

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.81-124

MEMORANDUM

To.....SENATE.....

From . SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.....

Subject...ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENATE LIBRARY ...
COMMITTEE - 1981/82 - FOR INFORMATION

Date. . AUGUST 13, 1981.....

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
1980 - 81

The Committee has met three times since it last reported: on July 15, March 31, and June 16, 1981. No meeting took place in the Fall 1980 semester because of difficulties in getting a quorum. At the meeting of January 15, Charles Hamilton was elected to succeed Phillip Stigger who had served as Chairman for four years.

A number of matters of interest to Senate were considered over the year. I will summarize them below.

The Library Loans Policy has been before the Committee for some time. The intent was not so much to make major changes to the policy originally adopted but to have it reflect changes in the Library structure and revise certain minor procedures. e.g., processing charges for a lost book went from \$5.00 to \$10.00. As accepted, the statement presents a broad policy with a more detailed outline of procedures.

The form used by the Library in assessing its ability to support new courses and programmes was accepted. The exact use of this form and assurance that extra money found necessary will be forthcoming are both still problematical.

While the budget received from the University Administration was an

improvement on last year's, the Library finds itself in the same straitened circumstances as the rest of the University. This year for the first time since 1965 it was necessary to cut back on the Serials Renewal Budget.

The attack on the value of the Canadian dollar by devaluation and inflation, combined with the seemingly inexorable rise in the price of books and periodicals, presents a picture of continuing gloom.

As part of a University overview, the Library was instructed to provide the Academic Vice President with a ten year projection. This has taken the form of divisionally prepared statements summarized and given direction by the University Librarian. Specific planning over such a period with the current financial uncertainty is of course impossible; but what can safely be predicted is greater use of technology, greater dependence on off-site support and the impact of changing formats.

Of continuing concern to the Library is the problem of providing service for additional academic programmes and units, service of such quality that neither the Library nor the University will be embarrassed. Special attention has been given to the burgeoning programme in Fine Arts and to the Downtown Site. For the Fine Arts programme we secured the services of a Library consultant to report on our short fall from adequate service with the charge to make ~~minimum recommendations within foreseen financial restraints.~~ This study has been completed and is now under review. For the Downtown Site we have presented proposals to the Administration which will permit an approach to Library service that will relate to the growth and development of its programme.

Two internal Library problems are at stages of solution. First there has been over the last couple of years a growth in the backlog - that is books which are clogged in the Cataloguing Unit. Simply put, this means material is bought but then remains in processing for over a year. With the departure of the Division Head of this area the University Librarian has temporarily taken charge of this work and with full cooperation from the staff the problem appears to be well on the road to solution. The second problem is caused by the continued addition of new material to a finite space which of course results in over-crowding. To relieve this problem material having low use but which nevertheless relates to the research needs of the University has been removed to compact storage on the first floor. This material is listed on the circulation list and available to all. The only continuing matter of concern here is the need for more space to be opened on the first floor.