cpsld

Council of Post Secondary Library Directors   B.C.

Newsletter

CPSLD Newsletter is published two times a year by the Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors, BC. For more information, please contact the editor, Kathy Plett

SIRSI Training at Justice Institute

July 2000

Editorial

Welcome to the first online issue of the CPSLD newsletter. I would like to thank everyone who submitted their reports in easy-to-convert files. We kept things simple for this issue (not many graphics), but I'm sure that will change over time!

Our "cover photo" shows participants at a SIRSI training session in July - a good example of how training costs can be shared. Justice Institute hosted the training and College of New Caledonia, Northern Lights College, and School District #57 shared in the costs of putting on the 4 day session, which covered Acquisitions, Reports and Media Bookings modules.

Many thanks go to Brigitte Peter-Chernoff and the staff of BCIT Library for hosting the Fall Meeting of CPSLD. We were pleased to have a chance to tour the Library, which has a newly-designed reference area, bookable seminar rooms and a state-of-the-art computer lab with pay-for-use printing.

At the Fall Meeting, we had a chance to preview the new CPSLD website at http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/jobplace/cpsld/ which will certainly give a higher profile to our organization. Thanks to all who worked on the design. Please pass on your comments and suggestions for the site to Cathy MacDonald at Kwantlen.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Fast Forward Educational Media Showcase being held May 8 and 9, 2001. More information on this event is posted at http://www.langara.bc.ca/ffwd/

Have a good holiday season!

Kathy Plett
College of New Caledonia Library
November 30, 2000

Reports

BC Electronic Library Network

Update November 2000
submitted by Anita Cocchia, ELN Manager Pro Tem

Staff Changes

Anita Cocchia has been appointed ELN Manager on a pro tem basis until March 31, 2001. The Steering Committee will consider long-term options for the position at their next meeting.

In early October our Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Merritt, officially resigned her position at ELN, following a secondment leave that began in June. Elizabeth began working for ELN shortly after its inception. Her experience, knowledge and sense of humour will be much missed.

Debbie Braun will be working at ELN as a Project Coordinator on a temporary basis until March 31st. She comes to us from The Alberta Library consortium, and brings with her a wealth of database licensing experience.

Research Database Licensing and Access

In early October, ELN introduced a web-based Resources Forum, designed to give staff at partner libraries a systematic means of identifying and recommending databases and other resources that might serve as candidates for future ELN licensing. A secondary purpose is to identify resources that libraries hold in common. More information about the forum is available at <http://www.eln.bc.ca/forum/about.html>

As a complement to the Resources Forum, ELN will conduct a ranking survey to enable partner libraries to guide ELN licensing activities by prioritizing recommended database titles. It is projected that the first ranking survey will take place in Spring, 2001.

Research database invoices were issued to partner libraries in mid-November. Next year will see a change to the invoicing process: invoices will be issued at least twice a year. This will enable libraries to better track their commitments, and permit ELN to balance revenue with expenditures.

Trials of Earthweb's ITKnowledge and CINAHL PlusText on the ProQuest and EBSCOhost platforms were conducted this fall.

Communications

In July, following an endorsement by the Steering Committee, ELN officially released its communications plan for 2000/01. The goal in implementing the plan is to better inform key stakeholders about ELN initiatives. The plan is available at <http://www.eln.bc.ca/about/planning/commplan0001.html>

A revised version of the ELN web site was released in early September, under the new ELN domain name <http://www.eln.bc.ca>. Highlights of the new site include an improved look and feel, cleaner navigation, and more readily accessible information regarding current database trials and licence renewals. In the near term, functionality will be added that will enable partner libraries to scope ELN products and services information to their individual licensing profiles.

Union Databases

ELN and the Library Services Branch (LSB) have concluded negotiations with A-G Canada for a renewal of the Impact/Online (IOL) license, covering the next three years. ELN and LSB are pleased with the conditions of the renewal in that it commits A-G Canada to a number of system enhancements, including an improved media matching algorithm. The per year cost for IOL remains consistent with that of the previous license.

In the coming months ELN will initiate a pilot project to test the efficacy of IOL in the requesting of media. Originally proposed in November 1999, implementation of this project was delayed because A-G Canada was not able to meet its projected timelines for migrating IOL to a new system architecture.

Interlibrary Lending

InterLINK and ELN will fund a joint study assessing existing delivery mechanism of library materials. The study will review the delivery arrangements of both organizations, identifying and recommending possible efficiencies that might be achieved through a coordinated approach.

ELN recently conducted a survey to gauge interest in a group purchase of the new Ariel software, scheduled to be released early in the new year. Sufficient interest has been expressed for ELN to proceed further with this initiative.

A task group will be formed to investigate compensation issues arising from cross-sector lending via the OutLook OnLine ILL network. ELN is concerned that libraries affected by this policy be involved in reviewing it. CPSLD has agreed to provide a list of representatives to participate on the task group.

