



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

## & HISTORICAL TEXTBOOKS



Students of 'EDCI 303: Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Canadian Education' using the BCHT collection in the Special Collections and University Archives classroom. March 17, 2025. Photo: Pia Russell.

### TEACHING THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK AS AN OBJECT FOR RETHINKING HISTORY EDUCATION

by: Education Librarian Pia Russell (UVic), Professor Graham McDonough (UVic), Emerging Indigenous Scholar

*Chaa'winisaks (Royal Roads University), and Assistant Teaching Professor Lyndze Harvey (UVic)*

UVic Libraries' [Special Collections and University Archives](#) holds a unique collection of textbooks used in British Columbia's public schools since the province joined the Confederation of Canada in 1871. Curated by Education Librarian, [Pia Russell](#), the [British Columbia Historical Textbooks](#) (BCHT) collection is a well-used and growing corpus of school books that records the remarkable and often challenging history of BC. The collection is enhanced by additional critical and interpretive components such as lesson plans and international collaborations made possible through funding by the University Librarian's Office, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, [University College London](#), the [Georg Eckert Institute](#), UVic's [Centre for Youth and Society](#), [Bibliothek and Information International](#), and the [Kalman Award for International Heritage Studies](#).

Through community engaged partnerships and meaningful student talent mentorship, BCHT has developed into a thriving public history project at UVic. During the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, BCHT was included as a feature element in four for-credit courses offered in the Department of History ([HSTR 329A](#)) and the Faculty of Education ([EDCI 303](#), [EDCI 432](#), and [EDCI 404](#)).

[Read the full story.](#)

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## & MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON

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*Photo:*

*UVic Photo Services*

Dear Friends,

How wonderful that spring has sprung here in beautiful Victoria. Our libraries have been busier than ever, and recently we compiled some library statistics for 2024 which help illustrate changes in how our spaces, collections, and services are being used. Here is a brief glimpse that might be of interest.

In 2024:

- We had our busiest single day ever on October 2 with nearly 9,000 visitors.
- Earlier in the year, April 30 was the busiest day for our staff at the Ask Us desk as they had nearly 1,500 transactions.
- There were over 33,000 bookings of study rooms and Tek Booths, more than a 300% increase from pre-COVID levels.
- Students used our desktop computers nearly 100,000 times, spending an average of over two hours per login.
- The loan of electronic equipment nearly surpassed the loan of physical books for the first time ever (over 97% of journal and monograph use is digital these days).
- Librarians gave over 200 research help sessions to over 7,000 students, and instructional sessions have increased by over 60% since pre-COVID.
- Nearly 3,000 students attended at least one of our many digital skills workshops, the most popular being Intro to Excel and Intro to R.
- We increased access to monographs through our “evidence-based acquisitions” programme which gives our users access to nearly 340,000 titles (vs. for the same price about 3,400 if we purchased titles individually).
- We saved our researchers publishing fees (“article processing charges”) of over \$1,000,000 through negotiated agreements that waive or reduce fees.
- We provided access to nearly 100,000 works in our digital collections, and the collections are growing all the time.

