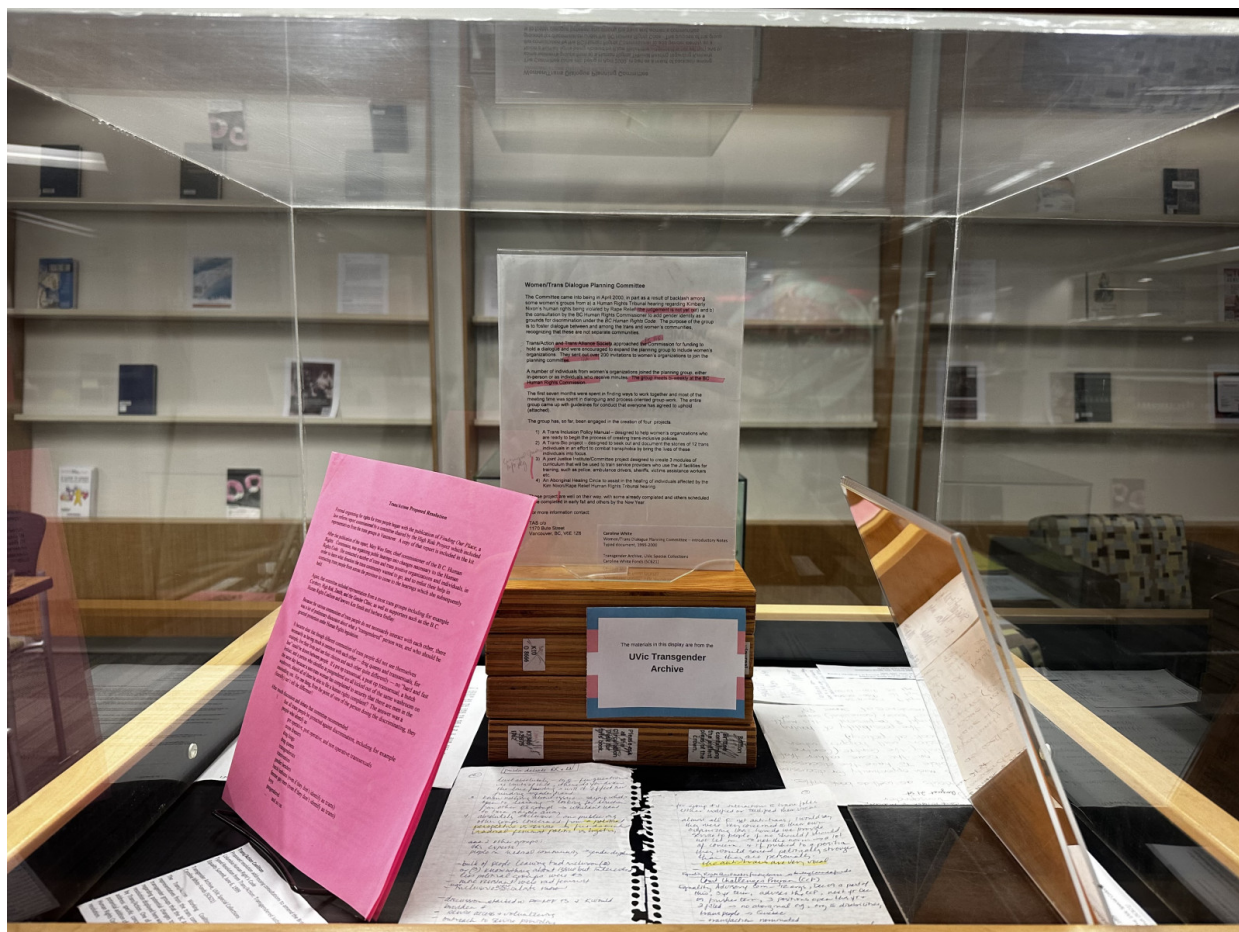




*We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

## & POP UP MINI EXHIBITION AT THE LAW LIBRARY



### TRANSGENDER RIGHTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

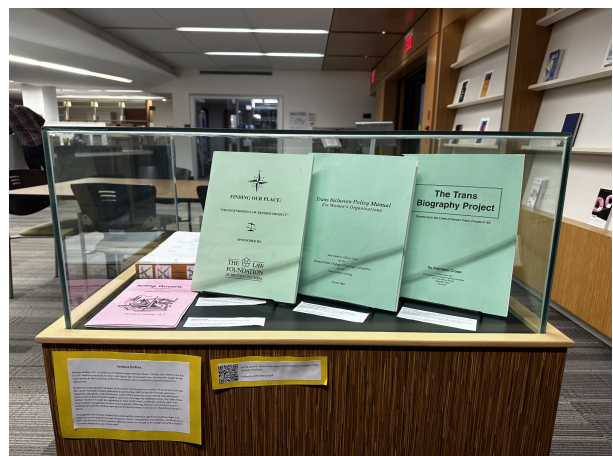
by: Layne Clarke, Law Library Work Study Student

Current visitors to the [Diana M. Priestly Law Library](#) will be greeted by a new display featuring some of the special collections from UVic Libraries. The display focuses on transgender rights in British Columbia and Canada and features archival material from the world-renowned [UVic Transgender Archives](#), as well as materials from the law library including QR codes leading to some of the online resources that UVic Libraries has to offer.

The archival materials on display focus on the Supreme Court case *Vancouver Rape Relief Society vs. Nixon*. The case centered on a [human rights complaint](#) filed by Kimberley Nixon in 2002 against the Vancouver Rape Relief Society (VRRS). Nixon alleged that the VRRS discriminated against her when they disqualified her from the volunteer program on the basis of her identity as a transgender woman. Nixon was represented by [barbara findlay](#), KC, a prominent Vancouver-based lesbian feminist lawyer who has represented LGBTQ+ people in a number of landmark cases.

Though Nixon ultimately lost her case on [appeal](#), it remains a significant event in the development of transgender rights in British Columbia and Canada. It assisted in establishing that sex as defined within the *Human Rights Code* protects transgender people in British Columbia. It also encouraged women's groups across Canada to adopt trans-inclusive policies. As Nixon's lawyer, barbara findlay stated in 2007: "by the time her case was concluded almost every woman's group in Canada, including the national women's organizations and women's sexual assault crisis centres, had adopted trans-inclusive policies. Though Kimberly Nixon lost the battle, she won the war for trans acceptance among women's groups." After the court case, Nixon continued her public advocacy, including through promoting trans-inclusive policies at support organizations.