BCIT: British Columbia Institute of Technology

submitted by Tony O'Kelly for Brigitte Peter-Chernoff, Institute Librarian

New Faces

We have a new fulltime librarian to replace Frank Knor who retired at the end of August. The new librarian is Bill Nadiger and he comes to us from Vancouver Public Library. We also have two new part-time librarians working with us this year: Pat Cumming and Katherine Marino. Apart from the new faces in the Library, BCIT has a new President, Dr Tony Knowles.

e-Journals and e-Books

At present we are examining an array of e-journals that might be appropriate for the various technologies. Also, we are looking at a range of monograph options, such as Net Library. Decision will be made on the demand of the programs.

New Microcomputer Centre

Last Spring the microcomputer centre on the bottom floor of the Library was completely renovated and is now complete with 60 workstations available for student use as well as an additional 30-laptop stations. Other enhancements include project room and presentation rooms, colour printing and a scanner available for student use.

New Reference Desk

We have installed a new reference desk on the main floor of the Library. The new desk creates a real focal point for staff and students requiring assistance with Library materials. We are getting lots of questions about the new flat-screen monitor, which has been purchased for the new desk and has been installed on an adjustable monitor arm. This adjustable arm allows us to demonstrate searches to patrons.

Workshops

Currently, staff are currently participating in customer service workshops which are being held on two separate days. The ideas behind these workshops is to determine what makes good customer service and then to put this into practice.

Camosun College Library

Report by Catherine Winter, Chair, Library Services
November 2000

Renamed and Replaced

We have a new boss with a new title and our part of the College has been renamed. So we are now part of Technology and Learning Support and report to the Director who is Kevin Carter. Kevin has been with the College for many years as an instructor in Electronics, Acting Dean of Trades and Technology for about 6 months, and Coordinator of our Distributed Education Group for about 2 years. We are pleased to have him in place and are busy educating him about the Library's issues.

Student Remote Capabilities

In September we enabled online renewals. We are in the process of enabling immediate holds for January. With a PIN, a student or faculty member is able to look at their own account and to do renewals for items that have no holds. In January they will also be able to place holds for themselves.

Booking in Unicorn

When we upgraded in the spring to version 99.4.2 of Unicorn we also brought up the Booking module for videos. This allows bookers at both campuses to see what is booked. At the circulation desk, it also shortens the loan period on a video with a booking so that it will be back for the booking date. We haven't found the module to be perfect but overall it is a big improvement.

CILS: B.C. College and Institute Library Services

Semi-annual Report April to September 2000
submitted by Mary Anne Epp
Director of Contract Administration, Library Services, Langara College

Purpose

The purpose of B.C. College and Institute Library Services (CILS) is twofold:

- to provide equitable access to resources to students and employees with print disabilities in the B.C. post-secondary system by issuing resources in alternate formats, such as taped books, large print, accessible electronic texts and braille; and
- to fulfil the requirements of the "Duty to Accommodate" under the B.C. Human Rights Act.

The mandate of CILS covers all publicly funded colleges, institutes, university colleges, and post-secondary agencies in British Columbia. The CILS service works cooperatively and collaboratively with the special needs coordinators, instructors, library personnel, and the students themselves at the B.C. post-secondary institutions to:

- identify the requirements for titles and appropriate formats;
- provide an efficient method of moving the resources to and from the clients; and
- to provide a timely information service to the system.

In order to maximize the financial and human resources available, CILS employees have developed and maintained a national and international network of partnerships to share resources in alternate formats and to share expertise in the application of technological changes associated with evolving and expanding formats for people with print disabilities.

Services

While public policy has encouraged the admission of people with disabilities to enter the post-secondary system and more and more college academic, vocational and developmental programs have become accessible at the local level, the demand for services and resources in alternate formats has also increased.

For the period April to September 2000, CILS served 342 students attending 17 colleges and institutes. Of these students, 208 had learning disabilities, 104 had visual impairments, 14 had physical disabilities and 16 had multiple disabilities. CILS also served 182 patrons at 15 agencies with which CILS has reciprocal arrangements. As in previous years, CILS borrowed twice as much as it lent to outside agencies, so the service really benefited from the partnerships with which it is associated. Overall, the activities increased by 17% and the production, by 11%. The number of students increased by 11% and the number of requests by 12%. Leading indicators, based on the highest volume of activities and costs, show a projected increase in activity for the balance of the year at a 23% increase.

In addition to the production of 72 new taped books, CILS was pleased to add 28 new productions in large print and electronic texts for students. The increase in production was made possible through the supplemental one-time funding of $20,000 at the end of the last budget year and the allocation of sufficient work-study students to assist with the scanning and editing process. Production included textbooks for new titles in the following subjects: Aboriginal issues, Career Development, Climatology, Forensic Anthropology, Geography of British Columbia, Disabilities, Teaching English as Second Language, Tourism, Heavy Duty Mechanics (Revised), and Welder Training Program: Level B.

Partnerships with other agencies enabled CILS to learn new technology, to share in the development of better products, and to share alternate format resources. The Millennium Project, headed by CNIB, provided a unique opportunity for employees to develop their expertise in the new digital audio technology and to begin producing the CD versions of talking books. The director was also invited to participate on two advisory committees to study the use of adaptive technology: the Adaptech project, a national study of adaptive technology for post-secondary students; and the Adult Services Program of B.C. Braille project studying the

use of refreshable braille. These studies will assist the planning process for future services. The director also made a presentation to the National Library of Canada Task Force on Access to Information for Print Disabled hearings on behalf of the Canadian Association of Educational Resource Centres for Alternate Format Materials (CAER).