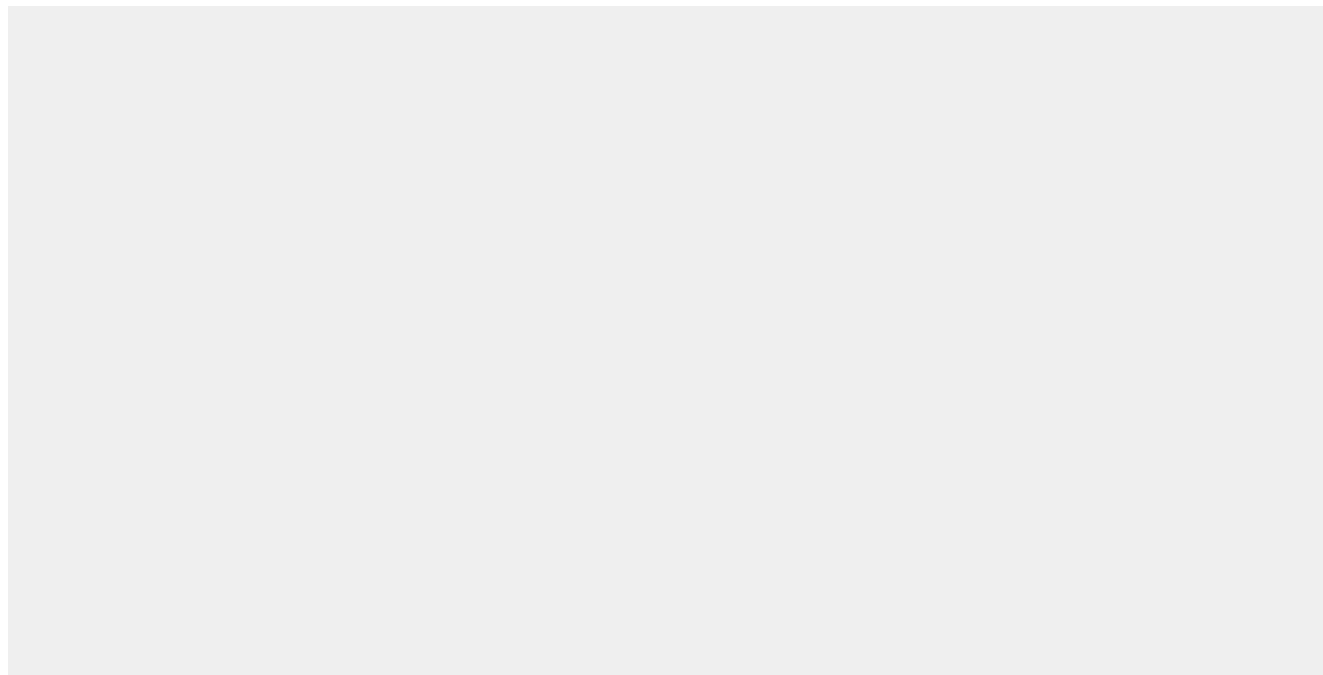
Very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JHR', written in a cursive style.

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**& UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTIONS**

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*Students in UBC ANTH431: Museum Practice and Curatorship*

## **ACTIVATING THE ART COLLECTION AT THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

*by: Mina Guan, YCW Collections and Programming Intern, University Art Collections*

The University Art Collections is pleased to loan "[Split Raven Scarf](#)" by Kwakwaka'wakw artist [Kaḱaso'las-Ellen Neel](#) (née Newman) (1916-1966) to the [Museum of Anthropology](#) (MOA) for the upcoming exhibition *We Come from Great Wealth: Kaḱaso'las-Ellen Neel and the Totem Carvers*, at the University of British Columbia (UBC). The artwork is one of 19,000 artworks in UVic's University Art Collections, which is widely known and used as a resource for teaching, research, and exhibitions, both at UVic and in the larger community.

The exhibition, which explores the life, art, and influence of [Kaḱaso'las-Ellen Neel](#), is organized in collaboration with Lou-ann Neel, Neel's granddaughter, and is curated by students in the UBC course, [ANTH431: Museum Practice and Curatorship](#), instructed by Dr. Susan Rowley, MOA Director.

[Kaḱaso'las-Ellen Neel](#) learned to carve from her grandfather, master carver Yakuglas Charlie James. In the mid 1950s, she opened her own carving business and retail shop "The Totem Arts Shop" in Stanley Park. "Split Raven Scarf," which features a monochromatic raven design, is an example of the artwork she created for sale during this time. [Kaḱaso'las-Ellen Neel](#) was among the first Indigenous Northwest Coast artists to silkscreen her designs onto scarves.

The scarf was purchased by the University Art Collections from the collection of Vincent Rickard with the Canada Council for the Arts Acquisition Grant. It was last exhibited at the Legacy Art Gallery Downtown in 2017 for [Ellen Neel: The First Woman Totem Pole Carver](#), curated by Dr. Carolyn Butler Palmer with advising curators Lou-ann Neel and David Neel.

[Read the full story.](#)



Image: George Clutesi, *The Storm*, 1959, oil on canvas, private collection.

**GEORGE CLUTESI: [ḥašahʔap / ʔaaphii / ʕc̓ik / ḥaaʔaksuq̓λ / ʔiihmisʔap](#)**

**Dates:** April 16, 2025 – July 26, 2025

**Location:** [Legacy Art Gallery Downtown](#) | 630 Yates St.

Opening: May 8, 1-4 p.m.

[GEORGE CLUTESI: ḥašahʔap / ʔaaphii / ʕc̓ik / ḥaaʔaksuq̓λ / ʔiihmisʔap](#) is an exploration of the life and legacy of artist, activist, and scholar George Clutesi. His life's work left an indelible mark on the preservation and celebration of the Nuu-chah-nulth community's cultural traditions and customs.

Featuring an extensive collection of Clutesi's artworks, the exhibition further honours his legacy through striking displays of archival photographs and news accounts, a documentary film about his long-lasting impact for residential school Survivors, and artworks from contemporary Nuu-chah-nulth artists and scholars inspired by Clutesi's activism and scholarship.

