

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S. 78-95

MEMORANDUM

SENATE

From SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Subject ANNUAL REPORT - 1977/78 -
FOR INFORMATION

Date AUGUST 22, 1978

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To H. M. Evans
Secretary of Senate,
Registrar's Office

From Philip Stigger,
Chairman,
Senate Library Committee

Subject Annual Report of the Senate Library
Committee 1977/78

Date August 22, 1978

I have the pleasure of presenting to Senate for its information, the Annual Report of the Senate Library Committee.

Please accept my apologies for the delay.



/dab

Attachment

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REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
MAIL DESK

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SENATE LIBRARY COMMITTEE
1977/78

Donald A. Baird, founder of the SFU Library and its administrative head for the past fourteen years, resigned this year to assume the post of University Archivist, effective January 1, 1978. He carries with him the best wishes of the Committee and of Library staff and will be remembered for his dedication to the task of providing high quality service to the University community.

T.C. Dobb, who has been Deputy Librarian for over two years, is now Acting University Librarian while a Search Committee evaluates candidates for the position of University Librarian.

Two other long service staff members have also left. Marg Jans, head of the Loans Division and a staff member from 1965 has resigned while Dawna Reid, Secretary to the University Librarian for ten years, has left to take a teaching position at Cariboo College. Both will be missed; Dawna Reid for her assistance to this Committee and Marg Jans for her patient work with the Library Penalties Appeal Committee.

There were only two meetings of the Senate Library Committee, on December 1, 1977 and April 20, 1978, in part because the activity of the University Review and Management Review Committees, involving the active participation in either or both of these Committees of some members, particularly T.C. Dobb, preempted the time available.

The Committee discussed the implementation of automated cataloguing and the consequent closure of the card catalogue on September 1, 1977, probably the most significant step taken by the Library this year. This

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work began with the aid of a special grant from the Vice-President, Academic, and is supported by funds from the Ministry of Education. Over the next five years the Library, like many other libraries in the Province, will be converting existing card catalogues to machine readable form and collaborating on the production of a Provincial Union Catalogue. This activity, which makes use of data lease arrangements with the University of Toronto, is being coordinated by the B.C. Union Catalogue Project under the directorship of our seconded Head Cataloguer, Paul Baldwin. Considerable savings are already being realized over previous methods of card catalogue production and maintenance. The growing microfiche catalogue of material added to the collection since September is being replicated and distributed throughout the Library; as conversion of existing card records progresses, it is intended to arrange for distribution to other campus locations as well. When the conversion project is completed and the Union catalogue is in full production, the catalogued holdings' records of all participating libraries will be accessible throughout the province -- thus facilitating efficient inter-library loans services and the avoidance of needless duplication.

The major area of concern to the Committee has been the combined effect of fiscal stringencies and rising costs. Concern has been expressed over the continuing expansion of programmes, new courses and changed emphasis of existing courses since, with a budget for materials that is not able to keep abreast of rising costs, every alteration in one area can repercuss on other areas to their detriment.

The most inflationary part of the budget - that for Serials - caused the Library some time ago to institute a quid pro quo system for

entering new subscriptions to Serials plus a programme of cancelling subscriptions wherever possible. In spite of these efforts, which have evoked some strong criticism, the Serials portion of the materials budget is now 63%. This jeopardizes our ability to maintain a monograph collection adequate to support a research oriented University. In the present fiscal climate, extra funds seem unlikely and the Senate Library Committee has been forced to recognize that the Library must soon embark on yet another survey intended to lower the number of subscriptions without unduly harming teaching or research - should that be possible.

Discussion of off-campus activities by the University, and especially of the Library's role, has taken place but the introduction of OLI will undoubtedly change the patterns for exterior service which the Committee has considered.

In the public service area, increased involvement with a rapidly developing sector of information transfer - direct linkage with large data bases of bibliographical data has caused satisfaction. While this has to be a cost recovery operation, it is receiving considerable usage in Science and Social Science. In response to the growing pressure on public service areas, the Committee notes with further satisfaction that the Library added three Librarians to its staff this year - the first additions in five years.

This year has, in a sense, been a successful and exciting one with the change to automated cataloguing and involvement in the use of outside data bases. However, the significant concern at the moment is whether funding is being received at a level that will allow a superior level of Library service to continue to be provided to the University community - a problem most simply illustrated by the Serials situation.

/cmfd
August 25, 1978