CILS instituted various strategies to improve the response time for requests. For example, the purchase of new equipment and software has provided faster response time for some of the large print products.   The new scanner has reduced scanning time, providing more time for editing of electronic texts. In addition, acquisition of Quark files from a publisher enabled CILS to produce pdf files on CD format as an alternative to large print books. Students can view the text on screen in the font size which they prefer. This process improved production turn around time significantly.

A visually impaired student from the Information Technology Specialist Program at Vancouver Community College began his practicum and later worked together with CILS staff to start development of a comprehensive CILS database to improve tracking of requests and records management at CILS.

CILS staff participated in the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada (AMTEC) Conference in May. The director, who convened the conference, included a complete stream of sessions on adaptive technology. Several CILS employees presented workshops at the Conference.

CILS welcomed visitors from CNIB, the B.C. Library Services Branch and the National Library of Canada. Visitors enjoyed touring CILS facilities, especially the E-text production unit.

Challenges

The largest challenge continues to be financial. CILS has not received a lift in funding for several years. Last year, leading indicators were provided to show the necessity for increased funding based on longitudinal analyses of past trends. As a result, CILS was unable to provide some CILS clients with alternate formats of their first choices. In addition, in early October, clients were advised that all new requests for production of taped books would be on hold until further notice, pending additional budget approval from the Ministry. As a consequence of the shortfall, the local institutions often needed to scramble to provide temporary solutions to meet the immediate demand. Local production is often a necessary Band-Aid to solve the problems of short lead-time and financial shortfalls at the provincial level. However, the quality of production suffers and the titles that are produced locally are often not produced at a standard that makes them shareable with others. This means that the scarce resources are not optimized for alternate format materials. CILS has requested supplemental funding from the Ministry for this budget year but has not received a response at the time of writing.

As in past years, the provision of braille products for students has not been funded. CILS identified 28 braille users who were only able to receive braille if the items already existed for loan. No funding of braille titles was available at the provincial level to meet the demand. In some cases, local institutions reported they had spent as much as $10,000 obtaining braille products from other suppliers. This service should be available as a central service to reduce the "per unit" costs and to share the products with other students.

The types of textbooks and learning resources also present an ongoing challenge. An increasing number of textbooks have multimedia features with heavy emphasis on visual aids.   In-house publications tend to be particularly problematic because of incomplete and/or improper copyright clearance originating at the institution.

Lead-time is also an issue. Obtaining materials for production review with enough lead-time for production is a continuous challenge. CILS received many materials for production review between mid-August and mid-September. CILS is pressing the production unit hard to keep up with the course schedules. In several cases, course schedules were not available from the instructors to identify the most responsive production sequence. Multiple alternate formats were requested for production of several titles.

The importance of our network communications cannot be overestimated. CILS relies on it partners to receive requests in a timely manner, to communicate the needs of the students by clearly identifying the accommodation required, and the distribution methods of the interlibrary loan system to expedite the delivery

of resources. People in the network include: instructors, publishers, producers of alternate formats, readers, special needs coordinators, librarians and library staff, couriers, other agencies, mail distributors, electronic mail systems personnel, and many others. We thank each of you for your important part in the overall strategy to get the right resources to the right student at the right time.

One Size Does Not Fit all

Click to view "One Size Does Not Fit All": presentation to the National Library of Canada Task Force on Access to Information for Print Disabled Canadians, by Mary Anne Epp, Director of Contract Administration, Langara College

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College of New Caledonia

submitted by Kathy Plett, Library & Media Services Director

Collections

Job-Search is a newly-established collection, which brings together books and videos on job hunting, resume writing, cover letters, interviews and job tests in one place. It was recently featured in a newspaper story. Over the summer, we downsized the **Periodical Indexes** collection and expanded the reference collection which was badly in need of space. Extra funds were made available to update our **Art History** collection, for the start of a new course in September, and also to develop an **Ecotourism Library** in Valemount for a new program starting in January 2001.

SIRSI

The upgrade to 99.4.2 went well; we tried it out on a test server first. Since then, we have been able to fix reserve problems, improve catalogue displays, produce better reports and make other needed changes. A training session at the Justice Institute with Margaret Palfrey of SIRSI in July was also a great help in clarifying reports and acquisitions functions. We have also developed procedures to download Amicus records and have been making heavy use of this free source of catalogue records.

Web "Slide Show"

A "slide show" featuring photos of staff with patrons was recently added to our home page at http://www.cnc.bc.ca/library/library.htm (click on Reload to see different photos appear in random order). After this change was made, we produced posters promoting the library website and distributed them to all secondary schools, public libraries and campuses in our region. They have been well received.

Techno Training Series Expanded

In addition to regular monthly Internet and Email sessions which are always popular, the Library has started to offer special sessions, on topics such as FaxPress, Hotmail and PowerPoint. Computer Services and Media Services staff have helped to present these. Topics for the spring will include Netscape Composer and Using Web Graphics.

