



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Highlights 2014-2015

SFU

LIBRARY



SFU 1965
2015

A 1269 manuscript from Special Collections in the SFU Library

ON THE COVER

In 2015 the Library acquired a medieval manuscript that is now the oldest book in the collection. The Anthology of Civil Law (in Latin) with the Gloss of Accursius, originated in Southern France in 1269. It was purchased by the Library with generous assistance from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and a related research grant.

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Message from the Dean



Gwen Bird
Dean of Libraries

I was delighted to return to SFU in October 2014 as Dean of Libraries following a three-year appointment with the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries. When I originally arrived here in 1999 to join the librarian ranks, Bennett Library looked very different with ranges of book stacks and an extensive print reference collection on the main floor, and an emphasis on individual study space throughout the building. Over 15 years later for me, and 50 years after the founding of the University and the opening of the Library, much has changed but the core mission endures. Now as always, research libraries are about access to information. While we are using new means and new media to help scholars find the information they need, the principal work of the SFU Library remains constant.

During this year we added the 3 millionth volume to our physical collections, while our digital collections crossed the 10 million item threshold. These are significant milestones! Use of our collections, spaces, and staff expertise continued to be very strong, as illustrated by the stories and statistics in this report.

It has been a full and busy year with exciting growth and much change. It has been my unqualified pleasure to be back at SFU, working with the University and the outstanding staff at the Library to lead the way. I trust you'll enjoy reading about some of the year's highlights in the pages of this annual report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwen Bird', written in a cursive style.

Your Library Making a Difference

The Library has a presence on each SFU campus—WAC Bennett Library in Burnaby, Fraser Library in Surrey, and Belzberg Library in Vancouver. In addition to the physical spaces and collections available in those locations, the Library maintains a vibrant online presence that acts as a gateway to our rich online collections, and provides navigation assistance and information about library services.

Belzberg Library participated in the 25th Anniversary celebrations of SFU's Vancouver campus during 2014. Belzberg was upgraded with significantly expanded writing, learning, and EAL support to downtown students, and the addition of Research Commons space on campus.

Fraser Library continued its strong tradition of providing production equipment to students on the Surrey campus, lending more than 100,000 pieces of equipment during the year. Fraser also organized a "Books, Boas, and Beads" event as part of orienting more than 400 new SFU Surrey students during Welcome Day (photo this page).

"Need a space to study at the Vancouver campus? Library. It's the best place hands down."

—TalkSFU student



A Place for Learning

Questions come to the Library through a variety of channels—librarians conducted more than 1200 one-on-one consultations in person to support student learning, and we responded to 7200 questions via online chat reference, email, and text message. We are delighted to provide this variety of point-of-need service. Librarians and Learning Specialists were also active in the classroom, delivering research classes to more than 29,000 students in over 1300 classes on all three campuses.

3,240,000+ VISITS
to the library website

40,000+
in depth research questions, online and in-person

For more information:
learningcommons.sfu.ca

The Student Learning Commons in the SFU Library delivered more than 3700 consultations with students, providing one-on-one support in writing, learning, and English as an Additional Language (EAL). Staff also taught open workshops and course-integrated classes that were attended by over 5600 students. Online writing consultations were available via SFU's participation in a collaborative provincial online tutoring consortium, Write Away. This service grew in popularity over the past year, used by more than 570 SFU students. Feedback from students has been glowing:

"I like that I am given resources that I can mark and return to at a later date when I need to refresh or remember how to make a strong intro, abstract, or conclusion. Tutors have been very cordial (over the internet), respectful and timely! Thank you for this excellent service!"



Following completion of the renovations of the 3rd floor of the Bennett Library in 2014, the Library undertook a post-occupancy study of the new lounge west of the main entrance, surveying students who used the space. What they told us:

"I'm just able to get more done; it's very hard for me to stay focused when I'm at home. Printers and online databases are convenient and people are available to help you."

