

[View this message online](#)**August 2020****THE AMPERSAND****& RY MORAN JOINS UVIC LIBRARIES**

photo credit: Nardella Photography

**TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION LEADER TO ADVANCE DECOLONIZATION WORK AT UVIC
Ry Moran joins UVic Libraries in the fall**

In March 2019, Ry Moran, then the director of the Winnipeg-based National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), challenged an audience attending the University Librarian's Lecture at First Peoples House, to consider the problem that critical Indigenous knowledge is being lost at an unprecedented rate. "I think archives, in so many ways, are a huge collection of voices that are waiting to be heard. Part of animating that is recognizing that they are alive, and that they need to be cared for, and they need to be brought out, and they can't just sit and collect dust," says Moran.

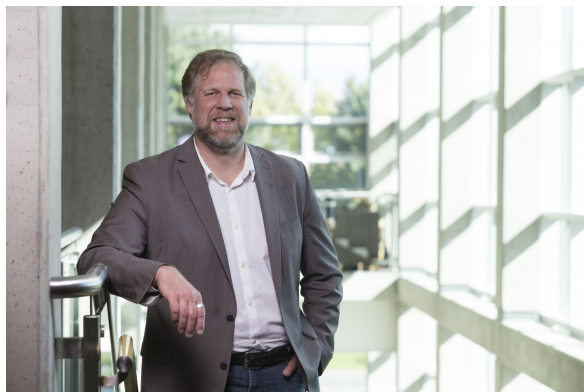
With Moran's recent appointment in the newly created position of Associate University Librarian–Reconciliation, UVic Libraries will be looking both to partner with Indigenous communities to help preserve and sustain Indigenous knowledge, and to introduce Indigenous approaches to knowledge into the daily work of the Libraries.

Learn more about [Ry's work in the UVic online story](#). [Read the news release](#).

Media:

- [Times Colonist](#)
- [CBC Victoria: On the Island with Gregor Craigie](#)
- [CFAX with Adam Stirling](#)
- [CBC website](#)
- [Globe and Mail](#)
- [Library Journal \(part one\)](#)
- [Library Journal \(part two\)](#)

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



We will continue to strive to open as many services as we can in this fluid situation, while respecting the health and safety of our community and staff. Our overarching theme for our students is that **we are here to help!**

Take care. Be safe.

Jonathan

Dear Friends,

Perhaps it goes without saying that we would much prefer to be welcoming everyone in person at the start of the new academic year. All of us at UVic Libraries have been working hard over the summer to put supports and services in place to help our students and faculty be successful in their academic endeavours as we weather this pandemic.

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS



ORIENTATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

As we anticipate beginning the new term virtually, the Libraries has prepared a few distance orientation options for new and returning students and faculty. We have published an [orientation to the Libraries LibGuide](#), prepared a [video](#) that highlights the services that are usually available in our physical space, created a [welcome to the Libraries video](#), and launched a new [catch-all email address](#) for any library related questions.



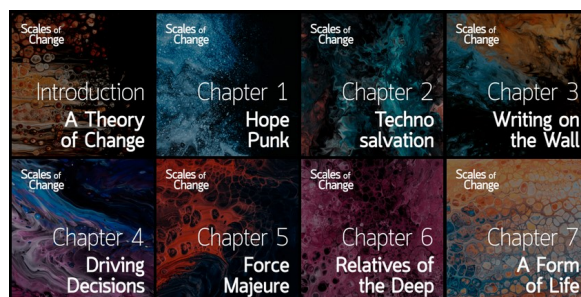
EVIDENCE BASED ACQUISITIONS

UVic Libraries is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of over 209,000 new eBook titles from four major publishers, which significantly expands the holdings of eBooks already in the Libraries' collection. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgent need to expand online access, UVic Libraries has signed Evidence Based Acquisition agreements with Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, Wiley Online Books, and imprints associated with these publishers. These additional eBooks are discoverable via the [library catalogue](#) or on the publisher platforms. [View the eBook LibGuide](#).



LIBRARY STUDY SPACE

Forty-two individual study spaces are available in the BiblioCafé for UVic student use, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. COVID-19 protocols are in place, and study spaces are designed and approved for physical distancing. Bookings can be made up to three business days ahead by emailing the [Loan Desk](#) or calling 250-721-8230. More information about [space bookings](#).



