



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

WE WISH YOU ALL THE JOY OF THE SEASON AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR



ABOUT OUR 2023 HOLIDAY CARD

The image is a watercolour and pencil illustration by Oldriská (Oluna) Ceska (1938-2022) of a branch of Western thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*). The illustration was part of the exhibition *Plantae Occidentalis: 200 Years of Botanical Art in British Columbia*, and used extensively for the poster, invitations, program, and cover of the exhibition catalogue. A talented illustrator, Oluna immigrated to British Columbia from the former Czechoslovakia with her husband Adolf, and worked as a research associate in the Biology department at the University of Victoria before retiring to focus on her life-long passion for mycology. She was a founding member of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society. Acquired in 2021, the Oluna Ceska and Adolf Ceska fonds (SC677) are available for use in Special Collections and University Archives, or browse selected images from the collection in [Vault, our online digital repository](#).

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



Photo: UVic Photo Services

Dear Friends,

Libraries are places we turn to when we seek to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the world around us. We serve a unique and essential function in preserving and making accessible the past, for the benefit of present and future generations. We also collaborate with students and faculty to ensure the dissemination of cutting-edge research. Through our collections, digital and physical spaces, and expertise we work with our communities in an ongoing partnership of learning and research. “Open, Engaged, Enduring” is how we articulate this critical role at UVic Libraries.

All of us at UVic Libraries wish you all the best for the holiday season and new year.

Very best,

& TOP STORIES IN 2023

BOOK ARTS LAB

Over the summer months of 2023, UVic Libraries worked with artist and master printer Jake Maddison to establish UVic Libraries'

A FOCUS ON RESEARCH SUCCESS

Research help in 2023

Every day, UVic librarians and staff help students, faculty, and community members

Book Arts lab on the lower level of the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library. The newly established teaching space provides hands-on, dynamic learning opportunities with contemporary and historical book arts equipment, and information technologies more broadly. In February 2024, the Libraries will be offering an [Introduction to Letterpress Printing](#) in conjunction with UVic Continuing Studies.

2023 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 this year on the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI). The panel consisted of international leaders in the fields of libraries and archives, information, technology and AI – including Elizabeth Denham CBE, 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.

Browse our new [AI LibGuide](#) to learn more about the latest guidelines on the use of AI, find a selection of librarian-recommended AI literature, and discover links to UVic's Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation's AI resources.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS AND SERVICES

In September, the [main floor renovations](#) were completed with a new and welcoming centralized Ask Us desk; accessible spaces for library staff and library users to collaborate; an expansion of the student lounge; and new multi-purpose furniture. There are also four private and enclosed "Tek Booths," perfect for virtual meetings or focusing on solo work.

On October 1, a local Klezmer ensemble performed a free music concert from the "Trampled Manuscripts" of the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky archive in Ukraine from the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

New this fall, library users can book a 30-minute orientation session with Access Services staff to learn about the software and

find the answers and information they need. In 2023, we answered more than 400 email questions and 800 chats, and booked more than 700 in-person and virtual appointments. We help students and researchers succeed in all the disciplines at UVic, whether it is developing research questions, or finding and citing sources, or just about anything in between! Email askus@uvic.ca with your question.

The Digital Scholarship Commons Year in Review

The Digital Scholarship Commons (DSC) helps students, faculty, and staff communicate their research and ideas in impactful ways to further their scholarship and knowledge mobilization efforts. Through our free workshops, the DSC empowered over 6,300 people to develop skills like 3D printing, electronics, and data visualization. This year the most popular workshops were all about knowledge mobilization – including video editing, infographics, WordPress websites, and 3D design & printing. Curious to join the fun and boost your digital skills? Check out our full list of self-paced [DSC workshops](#).

LIBRARY PODCAST: TAAPWAYWIN

[Taapwaywin](#), a podcast about memory, power and the journey to find truth, has aired six episodes since it launched. The eight-episode series features deep conversations and analysis with Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and others on seeking truth before reconciliation can begin. Hosted by UVic alumnus and Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation Ry Moran, this provocative series has had nearly 30,000 listens to-date.

New this year, the Libraries launched a [podcast contest](#) to recognize and celebrate the high-quality work being created by UVic students in the world of podcasting. This new contest complements our annual "[on the Verge](#)" student writing and spoken word contest.

in CIRCULATION CELEBRATING IMPACT

In December we launched the second volume of [in CIRCULATION](#), UVic Libraries' signature

hardware for the [Assistive Technology rooms](#).