In the display, materials related to the *Nixon* case are accompanied by materials that highlight dialogues held amongst transgender advocates and feminists throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s. During this time, there were active conversations regarding the acceptance of transgender women within women's spaces, including women's organizations, shelters, and resource centres. The featured materials are sourced from the [Caroline White fonds](#). Caroline White is a social justice trainer and educator who played a significant role in facilitating dialogue between transgender women and cisgender feminists.



Accompanying the items featured in the glass display cases are a number of materials on display on the wall shelving. These include copies of *Vancouver Rape Relief Society vs. Nixon* from all levels of the courts, as well as copies of the factums featured in the glass display case. The wall also features content related to the subject of transgender rights in Canada, the United States, and beyond, including books from the law library and QR codes leading to online materials.

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## & MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON

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University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson in his office. Photo: UVic Photo Services

Dear Friends,

I returned recently from two weeks travelling through the Canadian North with a delegation of Canadian academic library deans and university librarians, as well as the Librarian and Archivist of Canada. We had many meetings and conversations with Indigenous leaders, government officials, individuals running a wide range of non-profit cultural and economic support programs, and, of course, library and museum directors. It was a unique opportunity to learn about the challenges of living and working in these extraordinarily beautiful and diverse regions of our country. I am optimistic that a number of collaborations and partnerships will emerge from the connections my colleagues and I made – from digitization and digital preservation programs, to the sharing of expertise and approaches for communicating research projects to the public, to strengthening ties with libraries and archives to share data and information related to climate change, Indigenous rights, and a range of other critical areas.

