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May 30, 2015

David Flaherty Undergraduate Student Library Scholarship

David Harris Flaherty was the President of Pacific Opera Victoria from 2010-2014, and I myself am working towards a Bachelors of Music specializing in Vocal Performance. Therefore, in keeping with the musical theme, this essay is based on the library resources that I used to complete the final term paper for my Opera History class, which I completed this past spring. Access to the library's DVDs, CDs and listening stations made it very easy to study the material for my paper. Its vast LP collection also added valuable insight during the research process. Finally, the library's large collection of computers are efficient and close at hand for all students on campus. Overall, the library's resources enable students at the University of Victoria to save time and go more in-depth with their educational endeavors.

Without the free service of renting library DVDs and CDs, I would have had to settle for YouTube clips in order to view the opera which I was researching for my term paper. The selection of DVDs in the library are of the best quality, and I had the privilege of watching a Metropolitan Opera production of Tchaikovsky's *Evgeni Onegin* starring the famous Dmitri Hvorostovsky in the title role. With DVD players on the demise, I booked a viewing room which provided a productive viewing session in a perfect noiseless space. Along with DVDs, the library also carried multiple versions of the same opera on CD, providing for a more in-depth study of the music.

My favourite resource is the library's LP collection, not for the records themselves but the valuable information stored inside of the slip-covers. As I scoped out three different versions

of *Evgeni Onegin* on LPs, I found in one of them a word-for-word English translation of the entire opera – something which could not be found for free in print– and a goldmine for an aspiring opera singer! In another LP I found an entire transliteration of the Russian Cyrillic text for the opera – another invaluable asset in the most un-suspecting of places. The result was a completely in-depth look on Pushkin’s libretto for my paper, and also the discovery of a new resource for my future singing endeavors.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation for the vast number of PCs available in the Macpherson Library, which always have a fast internet connection and are user-friendly. With the library’s extended operating hours and the Bibliocafé close at hand, I happily and easily typed out my term paper in a quiet, stress-free environment, with a Mocha Frappuccino on the side.

DVDs, listening rooms, LPs and computers are just a few out of dozens of resources available to students at UVic. I could even write a whole other essay on the benefits of using the library’s microfiche system – (that, of which, can wait for another time!) These resources enable students to spend less time *looking* for information and more time going in-depth with their research, as I was able to do with my term paper for my Opera History class, and my resulting letter grade is the proof of this fact.