



THE AMPERSAND

& HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM UVIC LIBRARIES



High School Hockey Team, 1901-02
Victoria High School Girls Hockey Club, 1901-02; University of Victoria Archives Historical Photograph Collection, ref # 0603720426. Identified students : L. Mowat (left). Middle row: Wollaston (second from left) and Rosalind Watson (far right).

Did you know? The University of Victoria has a shared history with Victoria High School. Victoria College, UVic's predecessor, was an adjunct to Vic High from

1903 to 1920, and administered by the Victoria School Board.

What do you notice about this picture? The girls are holding grass hockey sticks! At that time, the sport “hockey” was closely associated with field hockey, and access to ice hockey was limited for girls and women in BC. According to historian Wayne Norton, the first known organized ice hockey event for women in British Columbia happened in 1900, in Rossland.

& MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



The future, in part, will be an era of deeper engagement with faculty and students; one in which our critical role as stewards of information, in an age of disinformation, will be recognized as ever more integral to faculty and researcher success across all disciplines.

On behalf of us all at UVic Libraries, I wish you and yours a prosperous, healthy, and happy 2020!

Jonathan Bengton
University Librarian

Libraries are institutions that tell us about ourselves. They tell us what we know, what we do not know, what we need, what we value. As illuminated at the University Librarian's lecture earlier this year, our research libraries have a past, we have a present, and we have a future and the three are patently not the same things. We have moved from being primarily repositories of the products of research, to institutions that have a role throughout the entire research process from creation to access to preservation.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



Photo: UVic Photo Services

TRUTH-TELLING JOURNEY LEADS RESEARCH LIBRARIAN TO THE CONVOCATION STAGE

by: Lisa Abram, Communications Officer

UVic Librarian Pia Russell was inspired by the findings from the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) (TRC) to accomplish a fourth university degree, graduating this week in one of the first cohorts in UVic's new masters in public history program.

On hearing the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair speak about the TRC at the Woodrow Lloyd Lecture in 2016 at the University of Regina, Russell was moved by his declaration of how decades of exclusionary and biased curriculum within the Canadian school system had impaired how Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians relate to one another.

Since 1997, Russell's [career](#) has centred on librarianship, graduating in 2004 with a Masters of Information Studies, and working at UVic Libraries since 2006 as the education, children's literature, gender studies, and Indigenous studies librarian. Following the publication of the TRC report, Russell's professional practice has been informed by it, changing her identity in librarianship more than any other issue—including technological innovations in the profession.

"I began to recognize how much privilege I had inherited and at the devastating expense of Indigenous people's rights that Europeans had taken from them. Through a tenacious process of what scholar Paulette Regan calls *unsettling*, I have slowly begun to see just how distressing my own education had been," explains Russell.

In 2014, her research into curating the [British Columbia Historical Textbooks](#) collection began when she declared her [interest](#) in the history of government approved textbooks. Russell's realization that these resources could generate the potential for public dialogue drove her to become an authoritative editor of the collection, cementing a decision to improve her historical thinking skills by

going back to university as a graduate student. Since then, the textbooks project has become highly collaborative, with multiple units in the library sharing their expertise.

When the new BC curriculum was released in 2016, Russell started to reflect on the library collection and the resources under her purview, wanting to remediate the collection to support her education patrons who were interested in curriculum recommendations and how they could best “unsettle” themselves. With generous supplementary library collection funds, this remediation was made possible.

With the support of University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson, and under the supervision of UVic historian Lynne Marks, Russell completed her MA—*Whose History? A Reconnaissance of British Columbia's First Fifty Years of History Textbooks, 1871-1921*—specializing in public history, Indigenous-settler relations, cultural resource management and Canadian history.

On receiving a UVic Internal Research/Creative Project Grant in 2019, Russell began to develop a comprehensive digital library and learning portal of British Columbia's historical textbooks for public and scholarly audiences. This collection presently focuses on over 500 textbooks authorized for use in BC schools during the first 50 years of the province's history—of which over 400 titles have been digitized to-date.

While completing her degree, Russell led a triple life as a librarian, student, and mother of two—taking a six-month study leave to complete her coursework while writing her thesis part-time and working with others, including Humanities co-op students, work study students and graduate student curators, all of whom have been instrumental assistants in her historical textbooks research project.