NEW UVIC PODCAST

In May, UVic launched a new podcast miniseries exploring the barriers to climate action called [Scales of Change: A Field Guide to Dragons of Climate Inaction](#). This eight-episode series is based on the work of UVic's Robert Gifford.

Watch this space for future news about a library-produced podcast series.

& FROM THE VAULT



photo credit: Alexandra Bolduc

THERESA KISHKAN ARCHIVES

Interview by Heather Dean, Associate Director, Special Collections

It is with great pleasure that we announce the inclusion of the [Theresa Kishkan fonds](#) in Special Collections. Kishkan is a poet, novelist, and essayist, whose most recent work, a novella titled, [The Weight of the Heart](#), was published by Palimpsest Press this past spring. On her [website](#), Kishkan describes herself as a “sloppy quilter” and growing vegetables and flowers “happily, if carelessly.” But when it comes to her writing, these descriptions do not apply. Her use of words is precise, intentional, and meditative. Her writing has been awarded the bpNichol Chapbook Prize and the Edna Staebler Personal Essay Prize (awarded by *The New Quarterly*), and nominated for several awards, including the Pushcart Prize, the Relit Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, and the Hubert Evans Prize for Non-Fiction.

In many ways, we are welcoming Kishkan back to Special Collections, not only because she worked there while a student at UVic, but because small snippets of her writing can already be found in the Douglas Beardsley collections. Her letters to other writers are sprinkled throughout the archives, and her 1979 collaboration with Doug Beardsley, *Premonitions and Gifts*, is also in the collection. The Theresa Kishkan fonds, however, provides researchers with so much more, including a wonderful array of her writing projects from, as recent as 2017 (marked by the publication of *Euclid's Orchid*). Through the archives, you can see Kishkan's writing taking shape as pieces, heavily informed by her ongoing research, progress through various drafts. Correspondence related to her writing projects and reviews of her work also provide a picture of the shift from writing to publishing.

This spring, Kishkan kindly responded to a series of questions about her archives and writing.

You worked as a student in Special Collections at UVic. What impression did that have?

I was taking English, classics, and writing courses and I was immersed in literature in those years – the mid-1970s. I was a voracious reader and I was finding my voice as a writer. What I discovered in Special Collections was a kind of historicity of literary texts. Boxes of materials would come from writers whose archives were held by Special Collections. W.S. Graham and Robert Graves were the ones I was particularly interested in. I remember peering into those boxes in awe. Worksheets, drafts, correspondence about writing and life: these were so interesting to me and they were also revelatory, evidence of the process of making literature.

What material do you accumulate as you work on a writing project?

I began my writing life before the internet so I was, and am still, very much a gatherer of materials. When I am writing, I am always researching and verifying. I like to have maps at hand, field guides, old textbooks, grammars, photographs, and anything that might speak to me of the landscape I'm writing about, the time period, the domestic details, and so on. My historian son calls me a magpie, but I suspect even magpies have a method to their gathering, and my own materials have a coherence to me that isn't perhaps as evident to others. I remember reading Annie Dillard's "How I Wrote the Moth Essay—And Why" and being intrigued by her description of her journals, all indexed. She wrote, "It's terrific having all these materials handy. It saves and makes available all those years of reading. Otherwise, I'd forget everything, and life wouldn't accumulate, but merely pass." I've only ever been a sporadic keeper of journals, but in a way I consider the files I've kept for each book I've written in much the same spirit. I see the long accumulation of materials as an oblique but intact set of blueprints.

What was the experience like having your archives shift from being in your home to being at UVic?

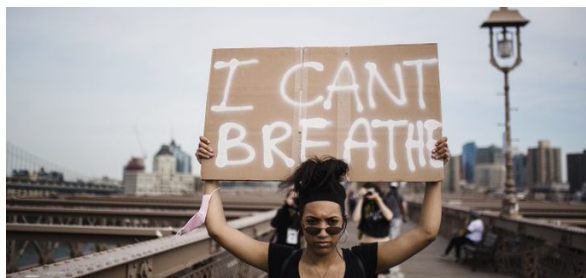
I'm so glad they've found another home where care will be taken to keep them intact. I have to say my small study was feeling a little crowded, both physically and metaphysically. I'd look at the boxes and stacks of papers (it's been years since there was room in my tall filing cabinet!), and I'd wonder if I was finished with them. And if I was, then why wouldn't they leave and find their way in the larger world? Like the last chestnut-backed chickadee in the nesting box we once watched, all the other nestlings having fledged, waiting nearby in a mountain ash and calling to their reluctant sibling to fly, fly, because the parents wanted to create another brood while there was still time.