Statistics Canada's E-Stat Online

We're very happy to have free college-wide access to this database and have been promoting it with faculty. Links to the database and to our searching tips sheet have been posted on our "Statistics" page at http://www.cnc.bc.ca/library/statistics.html

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Douglas College Library

submitted by Carole Compton-Smith, Director of Learning Resources
November, 2000

People

It has been a busy time since I started on October 2 as the new Director of Learning Resources. Faculty and staff have been most welcoming and helpful. With the 30th Anniversary of the College celebrated on November 3 and 4 I was able learn some of the history of the college and the impact it has had over the years as it moved around various locations in the community. In other people news Ardith Chambers has joined our New Westminster circulation staff and Nancy Hildebrand and Julie Michaud have joined the Technical Services staff, to cover a maternity leave and some cataloguing clean up. Shelley Waldie started in the Spring as the new departmental assistant. Increased hours at the David Lam Library in Coquitlam has meant a change to full year positions for several staff and the hiring of Satinder Dheri for evening hours. Connie Epp resigned her position to remain in the U.A.E. Penny Swanson who so ably worked as Acting Director, has returned to being Technical Services Librarian.

Systems

We are now just into one year with our new Innovative system. In October an upgrade to Release D went smoothly. The big push over the next two months is to ensure that all parts of the old system are closed out and all functions of the new system, serials, acquisitions etc. are meeting our needs. Fifteen new computers have been installed, mostly for staff use. Those computers that have been replaced will be added to the bank of OPAC workstations. A student printer is now available in both libraries.

Planning

Douglas College's President, Susan Witter, has asked the college to develop and reaffirm values statements and the librarians, in particular Sandra Hochstein, worked on a review of values statements that was then presented to the college community.

Electronic Resources

We continue to support trials of new electronic resources and have, most recently, opted to take IT Knowledge for one year. EBSCO and Expanded Academic remain as our most comprehensive databases. This Fall several print resources, such as Social Sciences Index have been canceled. Even with the online resources our newspapers on microfilm remain a valuable resource and a new microfilm reader printer has been installed in November.

Library Instruction and Team Teaching Initiatives

The library instruction program at Douglas College has traditionally been based on single 1-2 hour workshops, booked by instructors and held during their class time. Given the complexity of the academic research environment these days, the library has begun to work more closely with faculty in several disciplines to build sequential instructional sessions into their courses. Librarians teach several classes in the course, Research and Internet Skills for Administrative Assistants, offered by the Office Administration Program, as well as the innovative course entitled Student Success 100, designed to help students lay a strong foundation for their post-secondary education. A librarian also teaches 50 per cent of the course, Research Skills for Writers, part of the College's Pint Futures Program. Future initiatives include participating in the redesign of the English as a Second Language curriculum to provide a logical progression of research and information literacy skills in each course, and joining a pilot project in problem-based learning for nursing students.

To finish off the year 2000 the library will be offering showings of the movie, 2001: A Space Odyssey from its DVD collection.

Justice Institute Library

submitted by April Haddad, Institute Librarian

New President

Our new president, Jack McGee, arrived in September from St. Claire College in Ontario.

ISO 9001

In November, the JI received ISO 9001 Registration for the design and delivery of training and educational services. We are the first public postsecondary educational institution in B.C. (the third in Canada) to receive ISO registration for the entire institution.

Staff

Lucie Manojlovic, our Acquisitions and Serials Library Technician is on maternity leave for six months. Her replacement is Mariana Asan, a new grad from the Langara College Library Technician Program. Before the JI, Mariana worked at Canada Customs and Revenue Library on a five month contract.

SIRSI

- We are on NT version 99.4
- Webcat available now: http://www.jibc.bc.ca
- Circulation and Reserves modules implemented in August 2000.
- Acquisitions module implemented in December 2000.
- Booking module implementation pending upgrade to Unicorn version 2000.

New Computers

In October, we received five new computers and a laser printer for our computer lab from the JI capital budget.

Risk Management Video

Our Media Centre, in conjunction with our Social Services & Community Division and Healthcare Benefit Trust, has just produced a new video entitled: Risk Management: We're All In This Together: Managing Risk in Residential and Continuing Community Care. Starring the famous Red Green.

Internet Tutorial

Check out our new internet tutorial at http://www.jibc.bc.ca This tutorial was created by Myfawny Postgate, a UBC SLAIS student on a Professional Experience Project.

We're in Demand!

Overall demand for JI Library services has increased 258% in the last five years (since we moved to our New Westminster location). In 1999, 35,000 people visited our library (4,000 in 1995), 6,000 reference questions were asked (2,000 in 1995), and 11,700 books and videos were borrowed (8,300 in 1995).

Kwantlen University College

submitted by Susan Bruchet, Public Services Librarian

November 2000

It has been a busy fall at all campus libraries. Welcome tables displaying help sheets and other useful information for students were set up at each campus library during the first few weeks of September.

Staff News

On April 20, 2000, we received the sad news that Kathy Selesky, our friend, co-worker and a long-time employee of Kwantlen, had passed away. Kathy had fought a very courageous battle with cancer. We will remember her for her warmth and generosity as well as for her knowledge, experience and skills.