A Place for Research

Rich collections and sophisticated services are hallmarks of the research library. Growth of programming and services in the Research Commons, specifically tailored to graduate student needs, was met with great enthusiasm as the program matured, and delivered offerings on all three SFU campuses.

For additional information see <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/rc>

The Library's Research Data Management services continued to grow, with provision of a secure data repository, support for research data management planning, and curation and preservation of data sets in a variety of formats. For additional information see <http://researchdata.sfu.ca/>

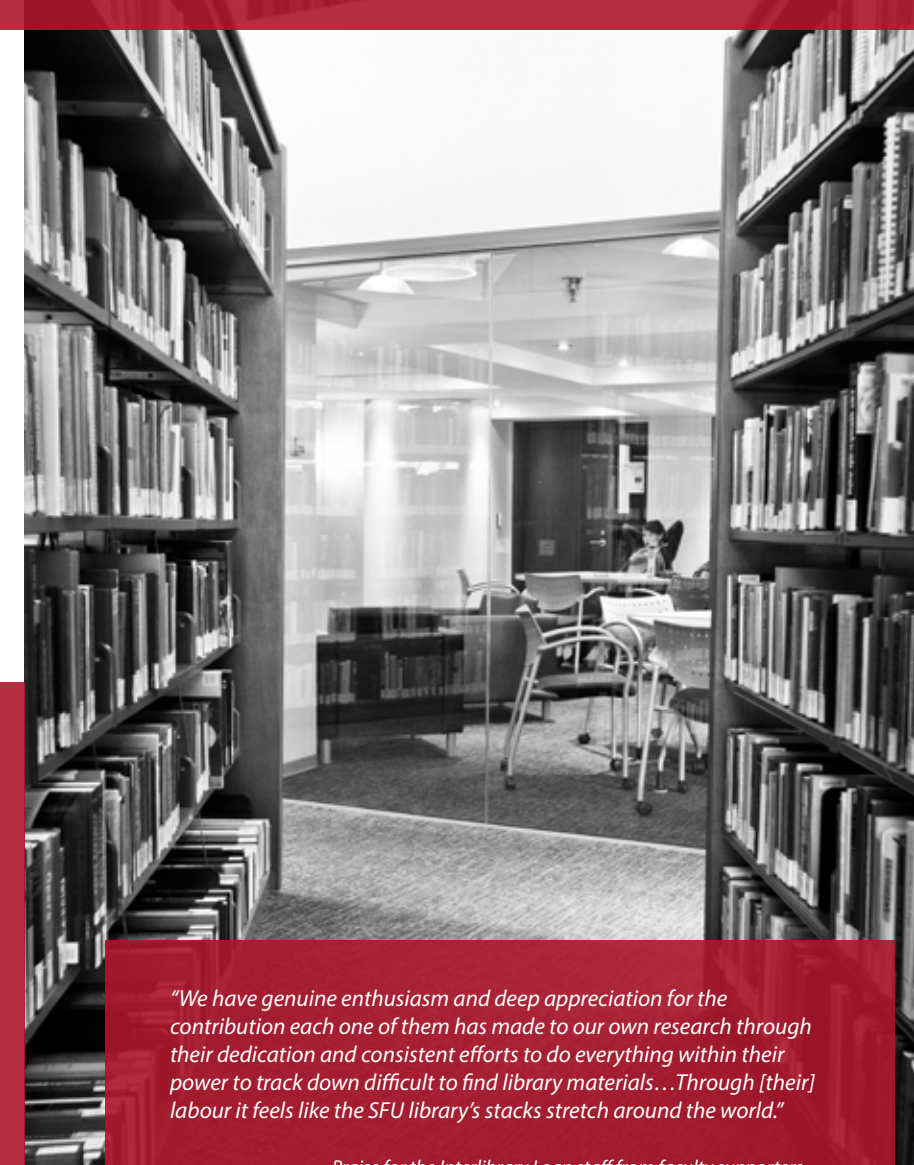


Digital scholarship and ubiquitous online resources make the challenges of preserving the scholarly record more complex and challenging than ever. In keeping with this imperative for the Library and befitting our role at the University, this year we turned our attention to preservation of collections, both physical and digital, in a more deliberate way than we have previously done.



