

2023 Okanagan Library Report to Senate

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The Okanagan Library prides itself on being an inclusive space, a service-focused team, and a nexus of scholarly engagement. A proactive campus leader, our Library advances research, learning, and teaching excellence by connecting communities, within and beyond the University, to the world's knowledge.

In the summer of 2023 the Provost and Vice-President, at UBC's Okanagan campus and University Librarian began the search for a Deputy University Librarian, Okanagan Campus. Candidates were interviewed late in the year and it is anticipated that an announcement regarding the next leader of the Okanagan Library will be made in early 2024.

In 2023, the Library also completed its staff-wide engagement to help define the Library's strategic actions. The result was an updated strategic framework, mapping priorities and projects to broader campus and institutional directions. The primary themes that inform our work include: equity and inclusion, wellness, service, and scholarly engagement. This framework demonstrates and reaffirms the Library's integral campus role related to: **Teaching and Learning, Discovery and Research, Campus and Community, and Spaces and Collections.**

Teaching and Learning

The Okanagan Library is integrated in transformative teaching and learning efforts, providing essential services, spaces, and resources for student success.

Providing Outstanding Library Reference Services

The Okanagan Library has two primary service points: the campus Library's single service desk and the Special Collections service desk located in The Commons. Both locations offer walk-up and appointment-based reference services. Library staff also respond to email questions and answer queries via Ask Away, the Library's virtual chat platform. Professional librarians provide in-depth research consultations to students and faculty onsite and online (e.g., Zoom). Community users can also access most UBC resources through dedicated terminals in the Library.

Information Literacy Initiatives

During the period covered by this report, librarians taught nearly 200 online, in person, or hybrid learning sessions. Topics ranged from subject-specific information search and retrieval strategies to sessions on copyright, scholarly communication and publishing, research data management, performing systematic and literature reviews, critical evaluation of information, and effective integration of published research into academic writing, including appropriate use of citation styles. Additional highlights from the past year include:

- A digital toolkit workshop delivered in collaboration with colleagues on the Vancouver campus (e.g., Introduction to Podcasting, Digital Exhibits, etc.).
- Multiple sessions tailored to conducting Indigenous research at the UBCO Library to support the curriculum and to assist community researchers from the BC Metis Federation.
- Orientation sessions for students enrolled in the three Interior Salishan Language Fluency programs (BNLF, BNLEK, BSTAT).

Student Learning Hub

Writing and Language Appointments

2023 proved to be another year of growth for the Student Learning Hub (SLH). Appointment numbers for this year reflect a steady increase with 1,213 appointments compared to 1,125 appointments held the year prior. With 147 tutoring hours, French and Spanish support remained consistent with the previous year. Although most appointments are now in-person, we continue to ensure that online appointments are available for students as this practice increases accessibility.

Following the positive response in Summer 2022, writing and language support was offered again in Summer I & II 2023. Spanish, writing, and Academic Integrity Matters appointments were available throughout the term, and the SLH provided 119 hours of support in total. Summer support consisted of 65 writing appointments, 51 AIM appointments, and 3 Spanish appointments.

Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) Program

To reach more students and gather feedback about the current AIM Canvas courses, the two courses were shared widely with instructors to use in their classes at the beginning of Winter Term 1. During the term, 776 students enrolled in the Unauthorized Collaboration and Cheating Canvas course and 1378 students in the Writing and Plagiarism course, resulting in 2,154 students taking an AIM course as part of their classes. Students shared feedback on their experiences taking the AIM courses, highlighting that they felt the courses “clarified previous half-knowledge [they were] relying on,” “helped clear up any lack of information [they] had,” and were “very valuable” because they “may have otherwise not learned this much about academic integrity.”

The proactive measures have had an impact as referrals to AIM decreased by approximately 35% (a decrease of 69 referrals) in 2023 compared to the previous year. However, there is clearly still a need for the referral program as AIM received 127 referrals, with 112 of these students successfully completing the program (10 not completed; 5 still in progress). Ninety four students were referred for issues regarding plagiarism, while 33 were referred for cheating, collusion, or other forms of academic misconduct. AIM consultants offered personalized guidance to students during 192 meetings in 2023.

In February 2023, AIM ran two initiatives to contribute to a culture of integrity on campus. First, AIM ran a two-part campaign consisting of “Academic Integrity is everyone’s responsibility” posters and matching content for digital screens around campus and in the Library—the posters and digital content in the Library remain up. The second initiative was Academic Integrity Valentines, consisting of 7 integrity-themed valentine cards to share with friends and colleagues and a tabling event on Valentine’s Day to hand out the cards, some candy, and information about the AIM program.

In response to the growing interest in Generative AI, the AIM program embedded information and quiz questions in the current Canvas courses to address best practices for students in maintaining academic integrity in the era of Generative AI. Work continues to expand the new content into a stand-alone Canvas course which should be released in September 2024.

Based on recommendations from the Academic Integrity Implementation Group (AIAG), the Academic Integrity Facilitator developed the Academic Integrity Student Advisory Group (AISAG), first meeting in October 2023, with the goal of recruiting students to discuss existing and emerging priorities in academic integrity from a student perspective on behalf of UBC Okanagan students. The AISAG is chaired by the Academic Integrity Assistant (a new graduate student position for the program) and will produce a report

with recommendations by Spring 2024.

