

Friends of UVic Libraries newsletter – September 2018

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MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN BENGTON, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



After the summer lull of August, UVic Libraries is full of students, faculty, and community members again. September is always an exciting time and there is a tangible sense of new beginnings at the university. Each year we have more than 2 million visits to our library facilities, making the Mearns

Centre for Learning – McPherson Library the busiest building on campus. We also receive millions more visits to our online resources in support of the learning and research of the communities that we serve. In addition to all of this activity, UVic Libraries is involved as a collaborator and partner in over \$4 million of grant-funded research at the current time, connecting us with faculty and graduate students from UVic and around the world. No longer simply the repository of the products of research, the modern academic library is an integral part of the full lifecycle of research, teaching, and learning at the university.

You will see that, following a staff contest, we have named this regular newsletter *The Ampersand*. The suggestion came from Digital Scholarship Librarian Dr. J. Matthew Huculak, who describes the history of this ubiquitous English glyph in an article below. I agree with Matt's thought that "it seems fitting that a periodical dedicated to joining our communities, as well as sharing important news among us, warranted a name that could capture fully the essence of friendship and of bringing people and ideas together." With that in mind, I welcome you to *The Ampersand*.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



(left to right) John Durno, Lisa Goddard and Tina Bebbington in the microfilm area at the University of Victoria's Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library. Photograph By DARREN STONE, Times Colonist

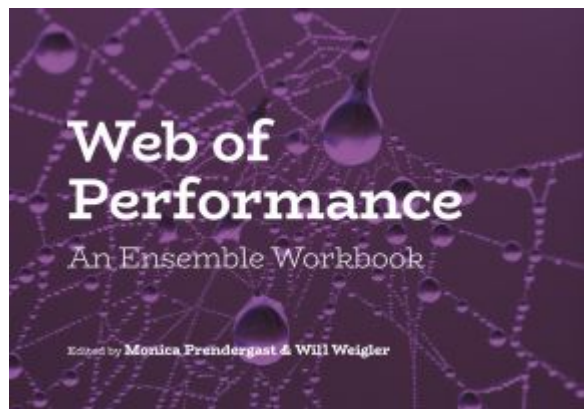
BRITISH COLONIST

On December 11, 1858, Amor de Cosmos launched a newspaper called the *British Colonist*. Published in Victoria, it became the leading paper in the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, and was the paper for the province of British Columbia until the emergence of the city of Vancouver and newspaper competitors in the 1890s. UVic Libraries just completed the last batch of digitization of this historic newspaper that now covers the time period up to and including 1970. We

will now be focused on scanning the issues from 1970-1980 and anticipate the work to be done within the year.

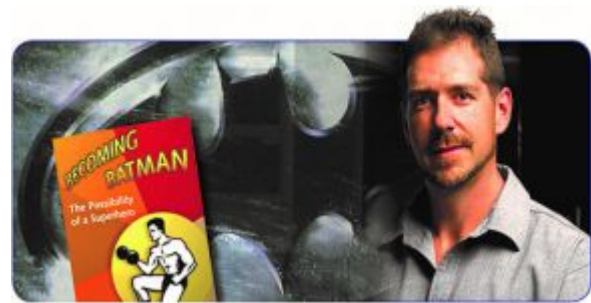
The digitization of the [British Colonist](#) by UVic Libraries would not be possible without the support of the [BC History Digitization Program](#) at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC. The British Columbia History Digitization Program promotes increased access to British Columbia's historical resources by providing matching funds to undertake digitization projects that will result in free online access to unique historical material from around the province. Read the [Times Colonist story](#).

& ACROSS THE LIBRARIES



NEW E-PUBLISHING TITLE

Announcing our latest ePublishing Services title: *Web of Performance: An Ensemble Workbook*, edited by Monica Prendergast and Will Weigler. The project was funded by a SSHRC grant, with additional funding from the Office of Research Services and in-kind assistance provided by UVic Libraries' ePublishing Service. This workbook has been designed and written for students in high school and university who may be interested in how performance works. The chapters cover broad topics drawn from the field of performance studies, which is an academic field developed out of theatre studies, anthropology, sociology and cultural studies in the 1980s and 1990s. [More information](#).



SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK SCIENCE & THE SUPERHERO IN YOU WITH E. PAUL ZEHR

Tuesday, September 18, 7pm
Bob Wright Centre, UVic

In his talk "Science & The Superhero in You," Zehr explores the use of superheroes as metaphors for understanding human abilities, limits, and the potential for performance. Knowledge about the real science behind some of the superheroic abilities we see in comic book splash pages and on the big screen, helps inform how real bodies function, how performance can be enhanced, and how we can achieve the real potential we all have within. Each one of us has a little bit of Bat(wo)man inside...science can help us find it and put it to good use. A lecture in partnership with the Centre for Biomedical Research. Admission is free. Reserve your seat today!