Read the full [Ring Story about Pia](#).
[Tweet](#) from Senator Murray Sinclair

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS



Photo: UVic Photo Services

GIVING TUESDAY

According to Jim Dunsdon, Giving Tuesday Chair, and Associate Vice-President Student Affairs, the UVic community gave more than \$100,000 to support the clubs, field schools, awards and initiatives that enrich the UVic student experience.

Some of the highlights from the day:

- More than 2,500 people participated in Giving Tuesday and \$20,000 from our generous matching donors was unlocked—helping double the impact!
- 1,000 Giving Gram cookies were sent to people with messages of appreciation—spreading sprinkles across campus and bringing smiles to faces!
- More than 350 students came out to play UVic Philanthropy at the fountain and try their luck in the Giving Machine at the University Centre to help us unlock donations and designate them to the fund of their choice.

Find out more about [Giving Tuesday](#), and our [Giving Information page](#).

& IN THE NEWS



MICHAEL LINES AND BOOKBINDING

Learning and Research Librarian Michael Lines published an article on community outreach and bookbinding in the recent issue of *BCLA Perspectives*.

"Kids learn a lot from putting together their own book. Depending on their age and background, the messages can be in the range of foundational literacy, such as: books are made by people, and books are valuable. At higher levels, the lessons can be more conceptual, such as books have authors and other contributors, books are a technology, and books have a history," explains Michael.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES STATEMENT ON OPEN EDUCATION

On November 14, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) **issued a statement**: CARL believes that the mission of universities is to create and disseminate knowledge, and that an open scholarship system that is accessible to all readers offers the surest path towards positively impacting human life on all parts of the globe. CARL further believes that opening all forms of scholarship to wide scrutiny enhances quality, increases accountability and promotes collaboration – thus leading to higher visibility and impact. Open education practices align well with these principles, as they reduce barriers to education, leverage technology to



DID YOU KNOW?

UVic grads are among the world's most employable, according to a prestigious international ranking by Times Higher Education. [Watch video](#).



Bill Blair, music and media librarian, with some of our current vinyl collection.

BILL BLAIR AND THE VINYL COLLECTION

Learning and Research Bill Blair was interviewed in the Vancouver Sun - Province about the library's extensive LP collection. Did you know that we have around 20,000 albums ranging from classical to world music that you can check out?

"At that point, I thought this would be a good opportunity to look through the LPs and talk to the school of music and see what they needed to support the curriculum, and also to look at circulation stats and see which albums weren't circulating or hadn't circulated in a very long time," Blair said.

Read more about Bill and our vinyl collection in the [Vancouver Sun](#).

improve teaching and learning, and can result in high quality learning experiences.

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

by: Rich McCue

Our electronics graduate assistant, Jacob Lower, has been hard at work on a new Raspberry Pi workshop. The Raspberry Pi is an Open Source licenced hardware platform that is relatively inexpensive to purchase, yet powerful enough to be a desktop computer and run a web browser and other educational applications. Some of the **workshop activities** Jacob is working on include: making a digital signage station, a retro gaming machine to play old arcade games, and a weather station.



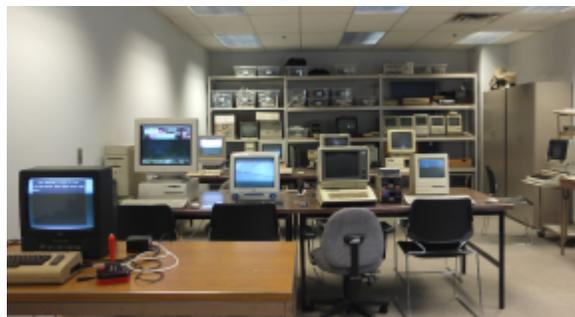
DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Librarian **Bill Blair** upon receiving the Dedicated Service Award from the Canadian Association of University Teachers in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the UVic Faculty Association.



SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

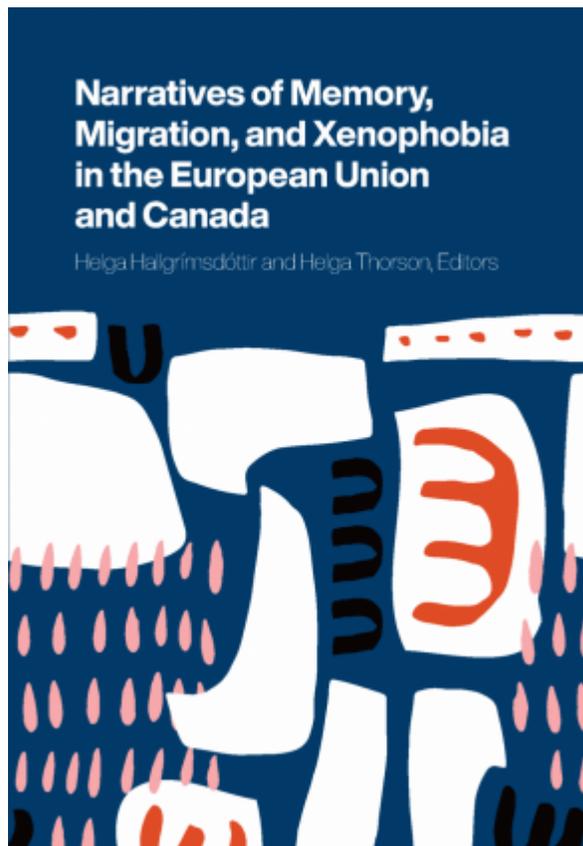
Join our **monthly newsletter** to receive updates throughout the year regarding our special events, celebrations, fundraising efforts, and library developments. Read **archived issues** you may have missed.



NEW RETRO COMPUTING ROOM

We recently had a soft launch for our new **Obsolete Computing and Media** room. It is a developing collection of older computers, software, and documentation, supporting research and instruction in areas such as Media Studies, Digital Archaeology, and the Histories of Computing.

The collection is located in room 080 on the lower level of the Mearns Centre-McPherson Library. It is open by appointment. Contact **John Durno**, head of library systems, for more information. You might fall in love again with

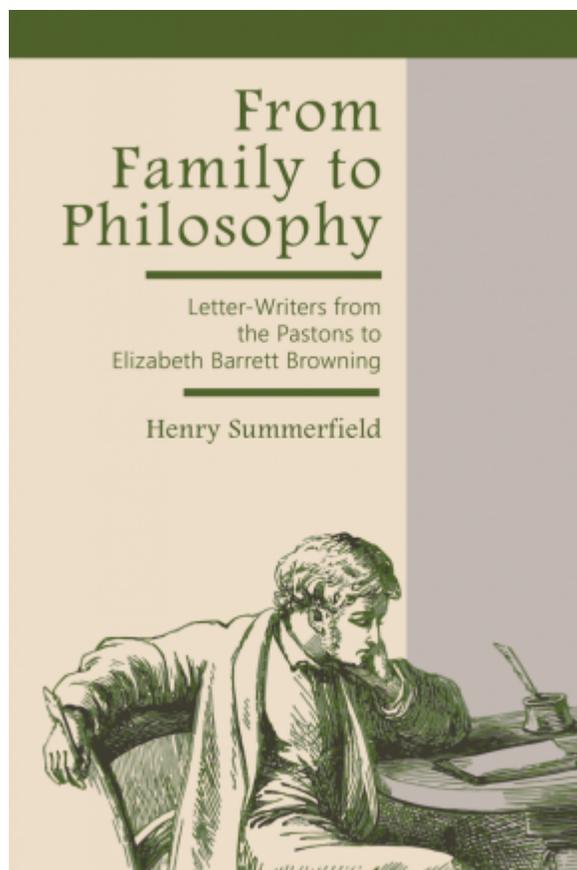


LATEST TITLES FROM ePUBLISHING SERVICES

Narratives of Memory, Migration, and Xenophobia

Narratives of Memory, Migration, and Xenophobia in the European Union and Canada is the distinct culmination of an intensive cross-cultural academic endeavour that explores how memories of the past are intricately intertwined with present-day realities and future aspirations. The book is based on a range of experiences that stem from a summer field school focusing on landscapes of memory in Hungary, Germany, France, and Canada, in the context of migration and xenophobia.

that colourful iMac or Commodore computer you once had!