In October 2023, the AIM program also participated in planning and co-hosting the BC Academic Integrity Network's BCAI Day along with UBC Vancouver colleagues. The virtual 1-day conference had sessions around academic integrity research in BC, Generative AI, and students as partners in academic integrity.

Also, during the Academic Integrity Awareness week in October, AIM ran its second "thank you for your integrity" event, providing information on academic integrity and the AIM program, "thank you for your integrity" bookmarks, and free hot drinks and snacks to students, as well as giving away several "Integri-kitty" tote bags.

SLH Events

In Spring and early Summer 2023, Senior Writing/AIM Consultant Stephanie Awotwi-Pratt developed Writing While Black (WWB), a writing community with the purpose of connecting and empowering Black writers at UBCO. By providing a space where Black writers can freely explore, express, and cultivate their writing potential, WWB's goal is to build community, inspire confidence, and amplify the voices of Black writers at UBCO. A webpage, messaging for digital screens, and information cards were shared with the campus starting in August 2023, with 16 sign-ups and 3 meetings thus far.

We have continued to offer Back to Basics (B2B) and Exam Jam programming through 2023. In 2023, Back to Basics was scheduled to run during Jumpstart. However, due to the wildfires in the Kelowna area Jumpstart and Back to Basics were cancelled. As this content was created and adapted for in-person, online, and asynchronous delivery options, we were able to pivot and ensure that the recordings were available for students. Exam Jam was held as 2 events, with 'Midterm Motivation' held in October and 'Finals Focus' held at the end of term. Overall, 187 students attended Exam Jam and 17 stayed to work with writing tutors during these events.

To encourage student interaction with the SLH, the Coordinator created a series of new engagement opportunities throughout the term. During Weeks of Welcome, the SLH engaged with 629 students over two days just outside the entry to the Hub space to raise awareness of the Hub's location and how to book appointments. This was a 47% increase from September 2022. For Winter Orientation the SLH held an open house with hot drinks and treats, we had 78 students attend this event.

The SLH held "Write Advice" tables near the middle of both term 1 and 2 over 3 days in UNC, EME and FIP. The SLH interacted with 194 students at our January event, but the response to the October event was massive, with 497 student interactions. This was a 200% increase from October 2022. At the end of term in both April and December, the SLH again hosted a writing drop-in events with snacks and hot drinks. Each event saw 28 students stay in the space to work on papers with tutor support, for a total of 56 students. The SLH also partnered with faculty and community stakeholders to offer a Horror Writing Workshop as part of the Feminist Horror Festival and was able to support the Global Engagement Office with their Postcards home event.

Staff Training

In the Winter Terms of 2023/24, writing and language consultant staff meetings continued to increase focus on education regarding equity, inclusion, accessibility, anti-oppression, and decolonial, diverse, and inclusive writing practices. We have collaborated with colleagues from other areas including UBCO's Indigenous Initiatives Librarian, the Sexual Violence Prevention Office, and the Equity and Inclusion Office. Through our structured in-person and asynchronous employee development program, members of our

team gain College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) certification. During summer 2023 we optimized our asynchronous training materials to improve their accessibility, and specifically, how well they interact with screen readers.

Open Education

UBC Library's open education services seek to support the UBC community in finding, adapting, and creating high-quality open educational resources (OERs), as well as planning and implementing innovative open education projects and open practices.

Both UBC Vancouver and Okanagan libraries play an active role in progressing open education initiatives and practices across campuses. From January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, UBC Library engaged in 58 consultations on open education projects, supporting faculty, students, and staff in their open practices. UBC Library organized 10 events and instructional workshops with 295 participants to build awareness and advocate for open practices and resources on campus. Sessions included topics such as "Open Carefully – Pursuing Open with an Ethics of Care" and "Indigenous Knowledges and Open Education."

UBC Okanagan Library is a partner in the development and adjudication of the Aspire-2040 Learning Transformations Funds (ALT-2040 Fund) OER stream. The ALT-2040 fund awarded two OER projects.

The UBC OER Collection, created in 2022 and developed in partnership with the UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), UBC Library, and UBC Okanagan Library, currently houses 90 OER developed by UBC faculty, students, and staff.

The Open Education Librarians on both the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses participate in several provincial and national committees and working groups to improve awareness, engagement, and funding potential for open education. Both Open Education Librarians at UBC participate in BCOEL, a supportive community for British Columbian librarians to learn about open education practices. Both librarians also volunteer on the Canadian Association of Research Librarians Open Education Working Group.

UBC librarians Erin Fields, Kayla Lar-Son, and Donna Langille, along with Olenna Hardie (University of British Columbia), and Ann Ludbrook (Toronto Metropolitan University) are embarking on a new collaborative research project that aims to identify gaps in the open education communities' understanding of Indigenous perspectives. Donna Langille is also working with an editorial team with other UBC members on an edited volume that focuses on centering Indigenous ways of knowing, culture, experiences, and worldviews within the work of open education pedagogy and advocacy work. The volume will be licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) license.

