

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 82-88

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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

Date..... 10 AUGUST 1982

FOR INFORMATION

SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1981-82

Since the last report there have been three meetings of the Senate Library Committee -- November 10, 1981; December 19, 1981; and April 6, 1982.

After a considerable period of discussing and examination of the most appropriate and effective manner of proceeding, the Senate Library Committee recommended to Senate that it be authorized to make minor changes in the Library Loan Policy. These in turn would be reported to the Senate at the earliest opportunity.

Concern had been expressed over one feature of the Library Loan Policy -- the Semester loan period. Some have argued that even with the provisions for recall, this length of loan period handicaps students by reducing access to significant books thus vitiating well developed schemes of instruction. While the Librarian stated that our present Loan System was not flexible enough to provide varied loan periods an experiment was agreed to. A selected number of books on Canadian history have been put in the Reserve Room on a three day loan period where their circulation over one year will be monitored.

The Library has conducted two one-week periods of twenty-four hour service prior to the Fall and Spring exam periods. Although there was considerable enthusiasm on the part of most people questioned, it is debatable whether the actual use of the Library over-night will justify continuance of the practice.

An inventory of 161,000 books, 28% of the Monograph Collection, was taken. Initial results indicated 4,931 items missing (3.1%). This is not a loss rate and there is no means of telling how or when any particular book disappeared. Further inventories in the same areas would be required to establish a loss rate.

There was an amalgamation of service points and reference collections of the Humanities and Social Science Divisions on the fifth floor. The intent was to extend the hours of service available for users in both of these areas and to reduce the need for staff from other Divisions to assist at the Information Desk. A preliminary examination indicates that service has been improved at a savings to the Budget, rather than a cost. Prior to this move the Library has already reduced staff in various areas for a savings of \$87,000.

A questionnaire was sent to all Faculty and Graduate Students to help estimate the extent of off-campus use of libraries by those most directly involved in research. Of those answering, which totalled 38% of Faculty and 13% of Graduate Students, over 80% indicated that they did use other libraries, usually for their research interests.

The major problem from last year, the run-away backlog of books awaiting cataloguing, has been brought under control and plans are being developed for a more sophisticated approach to uncatalogued material.

Fiscal problems continue to be of concern, essentially the result of inflation and an uncontrolled U.S. exchange rate, but they have not as yet caused serious deterioration of collection or service.

for
for Charles Hamilton

CMD/dab

July 20, 1982