AWARDS

Our University Librarian **Jonathan Bengtson** was named a Fellow of the [Royal Society of Canada](#) (RSC), one of the few librarians in the 140-year history of the RSC to be recognized in this way. [Jonathan's impact](#) has led to transformative changes in the profession and practice of librarianship—including advances in open access to knowledge and data, pioneering digitization initiatives, and building national publishing and preservation infrastructure.

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

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

The Association of American Publishers' 47th annual [PROSE Awards](#) honored the book [But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust](#) with two wins in two separate categories. The book is produced and edited by Germanic Studies professor Charlotte Schallié, with significant support from the Head of Advanced Research Services, **Dr. Matt Huculak**.

Science and Engineering Librarian **Aditi Gupta** has been nominated by UVic for the [NSERC Award](#) for Science Promotion for her work promoting STEM on campus.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

UVic Libraries continually digitizes rare and unique collections and make them available online for the use of UVic researchers and the wider community. New digital collections for 2023 include:

Land Title and Survey Authority of BC:

publication focused on library impact. No longer simply a repository for the products of research, the modern academic library supports every aspect of research creation, dissemination, and preservation and is integral to faculty, researcher, and student success across all disciplines. Featured content highlights our innovative programs, services, and activities and celebrates the committed work of library staff on campus and in our community.

Read about artificial intelligence and student success, climate action, Indigenous collections and decolonization at the library, and more.

HONORARY LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST AWARD

At the eighth annual [Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference](#), University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson presented the UVic Libraries' [Honorary Librarian and Archivist award](#) to Dave Obee, acclaimed genealogist, distinguished writer, editor and publisher of the Times Colonist daily newspaper.

In addition to being a journalist since 1972, Obee has written a dozen books on genealogy and local history and made hundreds of presentations at genealogical conferences and seminars. His highly acclaimed book, *The Library Book: A History of Service to British Columbia*, is a comprehensive look at library service and development over the past two centuries. Dave has also been recognized by UVic with an Honorary Doctorate.

POST-DOC FELLOWSHIP

[Dr. Nathaniel Brunt](#) has joined UVic Libraries for a three-year post-doctoral fellowship. He was a [Trudeau Scholar](#) and is an award-winning and internationally known [photographer](#). Nathaniel's post-doctoral work with the Libraries focuses on the *Conflict Aftermath Digital Archive Project (CADAP)*, a practice-informed initiative that develops ethical digital archival methods and resources to preserve and make publicly accessible at-risk visual material in conflict and post-conflict contexts. Dr. Brunt's current work is supported by a large grant from the German government, and he was awarded a UVic Aspiration

Indian Reserve Maps

This [unique digital collection](#) is a collaboration between UVic Libraries and the Land Title Survey Authority of British Columbia. It includes 362 scans of cartographic records held by the Surveyor General of BC that relate to Indian reserve land in British Columbia.

Oluna Ceska and Adolf Ceska Collection

The [Oluna Ceska and Adolf Ceska Collection](#) is comprised of botanical illustrations and scientific illustrations by Oldriska (Oluna) Ceska (1938-2022). The drawings largely highlight flora from southern Vancouver Island.

E.J. Hughes Collection

[Edward John \(E. J.\) Hughes](#) was a Canadian painter best known for his paintings of British Columbia landscapes. The E.J. Hughes Collection is made available to the broader research community with permission from the E.J. Hughes Estate.

Cavenagh Family Collection

The collection includes [Sir Orfeur Cavenagh's](#) private letterbooks from his time as Governor of the Straits Settlements (Singapore, Malaya and Penang).

Fellowship from the Vice-President Research and Innovation.

NOTED NEW ACQUISITIONS

[Special Collections](#) received the personal archives of **Dr. J. Wilton Littlechild**, Cree Chief, lawyer, residential school Survivor, and commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, who has been a critical advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and worldwide for over forty years.

We also signed a stewardship agreement with the family of **Neil J. Sterritt**, a member of the Gitksan Nation who served as president of the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en Tribal Council from 1981 to 1987.

Recently, Special Collections acquired a rare association copy of [An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ](#) by Edward Jenner (1749–1823), a surgeon and pioneer of the smallpox vaccination. In this book he describes developing vaccination by using an animal virus to create immunity to smallpox, a critical medical innovation.