Research and Discovery

The Library plays a critical role in the research enterprise, providing leadership and expertise in a growing range of services that advance all forms of scholarship.

In 2023, we focused on continuing to raise awareness of Centre for Scholarly Communication (CSC) services, expanding the variety of available supports, workshops, developing new online learning resources, and furthering growing and strengthening campus collaborations and partnerships.

Scholarly Outputs

The Library supports, collaborates, and contributes to the research enterprise of the campus, as well as the broader library, information, and archival sciences community. In 2023, our Librarians and Archivist co-authored 14 peer-reviewed journal articles, and delivered 32 sessions at conferences and symposiums across North America in-person or virtually (please see: [bibliography of 2023 research outputs](#)). These scholarly outputs emphasize the deep rooted partnerships with faculty and researchers, as well as with colleagues from across the information science field.

Centre for Scholarly Communication

Collaborations

In 2023, the CSC undertook a new collaboration with our campus partners from College of Graduate Studies (CoGS), Research Computing (RC), and Office of Research Services (ORS) to support the diversification of workshop offerings and provide new teaching opportunities for Graduate Students and Post Doctoral Fellows. CoGS provided financial support for 10 small Research Excellence Workshop Leader Initiative ([REWLI](#)) grants of \$1,050 each. The response from campus stakeholders was significant as we received 30 applications from a wide range of disciplines from across campus in a short timeframe. As a result, the CSC added 7 new and unique workshop offerings during Winter Term 1 in 2023, with additional workshops planned for Winter Term 2 in 2024.

The CSC also formed a new collaboration with the faculty lead of UBC Okanagan's new Statistics Canada Research Data Centre to offer a monthly workshop to assist students and postdoctoral fellows with accessing Statistics Canada Data for their research. This workshop was offered 8 times in 2023 and had a total of 29 attendees. This monthly workshop series will be continued in 2024.

To support collaboration among the partners (ORS, RC, and Library) and draw attention to the ways that the CSC can help researchers maximize their effectiveness, the CSC hosted weekly drop-ins in both Winter Terms. Although there has been limited attendance from faculty or students, these events are popular with members of UBCO's research support teams, and provide rich opportunities for collaboration between them.

In collaboration with the College of Graduate Studies, the CSC continues to support workshops for the [Scholarly Researching, Writing, and Publishing Credential](#). While only 4 students completed the credential in 2023 by uploading all 6 proof of attendance documents, 77 were engaged in the process in 2023.

Research Data Services

With seed funding from Research Computing followed by a successful Excellence Fund proposal, the CSC hired two additional GAAs to offer new research data services, including consultations and expanded workshops. Run as a pilot in 2023, the Research Data Hub is modelled on the success of UBCO's Writing and Language Learning Services and offers one on one consultations to support researchers with all aspects of a traditional data pipeline, including collection and analysis planning, cleaning, analyzing, and visualizing.

This service addresses a critical gap for many graduate researchers who lack strong discipline specific training or support in statistics and reproducible computational methods for working with data. With the launch of the Research Data Hub, the CSC has also been able to expand its workshop offerings, with more workshops on research centric computational tools, both for working with data (R, Python) and for managing workflows (Bash, GitHub).

Undergraduate Research Support

A collaboration between the Undergraduate Research Ambassadors and the CSC resulted in a series of Canvas modules that support undergraduate students in finding research opportunities at UBCO and communicating their research effectively. Modules include: Introduction to Undergraduate Research, Approaching Opportunities, Academic CVs, Time and Project Management, Writing a Research Proposal, Academic Integrity in Research Writing, Developing a Research Poster, Creating a Research Presentation, and Data Tools.

Starting in October 2023, the CSC received funding from the Office of the Provost to deliver monthly workshops tailored for undergraduate student researchers who are required to write a thesis as part of their honours' program. Workshop topics so far have included: Starting the Literature Review and Crafting a Research Proposal and Data Management Plan. 49 honours' thesis writers have participated so far in this initiative, with an additional three planned workshops and a thesis writers' retreat in 2024 Winter Term 2.

Instruction: Workshops, In-Class Instruction, and Self-Guided Resources

The CSC continues to support the campus through delivery of instruction designed for a wide range of research and writing projects and processes. In 2023, the CSC facilitated 70 workshops that saw 404 participants. In addition, the CSC was invited to present workshops for both the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Faculty of Science for Undergraduate Research Award proposal writers in January and November 2023, as well as for the award winners' summer programming. We offered the Writers' Retreat in person this year and continued to encourage additional collaborative writing opportunities through the weekly Writing Communities; while we attempted a hybrid option based on requests from clients, the in-person uptake was so limited that we returned to online only, which is more manageable for our clients. 103 participants attended the 2023 Weekly Writing Communities. In 2023, new workshops were also developed and delivered to support learning Python, Bash, Git and GitHub.

To address the need for more postdoctoral facing workshops, we developed a new workshop called Planning and Writing Postdoctoral Applications. An additional new workshop supported researchers applying for ethics approval in collaboration with UBCO Research Ethics, with a focus on completing the informed consent form.

