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**& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON**

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Dear Friends,

Despite our physical buildings being temporarily closed over the past almost four weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been very busy supporting our students through the end of their semester and into the exam period. Distance reference services are in high demand, for instance, and our librarians and staff have created some excellent resources, such as:

[Research Anywhere](#)  
[K-12 Learning at Home during COVID-19](#)  
[Free Things to do while Social Distancing](#)

Many of us are actively working on projects that enhance access to our digitized resources by transcribing materials and adding metadata to our holdings. Our extensive digital research collections remain accessible to faculty and students, and we are working on ways to mitigate the loss of access to our print collections. Yet, as the busiest locations on campus that create a critical sense of community for our students, staff, faculty, and community members, nothing can truly replace the learning environments of the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library and the Diana M. Priestly Law Library. We look forward to a gradual return once it is safe for us all to do so. In the meantime, if you haven't seen some of our [digital exhibitions](#), you might [check them out](#).

From all of us at UVic Libraries, we hope you stay safe and well. We look forward to seeing you back on campus in the future.

Best wishes,

Jonathan

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**& ACROSS THE LIBRARIES**

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*Photo credit: Megan Webber*

## **LAW LIBRARY ELC RESEARCH-A-THON**

*by: Emily Nickerson, Sarah Miller, and Alex Burdett, Law Librarians*

On Friday, February 28, the UVic Law Library hosted the third annual **ELC Research-a-Thon** event organized by UVic's Environmental Law Club. The research-a-thon is a one-day event with a simple goal: harness the collective energy of a large number of students in a short period of time to generate high-quality research that supports public interest environmental law in British Columbia. One of this year's research questions was how countries around the world are regulating single-use plastic and holding plastic producers accountable through law and policy. The group partnered with UVic's Environmental Law Centre, as well as the University of British Columbia Environmental Law Club, and Thompson Rivers University Science and Law Club to research plastic waste policy in 34 countries and two international organizations around the world.

UVic law librarians created a comprehensive website for this year's research-a-thon to help students identify and work with valuable resources in the law library collection, including library resource guides, websites, reports, books, and journal articles. Notably, they created a resource list for students to work from which linked to legislation, policy, case law, and secondary sources related to plastic waste for each country. Librarians were also on hand throughout the day to help with the process of researching foreign and international law.

The event ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and over 30 law and non-law students from UVic participated. During lunch, students drew inspiration from guest speakers Calvin Sandborn, Q.C. (Legal Director of the Environmental Law Centre), who spoke about the Centre's law reform initiatives to reduce plastics pollution, and Daniel Brendle-Moczuk (Environmental Studies Librarian) and David

Boudinot (Acquisitions & Electronic Resources Librarian), who talked about their research with the Surfrider Foundation on pre-consumer plastic production pellet spills in the Lower Mainland.

The research conducted by students at the research-a-thon will support the Environmental Law Centre's ongoing projects related to global movements on plastic policy and law reform, and will be used to develop public educational materials, including reports and infographics of plastic laws and policies around the world.

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## & IN THE NEWS

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### DAVID BOUDINOT

Librarian David Boudinot has recently been in the news for his volunteer work as a plastic pellet researcher with Surfrider Foundation, helping to remove plastic from BC's beautiful beaches.

Take a listen to his recent [CFAX interview](#). Read about his environmental work with librarian Daniel Brendle-Moczuk in [Focus magazine](#).



### IDEAFEST

If you were in attendance at our March 6 Ideafest event, you may have noticed some media coverage leading up to it. Read and hear about librarians Pia Russell (in the [Times Colonist](#)), Justin Harrison (on the French radio program, [Radio Victoria](#)), and John Durno (in the [Victoria News](#)).



### SHAILOO BEDI

Congratulations to Shailoo Bedi (Director, Office of Student Academic Success, Learning, Teaching Support and Innovation/Director, Academic Commons and Strategic Assessment, University Libraries), who has been elected to represent non-faculty employees of the university on the [Board of Governors](#) for a three-year term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

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## & OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

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Photo credit: UVic Photo Services

## INTERVIEW WITH LIBRARIAN MATT HUCULAK

by: Zehra Abrar, work study student

### What is keeping academic librarians up at night?

Too much tea and coffee after 3 p.m. I don't think I can speak for all academic librarians, but I can speak for those of us working in digital scholarship right now. We're in fairly new territory as academic libraries respond to, change with, and advise on the shifting nature of research and scholarship. For example, here at the University of Victoria, we're working much more closely with researchers on the ground—what we refer to as “embedded librarianship.” UVic Libraries was the first library in North America (and perhaps the world) to create and hire a Grants & Awards Librarian (Christine Walde), who would work one-on-one with faculty to offer support in making sure the things we produce



Photo credit: UVic Photo Services

## LIBRARIAN DANIEL BRENDLE-MOCZUK SHARES HIS PASSION FOR MAPS

by: Zehra Abrar, work study student

### You are the Geospatial, Statistics Canada & ICPSR Data Librarian and liaise with the Departments of Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, and Sociology. Tell us: Which one of these subjects fascinates or interests you the most?