What can be found in your archives?

I kept almost everything I used or consulted while writing my books. I kept relevant correspondence from publishers, other writers, readers; reviews; materials related to grant applications (some successful, others not); travel materials for research; maps; photographs; and other ephemera that somehow related to my writing life.

[Read the full interview about Theresa's work.](#)

& IN THE NEWS



A GUIDE TO ANTI-RACISM AND ANTI-OPPRESSION

Many of us are reflecting on Black Lives Matter and other anti-racism and anti-oppression movements these days. The UVic Libraries has created a guide to help.

The new [Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression LibGuide](#) is a starting point for learning about anti-racism and anti-oppression. It includes curated links to books, articles, films, videos, and other multimedia resources that are currently available in the Libraries.

The guide is by no means exhaustive. It will continue to change and be added to over time. The Libraries welcomes feedback and collaboration. If you would like to suggest a title, even if it isn't included in the Libraries' catalogue, please [email](#).

SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

UVic Libraries was awarded a 2020 BCcampus [Open Education Sustainability Grant](#). This BCcampus award will directly support the development of a new Open Education Digital Initiatives Grant (OEDIG) program at UVic, as well as increase faculty engagement with open education practices in general. Faculty can get more information about [UVic's open education resource \(OER\) funding opportunities here](#).



LIBRARIES QUANTIFY THEIR INVESTMENTS IN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

According to a July 22, 2020 [news release](#) from, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the association "has released a report detailing its academic member institutions' financial contributions to the development and sustainability of the infrastructure and services that underlie open scholarship."

The release explains that "in recent years, CARL has been working towards a vision of an open, sustainable, and innovative scholarly communication system, governed and managed by the scholarly community. Having a clear understanding of current investments is crucial for advancing this vision, setting targets for future investments in open, and identifying opportunities for coordinated, collective action."

"The potential of digital scholarship is only just beginning to be leveraged. Now that we have a better understanding of our current investments in open, CARL will work with its members and the broader community to increase and prioritize future investment to benefit Canada's scholars," says CARL President Jonathan Bengtson.

UVic Libraries was the lead institution in Canada with a 7.23% overall investment in open scholarship.

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

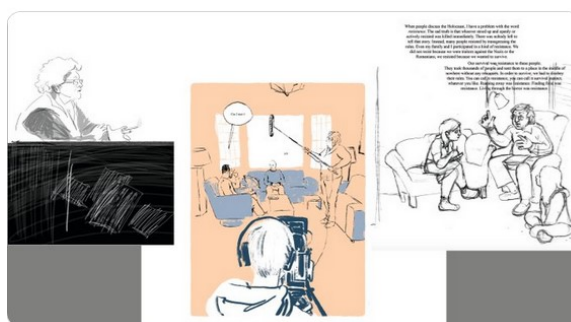


LAW LIBRARY TWITTER LOVE

Tweet: "Hey law students! Just because the building is closed, doesn't mean we are... we are working at home and behind the scenes to assist you."

Meet the law library team of Alex Burdett, Emily Nickerson, and Sarah Miller.

Find out how.