The Research Data Hub shifted their workshop delivery to a series-based model, allowing scaffolding of concepts over time. This included a new workshop series delivered by the Research Data Services GAAs in Winter Term 2. The series was well-attended, with a total of 100 participants. Based on attendee feedback and with strong continued interest in data research workshops, for Winter Term 1, the series model was extended to an 8-workshop offering, with additional content developed to re-enforce core computational concepts and tools. The 8-workshop series model attracted another 72 participants in Winter Term 1. For 2024 these workshops will continue and be augmented with more advanced offerings that address descriptive and inferential statistics. These workshops have all been added as eligible for the [Scholarly Researching, Writing, and Publishing Credential](#) offered by the College of Graduate Studies. Participants commented on the benefits of attending our 2023 workshops:

- “The workshop was super interactive and very informative without being condescending or overly complex.”
- “The whole workshop was a descriptive and explicit discussions about the different thesis formats, how to think about them, and resources throughout campus to helps us organize ourselves and approach the work.”
- “[The presenter] has a wonderful tone and has a wealth of knowledge and has a good way of

bringing abstract ideas into clear concise concepts!”

- “I am going to use R in my data analysis and this workshop was a great introduction to R for beginners. Also, the instructor was super helpful and provided me additional resources to understand the analyses I need.”
- “The workshop addressed a broad range of topics ... without being overwhelming... The course also did a lot to dispel my worries about working with R and gave me several valuable resources (within class, and external to the workshop going forward) that will significantly impact my ability to conduct my research.”
- “[The presenter] is an excellent teacher and facilitator and brought an enormous amount of value to the course. He is highly adaptive to the range of students/attendees in the room (especially for a drop-in style workshop), extremely knowledgeable, and willing and able to address questions on the fly.”

Research Excellence Workshop Leader Initiative (REWLI) Workshop Series

The [REWLI](#) workshop series, created with funding from the College of Graduate Studies, achieved its stated goal to increase the diversity of multidisciplinary workshops offered to researchers at UBCO. The 7 workshops offered through this initiative in 2023 saw 42 attendees in 2023.

In-Class Presentations

In addition to the many core courses that the CSC is invited to teach in every year, members of the CSC team were invited to teach in a number of courses in 2023, providing the following new workshops: Writing a Literature Review for Engineering graduate students, Writing an Annotated Bibliography for biology and biochemistry graduate students, Presentations and Report Writing for Computer Science graduate students, and supporting Indigenous undergraduate and PhD students in the Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE) program.

Self-Guided Resources

Online resources present a vital opportunity for our campus community to engage with materials at their own pace. Our Online Learning Resources on Canvas support graduate and post-doctoral research communication. This past year’s new modules include support for attending academic conferences and preparing for a thesis defense. Current enrolment in the Canvas resources is up to 367 participants, and engagement has been consistently high with an average of 132 weekly page views in 2023.

The Research Data Hub has expanded the online resources available to students, with all workshop materials publicly hosted to support asynchronous engagement and blog posts to address common questions encountered during consultations (<https://csc-ubc-okanagan.github.io/>).

One-On-One Consultations

From the inception of the unit to today, one-on-one consultations have remained a core element of the CSC’s contribution to campus life. While we have provided writing consultations since 2012, Data consultations started in January 2023.

One-on-one writing consultations

The 2023 CSC writing consultation numbers remain consistent with the previous year: 540 consultation hours compared to 546 in 2022. Examples of just a few positive comments from writing consultations highlight the important role the CSC plays in providing research communication support:

- “[The consultant] was so helpful and went beyond my expectations as he thought deeply about

the overall message and subtle messages within my paper. His background allowed for insight on my topic, and I used his feedback in my final research submission.”

- “Another set of eyes on my work catching the subtle mistakes I missed. Also having it read from a different perspective with input on its readability was extremely useful.”
- “I really appreciate being able to schedule these appointments as it allows me to dedicate set time towards working on certain tasks.”
- “[The consultant] framed the meeting around specific concerns I had so that the meeting was able to meet my goals.”
- “How efficient and clear [the consultant] was! The information provided was straight-forward and easy to follow (despite SPSS being a daunting topic for me!).”

One-on-one data consultations

In 2023, two data consultants completed 184 one-on-one consultations. Examples of just a few positive comments from data consultations highlight the important role the CSC plays in providing research data support:

- “Having one-on-one help with bioinformatics is extremely helpful. We really lack support on campus for microbiome analysis, so [the consultant’s] knowledge and expertise make him a VERY valuable person at UBCO.”
- “[The consultant] is an incredible educator- he takes concepts that I find so difficult to understand and makes them accessible. He has a gift of teaching.”
- “[The consultant] went above and beyond, multiple times he even brought up things about my experimental design that I wouldn’t have thought of on my own.”
- “She had up-to-date information. She was so kind and patient in answering my questions.”
- “[The consultant] is great at giving feedback and explaining why or why I shouldn’t do something with my analyses that I would have never learned otherwise. He’s been an exceptional resource.”

Campus and Community

The Okanagan Library displays leadership in the establishment of partnerships with campus and community to advance the University’s strategic initiatives and take our passion and expertise outside the Library’s (sometimes virtual) walls.