Participating artists include Hjalmer Wenstob (Tla-o-quiaht), Timmy Masso (Tla-o-quiaht), Marika Swan (Tla-o-quiaht), and Petrina Dezall (Mowachaht/Muchalaht). Participating University of Victoria scholars are Dr. Dawn Smith (Ehattlesaht) and Dr. Tommy Happynook (Huu-ay-aht).

The name of the exhibition, written in the



Image: Photo by Taylor Baptiste

***tr̓ar' iʔ sʕaxʷip - interwoven roots***

**Dates:** April 2, 2024 – May 31, 2025

**Location:** Maltwood Gallery, lower level of the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library

Inspired by childhood memories shared by Elder Jane Stelkia of the Osoyoos Indian Band, [tr̓ar' iʔ sʕaxʷip](#) explores the artistic and cultural legacy of a group of sukʷnaʔqinx (Okanagan) youth who attended the Inkameep Day School on the Osoyoos Indian Reserve in the Okanagan Valley during the World War II era.

Members of the Osoyoos Indian Band featuring Taylor Baptiste, Jenna Bower, Jordan Polychroniou, Sheri Stelkia, and Dora Stelkia, join Smyth Chair in Arts & Engagement, Andrea Walsh, in an exploration of contemporary photographic/ sculptural installation, Indigenous curatorial practice, language revitalization, and creative research methods that deepen our understanding of history, and provide vital points of departure for cultural revitalization and growth.

cīšaaʔath language, honours Clutesi's many celebrated traits: ھاśahʔap (keep, protective) / ʔaaphii (generous) / ʔacik (talented) / ھاaʔaksuqʕ (strong willed) / ʔiihmisʔap (treasure).

[CHEK News](#)

[Galleries West](#)

[Ha-shilth-Sa news](#)

[Monday magazine](#)

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## & ACROSS THE CAMPUS

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Photos: Julia Farkasch and Llana Arreza

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLUB RESEARCH-A-THON

by: Emily Nickerson, Business and Law Librarian

On February 12, UVic Libraries proudly co-sponsored the 8th annual [ELC Research-a-Thon](#), an event organized by UVic's Environmental Law Club in support of the [Environmental Law Centre's](#) public interest work. The Research-a-Thon is a one-day event with a powerful goal: to harness the collective energy of law students to produce high-quality research in a short time frame, contributing to real-world environmental law issues in British Columbia.

Students gained hands-on experience with legal research while developing their skills in a collaborative, low-pressure setting. This year's topic, *The Power of Restraint: Exploring Provincial Injunctions as Legal Responses to Environmental Challenges*, focused on researching injunction policies and cases across Canada. In the environmental law context, injunctions can be used to remove land defenders from sites of proposed industrial or natural resource developments—an area of increasing legal and social significance.

Law librarians were involved throughout the day, offering research help and contributing sources and strategies in advance via a research guide created for participants. The scope of the Research-A-Thon did not allow for looking at archival documents, however there were several fonds related to the topic identified by Special Collections & University Archives for continuing to deepen research in

this area.

[Read the full story.](#)

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## & AROUND THE LIBRARIES

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### TWO CULTURAL HERITAGE CHAMPIONS RECEIVE KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL



On April 9, 2025, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) hosted a [King Charles III Coronation Medal Ceremony](#) to honour the remarkable contributions of Métis citizens to their communities, province, and country. "Our people are the heart of our Nation and we were so pleased to be able to honor these recipients who exemplify the spirit and values of the Métis community."

Congratulations to [Ry Moran](#), Associate University Librarian - Reconciliation for demonstrating exceptional service, dedication, and leadership.

"Dr. Ry Moran was a founding member of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) at the University of Manitoba. Ry led the creation of a permanent home in the NCTR of a national archive for all materials gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of



Congratulations to [Martin Segger](#) FMCA who received the King Charles III Coronation Medal from British Columbia Lieut. Gov. Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia.

On receiving this honour, Professor Segger said: "It was an honour and a privilege to receive the Coronation Medal, and to have heritage and the arts recognized as an important part of reinforcing Canada's identity as a nation at this critical juncture in our history. The coronation of a new King of Canada also marks what may have to be a reinvention of Canada itself and its place in the world."