LATEST TITLES FROM ePUBLISHING SERVICES

From Family to Philosophy: Letter-Writers from the Pastons to Elizabeth Barrett Browning

A cultural change in the Renaissance freed talented European writers to compose letters rivaling the finest that survived from ancient Rome. **This book** traces the lives and outlooks of distinguished Britons as revealed in their correspondence. The subjects range from the fierce satirist Jonathan Swift to the long-lived, all-observing Horace Walpole, and from the poet and freedom fighter Lord Byron to the tormented but brilliant Jane Carlyle.

& THE LAST WORD

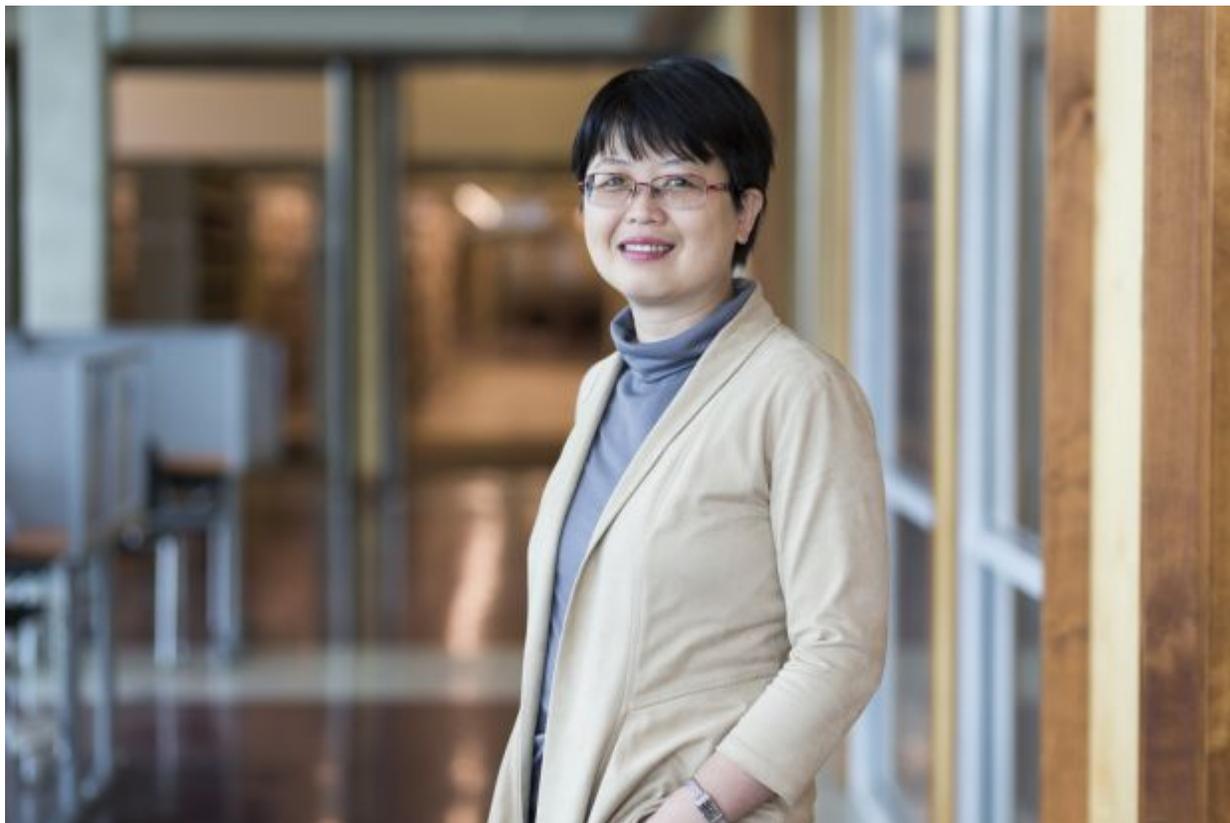


Photo: UVic Photo Services

A CONVERSATION WITH LIBRARIAN YING LIU

Interview conducted and edited by: Zehra Abrar, Work Study student

What does your typical work day look like?

Typically I start with checking emails, especially the reference questions from library patrons. I will always try to give an answer on the same day if possible. From time to time, I receive requests for face-to-face consultation and will also give priorities to them. As a reference librarian, I work on the library research help desk regularly and teach general and subject-specific library research sessions on campus. As the subject librarian for Linguistics, Asian Studies and Religious Studies, I recommend, select and de-select the print and online resources in the subject areas to ensure the collections meet the needs of teaching and research. I also work on various committees in the library or on campus to participate in designing and reviewing services, programs, and other issues. Everyday I spend some time learning new things. It can be a new resource provided by a vendor, or a research tool used in my subject area, a discussion from the listservs that I usually monitor, or something I learnt by answering a difficult question. This is why I love my job, I never feel bored with it.

