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December 2024



We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Happy Holidays from the University of Victoria Libraries and University Art Collections



This year's holiday card design takes its inspiration from the George Norris sculptural panels on the

original McPherson Library. By simplifying some of the motifs into basic geometric shapes, the design captures the spirit of Norris' work while reimagining it with a clean, modern twist. The format was inspired by the cover of *New Grammar of Ornament* by Thomas Weil, published by Lars Müller Publishers.

Card design using stylized George A. Norris wall panels of the McPherson Library (1964). Story and design by master printer Jacob Maddison. Hand printed at the Farallon Book Arts Lab at the University of Victoria Libraries.

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



Photo: UVic Photo Services

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoy the final edition of *The Ampersand* this year. Wishing you a joyous holiday season and all the best for 2025 from all of us at UVic Libraries.

Warm regards,

& TOP STORIES IN 2024

TRANS+ ARCHIVES DIGITIZATION GRANT

KULA: LIBRARY FUTURES ACADEMY

The University of Victoria Libraries received a landmark [Digitizing Hidden Special Collections & Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices](#) grant in the amount of US \$289,218 from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to digitize historical Trans+ materials from the Transgender Archives.

One of only 18 applications recommended for funding from 133 submitted applications—with Lara Wilson, Director, Special Collections & University Archivist; Aaron Devor, Chair in Transgender Studies, Founder and Subject Matter Expert for the Transgender Archives; and Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian, Advanced Research Services, as Principal Investigators on the grant—the *trans(formation): digitizing the [Rikki Swin Institute Trans+ activism and outreach media collection](#)* project will digitize, preserve, describe, and make accessible 521 at-risk audio visual items that document the history of Trans+ activism.

The UVic Libraries' [Transgender Archives](#) is the largest collection of original materials chronicling Trans+ history and activism in the world. With evolving technology turning old media into quick obsolescence, there is an urgent need to document and make accessible the fragile digital history of the Trans+ community.

[Read the full press release.](#)

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF McPHERSON LIBRARY

On November 14, 1964, UVic and the community gathered to celebrate the opening of the McPherson Library, one of the first buildings at the newly created university. On December 3, 2024, students, faculty, staff and the community celebrated the 60th birthday of the McPherson Library with free hot chocolate, cookies, and giveaways to commemorate this historic occasion, along with button-making, special activities, and a live DJ from CFUV spinning some tunes in our new student lounge on the main floor of the library.

Read the [Times Colonist](#) story, and [60 years of donor history](#) to the library.

In September 2024, librarian [Dr. Matt Huculak](#) was appointed as Director of Kula: Library Futures Academy (Kula), the new library-based institute of advanced studies and research arm of UVic Libraries. Formerly Head of Advanced Research Services at UVic Libraries, Matt has been a collaborator and co-applicant on many grant-funded humanities and library projects over the past 15 years and holds several awards for teaching and research.

As the inaugural Director of Kula, Matt will lead the development of the Academy, which will advance the role libraries play in collaborative knowledge creation by exploring the foundational, historical, and theoretical intersections of technology and knowledge production in human cultures. Kula will work with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize library-based research and engagement on issues of global concern and foster a supportive and vibrant intellectual community. The Academy will serve as a transdisciplinary collider space and test bed for new and innovative research technologies, methods, and practices.

MERGER WITH UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTIONS

After years of consultation and planning, it was recommended by the University Executive and approved by the Vice-President Academic and Provost to merge the [Legacy Art Galleries](#) with the University Libraries, an exciting development that unites these complementary collections with the intention to better support research, teaching, and community access. Integrating the art collection into the library collection brings together, for example, the artworks of Eric Metcalfe and Myfawny Pavelić with the archival material in the Eric Metcalfe collection and Myfawny Pavelić family fonds held by [Special Collections and University Archives](#).

The move of the Legacy art collections into the Libraries is an exciting new chapter in the dynamic history of UVic Libraries. It reflects the growing trend of partnerships between galleries, libraries, museums, and archives and offers rich opportunities for future

RESPONDING TO STUDENT FEEDBACK

Based on feedback from UVic students, we improved student spaces by replacing over a hundred computer desk chairs to better suit students' study needs. Due to the popularity of the current [Tek Booths](#), four new soundproof booths have been installed on the main floor of the Mearns - McPherson Library, including two new double booths. A large multi-monitor digital screen was also mounted in the new student study lounge space for use during events and to enhance promotion of library services and resources.

