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February 2023



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

## **& LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**



*Desk rendering courtesy of Jensen Chernoff Thompson Architects.*

We are in the process of renovating the Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library's main service desk area in order to expand study and community event space on the main floor.

The main library is one of the busiest spaces on campus for students, faculty, staff and community members with over 4 million in-person recorded visits (even taking into account major closures during COVID) between April 2018 - September 2022. During the renovations library staff continue to be on hand to help with patrons' needs at the Ask Us desk, temporarily located at the Music and Media service desk near the rear of the main floor.

The UVic community can expect the following renovation outcomes:

- welcoming and centralized service area
- improved collaborative spaces between staff and students

- improved visibility of library services and clear sightlines
- expansion of main floor student study space
- improved functionality of staff workspace
- improved decolonized design
- new spaces for university events

“These are exciting changes that are part of an ongoing phased renewal plan developed several years ago through consultations with students and staff,” says Lara Wilson, Director of Special Collections and University Archivist. “The project includes construction of a new Ask Us service desk and expansion of student study space, and is part of ongoing work to decolonize library spaces and improve accessibility.”

Noisy construction is scheduled outside of library hours whenever possible. While noise will be kept to a minimal level, free earplugs and noise-dampening headphones are available at the Ask Us Desk. “We know that no renovation is without some disruption. Our goal is to have the renovations completed by April of 2023,” explains Wilson.

The rest of the library will remain accessible, including the main stairwell, the BiblioCafé, the group study rooms, and all the other floors.

[More information.](#)

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## & MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON

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*Photo: UVic Photo Services*

Dear Friends,

I was happy to return to work in January and begin my 12th year in the Libraries following a six month academic leave. I want to thank Associate University Librarian Lisa Goddard for taking on the

role of acting University Librarian and representing the Libraries so well between July and December 2022.

During my leave I managed to get stuck into a number of projects including reviving some long-standing research into Oxford's role in the UK and European book trade in the 1840s, which I hope to continue working on as time permits, as there are some wonderful archives related to this rather pivotal and transformative decade for the trade. I was happy to reconnect with some British colleagues also interested in this area, and was able to meet with a number of them briefly in December whilst visiting Oxford.

I collect the works of the Californian author and librarian Lawrence Clark Powell, who has an extensive and complicated bibliography, as well, my wife and I have a collection of early Nonesuch publications, along with a collection of some 1000s of bookplates – all of these needed some attention and organization which I was pleased to have some time for during my leave.

I also remained involved in some professional activities, including the Libraries' journal *KULA* and continuing the work of the [National Digitization Heritage Strategy](#) (of which I am chair) which is evolving this year into the Coalition of Canadian Digital Heritage.

Beyond all that, it was a privilege to have time to disconnect from the daily demands of the University Librarian role and catch up on stacks of books and articles that I hadn't had time to read. Any other free time was more than filled with our new mini Australian shepherd puppy Echo, who joined our family last July at the age of eight weeks.

Very best,




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## & ACROSS THE CAMPUS

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Jerome Etwaroo. Photo: Greg Samborski



Olga Marun

### COAST CAPITAL INNOVATION CENTRE

In the summer of 2022, [Coast Capital Innovation Centre](#) (CCIC) opened their doors to walk-in traffic at their new location in the Mearns Centre for Learning – McPherson Library. An on-campus venture incubator, CCIC helps entrepreneurs – students, faculty and alumni – get the support and mentorship they seek to take their next idea from conception to execution.

Managed by Director Jerome Etwaroo with Andrea Hayes, Program Manager, and Olena Marun, Program Operations and Communications Coordinator, this small but mighty team has been supporting over 1,500 people from the UVic community since 2016, offering a wide range of services including: advice and mentorship; seed funding; training and workshops; connecting clients to advisors; pitch and business plan competitions; and operational space for new ventures to nearly 200 start-up businesses.