Debbie Smith has returned to the library as our Library Resources Technician, after spending a year working with International Library Systems. It is nice to have her back.

Ruth Mullane was the successful candidate for the second Library Resources Technician position. Debbie and Ruth will provide technical and systems related assistance to all areas of the library.

Silvana Smith was the successful candidate for the Richmond Senior position that was left vacant when Carmen Dives left our library to take on new challenges.

Linda Rogers, our Degree Collection Development Librarian was regularized at 60% during the summer.

Janet Wong began in September as one of our sessional librarians. Janet worked with us several years ago. We are happy to welcome her back.

Library Instruction

During the fiscal year 1999/00, Kwantlen Librarians provided Library Instruction sessions for 300 classes or 6,685 students. During September of this year, Kwantlen Librarians conducted Library Instruction sessions for 103 classes or 2,379 students. The statistics for October are not yet in but we expect them to be very similar to October 1999.

The teaching component of our job continues to develop. During the summer, all of our Library Learning Labs were equipped with digital projectors. The Librarians are finding the projectors extremely useful for presenting the Research Skills classes.

Jan Penhorwood, our Library Instruction Librarian, was a successful applicant for a college grant. This grant will be used to provide release time so that Jan can work on developing a curriculum for library instruction.

Information Services

In addition to research skills classes, our librarians were kept busy answering a total of 39,765 questions at the Information Desks of our four campus libraries during the fiscal year 1999/2000.

The Library Web Team

Caroline Daniels, our Web Librarian, launched the new version of our library web site during the summer. It is an extensive revision of the previous version and has met with very positive reviews from students, faculty and librarians in other institutions. The new version focuses on the research process and logically guides our library users through our web site. Students find the table of periodical indexes easy to use and appreciate the librarian evaluated links to web sites in the Internet Subject Guides. The Library Web Team, under Caroline's direction, is continuing to refine and enhance our site.

Visit us at http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/library.

Circulation

Our catalogue is currently running on Unicorn 98.5. Plans are afoot to implement the Workflows module in May 2001.

The total number of items circulated (print + av) in the fiscal year 1999/2000 at all campuses was 115,871. This represents a small decrease of 2.3% from last year. During September 2000, the total number of print items circulated was 12,055 which is an increase of 6% over September 1999. The biggest increase was at the Richmond campus which circulated 12% more print items this September than last September. There was also a 13% increase in the number of videos used (661) over the previous September.

Receipt printers were installed at the checkout counters in May. We have not experienced any problems with their use and they have been positively received by our patrons.

Our opacs which currently run on windows 3.1 and netscape 3.0 will be upgraded in the next few months to windows 95 and netscape 4.0.

Audiovisual

The year April 1999 to March 2000 was a busy one in terms of Audiovisual activity. Equipment bookings totalled 28,369, a total almost identical to last year's use of 28,147. The biggest use was at Richmond which booked 12,317 pieces of equipment. Use of computer data projection equipment is growing the most rapidly. The Library loaned out 5,297 videos, with 2,572 (almost half) being booked.

The Fast Forward video showcase continues to provide a valuable opportunity to preview and select video materials. Each year more instructional faculty are attending. When we combined faculty purchase suggestions with those from library personnel, we spent $8,000 this summer as a direct result of Fast Forward activity.

Database News

Ebscohost and Expanded Academic Index (Searchbank) continue to be the most popular of our on-line periodical indexes. Both are accessible to our students from remote locations. We are looking into providing remote access to more of our periodical indexes.
We are currently participating in the ELN trial of the fulltext version of CINAHL

Technical Services

Our collection continues to grow and as of March 31, 2000 there were 148,769 items in the collection.

Buy-a-Book Campaign

The 1999 Buy-a-Book Campaign is winding down and has been very successful. To date the campaign has raised over $18,000.

Strategic Plan

The librarians did a great deal of work during the spring to develop a strategic plan for the library. Part of this work involved a re-alignment of the librarians' tasks to balance workloads and to legitimize areas of work that have grown tremendously over the past few years such as web work. Work on the strategic plan is wrapping up and the final document should be ready soon. We will be using the strategic plan to guide us in our priorities over the next few years.

Langara College

submitted by the office of Dave Papper

Director, Library, Media & Bookstore Services (LMBKS)
November 2000

Staffing for Services – a survey

Staffing for Services is one of the three components of our Strategic Planning Process (Staffing, Technology, Resource Development). The survey, completed in June 2000, gave all LMBKS employees an opportunity to comment on what things do and do not work well in their functional groups, what we need to do differently or stop doing, where we are under-staffed to meet the current demand, opportunities for cross-departmental sharing of staff, how they see their jobs evolving, and, finally, training requirements.

Action items coming out of the Survey – and out of the Technology SWOT - are being followed up.

Getting the message out

- one of the outcomes of our staffing for services review in Instructional Media Services was an updated and very eye-catching brochure of services
- as part of the New Employee Orientation package, the Director created a flyer entitled, "LMBKS: satisfying your appetite for information"
- in order to feature our services and the staff expertise, we are in the planning stages of a photographic essay entitled, "A day in the life of LMBKS"

Dancing on the Copyright edge

A new "Langara Library Copyright Guide" has been produced by Niina Mitter and Judy Kornfeld under a Langara Initiatives Fund grant.