In 2023, our community partnership initiatives included the British Columbia Regional Digitized History project, continued growth of the Community Scholars Program, and a community discussion about 2SLGBTQIA+ history in Kelowna. On-campus and inter-campus projects included a BC Heritage Walk, Honouring Indigenous Writers programming, a ‘Zine Fair, Orange Shirt Day crafting event, Legacy of Hope exhibit, Postcards Home, and a Technology Petting Zoo event.

British Columbia Regional Digitized History (BCRDH)

Over the course of 2023, the initiative known as [BC Regional Digitized History](#) has been regularized into the routine operations of Okanagan Special Collections and Archives (OSC). As such, it serves as the digitization and digital access module of the broader UBCO Archives program. BCRDH occupies a unique position in terms of offering a concept of and platform for “collections as a service” with respect paid to the sophisticated ownership profiles inherent to documentary heritage. Now entering its eighth year, the BCRDH model lends flexible structure and an emphasis on dynamism, community service, and student experiential learning to UBCO’s archives.

As it continues to grow in depth and breadth, highlights this year include ongoing partnership with En'owkin Centre toward the curricular service of the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency. In BCRDH infrastructure, this manifests as private archival collections reserved for language learners, stewarded on behalf of the source repository and according to the requests of BNLF instructors.

Additionally, in attaining a Central Okanagan Foundation grant aimed at further development of historical newspaper access for the second consecutive year, the BCRDH project is increasing its reach and recognition in the local community, and successfully communicating its value to aligned organizations.

Community Scholars Program

In 2023, UBC Library entered its third year of involvement with the Community Scholars Program (CSP). The CSP provides BC non-profits and charitable organizations with free access to academic journals and research related to their fields. Many of the 170,000 non-profits and charitable organizations in Canada are doing critical work on social issues, but most have little or no access to academic journals or research unless they are affiliated with a university. CSP provides BC organizations with access to more than 20,000 academic titles at no cost. In addition, the program provides research support, consultations with libraries, communities of practice through workshops, and journal clubs.

In 2023, UBC Library extended its MOU with SFU until March 31, 2026 (instead of year-to-year) highlighting the success of the partnership and UBC Library's commitment to community scholars for years to come.

UBC Library's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre helped launch a grant opportunity for current program participants. UBC Library awarded two Information Research Grants, valued at \$6k each, to Kiwassa Neighbourhood House and Battered Women's Support Services to support projects that foster information research and turn research into action.

BC Heritage Walk

From February 15-28, 2023, all UBCO community members were invited to participate in a BC Heritage Walk as part of BC Heritage Week and Move UBC month. Eleven stops were located between UBC Okanagan Library and the Commons for participants to learn more about Okanagan history and to explore archival materials.

Honouring Indigenous Writers: Reading and Conversation with Brian Thomas Isaac

On March 29, 2023, UBC Okanagan Library contributed to the hosting of an online reading and conversation with Brian Thomas Isaac author of *All the Quiet Places*. Brian Thomas Isaac is a Syilx author born on the Okanagan Indian Reserve near Vernon BC. *All the Quiet Places* is the story of what can happen when every adult in a person's life has been affected by colonialism; it tells of the acute separation from culture that can occur even at home in a loved familiar landscape.

Zine Fair '23

On April 12 and 13, 2023, all UBCO community members were invited to attend a zine fair hosted at Okanagan Special Collections and Archives. The two-day zine fair showcased over 50 unique zines designed by undergraduate students from UBCO's Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies. Zines are self-published booklets or magazines that can feature poems, artwork, writing, and more. All zines showcased were

deposited into Okanagan Special Collections and Archives and have a permanent place at UBCO.

Our Past, Present, and Future: Celebrating and Making 2SLGBTQIA+ History in Kelowna

On June 15, 2023, UBC Okanagan Library partnered with Kelowna Museums & Archives for a community discussion about 2SLGBTQIA+ history in Kelowna. Donna Langille, our Community Engagement Librarian hosted special guests for an evening at the Laurel Packinghouse that featured a collaborative art activity and live taping of the Okanagan QueerStory podcast.

Orange Shirt Day Crafting Event

On September 25 and 26, 2023, Indigenous Programs & Services and UBC Okanagan Library encouraged students, faculty, and staff to craft an orange paper shirt and reflect on Truth and Reconciliation. The paper shirts completed at this event were displayed around UBC's Okanagan campus to help raise awareness about Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Legacy of Hope Foundation Exhibition | Bi-Giwen: Coming Home - Truth-Telling from the Sixties Scoop

In September and October 2023, Indigenous Programs & Services and UBC Okanagan Library worked together to present the Legacy of Hope Foundation's Bi-Giwen: Coming Home - Truth-Telling from the Sixties Scoop exhibition. All UBCO community members were encouraged to visit the exhibit that explores the experiences of Survivors of the Sixties Scoop, which began in the 1960s, where Indigenous children were taken from their families, often forcibly, and fostered and/or adopted out to non-Indigenous homes often far from their communities.

Postcards Home

As part of Global Education Week, UBC Okanagan Library collaborated with the Global Engagement Office to set up a "Postcards Home" event in the Sawchuk Family Theatre. On October 31 and November 1, students could write, stamp, and send postcards, both domestically and internationally to friends and family all around the world.