Very best,

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**& AROUND THE LIBRARIES**

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University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson (left), and Editor and Publisher Dave Obee, *Times Colonist* (right). Photos: Kelly Harms

## "LET'S TALK BELONGING": VANCOUVER ISLAND LIBRARY STAFF CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 8 YEARS

by: Lara Wilson, Co-Chair, VILSC, and Director, Special Collections & University Archivist

On May 5, 2023, nearly 200 library, archive, and museum staff members from across the region gathered on lək̓ʷəŋən territory at the University of Victoria for the 8th annual [Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference](#) (VILSC). The conference planning committee developed the theme “Let’s Talk Belonging” and potential presenters responded to the call for proposals that asked: “What does ‘belonging’, or conversely, ‘not belonging’, mean to your work, to library services, and to peoples’ experience of libraries?”

VILSC creates opportunities for learning and meaningful dialogue, partnerships, and long-lasting friendships across the library, archives, and museum sector in our region. VILSC is a free conference, open to all library employees in Vancouver Island, Powell River, and the Gulf Islands. VILSC is a volunteer-run conference, and this year’s organizing committee and subcommittees consisted of staff from the BC Legislative Library, the Camosun College Library, the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL), and UVic Libraries.

VILSC began with a moving welcome to the territory by Tsawout Elders Kathy and Doug Lafortune. We were honoured that Kathy and Doug could join and lead us in reflecting on the significance of May 5 – the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People. The conference opening included the awarding of the [UVic Libraries Honorary Librarian and Archivist Award](#) to Dave Obee, genealogist, writer, and editor and publisher of the *Times Colonist* daily newspaper, who also holds an honorary doctorate from UVic. The award presentation was followed by a dynamic and wide-ranging keynote with Maureen Sawa, CEO, GVPL, in conversation with Pilar Martinez, CEO of the award-winning Edmonton Public Library. Attendees learned about Pilar’s career path and achievements, and the recent challenges and

opportunities presented to a library system consisting of 21 branches, 650 staff, a \$69M operating budget, and a diversity of patrons.



*Left to right: Lara Wilson, Maureen Sawa, and Pilar Martinez.*

The day was filled with dynamic sessions on a variety of topics, including increasing bisexual visibility in library collections; how the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and the GVPL are working together to foster reconciliation; transforming research help; decolonizing library spaces; culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices; proactive communication; digital collections; and the role of A.I. Programming also included two popular workshops: learn to meditate and a train-the-trainers book making session. The conference concluded with another fun and engaging Book Smack session, presented by staff from GVPL.

In addition to the institutional partnerships, VILSC 2023 was realized through the generous financial contributions of Camosun College Library, GVPL, UVic Libraries, Vancouver Island University Library, Royal Roads University Library, the BC Legislative Library, the BC Ministry of Education Libraries Branch, the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the IslandLink Library Federation, UVic University Systems, CUPE BC, CUPE 410, CUPE 951, and CUPE 2081 and the UVic Faculty Association.

This is my final year of a two-year term as VILSC co-chair with the wonderful Jennifer Wells. Thanks to my colleague David Boudinot, who will be taking on co-chair duties with Jen, and to our dedicated 2023 conference [planning team](#).

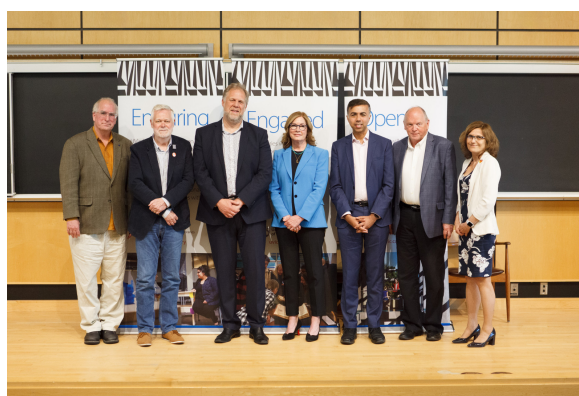
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## & IN THE COMMUNITY

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**CONTINUING STUDIES AT UVIC**  
**Toss your limits, embrace your potential!**



*(l to r) Brewster Kahle, Michael Ridley, Jonathan Bengtson, Elizabeth Denham, Masud Khokhar, Dave Obee, and Elizabeth Croft. Photos: Geoff Howe*

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN'S LECTURE

Over 500 attendees gathered in person and over Zoom on Friday, June 2, for the annual [University Librarian's Lecture](#), which focused

Are you looking to advance your professional development and succeed in the competitive job market? Continuing Studies at UVic is proud to support the StrongerBC Future Ready Action Plan to help you reach your full potential. The StrongerBC future skills grant, created by the Government of British Columbia, is designed to help eligible BC students progress in their careers and fill in-demand jobs. You could receive up to \$3,500 to be put towards short-term skills training at BC public post-secondary institutions.