We added a new documentary to the Libraries' collections about contemporary Métis voices speaking their truth. Acclaimed filmmaker Christine Welsh and Executive Producer Jeannine Carrière teamed up with co-directors Madeline Ell and Gregory Coyes to create [Lii Michif Niiyanaan: We Are Métis](#)—a love letter to the courage, determination, and resilient spirit of the Métis nation.

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS



(left to bottom right: Mikaela Chia, Erin Mugford, Bella Nguyen, and Allison Balabuch)

LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIPS

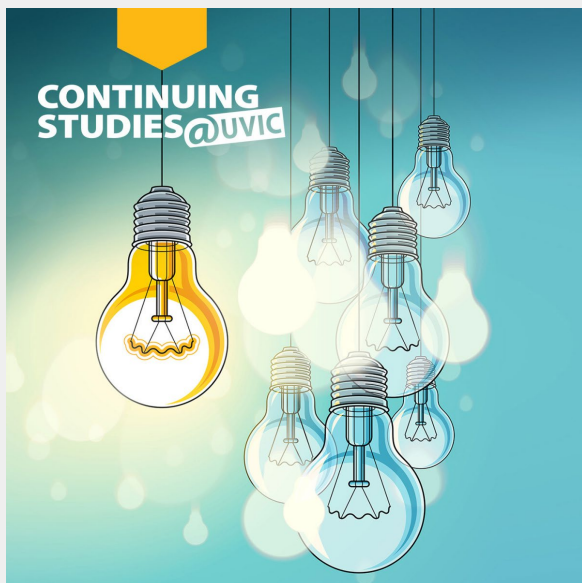
Congratulations to student award recipients Mikaela Chia, Erin Mugford, Bella Nguyen, and Allison Balabuch, winners of our three library scholarships: the Gladys Nipp & Stephen Mah Family Award; the David Harris Flaherty Undergraduate Student Library Scholarship; and the William Petrie Graduate Student Library Scholarship.

[Read their bios.](#)

Learn more information about the [donors and the scholarships.](#)



& IN THE COMMUNITY



**INTRODUCTION TO LETTERPRESS
PRINTING COURSE: UVic Libraries in**



(left to right: Christine Welsh, Gregory Coyes, Madeline Ells, and Jeannine Carrière)

**DOCUMENTARY LAUNCH HONOURS RICH
CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MÉTIS**

by: Hannah Mashon, Communications Officer, Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement

partnership with UVic Continuing Studies

UVic Continuing Studies has launched their new calendar featuring an extensive array of courses, both available online and in-person. No matter your learning preferences, there's a topic and delivery style perfectly tailored for you. One new course is [Introduction to Letterpress Printing](#), which has been created in partnership with UVic Libraries.

[Browse courses](#)

On November 16, the First Peoples House came alive with the vibrant spirit of celebration as Indigenous students, staff, faculty, Elders and community members gathered for a special event—the screening of the documentary film, *Lii Michif Niiyanaan: We Are Métis*, co-directed by Madeline Eil and Gregory Coyes. The event was a collaborative effort supported by UVic Libraries, the Etalewtxw | ÁTOL ÁUTW, the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous, and the Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE).

The documentary, created by acclaimed filmmaker and UVic emeritus professor Christine Welsh and Executive Producer Jeannine Carrière, serves as a tribute to the courage, determination, and resilient spirit of the Métis Nation. The film's title reflects its essence as a heartfelt exploration of Métis identity and history.

[Read the full story.](#)

& IN THE NEWS



TAAPWAYWIN: LATEST EPISODE

There is a fundamental gap between how many Canadians see this country and the realities of living under a colonial settler state.

Episode 6 of [Taapwaywin](#) explores how the Canadian settler state continues to suppress the legal systems, governance structures, and lived experiences of Indigenous peoples.



TEK BOOTHS

Librarian Courtney Lundrigan, Head, Engagement and Learning, spoke to the [Martlet](#) recently about our new Tek Booths.

“The pandemic has changed how a lot of folks learn, and it has changed a lot how some courses are delivered. One of the main [goals] behind the Tek Booths was giving people that flexibility and a space they could go ... if they needed to take a Zoom class.”

[Listen now: *Burden of Proof*](#)

& THE LAST STORY



Photo: Armando Tura

CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR TOMORROW BY SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS TODAY

Since the beginning of September, many thousands of University of Victoria students have walked through the doors of the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library and the Diana M. Priestly Library. Many more have navigated our extensive online resources.