Supporting emerging businesses in the community provides an overall well-being not only to the city and province, but to the planet. The impact of the innovation centre's work has been impressive over the last six years. Etwaroo points out that they have supported a diversity of sectors and environments including oceans; AI; energy, water and infrastructure; digital platforms and apps; and biotechnology, to only name a few.

The library has also played a significant role in student ventures. Engineering & Science librarian Aditi Gupta and Business librarian Emily Nickerson support student ventures through research consultations for finding resources on patents and market research. They collaborate with the [Digital Scholarship Commons](#) (DSC) to provide introductory workshops on library resources for each new cohort of CCIC students.

For instance, [Paige Whitehead](#) (BSc '19) created a 3D prototype in the DSC for her biodegradable, carbon sequestering reusable glow stick that is powered with bioluminescence. Inspired by courses in permaculture design and biotechnology, Paige's start-up business, [Nyoka Design Labs](#), is now having a positive impact on the environment.

Some of the funded real-world applications are also used in homes, including the [Sepura garburator](#) that separates solids from liquids, and provides a clean composting solution; and biodegradable [Nature Bee](#) beeswax wraps that use the sweet smell of honey, pine tree resin, and jojoba oil to ensure groceries have a longer life span.

At the recent Tech Community Awards hosted by [VIATEC](#), Etwaroo received The Colin Lennox Award for Technology Champion, honouring his deep commitment and passion to making the world a healthier place to live.

The next time you are at the Mearns – McPherson Library, drop by the Coast Capital Innovation Centre office located in the Learning Commons hallway. *Your* idea could be the next one they help get off the ground.

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## & IN THE COMMUNITY

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## PUZZLES FROM THE HOLOCAUST

by: Philip Cox, Communications Officer, Faculty of Humanities

The details were sparse, but the crux of the story was clear: Lea Perla Blumenfeld had been shot and killed by Nazis at a forced labour camp during the Holocaust—and one of her sons was forced to bury her.

Almost 80 years later, this was the story told to Lea Perla's great-granddaughter, Lisa Abram, the communications officer for UVic Libraries, by an older cousin during the week of mourning following her father's death in late 2021.

As a third-generation Jewish Romanian-Canadian, Lisa had been led by her parents to believe that no one on either side of her family was killed in the Holocaust. How had she never heard of this before, she wondered in a state of disbelief. And who was the son in the story?

Were it not for the fact that Lisa was working with one of the university's leading Holocaust Studies experts at the time, this may have been the end of the story, rather than the beginning. As it turned out, she was exactly the right person in the right place to solve this puzzle from the Holocaust.

[Learn how the puzzle was solved](#)



## in CIRCULATION NOW ONLINE

We are pleased to announce the library's new signature publication, *in CIRCULATION*, is now online.

Featuring stories about podcasting, digital preservation, the Peter and Ana Lowens Fellowship program, along with other library news, this donor-focused magazine celebrates the committed work of our library staff on campus and in the community.

*in CIRCULATION* will be published annually with a small print run, and freely available digitally.

[Read in CIRCULATION online.](#)



## TAAPWAYWIN: NEW EPISODE



## THE AMPERSAND ARCHIVES

Missed an issue of *The Ampersand*? Previous editions are archived in our digital repository [UVicSpace](#) where you can search by topic, author, and keywords.

Not signed up yet? [It's simple](#). Just provide your name and email address and each bi-monthly issue will be delivered to your mailbox!

What is the name of the city, town, or country that you are in right now? Do you know where that name comes from? How long has it been known by that name? Has it had any other names?

In Episode 4 of *Taapwaywin*, host Associate University Librarian - Reconciliation Ry Moran, explores the names of places, people, and individuals – and what truths about our history they reveal or obscure.

[Listen: \*The Power of Names\*](#)

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## & IN THE VAULT

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## LORNA WÁNOSTS'A7 WILLIAMS FACE TO FACE MEDIA COLLECTION

by: Lara Wilson, Director Special Collections & University Archivist

Generous contributions to the Digital Initiatives Fund enabled UVic Libraries to create a new digital exhibit featuring [UVic Professor Emerita Dr. Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams](#) in her work with Vancouver-based production company Face to Face Media.

Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams is Lilwat7ul, from Mount Currie, British Columbia. She is an Indigenous educator, language specialist and a Survivor of federal day schools and residential schools, who has dedicated her life to promoting and restoring Indigenous culture and language. Face to Face Media, founded by Gary Marcuse in 1986, specializes in documentaries for public broadcast and educational video collections for professional development and classroom use.

Through the Digital Initiatives Fund, UVic Libraries hired recent archival school graduate Matt Innes to select and describe film footage for open access via our digital asset management platform, Vault.

The [Lorna Wánosts'a7 Williams Face to Face Media Collection](#) offers a selection of over 20 hours of archival audiovisual material created during production of the award-winning NFB documentary *The Mind of a Child* and related projects. The project was also realized with the support of Metadata Supervisor for digital collections Karen Dykes and Head of Metadata Dean Seeman.

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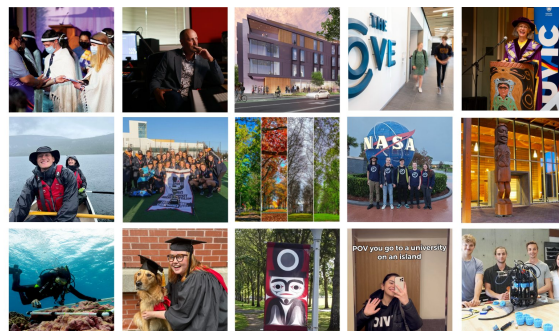
## & IN THE NEWS

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### AWARD-WINNING GRAPHIC NOVEL

The Association of American Publishers announced the winners for the 47th annual [PROSE Awards](#) honoring scholarly works published in 2022, with *But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust* winning in not one, but two categories which is virtually unheard of: biography and autobiography, and nonfiction graphic novels. Produced and edited by Germanic Studies professor Charlotte Schallié, with significant support from the Libraries' Head of Advanced Research Services Matt Huculak, the celebrated novel can be found in the [library collection](#).



### UVIC TOP 10 STORIES OF 2022

Join us in [looking back](#) at the year's big wins, including top videos and podcasts, partnerships, stories and signs of a brighter future! Our library podcast, *Taapwaywin*, made the list – a podcast about truth before reconciliation, featuring deep conversations and analysis with Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and others.



### KAREN MUNRO

Librarian Karen Munro spoke to the *Martlet* about the library's main floor renovations and the vision for the future use of the space. "We're going for a more decolonized, less intimidating, friendlier, fluid approach to service.

## CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT

Read the latest [blog](#) from Christian Schmidt, Open Scholarship limited term librarian, about professor Eric Higg's "Mountain Legacies" podcast that addresses cultural, ecological and environmental urgency behind the Mountain Legacy Project.



## RBCM IN THE NEWS

Ry Moran, Associate University Librarian - Reconciliation, spoke to [Kathryn Marlow from CBC radio's All Points West](#) to discuss the further redevelopments of the Royal BC Museum, and shares his suggestions on how to meaningfully engage with Indigenous communities.

And we're also creating more student study space."

[Read the story](#)



## LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Through a UVic Libraries' [Coming Out of COVID research grant](#), librarian Michael Lines co-led a project to address climate anxiety with UVic students, co-facilitating a series of campus events and learning opportunities including roundtables, reflective workshops, storytelling, community mapping and a field trip.

[Read about the initiative](#)

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## & OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY

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Photo: UVic Photo Services

### INTERVIEW WITH LIMITED TERM LIBRARIAN CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT

Tell us about your journey to UVic. What did you do prior to coming to UVic



Photo: UVic Photo Services

### INTERVIEW WITH HEALTH RESEARCH LIBRARIAN ZAHRA PREMJI

You are the new Health Research Librarian. Tell us about your area of expertise and the

## Libraries?

In Germany, I was trained as a bookseller - a very traditional profession in the German-speaking world. I loved this work, but sadly it lost perspectives and chances for career development in the monopolizing market of the 2000s. So about 10 years ago, I decided to become an academic librarian because, in contrast to the book trade, I saw a diversification of roles and the emergence of exciting new tasks in librarianship.

