

UBC Library: Fall update

By Glenn Drexhage.

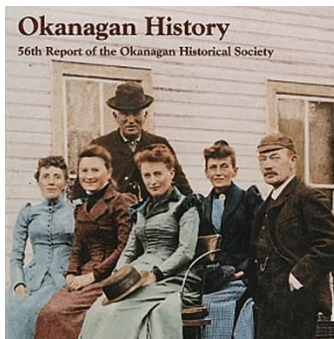
IFLA Presidency concludes for UBC's University Librarian

For the past two years, Ingrid Parent, UBC's University Librarian, has also served as the President of [IFLA](#) – the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, which serves as the global voice of the library and information profession.

Parent's theme during her presidency was *Libraries: a force for change*. This theme consisted of four key principles: inclusion, transformation, innovation and convergence.

Parent's presidency formally concluded at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, held in Singapore in August. Parent also introduced IFLA's new [Trend Report](#) at the Congress – a publication that highlights five key trends emerging in today's information environment.

Okanagan history goes digital



Okanagan Historical Society annual report cover illustration. Photo: Okanagan Historical Society/UBC Library

Nearly 70 volumes of the Okanagan Historical Society's (OHS) annual reports were recently digitized. This publication is one of the longest, continually published historical periodicals in British Columbia, and includes contributions from branch members including Armstrong-Enderby, Kelowna, Oliver-Osoyoos, Penticton, Salmon Arm, Summerland, the Similkameen and Vernon.

The reports have been used for teaching and learning for decades, with topics ranging from physical geography to cultural studies. The digital collection features more than 15,000 pages, dating

from 1926 to modern day, though the most recent years have not been widely published.

UBC's Okanagan Library proposed the project, and UBC Library's Digital Initiatives Unit in Vancouver digitized and created the [online collection](#). For more, please view the [press release](#).

Manuscript's impact spans centuries



Postdoctoral fellow Richard Pollard uses the 14th century book as a teaching tool in his courses. Photo: Martin Dee

Aided by the expertise of a UBC instructor who specializes in early European medieval history, UBC Library recently acquired a [manuscript](#) whose scholarly impact stretches across the centuries.

The main piece in the gorgeous bound text – which originates in France and was copied sometime in the 14th century, possibly during the time of the Black Death pandemic – is called the [Compendium Theologicae Veritatis](#) (or *Compendium of Theological Truth*). This work, an introduction of sorts to theology and the oldest book in UBC Library's collections, was a highly popular tome for university students more than 700 years ago.

In 2013, it's set to be a vital classroom text once again – this time for UBC history students enrolled in Richard Pollard's undergraduate classes spanning the early, central and late Middle Ages. That's because Pollard, a Post-Doctoral Fellow in UBC's Department of History, plans to use the text as a valuable teaching tool in those courses. "There's all kinds of things that students can learn just by looking at this book," says Pollard, who advised the Library on the purchase of the medieval manuscript. "It brings students into the period in a way that lecturing in a classroom doesn't. It allows an entry to somebody's mind from the past."

UBC Library acquired the manuscript earlier this year from an antiquarian bookseller in London, England; it's housed at Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC), located on level one of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. While it's the first of its kind in the Library's collection, it's likely not the last. "In the coming years, we hope to build a teaching collection of medieval manuscripts," aided by the input of faculty members from UBC's English and History departments, says Katherine Kalsbeek, RBSC Literature Librarian.

UBC Launches first LOOC

A [pioneering offering](#) from the Faculty of Education and UBC Library is enabling UBC students, staff and faculty to hone their digital literacy skills. The two units have introduced the University's first LOOC, or local open online course, as part of UBC's [Master of Educational Technology program](#). This course, called [M101](#), helps users "acquire, maintain, refine and promote" digital literacy skills.

The LOOC is open to all members of the UBC community who have a campus wide login (CWL). M101 is self-paced, and users can build their skills in any area, and in any order, that they wish.

As the name suggests, a LOOC is a localized form of a MOOC – or massive open online course. MOOCs have been a big topic in online education recently; indeed, UBC's first MOOC – which it launched in January 2013 with Stanford University – attracted more than 130,000 registrants.