Bookstore.com

The Director interviewed approx. 140 students entering or leaving the Bookstore, focusing on general satisfaction with the amount of time taken to find & purchase their items, success rate, etc. The primary reason for the survey, however, was to also ask the students how keen they would be to use a Langara Bookstore Web-based textbook ordering utility. Response was overwhelmingly in favor of such a service. Likely that we will engage a Co-op student to develop a prototype in the summer term. We are stepping into this project lightly!

Our Kodak moment

One of our goals over the last few years has been to streamline the processing of photo-Ids. This fall we made a giant leap forward. Average total processing time was reduced from 5 – 8 minutes to about 60 seconds, primarily because of new technology and the integration of Banner student information.

Web presence

Our new Library Web site, released August 30, has received applause from a number of people. New features include: article indexes by title & subject, a research process guide, an online general suggestion form and an online purchase requisition form for faculty.

Our new Dean

Verna Magee Shepherd was appointed as the new Dean of Student & Educational Support Services, effective August 14. Verna comes to Langara from BCIT where she was Associate Dean, Health Sciences from 1991 to 1998. She is currently completing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of B.C.

LMBKS in the professional community

- Mary Anne Epp has been appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Adult Services Program of BC's Refreshable Braille Research Project. She is also a member of the Advisory Board to the Dawson College Adaptech Project in Montreal, a national project on adaptive technology and post-secondary students with disabilities
- Sean Brooks has been invited to participate in the Core Testing Group for the DAISY Training and Technical Support Team. DAISY is the "Library for a Thousand Years" digital project
- Brent Searle is a member of the 2001 CODI conference committee (CODI=Customers of Dynix, Inc)
- Dave Pepper has been invited to participate in a BCLA panel discussion on "Learner Support and Success – what does it mean for Libraries ?" in April 2001

ADALAB

The Langara Foundation's Internal Advisory Committee – represented by employees and students - has selected an upgrade to the Library's Adaptive Technology Lab as the project of choice for its annual SOS fund raising campaign. This is the second time in three years that the Library has been the focus of the Langara Foundation's internal campaign.

Malaspina University-College Library

submitted by Patricia Lloyd, Director of Library Services
Autumn 2000

The Library has received a grant from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology for a Locally Initiated Curriculum Project to develop a series of web-based basic and advanced research skills modules. The 15 modules will provide our students and faculty with the step-by-step information they need to use the online catalogue, the Internet, and many of our online journal indexes. The project is currently in its Test Phase.

Following the success of the Winter 2000 advanced research skills workshops offered last January, the reference librarians have expanded their usual Autumn introductory workshops to include instruction in the specific journal indexes needed for each decanal area. Some staff changes have occurred in Reference over the past several months. Faith Takishita accepted a regular part-time reference librarian appointment. Jean Blackburn has been helping out the reference department providing weekend reference services, on partial release from her Educational Technology Centre position, while Rol Morris is on leave.

The Library became a full member of the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries last Spring. We are now involved in making changes to the way we obtain interlibrary loans. One important change is that we have rescinded our fee for interlibrary loans, but we will maintain the limits on the numbers of ILL requests faculty and students may submit.

User Services staff have been coping ably with this year's new and returning students. Two important changes were made to our online catalogue system. Over the summer, we switched from Netscape to Internet Explorer 5 with frames as our default browser. In addition, we have been moving the web link listings into the online catalogue as catalogued records. Hans Fadum, Technical Services, recently completed the integration of the Plays Index into our online catalogue. This gives our users access to the individual plays contained in anthologies – a total of 4,550 plays in 702 anthologies. This is one feature of the former catalogue system that we very much wanted to replicate in the SIRSI system.

Laura Halliday has recently moved to a regular part-time position in Technical Services from User Services, but continues to help out at the Loan Desk when needed. Cate Muir has moved back to Nanaimo User Services, and Vicki Tysdal now fills Cate's previous post as the Library Assistant/Bookstore Manager in Powell River. Bonnie McKendrick accepted the library assistant position, working with Vicki. Norman Stewart has accepted two part-time positions at the Library and will be shared amiably between the Nanaimo and Cowichan campuses. Suzanne Connell will be joining the Cowichan Library staff shortly. Maureen De Roos has returned to the Library, this time as our secretary, and she continues to help out at the Loans Desk.

All library staff members were deeply saddened by the sudden death of Loraine Wingham, long-time library staff member, on May 18. She will be fondly remembered.

North Island College Library

submitted by Mary Anne Guenther, Coordinator, Library Services
November 2000

Library staff met in Courtenay in June for their annual staff meeting and training. One session was dedicated to discussion about the Library's mission and development of the Library's Vision Statement. The vision statement has since become a useful tool in discussions about policy, service and budget.

A detailed staff manual has been put together after several months of work. This has proven to be a really useful resource for all staff, but particularly for part-time and new employees.