Some are in search of a quiet place to read or to study with their friends and classmates. Many are doing research for a paper. Others are attending a workshop or renting equipment like a laptop or a video camera. Some have not entered our physical spaces but nevertheless have spent time accessing our vast array of digital resources.

Regardless of their area of study, or the particular task ahead of them, each and every student on campus relies on the services of UVic Libraries.

[Your kind and generous gift](#) will enrich our library collections and services, and connect students with workshops, equipment, and knowledge.

Last year, with the help of donations, we were able to run a student-led project called [Living with Climate Change](#). A group of students, supported by the Libraries, a variety of university partners, and UVic's United Nations CIFAL, came together to organize a series of outreach events. Their aim

was for participants to learn about, and learn how to contribute to, local climate change initiatives. The project spurred discussion and action among UVic students as well as students from two local high schools.

Special programs like this one have enormous benefit to both UVic and our broader community, but they don't always find a place in our budget. This program also highlighted the critical role the library can play in addressing some of the most challenging issues we are facing as a society.

That is why donations from supporters like you are so crucial.

A trip down to Special Collections and University Archives at the Mearns – McPherson Library brings history to life. From rare books to oral history interviews, the collections are an indispensable resource which can help us understand our past and give context to current events.

Our extensive digitized collections are also a rich source of knowledge. The process of moving information online – be it texts, environmental and political records, or maps – both preserves this information for future generations and makes it widely accessible for all those who are seeking answers and insight.

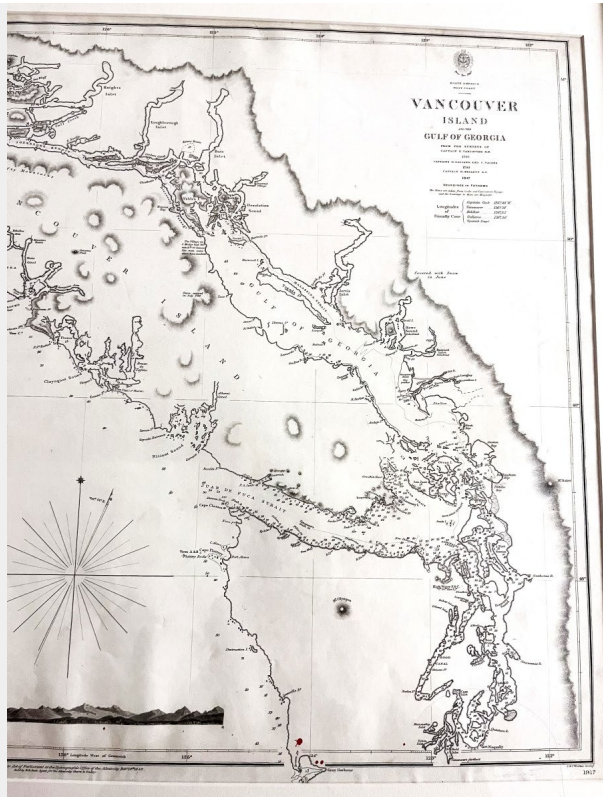
So many of the resources at UVic Libraries, physical and digital, are available only because of the continued generosity of donors.

“During my degree, the special collections and archives were integral to my papers and projects. The workshops I took at the Libraries expanded my understanding of what research and academic output can look like. Through the Digital Scholarship Commons [at the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library], I learned how to create an online exhibit to showcase a research project, something I had no previous experience in. The Libraries have given me the resources to create things that that I otherwise wouldn't have the knowledge or opportunity to make. I'm really grateful.”
- Kalea, BA Honours English, 2023

We are inspired by the students, scholars, and library users we see each day, who are committed to uncovering truth, to exploring old challenges through a new lens, and who will change the world we live in for the better.

Library Enrichment Fund: Your donation helps us to acquire rare and valuable resources that would otherwise be unattainable, and also supports workshops and programming which facilitate student success. Recently, we were able to add a rare early map of Vancouver Island to our collections, thanks to generous donors.

Digital Initiatives Fund: Your gift supports the vital work of putting our collections online, which preserves information for future generations and increases accessibility. For example, the village of Lytton, BC was hit by a devastating wildfire in 2021. All of the municipal records and backup servers were destroyed. UVic Libraries web archiving service had captured thousands of online PDFs from their town website, allowing them to recover information thought lost forever.



British Admiralty Chart #1917 "Vancouver Island and the Gulf of Georgia", 1849

Your support matters!

Donate today!



**University
of Victoria**

Libraries

UVic Libraries Communications Office: libcomm@uvic.ca

