

February 2020



THE AMPERSAND

& IDEAFEST 2020



CLASS OF 2030: YOUR UVIC LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

Saturday, March 7, 2020

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

various locations in the library

Mearns Centre for Learning - McPherson Library

Discover the library of the future at this [family-friendly event](#), complete with five activity stations. With over two million books and digital creative spaces providing equitable access to technology, the library is a community jewel. Activities include the tech petting zoo, 3-D printing demos, all-ages story time, button making, and tours of our new Retro Computing Lab! [Ideafest website](#)

& MESSAGE FROM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN JONATHAN BENGTON



Dear Friends,

Can we suddenly be at the start of a new decade? A mere 30 years ago our libraries were largely analog institutions, and only a few progressive libraries had begun or were in the process of converting their catalogues from cards to digital. Only 20 years ago were we at the cusp of a rapid increase in the digitization of print and archival materials, a trajectory that continues into this decade, providing the world with unprecedented and extraordinary access to the arc of human knowledge.

And it is not even 10 years ago that we have begun in earnest to preserve what we can of the complexity and rather ephemeral nature of the web.

What will the coming decade bring? No doubt artificial intelligence will loom large and impact how we approach information and data. We will also work increasingly closely with related professions and areas across and beyond our institutions to meet the needs of our students and faculty, as our current strategic focus on partnerships and collaborations anticipates. In the words of the song “That Would be Enough” in the musical Hamilton: “look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now.” This really is the most exciting time to work in libraries; the opportunities are nearly boundless and our role within the life cycle of teaching, research, and learning has never been more important or so integrated within our institutions.

& IN THE COMMUNITY



UVIC LIBRARIES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT: JASON DEWINETZ

The University of Victoria's [Alumni Week](#), a week-long celebration of UVic alumni and their individual and collective successes, took place from February 1-7, 2020. Jason Dewinetz (BA '00) was presented his award at the annual celebration on February 4 in the Student Union Building.

Jason is a writer, editor, typographer, printer, publisher, and educator originally from, and now living once again, in the Okanagan Valley. His design and production for Greenboathouse Press has brought in more than a dozen national book design awards, and in 2008 he served on the jury of the Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada. Greenboathouse Press publications are included in private and institutional collections nationally and internationally. His printed works have been included in collaborative projects such as Gibraltar Edition's Harry Duncan portfolio *All Along the Fence*, and the recent CODEX Foundation's *Art of the Edge of the Abyss*. Dewinetz has an academic background in English Literature (BA: UVic; MA: U of Alberta), and is the author of *Clench* (Gaspereau Press), *Moving to the Clear* (NeWest Press), *The Gift of a Good Knife* (Outlaw Editions), and *In Theory* (above/ground press), and co-author of *A Bibliography of the Black Sparrow Press Archive* (University of Alberta Press). After three years teaching Publication Design at the University of Victoria (2001-2004), Jason has continued his teaching efforts in English, Creative Writing and Publication Design at Okanagan College. Visit the website of [Greenboathouse Press](#) for more information.

Jason joins the ranks of many other distinguished alumni recipients as awarded by UVic Libraries. Congratulations, Jason!

View the [full list](#) of recipients. [Watch video on Alumni Week](#).



Publication of *Conservation Guidelines for Modernist Architecture in the Victoria Region*

The University of Victoria has released the online digital version of *Conservation Guidelines* through their publishing site [UVic Space](#).

Guidelines is a “digital commons” publication and can be accessed/copied free of copyright.

Conservation Guidelines for Modernist Architecture in the Victoria Region

Martin Segger, 2020

Guidelines provides a framework for articulating the significance of project authorship and “design intent” in the process of developing strategies for preserving the Modernist architectural heritage in Victoria, British Columbia (1935-1975). It outlines an aesthetic historical context, presents a summary of the unique design vocabulary of regional Modernism, and provides a series of case studies that illustrate how the intentions of original designers and builders can be respected and preserved within differing building types.

& ACROSS THE CAMPUS

More information about the [campus-wide Wellness Week](#).