[Learn more](#)



### THE FEARLESS SISTERS RISING MURAL

In 2020, the *Fearless Sisters Rising* mural was installed at the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library, between the third and fourth floors. The *Fearless Sisters Rising* mural was imagined and created by artists Brianna Bear and Nicole Neidhardt, and the Sisters Rising network, including Indigenous youth from across Canada and South Africa. The mural is collectively stewarded by library staff and community members. During the pandemic, an online blessing took place on June 4, 2021, to honour the artists, stories, and relationships that are integral to the ongoing stewardship of the mural.

This month, commemorating the anniversary of the stewardship agreement between UVic Libraries and the Sisters Rising/Kinship Rising Collective, a brushing off ceremony and blessing took place in front of the mural with Old One Victor Underwood, his family, stewards and witnesses of the mural, artists,

this year on the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI). The panel consisted of leaders in the fields of information, technology and AI—Elizabeth Denham, Brewster Kahle, Masud Khokhar, and Dr. Michael Ridley—and was moderated by Dave Obee, with opening remarks by Elizabeth Croft, Vice-President Academic and Provost.



Hickman Building, UVic

The discussion covered a wide range of topics, such as the emerging laws dedicated to ensuring safety and privacy in AI tool usage; the significance of unbiased and non-discriminatory data for training large language models; and the potential role of libraries in educating their communities about the ever-evolving landscape of artificial intelligence.

While AI is not a new concept, the accessibility of tools like ChatGPT has made it imperative for users to be aware of AI's presence when navigating information online.

To delve deeper into AI, machine learning, and the future of information, we invite you to watch the [recorded session](#) of the University Librarian's Lecture.



### IMPACT WEEK

UVic students from the Human and Social Development faculty, and youth from Surrounded by Cedar.

[Learn more about the project.](#)

Did you know that Thomas Shanks McPherson gave a bequest of \$2.2 million to UVic to help build the campus, including the library?

Thank you, UVic donors, past and present, for championing students.

[Watch the video.](#)

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## & IN THE VAULT

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### PETER AND ANA LOWENS UVIC LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS STUDENT FELLOWS



#### **CRAFTING CIVILIZATIONS: EGYPTOMANIA IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY GIRLS' CRAFTS**

*by: Kalea Raposo, Lowens-Libraries Fellow*

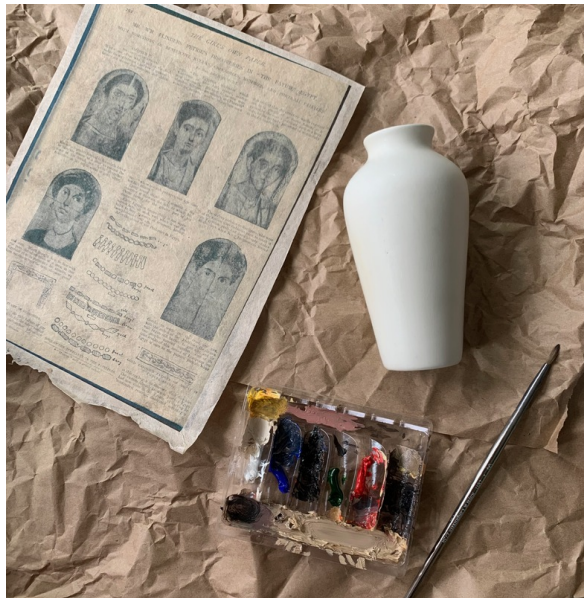
I joined the Lowens-Libraries fellowship in the final semester of my English honours undergraduate degree, and this experience was one of my favourite parts of my time at UVic. The unique combination of interdisciplinary collaboration and hands-on learning makes the Lowens-Libraries fellowship program an exciting space to try out new kinds of knowledge mobilization, which we do not always have the opportunity or resources to pursue in the classroom. For my project, I created a [digital exhibit](#) that explores representations of ancient Egypt in girls' craft tutorials in the UVic Special Collections' rich nineteenth-century British print periodicals (specifically, *Atalanta* and *The Girls' Own Annual*).