Since then, I have worked in a variety of libraries – a specialized geographic library with a large archive and a historical map collection, the very hands-on library of a university of applied sciences, and the library of a university of technology.

I was born in a country that no longer exists – socialist East Germany. My educational and professional career is very typical of an East German of my generation, full of turns and detours, but this circumstance has also granted me many insights and experiences that I would not have gained otherwise, and I am very glad that my path eventually led me here, to the place that is now known as Victoria.

[Read the full interview with Christian.](#)

## UVic faculties and departments that you work with.

The programs that I support include Neuroscience, Exercise & Physical Health Education, Public Health and Social Dimensions of Health, as well as supporting multidisciplinary health research.

Furthermore, I have expertise and experience conducting evidence synthesis reviews and supporting teams embarking on these kinds of projects. So, I tend to be involved in a lot of review projects, mostly from the researchers in my subject areas, but sometimes from other departments due to the multidisciplinary nature of certain research areas. This support can take the form of training or workshops, consulting or advising teams, and sometimes collaborating as a coauthor on the reviews.

I am also interested in data management as it relates to evidence synthesis, given its direct impact on reproducibility. For those who are not familiar with the term evidence synthesis, it is a review/summary of existing literature or studies on a specific topic, and is done following an explicit methodology so that it is comprehensive and transparent.

[Read the full interview with Zahra.](#)

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## & THE LAST STORY

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*Self portrait*



*Nina (wearing camera) with two students*

## **REFLECTIONS FROM A LIBRARY CO-OP STUDENT**

*by: Nina Kovacic, Information Services Assistant (Young Canada Works)*

Last semester I had the opportunity to work as an Information Services Assistant in the Mearns - McPherson Library at the University of Victoria. This exciting role allowed me to work behind the scenes in the day-to-day work of an academic library and with research librarians to improve the efficiency of new program roll-outs in fall 2022.

My responsibilities revolved around promotion and assessment, and I took the lead in these areas for many different events and projects. I was able to offer some new insight to the librarians regarding research help and improve the overall system by offering a student perspective. In addition to promotion and assessment, I served as a helping hand to the library staff, assisting with photography and event support. There were never two days that looked the same in this role, and I am grateful for all my learning experiences and new skills that I developed.

I love the culture of the library. Everyone who I worked with (including librarians and the Ask Us staff) were unbelievably friendly and encouraging. I learned that being a professional in an academic environment is much less formal and strict than I thought. There was one day when my co-workers dressed up as aliens and dinosaurs for Halloween and I couldn't stop laughing.

Furthermore, I felt that academic professionals really value the knowledge and experience of young, emerging professionals because it helps them to stay connected to students and understand rapidly changing cultural trends. My co-op term was a unique experience, and through my engagement with these colleagues, I gained further knowledge about subjects I am interested in, including ancient mythology, English literature, and early American crime, among others.

I also was able to spend a lot of time with the Geography department when I documented the [Living With Climate Change](#) series. I learned so much about the climate crisis from professors, students, community members - even middle school students! If I were to describe the work culture of the

academic library in one word, I would say that it's "inspirational." I left this experience feeling inspired to learn, inspired to be my best self, and inspired to be an active community member. Working at the library this past semester has been the biggest influence on my learning and development, and I realized that my external environment has a huge impact on my motivation, curiosity, and creativity.

I found myself excited to come to work every day because I was constantly learning *and* having fun. I never had a bad day at work where I felt frustrated or sad because I had so much support from my coworkers. Every day was dynamic, different, and engaging, and I enjoyed every aspect of this job. Special thanks to Karen, Michael, Lisa, and everyone else who I had the pleasure of working with this past semester!



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