In recognition of the barrier that fines present to students' use of the library, UVic Libraries stopped assessing overdue fines for regular loans in September 2024. Recalled items, Interlibrary loans, media equipment, and short-term loans (such as Reserve items) are still subject to overdue fines. But if you borrow a regular book (and nobody recalls it) it's yours until the [loan period](#) runs out...and our new loan periods can be up to two years.

Learn more about the [No Fines policy](#).

THE POWER OF PODCASTS

At UVic Libraries, students have succeeded in using the podcasting format for academic projects by taking podcasting workshops in the [Digital Scholarship Commons](#) and using the library podcasting room. For several Indigenous students, faculty and staff, podcasting has emerged as something deeply personal—a vehicle through which their individual experiences can be shared to broader audiences.

Recently, three Indigenous UVic students have explored the use of podcasting to cultivate Indigenous community on campus, share their experiences as first-year Indigenous students, demonstrate learning on their own terms, or use it as a resource for knowledge creation and sharing.

[Read the UVic story](#) about Elijah, Tiffany and Haylee.

collaboration.

FARALLON BOOK ARTS LAB

Since its opening in fall 2023, the [Farallon Book Arts Lab](#) has hosted campus open houses, classes for students and faculty in Education, Fine Arts, and Humanities, student groups, workshops, and a course through Continuing Studies.

This new space houses some of the Libraries' oldest equipment: machinery and tools used for historical and contemporary book arts such as letterpress printing and bookbinding. The Book Arts Lab supports interdisciplinary learning and research on the circulation of knowledge, print media, and book arts from letterpress printing to graphic design to zines.

The space has benefitted from notable bequests of bookbinding equipment from Father Charles Brandt and Elizabeth Spencer, as well as purchases of letterpress equipment from local printers Wonders Press (Lillian Wonders) and Winfield Printing (Don Allen). Additional donations from Victoria's thriving book arts community have also benefitted the new space.

EXPANSION OF RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

UVic Libraries now has access to the entire Canadian University Press eBook catalogue. We now own nearly every eBook ever published by all major university presses in Canada. This includes UBC Press, U of T Press, McGill-Queens University Press, and many more. All 15,000+ eBooks allow for unlimited and restriction-free access. Access to new Canadian University Press titles will be acquired as they become available.

[Browse the Association of Canadian University Presses collection.](#)

GenAI WORKSHOPS AND SUPPORT

Engaging with GenAI (generative artificial intelligence) has been a priority at UVic Libraries. Check our website for workshops on

CONFLICT AFTERMATH DIGITAL ARCHIVE

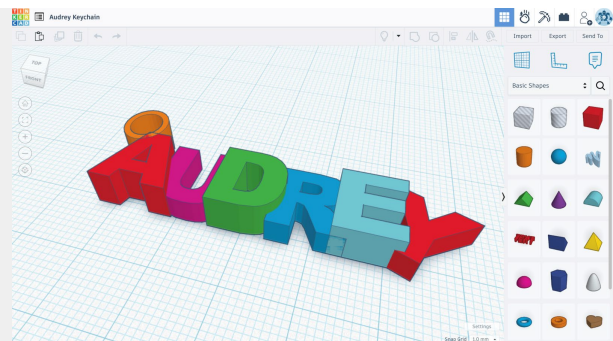
Nathaniel Brunt, an interdisciplinary scholar and award-winning documentary photographer, is creating the *Conflict Aftermath Digital Archive Project* (CADAP). Using field experience and drawing on the expertise of librarians, archivists, historians and other documentarians, Nathaniel is developing innovative ethical digital archival methods and resources to preserve and make publicly accessible at-risk visual material in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Currently, he is working with the Yazidis in northern Iraq who face the challenges of living in the aftermath of a genocide as they rebuild their lives.

As a UVic [Aspiration 2030 postdoctoral fellow](#), Nathaniel is collaborating with many staff at UVic Libraries who have expertise in the ethics of working with archival materials in vulnerable communities, digital preservation, digital asset collection, metadata, and the challenges of working with Indigenous materials.

Read the [full story on Nathaniel's research](#).