#### **FROM PAPER TO STITCH: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF ART, HISTORY, AND TRANS+ NARRATIVES**

*by: Şansal Güngör Gümüşpala, Lowens-Libraries Fellow*

With the encouragement of my partner last fall, I applied to the Peter and Ana Lowens University of Victoria Libraries Special Collections Student Fellowship. My application was a bit last minute, but it was very genuine. In a short time, I learned that I got accepted to the program. In the fellowship, I had a great time meeting with other fellows and my mentors. We had interesting workshops through which I learned a lot about various topics such as archives, paleography, bookbinding, etc. The best workshop for me was the papermaking workshop, in which we learned to make paper from scratch with the amazing artist Frances Hunter. It was also a great experience because we could bring a plus one, and learning how to make paper with my partner was such a fun activity. The last



Using tutorials from late nineteenth-century volumes of *The Girl's Own Annual* as a guide and drawing on a critical making approach, I recreated three craft objects—a ceramic, a painted fan, and a sampler—to demonstrate how these girls' crafts can be read as active participation in Egyptomania. I then created an Omeka exhibit that delves into the significance of each tutorial, the historical context surrounding them, and their relationship to my own interpretations of the crafts. With the support and expertise of my mentors, Dr. Alison Chapman and Dr. Samantha MacFarlane, I determined that the late Victorian repurposing of crafting (an appropriately feminine activity) to convey historical lessons could be considered proto-feminist while not agitating the conventional heteronormative culture by encouraging girls to incorporate their interest in ancient cultures into their domestic activities.

Read more about [Kalea's project](#).

workshops were immensely helpful in designing the exhibition process and determining how to showcase my artwork.



For this project, I have focused on the scrapbooks found in the Transgender Archives' University of Ulster/Richard Ekins collection. After coming to Victoria and seeing those scrapbooks, I felt called out and sensed a deep connection with these scrapbooks. They felt very personal to me. As an LGBTQ+ person who lived 25 years in Türkiye, I was also scrapbooking with newspaper articles. The representation of people, most of the time would be very negative, but still knowing that people like me existed was an important reminder that I was not alone. In the archives, the remarkable scrapbooks, spanning the years 1964 to 1979, provide a window into the gender and sexual identity landscape within the popular culture of their time. They were created by Adele Anderson, a member of the renowned British satirical singing trio Fascinating Aïda. These scrapbooks offered a truly captivating glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of that era, and my intention was to reintroduce them to the public eye, inviting them to be reimagined through my creative stitching.

Read more about [Şansal's project](#).

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## & IN THE NEWS

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### LIBRARIAN ZAHRA PREMJI

Congratulations to [Health Research Librarian Zahra Premji](#) for receiving the prestigious [Canadian Health Libraries Association's Special Recognition Award](#) for her outstanding contributions, and commitment to the profession.

“It’s fantastic to see this well-deserved acknowledgement of Zahra’s expertise and national leadership in the areas of knowledge synthesis and systematic reviews,” says Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian – Advanced Research Services.

Zahra and colleague Christine Neilson also won the People’s Choice Award for best poster at the 2023 Canadian Health Libraries Association conference.

Learn more about [Zahra's work](#).



### LIBRARY MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Congratulations to Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation, one of this year’s [Library Journal Movers and Shakers—Educators](#) who was recognized for his work on reconciliation, decolonization, and understanding Indigenous history.

Read more about [Ry's work](#).

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### SALISH WOOLLY DOG

Due to extensive research in recent years, [photos of the Salish woolly dog](#) from the Ian McTaggart Cowan online collection were featured in a [CBC story](#).

Visit the interactive exhibit [Ian McTaggart Cowan: Champion of Canadian Ecology](#).

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## & OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

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## AVIS RASMUSSEN BOOK LAUNCH AND EXHIBITION

by: Artie Goshulak, Web & User Experience Assistant

Standing in the middle of the downtown gallery, Avis Rasmussen was surrounded by six decades of her art. From sketches she made in the 1950s to a linocut finished this year, the retrospective exhibition displayed the scope and variety of her creative output.

