

What's new inside? Convocation, cross-cultural research, web archiving, and more.

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June 2019



& FEATURE STORY
Convocation June 2019



HONING THE CRAFT OF STORYTELLING

by Lisa Abram, Communications Officer

The old adage goes: If you want something done, ask a busy person. Within the span of a few months, Samantha MacFarlane successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in humanities; helped to edit a new publication for UVic Libraries' award-winning imprint; and won a

prestigious North American library award for an online exhibit about the archives of Saul Holiff, Johnny Cash’s manager in the 1960s and early ‘70s.

“I have received comments about how challenging it must have been to complete my PhD while working in the Libraries, but I found them mutually enriching experiences,” says MacFarlane. “My background as a graduate student and instructor in the Department of English led to the opportunity to work as editorial assistant for the Libraries’ academic journal and its publication series, but my work in the Libraries also informed my dissertation writing.”

First hired in February 2017 as editorial assistant for the academic journal *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*, MacFarlane’s role was to support the day-to-day building blocks of the Libraries’ peer-reviewed, open access journal, established by University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson.

Read the [full Ring story](#).

& MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Wishing you a wonderful summer from all of us at UVic Libraries.

- Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian

The UVic campus in full bloom.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



BRITISH COLONIST



LEIDEN RANKING

UVic does well in the [Leiden Rankings](#) each year. This year, the rankings added an “open

UVic Libraries just celebrated the completion of a 12-year project to digitize **the British Colonist**. *Times Colonist* Editor and Publisher Dave Obee, along with Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian, Digital Scholarship and Strategy, and University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, welcomed friends of UVic Libraries to the open house.

The packed launch was attended by community members and logophiles alike. Dave gave an overview of the genesis of the *Times Colonist* digitization project, and Lisa and Jonathan thanked contributing staff, partners, and funding organizations.

access” category in which UVic ranks second in Canada, just below McGill in percentage of research papers openly available.

Nearly half of all UVic publications (46.7 per cent) circulate legally and sustainably in open access journals and repositories, putting UVic ahead of the University of Toronto in this emerging domain.

To learn more about **open access**, visit our website under Scholarly Communication.

& ACROSS THE LIBRARIES



WEB ARCHIVING WORKING GROUP: 21st CENTURY COLLECTIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP

by Caron Rollins, Law and Government Publications Librarian and Matt Huculak, Digital Scholarship Librarian

The University of Victoria Libraries has been curating web archives since 2013. What is a web archive? Think about the times when you are browsing the web and displayed across your screen is the dreaded “404 website not found” message. The web is fragile, and we are facing a “digital dark age.” This situation is troubling when we consider how much of our democracy is now conducted online, from politicians’ personal web pages to tweets. A few months ago, two computer scientists wrote, “Though the WWW is a rapidly growing source of information, it is fragile in nature. According to the **available statistics**, 80 per cent of pages become unavailable after one year and 13 per cent of links (mostly web references) in scholarly articles are broken after 27 months.” Librarians and archivists are now at the front line of preserving these ephemeral resources.

At the University of Victoria, librarians are actively involved in curating collections of web archives for 21st century scholarship and citizenry. A committee of librarians and archivists have formed the Web Archiving Working Group (WAWG), which works to create web archives that support teaching, learning, and research at UVic and in the wider community. WAWG's Terms of Reference are to:

- Support librarians and archivists in their use of the Archive-It platform.
- Develop policies, procedures, and best practices to support web archiving efforts at the Libraries.
- Coordinate collection development efforts to prevent duplication and to stay within data and document capture limits.

We're using the Archive-It subscription web archiving service from the [Internet Archive](#) that "helps organizations to harvest, build, and preserve collections of digital content [on the web]." When an organization like UVic Libraries creates a web archive, the archives are freely available. This practice is part of our [strategic directions](#) to create "engaged" and "enduring" resources for our community.

The web archives we create can be found using the Archive-It interface or the [WayBack machine](#). It's important for people to know, however, that there are also "hidden" (or dark) archives of countries and organizations that are being preserved but are not on the Internet Archive site. For example, Library and Archives Canada has a web archive for the Government of Canada, but browsable content covers only the years 2005-14.

WAWG trains librarians in curating collections, from identifying URLs based on theme, organization, or event to creating "crawl rules" (to prevent the entire web being crawled) and providing metadata aid in finding archived websites. Our collections include: the UVic website, Anarchist Archive, BC Local Governments, Environmental Organizations, and Resources of BC. You can see UVic's work by accessing our [web page](#) and our [Archive-It collections](#).

Feel free to explore UVic's collections and, while you are at the site, have a look at other collections using the "explore" tab. And we're always looking for new ideas from our local community on the Island. If you have an idea, feel free to [contact a librarian](#). If you're an organization interested in using Archive-it, have a look at our [training materials](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Caron Rollins wrote a chapter in *Government Information in Canada*, published by the University of Alberta Press. Read about [Commissions and Tribunals](#).

& IN THE VAULT



Paper samples from *Œuvres du marquis de Villette*. London: P.A. Léorier Delisle, 1786. Call Number: PQ2067 V43 1786. Gift of Dr. Alexander Sokalski.