HOLOCAUST GRANT & UVIC RESEARCH

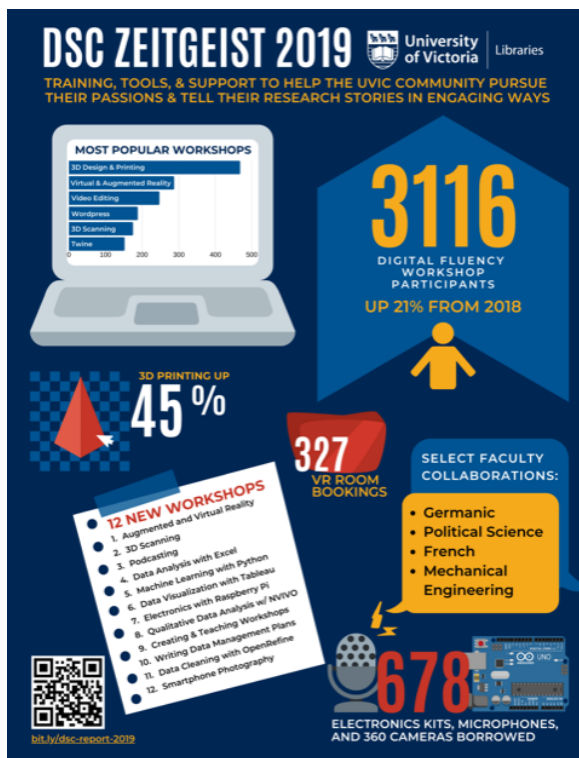
Tweet: "We're launching the official channel for our @SSHRC_CRSH-funded work that brings together #Holocaust survivors w/artists to create impactful graphic novels & teaching resources @UVicHumanities @CSchallie @barbyelin @realgonegirl & Gilad Seliktar @UVicLib"

Read more about our [research partnership](#).



UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

- Sixty years ago, we made the switch from Dewey Decimal to Library of Congress classification. At the time, the library had 60,000 volumes and 13 staff members.
- Forty years ago, the new (as yet unnamed) law library was completed and some library staff, including law librarian



DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMONS

Diana Priestly, moved into the new building.

- Twenty-five years ago, we developed our first library website and introduced “Gateway” (“a graphical interface to resources on the Internet”).
- Fifteen years ago, plans were announced for the creation of the Mearns Centre for Learning. The Libraries at the time held over 4.6 million items and had 138 staff – quite an increase from 1960!

With the 2020/21 academic year upon us, enjoy the highlights from the Digital Scholarship Commons' activities last year which were accomplished with the help of our wonderful library colleagues and the UVic community.

Read the 2019 [Annual Report](#) and [Zeitgeist Infographic](#).

[Learn more about the DSC](#).

Read about the evolution of the campus. View the [exhibit from University Archives](#).

& THE LAST WORD



photo credit: UVic Photo Services

IN CONVERSATION WITH EDUCATION AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES LIBRARIAN PIA RUSSELL

by: Zehra Abrar

You recently graduated with a [third master's degree](#). Why one more?

A lot of people wondered why I would do a third master's degree, but all along it felt like the right thing to do, and now I am so glad I did. It is far less about the diploma at the end and far more about the mentorship of curiosity. Graduate study as a life-long learning option really works for me. When

I'm curious about something, I'm all in, and the structure of an academic program gives me the space and support to do that. I treat it like any project—there's a beginning, middle, and end and then I'm happy to move on to the next task. I reckon that if one is going to commit to a research project, why not get a degree out of it and some great help along the way? UVic's history program is superb; I had a phenomenal experience. My supervisor, Lynne Marks, was patient and inspiring, and while the expectations were very high in terms of the amount of reading and calibre of writing required, I now feel so well prepared. The MA in public history gave me the knowledge and confidence to be an authoritative historian of the textbook collection; and of all my degrees, this is certainly my favourite one.

How are you scaling up your research on the **British Columbia Historical Textbooks** project?

The University Librarian and Associate University Librarians have been really supportive of the textbook project in terms of my time, my colleague's time, and hiring student researchers and curators. We continue to seek funding, particularly through grant applications, to scale up the project to include more in-depth analysis and, value-added learning tools, and to expand the project beyond textbook titles published from 1871 to 1921. Fingers crossed we get more funding!

In one of your **videos**, you said “historical textbooks are the identity of our province.” What do they depict about the identity of BC?

Good question! This was the topic of my thesis, which was a liberal order framework analysis of the first 50 years of BC's textbooks. When we read the entire corpus of BC's school textbooks used from 1871 to 1921, there is a lot going on politically and socially. During this time period, the identity of BC as portrayed in the textbooks was, among many other issues, still firmly based imperial Britain—the gaze was still very much towards the metropole in London, England.

[Read the full interview.](#)



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