On April 30, Avis gave a guided tour of the exhibition, titled *The View from Here*, that displayed in the gallery of the Victoria Arts Council (VAC). She also celebrated the launch of a poetry collection of the same name, created in partnership by UVic Libraries and the VAC. The book, which collects poems from the 1970s to the present, showcases the synchronicity between Avis's poetic and artistic practices, and reproduces several of the artworks displayed in the retrospective.

An artist of national significance inspired by the landscapes of the West Coast, Avis has also been a lifelong advocate for Victoria's arts community. Her devoted attention to this place is evident throughout both her artwork and her poetry.

The [PDF version of \*The View from Here\*](#) is freely available in the UVic Libraries repository.

## NEW PUBLICATION

We are pleased to announce that "[Project Resiliency in the Digital Humanities](#)," an [Endings Project](#) special issue of the open-access journal *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, has just been published. It is highly recommended for anyone curious about how to preserve digital humanities projects for long-term access.

This special issue was edited by Dr. Janelle Jenstad, Martin Holmes, and Dr. Matt Huculak, UVic Libraries' Head of Advanced Research Services, and it showcases the work of many library staff, faculty, and students at UVic and abroad.

Thank you to UVic Libraries staff Lisa Goddard, Associate University Librarian – Advanced Research Services; Corey Davis, Digital Preservation Librarian; and John Durno, Head, Library Systems, who serve on the Endings Project grant.

[Read more about the Endings Project.](#)

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## & THE LAST STORY

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photo: dbm

## LIBRARIAN CLIMBS TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH MOUNTAIN LEGACY PROJECT

by: Matt Huculak, Head, Advanced Research Services

In July 2022, geospatial librarian [daniel Brendle-Moczuk](#) participated in an expedition to assist with research for UVic's [Mountain Legacy Project](#). Led by Dr. Eric Higgs, UVic professor in the School of Environmental Studies, the Mountain Legacy Project is dedicated to understanding how landscapes and ecosystems change over time through the collection and study of systematic historical mountain photographs. On this expedition, the team summited four peaks in 12 days to take approximately 50 repeat photographs from various historical surveyors, such as the photographs taken by [Allison B. Grant](#) of Mount Alderson in 1953.

The team was accompanied by a vegetation and soil PhD student from the UK, who was not able to bring a soil sampler—an integral piece of equipment for their research—across the Atlantic. To address this issue, daniel thought about how a soil corer could be constructed, and he went to UVic Facilities knowing they might have old hollow fence and signposts. daniel told the facilities staff about the graduate student's needs, and they volunteered on the spot to make a soil sampler using an old fence post. The student was then able to collect their samples because of our supportive community at UVic.



*UVic Facilities generously made a soil sampler for visiting PhD student Laura Turner by using an old fence post (Mountain Legacy Project, summer 2022)*



Sat July 9, 2:50pm descend from Mt. Alderson but dBM will utilise trail...

*photo: Claire Wright*

daniel shares a summary of activities with UVic environmental studies graduate student Claire Wright and visiting researcher Laura Turner, University of Nottingham:

Arrive Thursday, July 7:

1. Planning the nights before summits: lay out historical photos to understand our repeat photography goals; prepare equipment; pack equipment/food/warm clothes for journey/summit and safety.
2. Hike and scramble several hours to mountain ridges/summits helping to carry camera equipment, safety gear, warm clothing, sustenance, etc.
3. Set up above to obtain repeat images as close as possible to original surveyors' (glass plate archival) images (could take 2-3 hours).
4. Record azimuth, coordinates, weather (temperature, wind direction/speed, barometric pressure, humidity, etc.); brief narrative of #1 above re: routes and how weather affected #2 above and any changes throughout the 2-3 hours.
5. Help pack everything away.
6. Hike and scramble back down helping to carry equipment, etc.
7. Once back at either base camp or at research accommodations in town of Waterton, then download images, tidy #3 & #4 above.
8. Clean and prepare equipment for another day.
9. Take soil and vegetation samples on off/rest days (from summiting mountains).
10. Repeat.

Depart Tuesday, July 19.

Throughout the academic year, UVic librarians actively participate in research related to their respective areas of expertise.

Read more about: [A Day in the Field: Going up Mt. Alderson](#)



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