

May 31, 2024

University Librarian's Office  
University of Victoria Libraries  
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Victoria BC V8W 3H5

UVic Library resources have been essential both to my master's research and to my work on the First Nations Wild Salmon Historical Habitat Baseline Project. These resources have included materials from UVic's Digital Collections, as well as the library staff who have provided assistance throughout the course of my work.

I am currently in my second year of a master's program in the Geography Department working on a project that aims to support First Nations' capacity to steward salmon habitat using geospatial technologies and community knowledge. The project is a partnership between UVic, the First Nations Fisheries Legacy Fund (FNFLF), Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA), and the Skeena Fisheries Commission (SFC). As part of the project, we have conducted community mapping sessions with member nations of FNFLF, ONA, and SFC to record community knowledge, questions, and concerns regarding salmon habitat in their territories. In these sessions, there were many requests by community members for access to historical maps and air photos to help gain an understanding of the ecological and cultural features that were previously present, and how conditions in their territories have changed over time.

In response to these requests, and with the support of Geospatial Librarian Daniel Brendle-Moczuk and a grant from the Library's Strategic Directions Impact Fund, I began work on the First Nations Wild Salmon Historical Habitat Baseline project. This involved identifying historical maps held in UVic's Vault collection that covered areas within the traditional territories of partner Nations, as well as identifying and purchasing historical air photos in the Provincial and Federal air photo databases within areas of interest for partner Nations. I then georeferenced these maps and air photos and overlaid the images onto current satellite imagery to facilitate the comparison of past conditions to present. These materials were then shared back with partner Nations, who are using them for a range of applications in their own work.

Inspired by the project, I have also incorporated these materials into my thesis research in partnership with Tsawwassen First Nation. We will be using historical air photos and maps of Tsawwassen lands during community mapping events to provide members with the opportunity to view changes in their territory over time. We will also use these materials to identify the locations of historical sloughs and stream channels, and the historical extent of salt marsh habitats in Tsawwassen territory. This information will be used alongside knowledge provided by community members to gain a holistic understanding of how salmon habitats in the territory have changed over time, and how this has affected community members.

None of this would have been possible without UVic Library's digital resources, but equally as important have been the library's *human* resources – the staff who have provided me with guidance and support throughout the course of my work. I am incredibly grateful for their assistance.

The William Petrie scholarship would contribute significantly to my work by helping to alleviate some of the financial burden associated with graduate studies, allowing me to concentrate more on my research. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Carly Palmer.

Carly Palmer