I enjoy working with the faculty and students of all these departments. I appreciate visual presentations of data, but maps categorically convey what ***and*** where, and I really enjoy making maps with faculty, students, and the public. Geospatial analysis for and with these folks is also very satisfying.

### What is the first map and most recent map you made with someone?

as scholars have a long-term preservation plan behind them. Because of this support, I have the opportunity to work with departments across campus giving workshops, advising on projects, and developing new curricula to respond to specific needs of faculty and students. This means my colleagues and I are spending less time in the book stacks and more time in classrooms and department boardrooms discussing Digital Information Fluency.

I remember working on a series of maps in 2011 with a UVic anthropology graduate student, Claudine Gravel-Miguel, regarding the last glacial maximum around the Iberian Peninsula and western Mediterranean; see *Exoticism of Portable Art and Ornaments: A Study of Social Networks Around the Last Glacial Maximum*. Claudine now has her PhD and works at Arizona State University.

Read the [full interview with Daniel](#).

Read the [full interview with Matt](#).

## & IN THE VAULT

**91**  
PUBLICATIONS

**591**  
ISSUES

**4,086**  
ARTICLES

**810**  
EVENTS

**SEARCH ONLINE**  
THE WORLD'S LARGEST  
**TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES**  
WITH OUR NEW  
**DISCOVERY TOOL**  
[transgenderarchives.ca](http://transgenderarchives.ca)

Search online from  
anywhere in the  
world & find  
our materials!

While we're  
closed visit our  
online resources  
to view history.

Chair in Transgender Studies  
The Transgender Archives

University of Victoria  
Libraries

### TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES DISCOVERY TOOL

by: *Michael Radmacher, Assistant to the Chair in Transgender Studies, and Lara Wilson, Director, Special Collections & University Archivist*

The University of Victoria Libraries and the Chair in Transgender Studies are proud to launch a new online discovery tool. The Transgender Archives forms part of the holdings of UVic Libraries Special Collections & University Archives. It is the largest collection of archival and rare print materials in the world relating to the history of, and research related to, transgender, nonbinary, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people.

Over the past four years, a representative selection of rare periodical titles were identified for enhanced indexing. Historically significant details were identified and recorded about people, places, dates, titles, and subject keywords. The resulting structured data was reviewed for

consistency and standards-based vocabularies, and made accessible through the innovative open-source data visualization platform [Tableau](#).

Currently, the [discovery tool](#) includes 91 publication titles, 591 issues, 4,086 articles, and 810 events. The database represents approximately 20% of UVic Libraries' catalogued periodicals in Special Collections related to trans history and research. The project exemplifies the Libraries' **Open** Strategic Direction, which states that we will “connect people, knowledge, and expertise through partnerships and collaborations, as well as create open avenues to research and to physical and virtual spaces.”

This significant research tool could not have been realized without the expertise and contributions of the following individuals:

- Dean Seeman, Head of Metadata
- Shahira Khair, Data Curation Librarian
- Lara Wilson, Director, Special Collections & University Archivist
- The many Libraries' technical services staff who have been cataloguing these materials for over a decade: Joan Peterson, Pat Dempsey, Alix Gullen, and Susan Fraser-Mosky.

View the tutorial video [here](#).

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## & THE LAST WORD

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## NAVIGATING THROUGH THE NOVEL EXPERIENCES

**Who would have a job where if the boss doesn't come to work, you feel bored?**

*by: Zehra Abrar*

September of 2019. I was beginning something fun and exciting. I never thought a random work study job would be so rewarding and fulfilling. I am a second-year law student doing my master's degree on how law can be effective in addressing the human rights abuses committed by private contractors against refugees in offshore detention centres and refugee camps.

The library, for a student like me, is a sanctuary for completing research projects and papers. And a job in the library seemed like a serious one. But it was different when I got to know what happens on the fourth floor of the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library. I was fortunate to meet some of the most cheerful people in my life. It felt like work that inspired me to wake up every day and go to my cubicle. It was different every day, and it made me pursue my interests and hobbies with more

determination. I can proudly say that I can make a movie now (although not an Oscar-winning one), and the confidence that my work has given me, raised by the beautiful people of the library, makes me think I can do anything I want if I love it.

Of all the great things at my work, the best thing was the demeanour of my boss. Lisa made me feel at home, and she polished my skills and make me love my job. I couldn't be more delighted as I collaborated with her on various projects. Every assignment was a new challenge and an exciting task. For me, of all the projects we undertook, my directorial and writing debut (*laughs*) with the Learning Commons video was the best of all. It was an entire process during which I learned what goes into the administration work of the library. I came across wonderful people who make the library functional. Although it took us more than three months of planning, and many hours of shooting and editing to make a single video, the appreciation that came with it was worth the wait.

This experience is worth remembering. My traditional perception of the library changed, and now I think a library is not only a place for work, but a home of new notions, possibilities and a colourful future.



This newsletter is sent to you by the UVic Libraries Communications Office: [libcomm@uvic.ca](mailto:libcomm@uvic.ca)