AI topics, including using AI transcription tools to enhance audio transcription to learning how to safely use GenAI tools for research assignments. With UVic's [position statement](#) as a foundation to support students in becoming AI literate, UVic Libraries is teaching students how to use some of GenAI's most useful research features, and how to consider its ethical implications.

& AROUND THE LIBRARIES



YOUNG MINDS, BIG IDEAS: A 3D DESIGN & PRINT ADVENTURE IN THE DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

by: Rich McCue, Manager, Digital Scholarship Commons

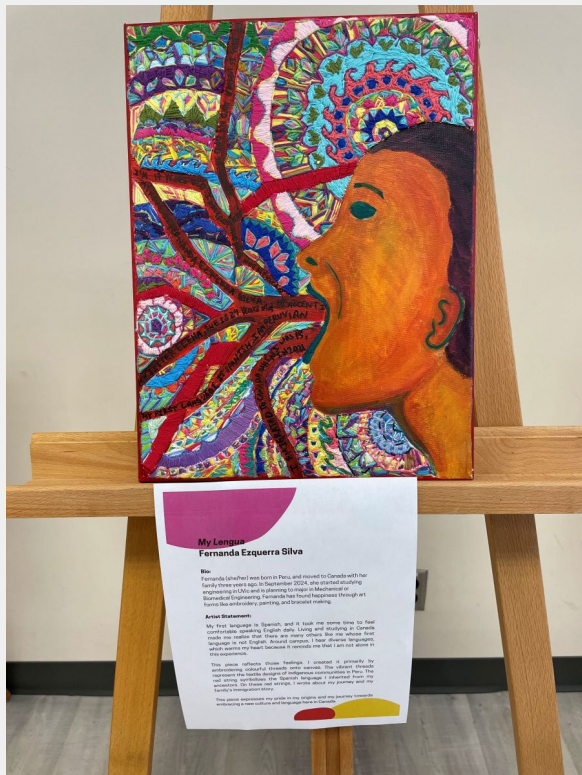
Twenty bright and curious first-graders from Macaulay Elementary School's French immersion program were the most interesting student group that visited the [Digital Scholarship Commons](#) (DSC) in 2024. This year, the DSC hosted hands-on workshops for seven different classes from schools around Greater Victoria as part of the Libraries' public outreach and campus student recruitment efforts.

The first-grade students brought ample energy and enthusiasm to the [3D design and print workshop](#). Led by our talented graduate assistant, Brittany Johnson—who is also pursuing a

Master's degree in Education and researching how 3D printing can enhance learning in elementary classrooms—these young students experienced a hands-on introduction to 21st century technology.

Brittany guided the students through a simple, playful design activity that gave each child the chance to design and print a small 3D object using the Libraries' 3D printers. The workshop not only introduced these young minds to digital design concepts but also sparked their interest in advanced technology in a way that was engaging and approachable.

We look forward to continuing to host more workshops that reach a broad range of age groups and interests, knowing that even the youngest members of our community have so much to gain from these interactive, skill-building experiences. While the DSC regularly hosts workshops for middle-school and high school groups, this workshop was a clear demonstration of how 3D design and printing can be a very effective learning tool—and how it can help make learning an exciting and joyful experience for all ages!



FIVE DAYS OF ACTION

As part of UVic Libraries' commitment to the calls for the [5 Days of Action](#), we partnered with the division of Equity and Human Rights in a [student art exhibition](#) displayed in the new student lounge from November 4-15. The show featured ten student artists from different faculties and departments, and included poetry as well visual art, ranging from painting to photography to digital artworks. The exhibition explored the calls to action through art that aims to end discrimination, harassment and sexualized violence in our communities and build an equity-centred



GENDER GENERATIONS PROJECT MURAL

The Gender Generations Project hosts biannual art retreats, over two free weekends, for Trans, Two-Spirit, Non-Binary, gender diverse youth and older adults. At the latest retreat, participants created a nature-themed mural, which was displayed in the library in honour of the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 21.