ALEXANDER SOKALSKI COLLECTION

by Heather Dean, Associate Director, Special Collections

This past year, the generosity of alumnus Dr. Alexander Artem Sokalski (1937-2016) profoundly enriched the holdings of French literature in Special Collections. Dr. Sokalski discovered his passion for French literature while a student at Victoria College (class of 1955). His intellect and love of French language and literature earned him a scholarship to Yale University where he obtained his doctorate with a specialization in 18th century French literature. Dr. Sokalski then returned to Canada, where he was a member of the Department of French at the University of Saskatchewan from 1978 to 2008. His research interests and passion for French led him to travel extensively to France, where he frequented bookstores in Georges-Brassens Park in the fifteenth arrondissement of Paris.

Over time, Dr. Sokalski built a remarkable collection of rare books, and his extensive collection reflects his scholarly interests, from 18th century theatrical works by writers such as French dramatist Dancourt and his contemporaries to the correspondence between the Chevalier de Boufflers and the Countess of Sabran. Later editions and scholarly works from the 19th and 20th century provide further context for the 18th century titles in the collection. Through his book collecting, Dr. Sokalski also developed a deep appreciation for the book arts and became especially fascinated with the work of Pierre Alexandre Léorier-Delisle, who produced paper at a mill just outside Montargis. One of the most interesting volumes in the collection, *Œuvres du marquis de Villette* (call number: PQ2067 V43 1786), published in 1786, is remarkable for its inclusion of twenty samples of paper Léorier-Delisle made from a variety of plant fibers, from marshmallow to thistle.

It is fitting that Dr. Sokalski's collection is in Special Collections at UVic, where his lifelong research interests were first sparked and where, in turn, his collection will inspire future generations of students. A selection from Dr. Sokalski's collection will be on display in the exhibition case at the entrance to the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library from June 24 to July 12.

& IN THE NEWS



TORCH MAGAZINE

What do a Second World War correspondent, a physicist, and 3D printing have in common? They are stories about UVic Libraries that are featured in the current issue of the *Torch* on pages 7, 8, and 35. The *Torch* is the official alumni magazine of the University of Victoria, published in the spring and fall and distributed to UVic alumni worldwide. It provides coverage of news, research, people, events and trends of interest to members of the UVic community.



EDITH IGLAUER

Remembering Edith Iglauer. Second World War correspondent, New Yorker writer, journalist, and trailblazer. Get inspired and visit our Special Collections and University Archives and read her personal and literary archives. Watch The Canadian Journalism Foundation [In Memoriam video](#).



DAVID BOUDINOT

Librarians David Boudinot and Daniel Brendle-Moczuk work with local communities to map the location of lentil-sized, pre-consumer plastic pellets found on the shores of the Salish Sea. UVic is home to Canada's leading ocean and climate research. Learn more in [Focus magazine](#).



CHRISTINE WALDE

Grants and Awards Librarian Christine Walde was featured in a Victoria Foundation publication about UVic Libraries' commitment to positive action towards reconciliation. As the only digital archive of the correspondence between British authorities and the governors of Vancouver Island and British Columbia from 1846-71, the [Colonial Despatches](#) contain many historically significant records about the settling of Victoria and Vancouver Island. This ongoing [project](#) has been a partnership between UVic Libraries, the Faculty of Humanities, and many other supporters and contributors over the past decades.

Read about the Colonial Despatches project in [Pulse magazine](#).



Implementing successful library and teaching sessions in academic libraries at IITGN, Gandhinagar, India

LIBRARIANS PROMOTE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

by Lisa Abram, Communications Officer

Historically, libraries have played a key role in record keeping since the third millennium BC, when a Babylonian temple was found to have a number of rooms filled with clay tablets. Today, librarians play a significant role not only supporting students, faculty and the community, but also in advancing their own research, both locally and globally.

A grant to two UVic librarian researchers has led to better awareness of how Indian students expect to discover and critically appraise scholarly information—and how the Libraries can improve their experiences.

At UVic Libraries, Engineering and Science Librarian Aditi Gupta, and Island Medical Program and Health Sciences Librarian Rebecca Raworth, received a \$20,000 Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's Institutional Collaborative Research Grant for 2018-2020, for their collaborative mixed methods research study exploring the need for information literacy programs. The grant, sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, allows Gupta and Raworth to explore the differences and commonalities in the information seeking behaviors and research practices of engineering and science graduate students in India and Canada.



Innovative Information Literacy active learning and engaging pedagogies at IITB, Mumbai, India

In 2016, the Association of College and Research Libraries adopted a new Information Literacy (IL) Framework, which defines IL as encompassing the discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.

Through focus groups with students and workshops for academic Indian librarians, Gupta and Raworth discovered that one of the biggest barriers that Indian librarians encounter is the absence of information literacy instruction in Indian library schools. The pair demonstrated that by developing IL competencies in librarians through active-learning workshops, they were making an impact on librarians' ability to provide IL instruction to students at their own institutions.

"This engagement of Canadian librarians teaching librarians from India and sharing knowledge has already built cross-cultural capacities, and created an opportunity for knowledge mobilization between our institutions," explains Gupta.

As part of the study, they will develop a series of programs for librarians in India to teach, use, and embrace information literacy instruction, while building cross-cultural research collaborations at UVic Libraries, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

"We also wanted to enhance the international student experience, a goal in UVic's International Plan," adds Raworth. "By conducting focus groups with graduate students in India, we have learned how we can make the greatest impact in helping Indian international students at UVic."

With the goal of sharing expertise, building partnerships and alliances with their Indian colleagues, and conducting workshops for academic librarians in India, Gupta and Raworth are planning for the future of libraries around the world—one building block at a time. [Ring story.](#)



**University
of Victoria**

Libraries

This bi-monthly newsletter is sent to you by the UVic Libraries Communications Office: libcomm@uvic.ca