In 2017, Segger was also a recipient of the [UVic Libraries' Distinguished Alumni Award](#). In his comments at the time, University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson spoke of Martin's numerous accomplishments, including academic contributions that have been focused mainly in the area of museology and architectural history: *Victoria, An Architectural History* (1979), *The British Columbia Parliament Buildings* (ed. 1979), *The Buildings of Samuel Maclure: In Search of Appropriate*

Canada. He helped collect nearly 7,000 video and audio-recorded statements of former residential school survivors and others affected by the residential school system. Ry is currently leading the efforts of the University of Victoria Library to decolonize approaches to the University's archives and integrate Indigenous ways of knowing and being into their work."

*Form* (1986); two conservation reports for the City of Victoria, *This Old House* (1982), *This Old Town* (1984); and *Exploring Victoria's Architecture 1842-1997* (1997). He has also written numerous exhibition catalogues, film scripts, articles and book reviews.

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## & IN THE COMMUNITY

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### EMBARK ON A CREATIVE JOURNEY

Discover the Online Art and Design Series

Looking to express yourself through art, expand your design skills, or explore new creative horizons? The Online Art and Design Series from Continuing Studies at UVic, in partnership with OCAD University, is your gateway to learning from the best in the field. Whether you're just starting your creative adventure or advancing your expertise, our online courses cater to every skill level. Learn at your own pace with expert instructors and enjoy the flexibility of scheduling that fits your lifestyle.

Join a vibrant community of passionate learners and make meaningful connections as you develop your artistic voice. From digital design to video editing, our courses provide the tools and techniques you need to thrive in the ever-evolving world of art and design.



### NEW WEB DESIGN

Watch for upcoming announcements about our new library website, set to launch in June 2025. In the meantime, check out the new look of our [library stories](#) and [search older UVic stories](#).



### CELEBRATING UVIC DONOR GENEROSITY: IMPACT WEEK 2025

Join UVic student Ella Ostrikkoff as she shares her gratitude for donor generosity and asks other UVic students what they think about

Take the next step today—[explore our art and design courses](#).

donor support. Hear [three reasons](#) to love the library!

## & IN THE NEWS



University of Victoria social sciences librarian David Boudinot with Robin Stevenson books, including *Pride Puppy!*, at the university's McPherson Library. DARRIN STONE, TIMES COLONIST

### BANNED BOOKS MAKE THE FRONT PAGE

"*Pride Puppy!*, a 2021 alphabet book by Robin Stevenson and local illustrator Julie McLaughlin, is among a handful of books at the centre of a court case involving a group of parents in Maryland who sued their school district for the right to opt out of lessons involving books with LGBTQ characters."

The story, with a photo of Gender Studies Librarian David Boudinot, appeared on the [front page of the \*Times Colonist\*](#), upstaging the Stanley Cup's presence in Victoria to mark the centenary of when the Victoria Cougars won it in 1925.

### MENTORSHIPS THAT MATTER

Librarians Monique Grenier and Zahra Premji recently published an article in *College and Research Libraries News* (Vol 86, No 2, 2025) about the [Librarian-Faculty Mentorship Program](#) at UVic Libraries. Monique and Zahra share personal stories and insights from experiences with their faculty mentors, underscoring the value of these relationships for new librarians.



### A THREE-PEAT

Congrats to Health Research Librarian Dr. Zahra Premji on her contributions as a search expert on three health-related systematic reviews identified by Web of Science as being among the top-cited 1% of publications in their field in 2023.

Bobrovitz, N., et al. "[Protective Effectiveness of Previous SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Hybrid Immunity against the Omicron Variant and Severe Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Regression.](#)" *Lancet Infectious Diseases*, vol. 23, no. 5, May 2023, pp. 556–67.

Echemendia, Ruben J., et al. "[Acute Evaluation of Sport-Related Concussion and Implications for the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool \(SCAT6\) for Adults, Adolescents and Children: A Systematic Review.](#)" *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, vol. 57, no. 11, June 2023, pp. 722–35.

Putukian, M., et al. "[Clinical Recovery from Concussion-Return to School and Sport: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.](#)" *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, vol. 57, no. 12, June 2023.

## & OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



3:13pm

3:14pm

### PI(E) DAY

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (the 3rd month) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures of  $\pi$ . UVic Libraries staff raised \$145 for the [UVSS food bank](#) and one lucky staff member won a draw to "pie" Data Science Librarian Nick Rochlin.

*"I didn't expect so much of it to get in my ears! Otherwise, quality experience. I would give it an 8/10 and recommend the experience."*

Thank you Nick for being a good sport!