Reserve Your Seat Now!

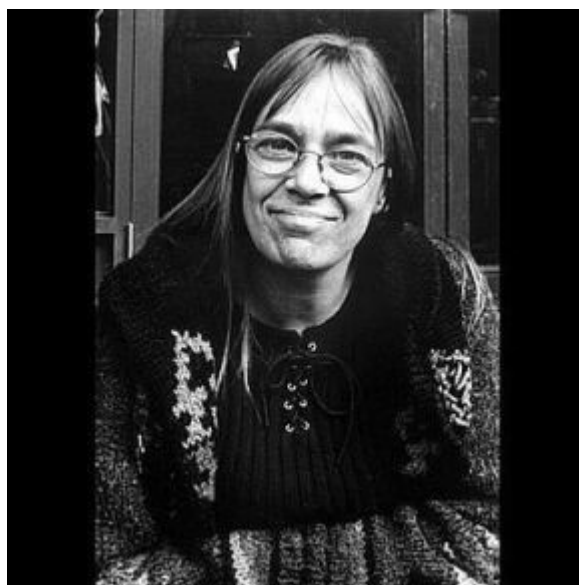


SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK: IAN McTAGGART COWAN DISPLAY

September 17-21

Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library,
Lobby Display

During Canada's Science Literacy Week, visit the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library's to view the digital exhibit on the big screen, as UVic Libraries celebrates the life of former Chancellor and champion of Canadian and BC ecology, Ian McTaggart Cowan. Also visit Special Collections to browse Cowan's original hand-written field notes and his extensive Canadian ecology photo collection. The Cowan digital archive is [online](#).



ANN HANSEN LECTURE

Taking the Rap: Women Doing Time for Society's Crimes

Wednesday, September 19

Room 129, Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join author Ann Hansen for the launch of her new book, *Taking the Rap: Women Doing Time for Society's Crimes*. In 1984, anarchist and urban guerilla Ann Hansen was sentenced to life in prison for bombing a number of sites, including: a hydro substation that was bringing industrial development to northern Vancouver Island; a factory in Toronto (Litton Systems) producing guidance systems for nuclear-armed Cruise Missiles; and Red Hot Video outlets marketing violent pornography in Victoria and Vancouver. *Taking the Rap* is a memoir/analysis of resistance and survival in Canada's notorious Prison for Women and two subsequent stints in more 'up-to-date' institutions. Following the lecture, discuss Hansen's archival collection with the author, and Professor Allan Antliff, Academic Director of the Anarchist Archive.



SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK: BOTANICAL BRITISH COLUMBIA AND BEYOND

September 17-21

Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library
Special Collections Reading Room (lower level) and
Lobby Display

This exhibit will show visually appealing publications and archives about BC botany, and will feature historical texts on botany and the social and medicinal uses of plants. The exhibit will have three main features: publications relating to BC and beyond; [Chester Lyons](#), the author of *Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers to Know in British Columbia*, showcasing records from his archives that illustrate his botanical work; and Alan Austin's work on seaweed inventory in coastal BC, as well as records from his archives and publications.

Admission is free.

**SCIENCE LITERACY WEEK:
NYOKA LIGHT WAND DEMO WITH PAIGE
WHITEHEAD**

September 18, 10 am - 2 pm
Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library
Main Floor

Nyoka is a biotech startup founded by Paige Whitehead, a Microbiology and Environmental Studies student at UVic. She has created a compostable, carbon sequestering glow stick that is powered with bioluminescence. Inspired by courses she took in Permaculture Design and Biotechnology, the Nyoka Light Wand is an example of what can be achieved by mixing science with environmental care. Stop by to see how the Light Wand is made, ask questions, and win a prize.

& IN THE VAULT



NEW MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT ACQUISITION

UVic Libraries purchased an extremely rare 15th century medieval manuscript of historical miscellany in Latin and Middle English produced in Germany. “What a great opportunity for our undergrad students and grad students to study such text up close,” says University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson. This acquisition would not have been possible without the generous endowments established to support UVic Libraries such as the Rainer Library Endowment Fund, the Gwladys Downes Bequest Fund, and the John & Irene Dorn Memorial Endowment Fund, along with the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, and The Medieval Manuscript Fund supported by Brian Pollick.