An increase in circulation staffing at the Comox Valley campus, from 0.2 to 0.8, was the only library staffing upgrade for this budget year. This resulted in a revised and expanded job description for the position to reflect a public services focus and added interlibrary loans as a primary duty.

The library launched its new web site at the end of June. Library staff worked with a graduate of the NIC computer science program to develop the library web pages, which include links to academic sites for evaluating and citing sources for both print and electronic format, pages about library services and policies, and other sites such as ELN databases and college/university catalogues. You can view at
http://library.nic.bc.ca

The college has just undergone an administrative re-structuring as a result of an external consultant's report. The library continues to report to the Director of Educational Support Services and Information Technology (formerly the Associate Dean). The expectation is that this division will focus on educational support services within a distributed learning environment and expand services beyond the traditional campus.

Deep Freeze software was loaded on all library computers (lab and catalogue stations) over the summer, which has made a tremendous improvement. As a result, substantially fewer computer problems are being reported and most problems are resolved by re-booting which replaces original settings and re-connects to the network.

Northern Lights College Library

submitted by Janet Beavers, Coordinator, Library Services
November 2000

Staffing

There have been quite a few changes in the past few months as Lynn Ripley, our cataloguer, has gone to Southern Alberta Institute of Technology to complete her Library and Information Technology Diploma. Gloria Wassenaar of Circulation is filling in until May 2001. Mary Mottishaw, formerly of the Dawson Creek Public Library is managing Circulation until next May. We have also hired a temporary Technical Services assistant Krystal D'Amato until March to help us clear up some of our cataloguing backlog.

Renovation

The Dawson Creek campus received Ministry funding for some major renovation of our main building housing the Library. The late arrival of the funds, the tender process, and the discovery of asbestos floor and

ceiling tiles in the cafeteria delayed the start of construction until mid-August so the Fall term has passed in a whirl of drywall dust, missing light switches, dead telephones, inoperable security gates and the sounds of concrete drills. The students have been highly amused by it all and walked through the debris to continue using the library. We now have glass doors and multiple windows surrounding a new seating area filled with trees, plants and comfy seating. It's a very inviting area and students and faculty love it. We also have a new group study/meeting room that is very popular as is the computer lab we made out of the old, windowless study room. There'll be new carpeting and a new circulation desk next Spring.

Technical Services

Three people have done some intensive work this Fall to make a big dent in our backlog. We have created UNCAT. areas in the Dawson Creek and Fort St. John campuses allowing 1,000+ books to circulate after downloading records from AMICUS and changing the location codes. Over 700 books and 350 videos have been fully processed since September. We started connecting to AMICUS in early October and have been happy to download 95% of the records we need.

2 staff members took training in the SIRSI Acquisitions module this summer and we've been practising for full implementation at the start of the 2001 fiscal year. We've been using Indigo and Chapters for acquisitions this Fall and are impressed with the speed of the arrival of the books. Indigo's billing process has allowed us to keep track of orders separately for each of our 8 campuses more easily. We have been given $40,000.00 in capital funds this year to implement the recommendations of the 1999 Library Service Review, one of which was an increase in acquisitions. This has been a great help in coping with new programs such as Oil and Gas and Forestry, and new courses in Psychology, Social Work, and Humanities.

Miscellaneous

Fines for overdues were implemented this Fall with surprisingly few complaints from students and the expected grumbles from faculty (yes NLC holds them responsible unless they request extended loan at borrowing time). Glitches in SIRSI are being worked out as we learn how to pay bills, forgive fines, etc. Far fewer books are being lost this term.

Our Chetwynd campus library is seeing increased use due to the new Forestry Technician program there and the purchase of over $2,000.00 worth of forestry materials. We're hoping to fund at least a .5 position for that library soon.

The drywall dust has not settled yet! The library on the Fort Nelson campus has run out of room to add more materials so we were looking at adding more shelving. Until someone looked at the underside of the floor and saw incipient buckling of the joists. As requests are already in process for funding for renovations of the campus, we will likely be able to extend that library and reinforce the floors next summer.

The Tumbler Ridge campus has suffered along with the townsfolk over the closing of the mines there. As many people are going to stay there and new ones move in for the affordable housing, NLC is looking at revamping its programs there and our collection development will take some different directions over the next few months.

We are receiving more requests for library services from isolated people taking our distance education courses in Early Childhood Education and ABE. Imagine having to dial long-distance to Whitehorse to hook up to our internet connections via Fort Nelson. We're pressing for more recognition of these very real needs and looking for ways of addressing them.

Open Learning Agency

submitted by Connie Fitzpatrick, Head Librarian
November 2000

Library and Information Services

The Library continues moving in an e-library direction by working on the following projects:

- Restructuring and adding new information to our Website to make it easier to use
- Developing a template for lists of resources
- Creating the first resource list in the business area
- Developing a template for the provision of information literacy training online
- Creating the first information literacy module in the subject of career planning
- Providing a resource list and information literacy training for nursing

The Library has become more involved in the development of instructional materials by searching for relevant resources for Web-based course development and by providing input regarding metadata requirements. We are also currently participating in discussions with publishers regarding licensing of electronic texts and other materials.