Technology Petting Zoo

In November and December 2023, UBC Okanagan Library hosted Technology Petting Zoo sessions at the Inclusive Technology Lab. UBCO students, faculty, and staff were invited to try various types of assistive technology and ergonomic equipment. The Inclusive Technology Lab assistant helped attendees learn more about this supportive environment designed to facilitate learning and research.

Records Management

In the first half of the year, enhanced records management outreach and education initiatives forecast in last year's report were completed successfully and the Records Management Building Blocks for Success workshops reached conclusion. These workshops attracted 47 members of the UBCO community. Further, early momentum was carried forward through the fall 2023 term in quarterly Records Management Community of Practice meetings, with 45 attending. Interest in Records Management support is sustained and growing on campus, with overall growth of physical boxes and digital bags in managed storage increasing by 10% during the reporting period.

In 2023, UBCO Records Management activities have been characterized by doing more with existing resources, which was accomplished through strengthening cross-campus collaborations. To meet needs, a pilot project with the Records Management Office (RMO) at UBCV has brought unit-level digital readiness more deeply into common institutional and procedural space. Engaging a graduate Worklearn student from UBC's iSchool employed by RMO and with time assigned specifically for UBCO projects has yielded valuable experiential learning opportunities while at the same time it has creatively exercised the mandate of BOG Policy GA4 by building new points of access to emerging information professionals for UBCO Library.

Spaces and Collections

The Library's resources and facilities are very much at the core of its mission, and we make every effort to be both proactive and responsive in their provision. In addition to the campus Library building, ORL@UBC, the Inclusive Technology Lab, and the downtown Innovation Library, The Commons and makerspaceUBCO, provide students with welcome locations to work, study, and connect.

Spaces

Constellation

[Constellation](#) reimagines and connects a suite of existing media and technology learning spaces at UBC Okanagan under a common framework. Although each of these spaces is unique, they share the vision of empowering learning, supporting campus-wide access, encouraging innovation and enabling creation; much like looking at a constellation rather than a single star, a broader and more enriched view of the potential for media and technology resources on campus, and their inherent interactions, appears when they are considered holistically. This centralized network offers new pathways for interaction, exploration, learning, and discovery, and offers new partnerships and collaborative opportunities for the UBC Okanagan Library.

Constellation includes the Visualization and Emerging Media Studio (VEMS, COM 107), makerspaceUBCO (EME 1256), the Sawchuk Family Theatre (COM 104), the Digital Design Lab & Sound Booth (COM 205), the Library Design & Editing Stations (Main Floor Library), Studio 123 (LIB 123) and the Loans Hub (COM 204).

A collaborative leadership approach involves the core group representing each operational unit in the Constellation; this includes UBC IT Okanagan and the Library, with adjacent support for curriculum design through the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), and participation from the Provost's Office. An informal, dynamic user group made up of faculty and students with an interest in emerging media, innovative design, and experimental pedagogy will soon be formed to provide advice and feedback on, and ideas for, potential initiatives and help to inform decision-making.

makerspaceUBCO

"I had no idea that such a cool space existed on campus! I swear I feel like I've been here every day since I found out about it, there is just so much to do."

- Anonymous makerspaceUBCO user

Failure is *only* V1 became this year's unofficial motto of makerspace, exploring the concept that iterative creation is the most successful way to build in a truly innovative way. The low barrier, low-cost nature of the space ensured that experimentation and creation was uninhibited by such constraints. Students,

staff, and faculty continued to work in the ever-changing landscape of the post-COVID university life, embracing the opportunity to work creatively without the fear of failure looming over their heads. The space remained low barrier, highly accessible and saw such a renewed invigoration for making that there was a significant enough increase in daily users to warrant a physical reorganization of the space to allow for more active making to occur simultaneously.

Open for 30 hours of regular use each week, 2023 saw a significant increase in overall use of the space, as well as a shift in the intent of the enthusiastic users. The space began to see users intentionally exploring new methods, and leaning into the hands-on element that sets makerspace apart from other facilities on campus. Hosting 50+ tours and 17 special events, over 1,730 UBCO and community members experienced the space firsthand. Notable events included but are not limited to:

- Ongoing textiles series focusing on creativity for mental wellness *120+ participants*
- UBCO STEM Day cross campus experience for SD23 *700+ participants*
- Engineering open house for prospective high school students *200+ participants*
- STEM camp for young girls aged 4-10 *180+ participants*

Continuing to focus on innovative learning experiences, makerspace chose to centre efforts around the benefit of creativity within STEM. Recognizing the intimidating barrier for many women, 2SLGBTQIA+ members, disabled people, and other visible minorities to feel welcome, makerspace piloted a textiles workshop series. The series featured crochet as a tool to connect community members, create opportunity for under-represented groups to access the space, and bridge the gap between traditional STEM activities and creative application of the fine arts and traditional cultural crafts often preserved by women in society. The series was extremely well attended and will be doubled in its' offering for future, including an interdisciplinary approach to blend creativity and tech by offering a 3D printing for textiles workshop. Other workshop instances included: Drones 101, 3D printing 101, movie nights and 'making after dark.'