Treasures & Tea: How Poetry Changed the World: Elizabeth Barrett’s “The Cry of the Children” and Industrial Reform



In the 1840s, Victorian Britain witnessed heated discussion about industrialization and urban poverty, especially about child labour in factories. R. H. Horne's report for the Royal Commission (1842) astounded the Victorians with accounts of children working up to 16 hours each day. Special Collections holds important material related to this topic, including the poem that was most influential in effecting legislative reform: Elizabeth Barrett's "The Cry of the Children." This talk will cover the two earliest publications of this poem, in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* and in Barrett's 1844 *Poems*, discussing such issues as its political impact, periodical context, transatlantic circulation, and innovative poetics.

Dr. Alison Chapman,
Dept. of English, UVic,
and Denae Dyck, Dept.
of English, UVic

Thurs. September 27
from 1 to 2 p.m.

Room 003, Mearns
Centre for Learning –
McPherson Library, UVic

Treasures and Tea in Special Collections and University Archives at UVic is a regular series bringing together researchers, instructors, students and members of the community to explore and share materials from the collections. The informal show-and-tell presentations are followed by discussion and refreshments.

& IN THE NEWS



CY FOX

In 2006, Cy Fox generously gifted his Wyndham Lewis Collection to UVic Libraries



HOLIFF ARCHIVES

We continue to get media coverage about our dynamic new exhibit: [Saul Holiff, Johnny Cash, and Managing a Music Legend](#). Read all about it: [CTV BC Spill Magazine](#)



TIFFANY CHAN

UVic Libraries welcomes Tiffany Chan to the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library. Tiffany is the new Digital Scholarship Developer/Analyst in the Digital Scholarship Commons. She was recently

that is well documented in our publication, [The Lion and the Fox](#). UVic Libraries wishes to acknowledge the generous gifts of Mr. Fox who passed away on July 10. Read about this "globe-trotting, Newfoundland-born journalist" who was a wonderful friend to the libraries." [Globe and Mail The Baron](#)

Did You Know?

- Johnny Cash proposed to June Carter in 1968 in London, Ontario
- Saul Holiff graduated from the University of Victoria in 1983
- Holiff brought Johnny and June together as a country music act
- Holiff and Cash both wanted to be radio DJs
- Cash played Carnegie Hall in 1962

featured in the UVic News talking about lit-bots, Taylor Swift, and T.S. Eliot, and how she taught a web bot to write like a nineteenth-century author for her English masters project, with amusing results. [The Ring](#).

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Learning and Research Librarians **David Boudinot**, **Bill Blair**, **Justin Harrison**, and **Caron Rollins** were recently published by Chandos Publishing in "Planning Academic Library Orientations: Case Studies From Around the World." Their chapter, "Supporting Student Retention and Success: Personal Librarian Program at the University of Victoria" can be read [here](#).



HISTORICAL TEXTBOOKS

A [CBC radio](#) interview with Education Librarian **Pia Russell**, aired on Sept. 4 along with an accompanying [web story](#). The interview focuses on the representation of Indigenous peoples and their culture within these textbooks during the first 50 years of British Columbia. Read about the unique collection of historical textbooks on our [digital collection information pages](#).



NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

A world of discovery awaits you. [Sign-up](#) for our monthly newsletter to read about free lectures, exhibit openings, new developments and fundraising efforts. Watch for our Strategic Directions 2018-2023 brochure. Our library is your library!





QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A library employee was arriving at the Law Library and held the door for a group of visitors. The first patron through the door commented enthusiastically: "This is a beautiful space! I love this library!" And we do too! Thank you for the visit.



