

David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Library Scholarship 2022 Recipient  
By Felicity D'Souza, Faculty of Science  
Award-winning Essay

As a student pursuing a degree in Biology from the Faculty of Science, the library at the University of Victoria has been a crucial asset to many aspects of my degree, such as help in research, writing, and as a constructive space to get work done. In particular, The Centre for Academic Communication and available archives have been incredibly useful.

This past semester, I was enrolled in Biol 418, which includes a large final term paper as part of the lab. This paper was meant to outline research done in Mystic Vale by my team members and I, which required background information on Mystic Vale and tree surveying. The library's archives, specifically the Friends of Ecological Reserves fonds and Paul George fonds, provided crucial and informative documents that I used to supplement my writings on preservation and history of Mystic Vale, allowing me to describe methods of preservation and context confidently and accurately. The Friends of Ecological Reserves fonds subjects on Forest Ecology, clearcutting, and environmental policy were also useful in furthering my understanding of Biol 418 and helped to strengthen my passion for Biology. The Centre for Academic Communication was incredibly useful in helping me edit my rough draft and polish up my final copy, which I would not have been able to successfully do alone as the term paper ended up being over 30 pages long. I attribute a large amount of my success in Biol 418 to the library and its available resources.

My plan for after University involves working in environmental conservation, a topic I feel extremely passionate about. Due to this, I am constantly looking for sources of information, new and old, that help me to further my knowledge on the topic. I recently heard about the Environmental Sciences Archives (ESA) at the library and quickly found access to the documents, which I have been reading over ever since. The Carnation Creek Community History Project fonds has been especially interesting to me, as I love to learn about the history of landscape projects and love its in-depth report on traditional ecological knowledge and the human component of restoration. My minor is in Environmental Studies, and I have an immense curiosity and desire to know more about scientific and traditional worldviews towards ecological components, so the Carnation Creek Community History Project fonds have been a huge source of pleasure for me, especially since it is from a local perspective.

Throughout my academic career at the University of Victoria, the library and its resources have been a huge benefit to my studies, whether it be through research, writing, or as a constructive space to get work done. In particular, the Centre for Academic Communication and available archives have been incredibly useful in providing help with my assignments and allowing me to pursue knowledge on topics I care deeply about.