

To.....Senate.....

From...Charles Hamilton, Chairman.....

...Senate Library Committee.....

Subject...Senate Library Committee.....  
Report 1982-1983

Date...October 20, 1983.....

At its meeting of October 17th the Senate Library Committee received the attached report, The W. A. C. Bennett Library: 1982-1983, from the University Librarian.

After some discussion the Committee endorsed the report and agreed that it should, along with a few comments which are contained in this memo, constitute the annual report of the Senate Library Committee for 1982-1983.

RECON (Retrospective Conversion of Library Records)

The University Librarian informed the Committee that after his report was written he learned that the funding was no longer available from the Government to support Recon and that five of the six positions currently devoted to this activity are being eliminated. The Committee expressed its regret and its hope that the project might be revitalized when more funds are available.

Re-shelving Backfiles

Paul Percival stated that the re-shelving of all bound periodical backfiles in one alphabetical sequence was counter-productive for the sciences. This view was balanced by the opinion expressed by Marilyn Bowman who found the new arrangement very helpful due to the interdisciplinary nature of much research in psychology.

Collection of Outstanding Fines

The Committee expressed its long-standing concern about the apparent uncollectability of some library fines and discussed various possible remedies. However, after learning from the University Librarian that the Finance Office has appointed a Committee to investigate the problem on a University-wide level, it was agreed that no further action would be appropriate at this time.

There were no caveats expressed regarding the rest of the attached report which I submit herewith to Senate for its information.

/dab  
attachment

*Charles Hamilton*

A Report to the Senate Library Committee  
by  
The University Librarian

I. General

The academic year 1982-83 was an extremely active one for the Library. I believe that we met the demands of increased enrollment without any diminution of service and that, on the whole, in spite of fiscal and spacial constraints we were able to enhance our level of service to the community.

The primary thrust of our current activities has been to plan and implement procedures which will enable us to maintain services at their present level or to make improvements where necessary while living within the stringent monetary and physical conditions which we can expect to prevail in the immediate future. To this end we have articulated a collections development policy which emphasizes use of the secondary collection, begun to plan specific developments required for the implementation of a "steady-space" library, and continued to expand our commitment to the new technological advances in bibliographic control. The extent to which we can maintain this momentum during the next few years will provide a measure of the efficacy of these plans.

II. Recent Activities of Note

A. Amalgamation

The amalgamation of reference services for the Humanities and the Social Sciences enabled us to increase hours of reference service, expand the number of Librarians on reference duty during peak hours, and compensate for the loss of two Sessional Librarians without hiring any extra staff.

B. On Demand Cataloguing

Since it seems apparent that a cataloguing backlog will be an inescapable fact of life for some time, we introduced the On Demand Cataloguing procedure to mitigate its effect on individual users with specific requirements.

By organizing our procedures in such a way as to move specifically requested titles from the backlog to the head of the non-rush queue we have, at no discernable cost, provided a defacto elimination of the backlog for those individuals with precise, identifiable needs.

C. Questionnaires

During this period we issued several questionnaires designed to help us understand how we are viewed by our constituency. We surveyed faculty members and graduate students with respect to their usage of other libraries and found that some 80% used other libraries regularly for their research and instructional activities.

More general questionnaires were issued on the services offered by the reserves unit, in the periodical reading room and on the level of general satisfaction with library services.

While none of the results have been unexpected they have helped us shape our service policies.

D. Meetings with Library Representatives

This year I revived an earlier custom of periodical meetings with groups of Library Representatives. The meetings were designed to provide a forum for both Librarians and Representatives and, I believe have been successful -- at least for the Librarians.

E. BCLN (British Columbia Library Network)

We continued our efforts to implement new acquisitions and cataloguing procedures through the establishment of BCLN and the acquisition BLIS software. If successful, we will take a long step toward the eventual creation of an on-line public access catalogue. Testing of the BLIS software will take place during 1983/84.

F. Re-shelving Backfiles

After years of complaints over 6th floor shelving patterns we were able, through work-study grants for student shelvees to shelve all bound periodical backfiles in one alphabetical sequence.

G. Recon (Retrospective Conversion of Library Records)

We have received government funding for six years and we have now converted two thirds of all our bibliographic records to an electronic format. At the present rate we will complete the creation of this data base in about three years and the creation of an on-line public access catalogue will become a feasible goal.

III. Major Concerns for the Coming Year

During the 1983/84 fiscal year we hope to maintain the momentum established in 1982/83 and to emphasize the following activities:

- 1) Continue planning ways to make most effective use of space allocated to the Library.
- 2) To experiment with an "open door" policy on the Periodical Reading Room during the Fall semester.
- 3) Continue to work on the establishment of BCLN and the implementation of new acquisitions and cataloguing systems.
- 4) Re-organize our services and support functions for Government Publications.
- 5) Continue to analyze the appropriateness of our collection in terms of the curriculum and research requirements of the University community.
- 6) To encourage a more equitable use of Library seating and to discourage use of the Library as an adjunct cafeteria.
- 7) To develop a plan for a data tape library.

Selected Statistics

	<u>1972/73</u>	<u>1977/78</u>	<u>1982/83</u>
Total Circulation	378,994	407,462	485,813
Reference questions	52,190	72,027 (1)	67,863
Current Serials	11,846	13,527	13,570
Bound Letterpress Collection	391,350	540,031	784,577
Microform Collection	237,156	696,283	767,825
Letterpress Volumes added to collection	50,895	39,918	27,377
Permanent staff (FTE)	144 (2)	129	131

(1) In September, 1977 the Library closed the Card Catalogue and instituted the new microcatalogue, causing a large, temporary increase in reference information desk questions.

(2) A decline of 24 positions from the 1970/71 high of 168.

ST/dab