& LECTURES



PETER AND ANA LOWENS LECTURE **"Finger-worn pages": On Reading by Touch**

Dr. Vanessa Warne, University of Manitoba
March 20, 2:30 p.m.
Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning -
McPherson Library

Reading by touch, a skill that proliferated in the 19th century, transformed the experience of visual disability. In the decades following the publication of the first tactile books in English in the 1830s, many blind people learned to read. The expensive and bulky books that circulated between these readers were embossed in a variety of rival tactile scripts. William Moon, a blind person, activist and script inventor, published hundreds of these books. Moon claimed his books were so tactile that they could be read with a gloved hand or with the calloused fingers of a manual labourer. This lecture examines the beautiful and unusual books that Moon made and considers how Moon's books, which are very rarely read today, can reveal both the present day and future of bookmaking for blind readers. This presentation is illustrated and will include detailed audio description of all images. [More Info](#).



Books Without Ink: A Hands-On Workshop

Dr. Vanessa Warne, University of Manitoba
March 20, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Room A003, Mearns Centre for Learning -
McPherson Library

This workshop features a collection of rare and fragile 19th century books designed for and by blind readers. Embossed in now obsolete scripts, early alternatives to braille, these books reflect the preferences of readers who rejected the identification of reading with seeing and reimagined text as tactile. Please join Dr. Vanessa Warne of the University of Manitoba to explore the history of disability and accessible design and to examine—by touch or by sight— the inkless books, magazines, and maps that redefined what it means to read. [More info](#).

& IN THE VAULT



RARE BOOKS AND RARE GENEROSITY OF PROFESSOR GORDON FULTON

Interview by G. Kim Blank, UVic professor of English

KB: What have you collected—and why?

GF: I have collected antiquarian books in French and in English, largely in the fields of literature, history, and religious studies. It may sound surprising, but one reason I have collected them is that they are available and I can afford them, something that I did not suspect until about ten years ago.

One of my special interests is books by women. More to the point, it is possible to buy important books by women (e.g., 17th century folio volumes by Katherine Philips) for much less than major books by men (e.g., 17th century folio volumes by William Shakespeare) would cost. Anyone who thinks this comparison is ludicrous deserves a good scolding, but I won't be scolding them, because the longer this attitude persists the longer I will be able to afford to collect in this area.

I must say in general terms that, as a donor to McPherson Library, I have been inspired by all previous donors. No generous act ends in itself.

KB: How many volumes have you collected?

GF: More than one thousand volumes from before 1800, and the range of them is a good example of what might be called "mission creep." I began buying books from the 18th century, but before long I succumbed to the siren song of the 17th century. Books survive from the 16th century to remind us that we cannot afford incunables, which are books published up to 1500.

KB: How do you decide upon what to buy?

GF: I look to see what is available and make note of books that interest me. Sometimes this is just tourism, sometimes something more. In addition to my own interests, I have also bought books that relate to the interests of other UVic scholars, past and present. Affordability is a consideration, but I think of Andrew James Bell at Victoria College in the University of Toronto and of Walter Benjamin's account (in *Illuminations*) of his purchase of a rare children's book and remember that affordability is a relative matter. As a British Columbian, of course, I still insist that we can't afford Expo [86], the Couqihalla highway, fast ferries, or the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

KB: How many have you thus far donated to UVic?

GF: Perhaps between seven and eight hundred, but that's just a guess. I have also donated a fair number of modern and contemporary books.

Read the [full interview with Gordon Fulton](#).

G. Kim Blank is a professor of English at UVic, where he teaches and writes about early 19th century British poetry and various other topics.

& OUR PEOPLE, YOUR LIBRARY



INTERVIEW WITH JESSICA MUSSELL

by: Zehra Abrar, work study student



INTERVIEW WITH SHAHIRA KHAIR

by: Zehra Abrar, work study student

What does it mean to be a distance learning and research librarian?

The focus of my role is to serve distance students, programs, and faculty in a way that is equitable to the services provided to those on-campus. I want to ensure that distance students receive timely assistance for ANY of their needs, whether it's sourcing items, research assistance, instruction, or any other kind of help.

You have had a diverse experience of working in libraries. What have you learnt about how different educational institutions contribute to distance learning?

There really is not much of a difference between institutions that I've worked at that serve distance students. They all have the same systems in place to support distance learning, like free document delivery services (that's where we mail items from the library collection to a distance student's home), or source materials for them from other libraries, and help them with searching (figuring out what databases to search, what keywords to use, etc.). And, in all cases, we try to purchase electronic items as much as possible, which are ideal for remote access.

What made you leave psychology and enter the world of libraries?

While I do enjoy psychology, I enjoyed the library environment more. When I was an undergrad in psychology at UBC, I had a job working in one of the campus libraries, and of all the student jobs I've held, it was the most interesting and spurred my interest in switching gears to pursue a career in information science.