I took the library bootcamp in December, in what proved to be exactly the perfect time during my thesis. In three days, I managed to write an entire chapter start to finish! I had been procrastinating for months before the workshop. The quiet workspace, shared with other motivated graduate students, worked wonders. After the bootcamp, I maintained my productivity, and managed to write my thesis that month. I achieved my lofty goal of writing and defending in four months -- thanks largely to the push at the Bootcamp, and the support from you, the Research Commons staff.

– Graduate student and Thesis Bootcamp participant



"We have genuine enthusiasm and deep appreciation for the contribution each one of them has made to our own research through their dedication and consistent efforts to do everything within their power to track down difficult to find library materials...Through [their] labour it feels like the SFU library's stacks stretch around the world."

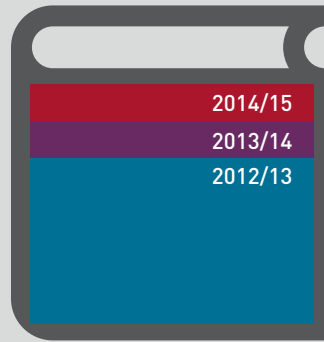
– Praise for the Interlibrary Loan staff from faculty supporters

Collections and Use



We added our **3** millionth volume to the collection.

of Physical Volumes



3,017,325

2,996,892

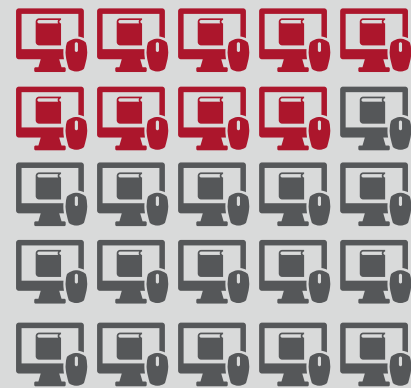
2,979,175

* Includes books, videos, sound recordings, maps, etc.



We added our **10** millionth online item this year.

of Online Items



51%
10,005,369

Our major digital acquisition was Points to the Past - nearly 200 million pages of digitized historical content - which SFU, UVic and UBC have licensed for use by all residents of BC.