LAW LIBRARY

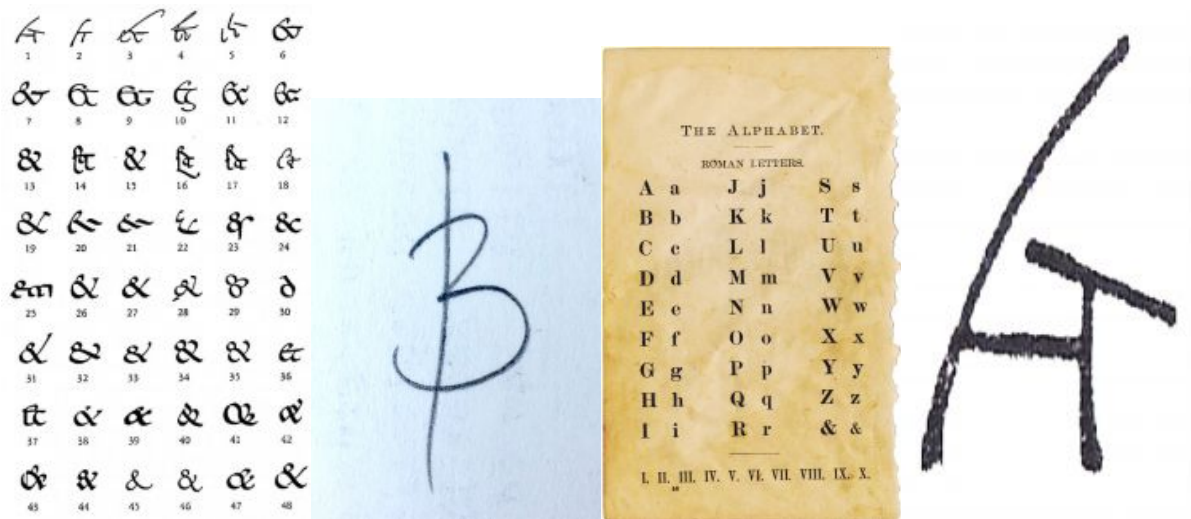
On October 3, the [Law Library](#) opens its doors for first year law students and faculty for its Open House. This meet and greet allows users of the law library to discover the wide variety of services and resources offered, and meet librarians, staff, and enjoy some treats.

INSTAGRAM STORY

UVic Communications spent an afternoon chronicling a "Day in the Life" at the library. The tour covered all aspects of our space, from Special Collections to the new Graduate Student Study Space. Watch it on the UVic [Instagram page](#). And don't forget to follow us on [Instagram](#) for daily news!

& THE LAST WORD

THE AMPERSAND by Dr. J. Matthew Huculak



There is something alluring and mystical about the ampersand [&]. As a boy scratching out rough letters in cursive class, I eventually learned the nearly impossible uppercase G and S, but to this day, I've not yet mastered the elegant wide curves and tight flourishes of that singular symbol for "and." Embarrassingly, the best I can do is a 3 with a line running through it vertically (see my shame above). Perhaps because of its allusiveness, and perhaps because of its beauty, the ampersand has remained my favourite glyph in English.

I thought of the ampersand in the naming of this renewed missive because I've always found the concept of the ampersand to be magical, for it has two great powers in the English language: it has the authority to join two independent ideas together and make them one: Dolce & Gabbana, Moët & Chandon, Faber & Faber. It quietly surrounds us on packaging labels, lawyers' offices, and storefronts, humbly joining names in quiet celebration. But transformed by glyphic alchemy to the word it represents—"and"—it also becomes an invitation to listen, for it presents an expectation that something is about to come. It is a signal for anticipation: I opened the old leather-cracked book and...

A Brief History of the Ampersand

The ampersand has an august history. It is one of the few glyphs in the English language—that is, a singular mark that represents an idea or thing. Its history can be traced back to Rome and one of its famous orators, Cicero. In order to record Cicero's orations, his servant Tiro devised a shorthand system to record his master's musings. He came up with a mark to represent the word "et" [and], which looks a little like this: 7. This symbol still exists today in Irish Gaelic as their version of the ampersand. Thanks to (a bit morbidly, really) the well-preserved city of Pompeii, we know that around 79 CE, a graffiti artist carved an ampersand-looking symbol into a wall. The glyph clearly looks like an "E" and "T" put together (see illustration), and to this day, you can see the vestiges of the "E" and "T" in many of the typefaces for the ampersand. From its early beginning scrawled on a city wall, the "and" symbol evolved over time in manuscript culture and what we now recognize was developed in the 8th century by Merovingian scribes (see #13 in illustration). Keith Houston notes that in the era of typography, the italic ampersand "has become something of a playground for typographers," whose creativity can be expressed in the shape and tails of this beautiful glyph.

The English word ampersand has just as humble a beginning as the graffiti on the wall in Pompeii. In British spelling primers of the 19th century, the "and" symbol was included as the 27th letter of the alphabet after Z. When schoolchildren recited the alphabet and encountered a letter that could also be heard as a different word - like B and bee, I and eye - they would say the words "and per se" [Latin for "by itself"] before the letter. After years of being recited and chewed around in the mouths of schoolchildren, a name for the "and symbol" was finally born: ampersand, short for "and per se and."

If you'd like to read more about English punctuation, consider using your free community or UVIC ONECard to borrow Keith Houston's Shady characters: *The Secret Life of Punctuation, Symbols, & Other Typographical Marks*; call number: P301.5 P86H68 2013.



University of Victoria

Libraries

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



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