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

Like books, you can store, arrange and preserve data online. Right? Or am I oversimplifying your job? Tell us, what goes into preserving a mountain of data?

There are many parallels between "traditional" library work of describing, organizing, and sharing books, journals, and other media in a physical or digital space, and preserving research data. Whether physical or electronic, all of these resources need to be properly managed so that they can be reliably discovered, accessed, and used. The difference with research data is the huge variation, both in formats and in sources. Describing this variation and integrating it into standard systems can be a big challenge.

You have a background in science policy research. What part of your journey guided you to become a Data Curation Librarian?

I noticed how important high quality data is for decision-making. I guess from there I learned the value of open data and gained skills in gathering, organizing and describing different types of datasets. I made the connection to how libraries do this sort of work with all kinds of representations of information.

What is the biggest satisfaction that you draw from being a Data Curation Librarian? Is it a feeling that you are able to make a change through projects like the Mountain Legacy Project?

Because the library serves the whole campus, I get to interact with a wide range of researchers and learn a lot from them and their unique research projects.

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

& THE LAST WORD



IN CONVERSATION WITH KEN COOLEY ON HIS CAREER AND RETIREMENT

Interview conducted and edited by: Zehra Abrar, work study student

What were your beginnings in librarianship?

In 1972 I worked on a recreation project in my home town of Birtle, Manitoba. One of my responsibilities was to keep the high school library open a number of evenings each week. I didn't get a lot of customers but I did discover how much I liked the library. Later, at the University of Manitoba, I had several stints as a library student assistant, most significantly for me in the Government Publications section, both at the U of M and UBC, where I later completed my Master's in Library Science.

What year did you start at UVic?

I began work at UVic Libraries on April 1, 1991. This was just as the Libraries were implementing NOTIS, our first automated library system.

What was your title when you first started?

I began work at UVic Libraries as the Humanities Reference and Collection Development Librarian. I reported to Don White in the Reference Unit and Donna Signori in Collections.

What roles did you have in the library over the years?

From my initial appointment in Reference and Collections, I became Head of Acquisitions, reporting to Donna Signori. Later I became the Head of Library IT and Technical Services, then Associate University Librarian for Research Resources, which encompassed collection management, acquisitions, technical services, and reference, and finally, after stepping down to take a study leave in 2017, I spent the last two years as Special Projects Librarian, reporting to Jonathan Bengtson.

What has been the biggest change since you started at UVic Libraries?

There is no doubt that UVic Libraries, like the whole world, has been transformed by the advent of vast amounts of digitized information. This change has impacted every part of the library's operation.

Are there any approaches to administration that you think were particularly successful?

If you are not deeply interested in people and find you do your best work alone, then you should have nothing to do with administration of any aspect of a library. All the successful library administrators I've met during my career possessed these qualities. They aren't sufficient in themselves, but they are fundamental.

What are you most proud of in your career?

I would say that my ongoing involvement in creating collections for teaching, learning, and research at UVic has been the most challenging part of my career as a librarian. The enormous costs involved have always been a formidable obstacle, as has been the introduction of new formats and new purchasing models. However, collection development work always attracted me to the intellectual life of the university in a way few other assignments did.

If you did not become a librarian, what other career choice would you have made?

Oddly enough for a very practical farmer and school teacher, both my father and my mother thought I should enroll in Fine Arts. I might have had a wilder life if I'd followed their advice!

What advice would you give to your colleagues?

I apologize for this smug saying but here goes: "Don't stop when you're tired. Stop when you're done."

"Don't stop when you're tired. Stop when you're done."

What motivated you to retire?

My former boss Marnie Swanson said that you just know when it's time to go. That's pretty much what happened. I am still very interested in the library, but one reaches a point when you know you should just get out of the way.

If you could read anyone's mind, who would it be?

Funny, but as I think about this, I realize I've not spent a lot of time wondering about what others were thinking. I've mostly worried about finding out what they have actually been doing, which was not always very easy.

What books are on your bedside table?

I have two books on the go just now: *A History of the World in 12 Maps* by Jerry Brotton and *Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk. Like most of us, I'm pretty fascinated by maps, and the Tokarczuk book has a very interesting structure. I'm looking forward to my book club (composed almost entirely of retired librarians) discussion.

Finally, what are you doing in retirement?

I plan on learning to play the bass clarinet.



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