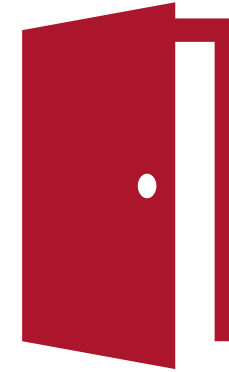
98,351
Electronic Subscriptions

Online Usage of Library's Digital Resources

Includes downloads of articles, e-books, book chapters, database searches



Services



1.7mil

Visits to all branches of the Library



3.2mil
Visits to SFU Library website

5% ▲
From last year



29,221
students instructed

That's 66 times for each SFU student



5,655
one-on-one consultations with Library staff



2,004 seats






Community Partnership

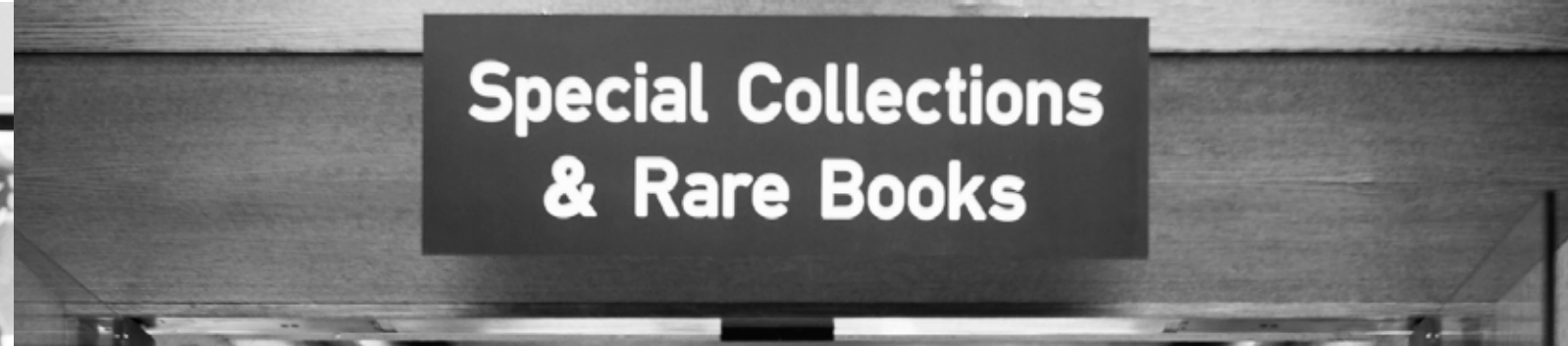
In keeping with SFU's theme as the Engaged University, the Library is connecting with community partners like never before. In collaboration with the libraries of UBC and the University of Victoria, we were pleased to make a joint acquisition of a major collection of archival resources from Gale/Cengage, and to leverage this acquisition to negotiate free access for all citizens of British Columbia through the Points to the Past website www.pointstothepast.ca -- this is but one example of the value we deliver across and beyond the campus.

Other initiatives in this area:

- Co-hosted a commemorative event to mark the 100th anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident, featuring the extensive digital collections from the Komagata Maru: Continuing the Journey website, as well as items from the Arjan Singh Brar Collection.
- Continued to house and support the Public Knowledge Project, developer of Open Journal Systems. This open source software is now in active use by more than 8,000 journals around the world, providing critical infrastructure for Open Access publishing.
- Worked with more than a dozen International Baccalaureate schools in the Lower Mainland to deliver student research orientations and provide an access point to the University.
- Partnered with the BC Libraries Cooperative & Irving K Barber Learning Centre at UBC to sponsor the inaugural Imagine BC competition. This contest funded three grassroots projects that address identified community needs, such as volunteerism, small business development, cultural programming, or local history.



Staffer Michael Chang facilitates a program of gaming sessions for Kwantlen Park Secondary students in the Fraser Library's games room.



At the centre of a vibrant campus

As a result of generous donations from Library staff and other campus donors, we were delighted to establish the Library Undergraduate Student award in 2015, providing financial support to a student who has worked or volunteered in the Library. Inaugural recipient Omeed Lakhani has volunteered as a peer tutor and coach in the Student Learning Commons for 9 semesters. He completed a BSc in Biological Sciences and will begin the PDP program for teacher training in September 2015. (photo: Omeed Lakhani [right])

The Library is a cultural hub at SFU. In addition to providing information resources, learning spaces, and professional expertise, the Library plays a key role in promoting a culture of reading and books at the University. Toward this end, the Library hosted talks and readings by the following authors and speakers during the year: Chester Gryski, David Mason, Paul Whitney, Lisa Hobbs Birnie, Phinder Dulai, Renee Saklikar, George Bowering, Ken Babstock, Thomas Kuehn, Wayne Compton, Daphne Marlatt, Raziel Reid, and Steven Galloway. We were pleased to again host a Celebration of SFU Authors, recognizing over 140 books published by SFU faculty, staff, students and alumni during the preceding year.

Digital scholarship has introduced new roles for the library. Once primarily tasked with housing the outputs of scholarly production, the Library is now involved at earlier stages of the process. As well as partnering with researchers on significant digitization projects and Digital Humanities research teams, the Library hosted Wikipedia edit-a-thon, offered GIS Day for the SFU campus, and supported 86 SFU authors to publish in Open Access journals through the Central Open Access fund.



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