Community in the space continued to expand in both in-person use, as well as the online community that was built to facilitate connection and foster innovation between users. The membership of this online space grew by 150% putting the count at 250 active members sharing their skillsets, requesting support, and joyously presenting their completed projects that were created in the space to their fellow peers. Informal consultations provided by staff and regular members via the online community provided an unimposing method for new users to expand their skillsets and access the space, increasing overall accessibility.

Makerspace also continued in the journey to connect with other groups and spaces across campus, regularly hosting student clubs such as: Hackerspace, Aerospace, Motorsports, and the newly formed Textiles club. The space continues to play a pivotal role in the creation and participation of **The Constellation**, working to reimagine the perceived and potential connections between emerging technology-based spaces on campus such as VEMS, SFT and Digital Design Labs. The connections made here further strengthen the impact that users feel makerspace has in comparison to other similarly available facilities. Rather than simply dropping off a file to be made tangible for them, users can utilize a fully immersive experience starting with facilitator consultation, hands on prototyping participation, innovative iterative design process and finally ending on customized referral throughout The Constellation network. This cross-space avenue generates a more fulfilling experience through its' robust equipment access and staff expertise, allowing for the users to place the value on the journey of experimental prototyping rather than only emphasizing receipt of a finalized product with no true involvement. Expanding the variety of skillsets available for consultation and support has only increased the scope of user

skill levels able to access and benefit from the space, ensuring that it persists in becoming a welcoming and productive space.

“It’s always so welcoming, there’s never a project I feel like I can’t make at makerspace, and everyone is always so happy to help, and no question is a waste of their time. When I go to the space, I feel like I’m at home.

- makerspace user Josh

Sawchuk Family Theatre

The Sawchuk Family Theatre, located in the Commons (107), engages diverse audiences through the creative use and display of digital media. The theatre boasts a large video wall (16’ x 9’) for digital exhibits and large-scale display. This past year the software behind the wall was upgraded to make it easier for campus partners to create and share content in the space. In 2023, the most frequent users of the Sawchuk Family Theatre were Visual Arts, English and Cultural Studies courses, and Heat Athletics. Incidentally, the Theatre also serves as the gathering point and first stop on campus tours for prospective students.

Visualization and Emerging Media Studio (VEMS)

The Visualization and Emerging Media Studio, located in the Commons (104), is a multidisciplinary space encouraging digital experimentation in immersive realities and big data visualization. The room features a 40-screen 180-degree curved video wall with spatial audio. Users have access to unique hardware and software that enables dynamic 3D models, virtual reality, augmented reality, small interactive demonstrations, and decision theatre experiences. In 2023, the space was booked frequently for research projects, academic endeavours, and other technological experiments. VEMS was specifically referenced in two published IEEE papers, one about pointing performance and one about Virtual Reality.

Collections

Collections Acquisitions Budget

The Library collections budget has continued to see a flat base budget entering FY24, at \$1,400,000 CAD, while the inflation rates have continued to rise at a pace that has caused most of our vendors and suppliers to request significant renewal rates above and beyond past years. If the budget had risen alongside average inflation in Canada, the collections budget would now be closer to \$1,680,000 CAD (see Table 1). The difference of almost \$300,000 CAD significantly impacts the flexibility of acquisitions at the Okanagan Library. It is a continuous balancing of the request for new resources and the need to reassess renewals for possible cancellations to stay within budget. Efforts by all librarians were made at the start of FY24 to focus on a request-based acquisition approach for monographs and were successful in ensuring financial targets were met throughout the fiscal year. This approach to acquisitions hinders long-term prosperity and development of a strong research and teaching focused collection.

In FY24 the Okanagan Library saw minor additional funding from the President’s Academic Excellence Initiative funding, which was awarded to the UBC Library on both campuses from 2022-2024. Unfortunately, the year 2 funding of \$65,000 CAD was curtailed and kept at the same \$30,000 CAD received in year 1. Without these additional funds, planned spends were reduced and resources were shelved for consideration at a future date. The same resources acquired in year 1 were renewed, with one of the resources requiring additional funding pulled from the general collections budget. We were able to support subscription access to:

- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) selection of 4 journals and 4 archives
- Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) current standards collection
- Ethnic Diversity Source database

Overall, the impacts from the collections budget directly affect faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community users, and the Okanagan Library will be required to continue reductions as prices for resources continue to increase. This will undoubtedly have long-lasting impacts on the campus, the university overall, and how we meet the research and instructional needs of the community.