Erin Fields, UBC Library's Teaching and Learning Librarian, organized a group of six UBC librarians to develop LOOC content. She's excited about the initiative's potential. "This is a huge benefit for UBC Library, as it allows us to partner in a truly forward-thinking project," she says. "It opens a discussion that may not have been possible before now."

Library Tutorial Launches

UBC Library has launched its [Basic Library Skills Tutorial](#), which introduces users to the core knowledge needed to complete quality research using Library resources. The tutorial was developed as a collaboration between UBC's Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

The tutorial allows students to work through the information they need to succeed in their assignments. It includes five modules, and each should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. The tutorial includes a self-test element that allows

students to assess their skills and highlight areas where they may need help.

Faculty can also assign the tutorial and upload a quiz into Connect, UBC's learning management system, to test their students' knowledge about conducting research at UBC Library.

UBC Welcomes Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance



Figure 3: UBC Library hosted the 2013 PRDLA Conference in early October. Photo: UBC Library

UBC Library was honoured to host the [2013 meeting](#) of the [Pacific Rim Digital Library Alliance](#) in October. The Library welcomed visitors from 31 academic institutions on both sides of the Pacific to the annual meeting, which provides an opportunity to develop cooperative ventures and improve access to scholarly research materials.

The [2013 PRDLA programme](#), entitled *Community and Collaboration – the Digital Pacific*, proved an excellent tie-in to the Library's [digital agenda](#). UBC Library staff presented to PRDLA members on the [Indigitization: Aboriginal Audio Digitization and Preservation Program](#) and the [Chinese Canadian Stories Project](#). The programme also included a screening of the documentary [Passage of Dreams: the Chung Collection](#), featuring Wallace Chung as a special guest.

"This important meeting on our campus opens doors to new opportunities and relationships," said Ingrid Parent, UBC's University Librarian. "We're able to showcase UBC Library projects, spaces and innovations – there's a significant visual impact to sharing our work in person."

Event speakers included Lee Cheng Ean, Deputy University Librarian (Resources) at the NUS Libraries, National University of Singapore; Brian Flaherty,

Associate University Librarian (Digital Service) at the University of Auckland Library; Thomas C. Leonard, University Librarian at the University of California, Berkeley; Le Wang, Deputy Director of Fudan University Library; Lorelei Tanji, University Librarian at University of California, Irvine Libraries; and Nie Hua, Deputy Library Director at Peking University Library, among others.

Delegates toured the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (including the [Wallace B. Chung and Madeline H. Chung Collection](#) and UBC Library's Digitization Centre), the Asian Library and other notable UBC destinations such as the Wine Library, Nitobe Gardens and the Museum of Anthropology.

All-time best ARL Rankings

UBC Library's top-tier reputation has been underlined by its best showing yet in an influential tally undertaken by the U.S.-based Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

UBC ranks 14 out of 115 ARL universities in the latest round of [Investment Index rankings](#) from the ARL, a non-profit organization of research libraries in Canada and the U.S. In addition, UBC places second among Canadian academic institutions included in the index.

The latest results highlight a notable rise since 2008/09, when the Library finished 26th in Investment Index rankings.

"UBC Library is honoured by its ranking in the latest ARL Investment Index," said Ingrid Parent, University

Librarian. "This result highlights the efforts that we've taken to be a leading institution of knowledge, research and learning for our users."

The Investment Index reflects total library expenditures; it includes collections expenditures, staff expenditures and FTE (full-time equivalent) staff figures.

Reconciliation at the Library

The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) of Canada (TRC) was established to gather testimony on survivors' experiences of Indian Residential Schools. From September 18-22, the Commission held its B.C. National Events in Vancouver.

UBC suspended classes on September 18 to allow students, faculty and other members of the UBC community to participate in this historic event and other events around the city.

UBC Library contributed to the campus-wide initiative by highlighting Indian Residential Schools in different contexts. Its online research guide on [Indian Residential Schools in Canada](#) offers background information on this important and sensitive part of Canada's history. This research guide also highlights UBC's [Indian Residential School Initiative](#).

Several Library branches put up exhibits and displays during September to highlight Indigenous issues and history – find out more at [Reconciliation at the Library](#).

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