[Learn more about the Gender Generations Project.](#)

culture together.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



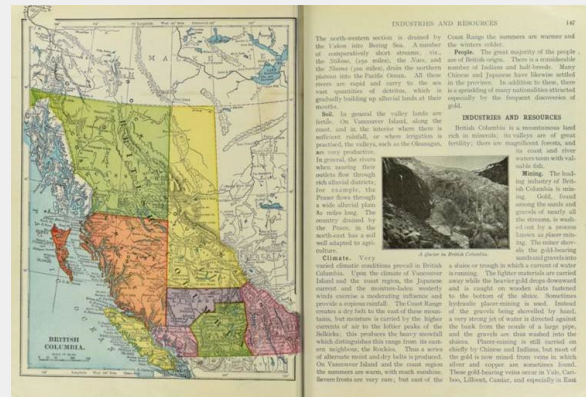
DISCOVER A FRESH PERSPECTIVE
New calendar has arrived!

The human potential to learn and grow is endless. Embracing learning as a journey unlocks opportunities for personal enrichment, meaningful conversations, and inspiring connections at every stage of life.

The January 2025 calendar is packed with a diverse selection of courses offered both online and in person. Whether you prefer virtual learning or hands-on experiences, there's something for everyone. Discover the perfect course to spark your curiosity or nurture your passions. Here are just a few courses to explore:

- [Exhale: Discovering the Great Mystery](#)
- [Responsibilities and Reciprocity in the Place You are Now](#)
- [Comics and Graphic Novels Studio](#)
- [Bridging Knowledge Culture: Rebalancing Power](#)
- [Emotional Intelligence for Personal and Professional Growth](#)

[Learn more](#)



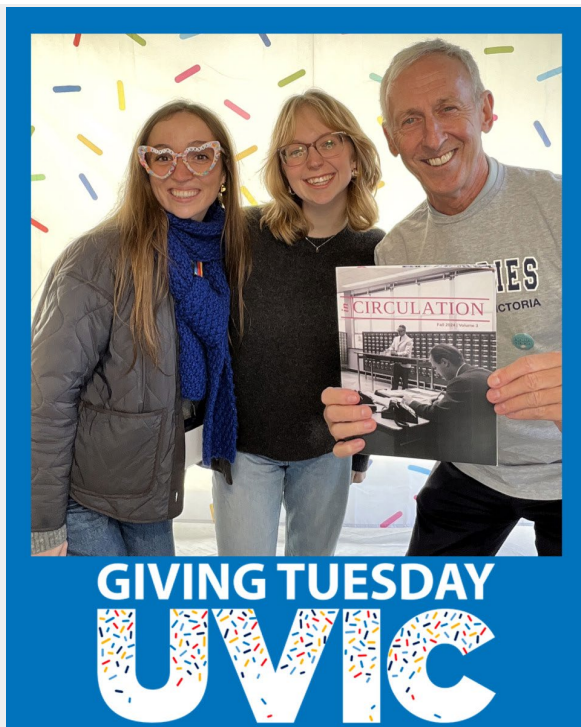
TAAPWAYWIN: LATEST EPISODE

"Every community in the world has a basic human right to know their history, to tell their history, and to claim their connections to their homelands."

In Episode 7 of UVic Libraries' podcast [Taapwaywin](#), host Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation, digs into the stories we've been told about the history of these lands, reflecting on the role education has played in disseminating colonial myths, and the hard work underway to get to the truth of our collective history.

In this episode, Ry speaks with librarian Pia Russell and education professor Chaa'winisaks about how historical school textbooks were central in promoting and spreading colonial ideas, and with archaeologist Paulette Steeves about her work reclaiming 200,000 years of Indigenous history.

[Listen now](#)



UVic President Kevin Hall with library social media ambassadors Meg and Liv (l-r).

in CIRCULATION MAKES DEBUT AT GIVING TUESDAY

[Watch this space](#) for the digital version of the 2024 annual library magazine!

& IN THE NEWS

LIBRARY JOURNAL CITED

UVic Libraries' peer-reviewed journal *KULA: [knowledge creation, dissemination, and preservation studies](#)* has been referenced as an example of good practice in the 18th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* in the section on citing Indigenous sources of knowledge.

[14.137: Citing Indigenous Sources of Knowledge Directly](#)

“...when the source of information is an Indigenous Elder or other Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, there are some additional requirements...The template for a bibliography entry below has been adapted from “More than Personal Communication: Templates for Citing Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers,” an article by Lorisia MacLeod



UVIC DATAVERSE CERTIFIED AS TRUSTWORTHY REPOSITORY

The University of Victoria Libraries is happy to announce that the [University of Victoria](#)

(James Smith Cree Nation) in the journal *KULA* ([bibliog. 1.3](#)).