### FIRST NATIONS UNICODE FONT AND BC SANS INSTALLED AT UVIC LIBRARIES

First Nations Unicode Font and BC Sans were recently installed on all Learning Commons computers and lending laptops in the Mearns - McPherson Library and Priestly Library. These character sets, developed by the [UBC First Nations and Endangered Languages program](#) and the [First Voices language revitalization project](#), allow users to type characters and syllabics used in Indigenous languages. This



### BOOKMARK FOUND IN THE STACKS... FROM 1941

Found in a copy of *On The Road* by Jack Kerouac. A postcard postmarked in Leeuwarden, capital city of the province of Friesland, in The Netherlands in 1941. Access Services staff identified the writing as Dutch and began asking around if anyone could translate. Thank you to Karina Greenwood's grandfather Tim for providing the translation:

*Dear Freerk and Gezina,*

*From grandmother we heard that you had been in L[eeuwarden] on Sunday. Now we're sorry that we missed meeting you. We had already talked about going to Dokkum for a day but it's always difficult to spend a day everywhere and then soon the fourteen days are gone. We spent the last 4 days in Groningen. This coming Sunday we will be at Jaap to eat bread [dinner]. Tuesday I think at Gus again, Monday we're home. Greetings from all of us.*

ensures that Indigenous languages are respectfully and accurately represented.

### NEW SPOTLIGHT EXHIBIT

We are pleased to announce the launch of "[T. S. Eliot's \*Animula: Contexts, Contents, & Description\*](#)," a Spotlight exhibit and critical study highlighting UVic Libraries' rare and unique T. S. Eliot materials in Special Collections and University Archives. This exhibit provides the first comprehensive study of Eliot's relatively unknown Christmas-card poem, and it is a look into early 20th-century literary production in the UK and wider culture industry.

The exhibit was conceived of and written and designed by Dr. Kim Blank in the Department of English, and supported by a variety of library staff. The exhibit demonstrates how libraries support and facilitate faculty research from its inception to its publication on library platforms like Spotlight.

### UVIC STUDENT FELLOW SKY DRAGUSHAN

UVic undergrad Sky Dragushan, a [Peter and Ana Lowens University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections Student Fellow](#), gave a presentation, "FTM's Digital Decade: How a Physical Newsletter Transitioned to the Digital World (1995-2008)" at the recent [Moving Trans History Forward Conference](#). Attending the bi-annual event was Trans Elder Jamison Green, editor of *FTM*. After the presentation, he approached Sky and asked them to author a chapter for him on an upcoming book. Congrats Sky! We are so proud of you and can't wait to follow your future academic pursuits.

Read more about Sky's work:

[Lowens-Libraries project](#)

[Finding trans community in the archive](#)

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## & THE LAST STORY

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### REMEMBERING RICHARD OSLER (1951-2024)

by: *Christine Walde, Fine Arts Librarian*

I first met poet Richard Osler when I travelled to his home in the Cowichan Valley with my colleague Heather Dean, Associate Director of Special Collections. Richard had contacted us about a potential donation, and Heather and I went together on a sunny afternoon in September 2023 to meet him and learn more about his collection.

As we drove down the driveway, we were greeted by Tugboat, a large and all-bark-but-no-bite gentle giant of a dog. Richard came quickly out of the house, lovingly chiding Tugboat to be quiet, while waving his welcoming hand at us. He was a small man, with cosmic grey ringlets of short curly hair, always smiling, wearing Crocs and casual clothes. As we introduced ourselves, he greeted us with genuine affection and familiarity even though we had never met before. He chatted amiably as we walked into the house, where we were introduced to his partner Somae, who also greeted us warmly. As we talked and moved from room to room, Richard punctuated the conversation with his precocious, infectious, and unmistakable laugh, regaling us with stories of how he had acquired his remarkable collection of books and art.

Richard had initially reached out to us regarding his comprehensive collection of materials by the British poet Kathleen Raine that included chapbooks and broadsides, first



editions, proofs, photos, ephemera, letters (including one from Alice B. Toklas!) and many, many other items of historical, biographical, and literary history. These materials, as Richard intuited, would complement the Libraries' [Kathleen Raine collection](#), comprised of correspondence, a diary, notebook, and other manuscripts. Heather and I took some photos, took note of the size and content, and thanked Richard for his time, promising to return soon.

[Read the full story.](#)

*Some of the collection of Kathleen Raine materials, in process of being donated by Richard Osler. (Photo: Christine Walde)*



UVic Libraries Communications Office: [libcomm@uvic.ca](mailto:libcomm@uvic.ca)

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PO Box 1800 STN CSC  
Victoria, BC, V8W 3H5  
Canada

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