What convinced you to become a librarian?

I love reading and books. I have curiosity and love to be inspired intellectually by working with my colleagues, faculties, and students. It is satisfying to see someone progress in their work because of my help.

Tell me about your current project?

The project I am working on is to build a digital exhibition of selected articles from the *World Journal Vancouver* newspaper and *The New Republic* newspaper. The digital exhibition will serve as a

showcase for these two newspapers from local Chinese communities in B.C., and act as a pilot project to identify possible challenges, such as dealing with large dimension digitization and how to implement OCR (optical character recognition) with Chinese texts. With Christine Walde, our Grants & Awards Librarian's help, I received the PRRLA (Pacific Rim Research Library Alliance) 2018 Karl Lo Award to cover part of the project expenses. I also did two practicums at the ETCL (Electronic Textual Cultures Lab). Many of my colleagues provided valuable advice on the project details.

What did you do while you were on your 6-month study leave?

During the study leave, I first worked with digital scholarship librarian Matt Huculak and used the ABBY FineReader to test the OCR results with the scanned images of the two newspapers. I also worked with the Head of Metadata, Dean Seeman, to create the metadata guidelines. I reviewed and selected 25 articles from *The New Republic* newspaper and about 40 articles from *the World Journal* newspaper for the exhibition. My research assistants Jintia Claire Ross-Van Mierlo and Qicheng Zhong scanned, OCRed, and edited the articles. The English translation of the articles were also provided. We reviewed and edited the transcription and translation of the 16 interview videos of Mr. John Hsu who is the last chief editor of both newspapers.

I also took two DHSI courses during the leave: Digital Storytelling, and Introduction to IIF: Sharing, Consuming, and Annotating the World's Images. I presented my paper titled "A Review of the Studies on Possible Transpacific Contact between Ancient China and America" at the conference Bridging the Pacific: Connections and Comparisons between East Asia and North America (UVic, April 28 - 30, 2019).

A Digital Exhibition of Selected Articles from



You published a book in 2014 on *Zheng He's Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and China's Relations with the Indian Ocean World: a Multilingual Bibliography*. If given a chance to go back in past and interview Zheng He, what would you ask him?

There are many questions I would ask Zheng He. The burning ones would be: where were the most distant places your fleet actually reached during the voyage? Is it true that some of your ships were 447 feet long by 183 feet wide as described in the *Official Ming History* (Ming Shi)? What were the purposes of the voyages? Did you order any military actions during the voyages? A more personal

question would be “What is your religious belief: Buddhism, Islam, or Mazu or all?” A librarian’s question would be “Where are your official and unofficial notes and documents about the voyages?”

What advice would you give your 12 year-old self?

I guess it would be to make more friends. I was shy and quiet at that age.

Which book is your go-to, the one which always remains on your bedside table?

I do not actually have one book like that because my reading interests change from time to time. My recent reading is *T'An Ssu-T'ung, 1865-1898, Life and Thought of a Reformer*. I used to read his biography in Chinese. This is an English biography written by a Canadian scholar, Luke S.K. Kwong. T'An was one of the most famous intellectuals in the late Qing China. I am very interested in how the intellectuals in his era chose to accept and adopt western knowledge and political thoughts.

How often do you work directly with students on their research? What is the most interesting student research topic/questions that you have been asked?

During the fall or spring semesters, almost everyday I have one or more research questions to answer. Sometimes I feel like doing the detective work when answering reference questions. I once received a question looking for primary sources related to Dr. Norman Bethune’s life in China. We found some memories and other published content at the time. One year later, I met a visiting scholar on campus. In conversation, she told me that Dr. Bethune used to live in her mother-in-law’s parents’ home in a small village called Tunzhuang in He Bei province. It is a small world. I just cannot resist the idea of interviewing her mother-in-law or maybe other villagers. This could be a project. Librarians collect, preserve, and make content like this available for researchers. And all this starts with our daily reference and liaison work with faculty and students.

[Read more about Ying and her library work.](#)



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