RECENT PUBLISHING

Congratulations to UVic librarians [Matt Huculak](#) and [Corey Davis](#) on the recent publication of a book chapter they co-wrote, "[Preserving Digital Humanities Projects Using Principles of Digital Longevity](#)," in *The Routledge Companion to Libraries, Archives, and the Digital Humanities*.

CAMPUS KUDOS

Congratulations to librarian [David Boudinot](#) for being nominated for a [Campus Kudos](#) Award for his work with the Staff Sustainability Network, Go By Bike Week, and Surfrider Canada.

[Dataverse](#) has been certified as a Trustworthy Data Repository by the [CoreTrustSeal](#) Standards and Certification Board.

University of Victoria Dataverse is a member of Borealis, the Canadian Dataverse Repository. [Borealis](#) is a bilingual, multidisciplinary research data repository service provided in partnership with academic libraries and research institutions across Canada.

The UVic Data Repository has now been invited to join the World Data System, a global network of trusted repository providers.

UVic Libraries is the first Canadian academic library to achieve this certification. Funding and support for our CoreTrustSeal application was provided through a grant from the [Digital Research Alliance of Canada](#) and the Borealis community.

[Learn more.](#)

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



UVic Archives, 2008-007-1.2-1.2.2

IAN BAIRD: A LIFE WELL LIVED

by: Shailoo Bedi, Executive Director, Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to Ian Baird, who passed suddenly on October 28, 2024, at 77. Born in Victoria and raised in his beloved home in Oak Bay on Oliver Street, Ian stayed close to home most of his life attending Monterey Elementary, Glenlyon School, Oak Bay High, and the University of Victoria where he earned a Bachelor of Arts. As an adult learner in his 30s, Ian earned a Master of Library of Science at the University of Western Ontario.

Ian enjoyed his professional career at UVic Libraries, beginning as a library assistant and later as a reference librarian. For the majority of his career, he served as Supervisor of Microform, a role that reflected his meticulous attention to detail and passion for preserving knowledge.

A lifelong lover of books and an avid collector, Ian founded Empire Books, specializing in rare first editions, particularly in trains and railways. His fascination with trains included authoring several books, and the creation of model trains and railways, which he meticulously crafted in his backyard and basement. Ian's travels, often inspired by railways and the British Empire, took him across Canada, the Commonwealth, and to places like India, where he explored historic railway lines.

Quick with a joke, Ian found common ground with all and enlivened many a get-together. One of my favorite memories of Ian took place before we even worked together. I had called him for a reference for a library assistant. Without missing a beat, he asked, "Have you met this person?" I replied, "Yes, I interviewed them." He quipped back, "Well then, what else do you need to know?" His humor, coupled with his practical approach to life, made interactions with him unforgettable and always filled with laughter.

[Read Ian's obituary.](#)

& THE LAST STORY



Circulation supervisor Elizabeth Warr presides over the Circulation Desk, 1964. AR343-AR206-2001-059-044.0801. University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections and University Archives.

SUPPORTING STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR SIX DECADES AND COUNTING

This year marks an exciting milestone for UVic Libraries, as we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the opening of the McPherson Library.

Though the library has undergone major changes over the past six decades, there are two things that have remained steady throughout our history: our commitment to student success, and the importance of alumni and donors.

Where once we saw only book stacks, card catalogues, and carrels, we now see group study rooms, computers, multiple classrooms, and an entire wing devoted to digital scholarship. In addition to access to a vast array of electronic and print resources, students can now borrow laptops and multi-media equipment, and utilize podcasting equipment.

The library is a living representation of the ways that learning, teaching, and research have transformed over the years.

Your special 60th anniversary donation to UVic Libraries will enrich the library experience for the students of today and the future.

Your gift will help us to acquire rare and valuable archives, as well as grow our digital collections and support student-centred programmes. You will be connecting students with important resources, innovative technologies and dynamic workshops to help them along their academic

journey.

As thousands of students access UVic Libraries' collections, space, and library instruction and programmes over the coming semester, they will feel the impact of your generosity. Here's to another 60 years of building intellectual community, together.

Your donation to UVic Libraries gives students the resources they need to learn, create and succeed in the 21st century. **Give today!**

Support UVic Libraries



UVic Libraries Communications Office: libcomm@uvic.ca

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