Table 1. Inflationary Impact on a Flat Collections Budget

Fiscal Year	Budget Received	Inflation Rate *Statista	Budget w/ Inflation Rate
16/17	\$ 1,290,000	1.43%	
17/18	\$ 1,350,000	1.60%	\$ 1,308,447.00
18/19	\$ 1,400,000	2.27%	\$ 1,371,600.00
19/20	\$ 1,400,000	1.95%	\$ 1,431,780.00
20/21	\$ 1,400,000	0.72%	\$ 1,459,699.71
21/22	\$ 1,400,000	3.40%	\$ 1,470,209.55
22/23	\$ 1,400,000	6.80%	\$ 1,520,196.67
23/24	\$ 1,400,000	3.62%	\$ 1,623,570.05
24/25			\$ 1,682,343.28

Note: The inflation rate from the previous calendar year was used as a basis for calculating the following FY estimate (i.e., 2016’s inflation rate of 1.43% was used to calculate the budget needed to cover inflation in FY17/18). *IMF. (October 5, 2023). Canada: Inflation rate from 1987 to 2028 (compared to the previous year) [Graph]. In Statista. Retrieved January 27, 2024, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/271247/inflation-rate-in-canada/>

Open Access Transformative Agreements

UBC Library has prioritized open and transparent research for several years, and where possible has moved subscription-based acquisitions over to supporting open publishing models. These models ensure that author-processing charges (APC’s) are levied entirely or in part from the Library’s payments, removing barriers to publish open access and ensuring that researchers and students are meeting the growing emphasis placed on open research by the Tri-Council funding agencies. This frees up grant funds and ensures that our researchers and students are not paying out of pocket to disseminate their research worldwide. In 2023, the Library successfully added the following agreements to our list of open access and publishing fee discounts:

- Canadian Science Publishing – 100% APC coverage for UBC authors in 5 journals
- Public Library of Science (PLOS) – 100% APC coverage for UBC authors in all journals
- Journal of City Climate Policy and Economy – subscription collaboratively funds all authors to publish open access
- Wiley – 100% APC coverage for UBC authors in hybrid journals

For a complete list please visit: <https://scholcomm.ubc.ca/open-access-publisher-discounts/>

R.S. Sargant Indigenous Collection from Richard Ingram

Throughout 2023 we have been able to acquire an additional 80 items focused on Indigenous peoples and topics for the collection with the funds generously donated to the Okanagan Library by Richard Ingram. The materials acquired directly support the various language fluency programs and work to share the local Indigenous histories and stories told by authors from the Okanagan region. As funds allow, materials looking at Indigenous topics more broadly are also selected.

Specifically in 2023, these funds were also used to acquire copies of *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, the *Reconciliation Manifesto*, and *Unsettling Canada* that were used to create book club kits that are loanable to all Library users.

UBC Okanagan Special Collections and Archives

Teaching and learning

In 2023, Okanagan Special Collections has sustained engagement with students, faculty, and our surrounding community by mobilizing a sense of place and enhancing relationality with local literatures.

Fourth Annual Sharon Thesen Lecture

Toward building connections between local authors and the Okanagan-centric collecting impulses of OSC, the Corbishley Family Reading Room was the location of the 2023 Sharon Thesen Lecture, hosted by UBCO Professor Emerita Nancy Holmes and entitled "[When We Were Both Clothed Alike: Conversation Poetics](#)." The event attracted approximately 30 in-person participants, as well 50 who joined by Zoom.

Theytus Books Exhibition

Theytus Books, located at the Penticton Indian Reserve and operated in partnership with the En'owkin Centre, is Canada's first and oldest Indigenous publishing house. Okanagan Special Collections stewards a near-comprehensive collection of its outputs and curated [an exhibition](#) of over 100 items to coincide with both BC Heritage Week and UBC's Honouring Indigenous Writers month.

Digitization, Discovery, Access

This year, the [BC Regional Digitized History](#) initiative further merged with the Special Collections and Archival program. Growing from 105,000 to 128,000 discrete items in 2023, areas of development included building greater access to regional historical newspapers. OSC broadened its content in the portal among community partners which in 2023 grew to 50. OSC's accomplishments include the addition of 1000 issues of the *Kelowna Courier* and over 600 digitized images pertaining to Penticton, B.C. Intracampus collaborations were realized with the inclusion of materials held by UBCO's [SoundBox collection](#) which overlaps with OSC's Baird-Bowering Collection.

Archival Program Evolution

In compliance with [UBC BoG Policy GA4 \(Records Management\)](#) several collections of institutional origin were accessioned into a new module of UBCO's archival program at the conclusion of their planned retention in 2023. Spanning both physical and digital records, and including audiovisual and photographic evidence in addition to text, the documentary traces of fourteen departments and units dating to the creation of UBCO in 2005 have now been committed to ongoing preservation, arrangement, and interpretive workflows which will ensure the cultivation of a campus narrative which will be of increasing value leading into UBC Okanagan's 20th anniversary in 2025, and beyond.

Collecting Initiatives

2023 saw the continuation of the efforts of the BC Wine Territory Memory Project. The results of this focus, now termed the BC Wine Archive at Okanagan Special Collections, further expand and represent a portion of 2023 acquisitions. Highlights in overall 2023 acquisitions, which were appraised in aggregate at over \$130,000, include:

Chefs About Town Video Fonds

(38 Umatic cassettes, ca. 1988-1994). The archive consists of cable access television programs, the majority of which captured on-location footage of Okanagan wine production, research, and appreciation at a key pivot point in Okanagan wine history.

Adam Jones Photographic Fonds

(~25,000 digital photographs). Donated by UBCO Political Science professor, Dr. Adam Jones. The fonds consists of the photographic capture that informed Jones' seminal textbook *Genocide: A comprehensive introduction*.