Our Student Library Service is as busy as ever meeting students' needs for information and resources to complete assignments. The health programs use videos extensively and we work with them on an ongoing basis to ensure they have access to the latest in health information.

Intellectual Property

Copyright clearance services for instructional development in our Victoria office is in the process of moving to the Intellectual Property Office in Burnaby. Regarding Cancopy, when Laura Davison was in Vancouver to attend the CPSLD meeting, she arranged a meeting with OLA to discuss our copyright clearance processes and requirements. OLA does not currently have a license with Cancopy as we are considered an educational publisher. We do however, occasionally use their services.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

FOIPP responsibilities continue to require a portion of my time to ensure that all areas are aware of the importance of collecting, using, protecting and disclosing personal information according to established guidelines. There has been a flury of formal request activity as well.

Staffing

I am in the process of filling two temporary positions - a librarian to work on our Web-based projects and a library assistant to assist our library technician with her processing and student services responsibilities.

OLA general news

I am pleased to report that the Open Learning Agency is back in the fold, now reporting to the Ministry of Advanced Education. We are using the Balanced Scorecard approach to guide our strategic processes and are working on a number of initiatives including the development of an e-(electronic) BBA program, new finance/HR systems and several strategic enrollment management projects.

Royal Roads University

submitted by Dana McFarland, Librarian
Autumn 2000

Staffing

At the end of May, librarian Shailoo Bedi went on maternity leave with baby Anjuli. Shortly after we added a

new librarian, our third, on a continuing basis. Rosie Croft has been with us since June and came to us from the Family Violence Institute of Vancouver. We expect Shailoo back early in the New Year.

We have also had changes among support staff. In July Frances Nicholson joined us as circulation supervisor and in November Danielle Russell took a position with us in serials and reserve.

Facilities

Following the completion in Spring of the seismic upgrade to our stacks we rested for a few months but are now engaged in upgrading the last remaining public area of the building. An existing open study space is being recarpeted and enclosed to create additional staff work area and student study space.

Systems

We have been busy on an ongoing basis with recon projects generated by our conversion to Voyager. Work is nearly complete to clean up serials holdings. We are presently working with A-G to update our union database holdings, and expect that having our serials represented accurately for the first time in years will have some impact for our ILL lending.

Over the summer, following conversion to the Voyager NT platform, we struggled with stability of the web OPAC. This was resolved at the end of August when we decided to move to Solaris pending Endeavor's further development on NT.

Together with other COPPUL libraries we are presently reviewing ILL management systems with a view to automating for the first time. We hope to have a decision and a purchase by the end of this fiscal year. We are also looking forward to joining the Ariel license through ELN.

Collections

We continue to build the print collection in support of University programme offerings, and are adding new online subscriptions, most recently ITKnowledge. Now that we have cataloguing for netLibrary eBooks we are prepared to go beyond the COPPUL pilot collection to begin collecting actively in this format.

Our DDC-LC reclassification project proceeds. With additional project staffing over the summer the reference collection was completed and a large inroad made into the circulating collection.

Training and PD

In recent months we have had staff give presentations at Kaleidoscope in Vancouver as well as attend the Off Campus Library Services Conference in Portland, ACCESS in Newfoundland, and an archival copyright workshop in Edmonton. In concert with Wanda Noel's November visit to the west coast, we are arranging for her to present a workshop for University faculty and staff on intellectual property issues related to distance learning.

TechBC: Technical University of British Clumbia

submitted by Gohar Ashoughian, Managing Director
Information Resources & Digital Library
Fall 2000

Collections

The print collection has increased by about 1,356 items recently ordered, catalogued and processed.

Electronic Resources

TechBC currently subscribes to 406 journal titles in electronic format. This number will increase as of December 2000 to include access to IEEE All-Society Periodicals Package (ASPP). The package includes 104 IEEE Society-sponsored journals and magazines.

The Portal has an account with OCLC for access to OCLC Electronic Collections Online that provides a management and search tool for electronic journals.

We are in the process of establishing a relationship with netLibrary to provide the TechBC community with access to web-based electronic book collections over the Internet. The Portal will develop and manage a collection of electronic books and provide full-text access to users around-the-clock, regardless of their location. Users can search through thousands of e-books simultaneously and then view e-books online via the Internet, or off-line with PC-based hand held devices.

Integrated Library Information System

The L4U Library Integrated System was upgraded in July/August 2000 to improve the functionality of the Web Online Public Access Catalogue (Web OPAC) and other modules.

Portal Website

Remote access to Portal information resources has now been established. The project was a collaboration between TechBC Web Services, The Portal and Educational Technology and Learning.

Interlibrary Loans (ILL)

The Portal is now using the ARIEL document scanning and transmission workstation to expedite the receipt and transmission of interlibrary loan documents.

Interlibrary Lending

Over the Summer, the Portal staff uploaded the records for the TechBC library resources into two large cooperative databases: the BC OUTLOOK Online and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) to allow TechBC's full participation in resource sharing, interlibrary lending and borrowing. The first request for interlibrary lending came from the University of Alberta. Interlibrary lending requests are coming in on an almost daily basis.

Technical Services

A start has been made on building TechBC's **video collection**. Research was done into video vendors, and public performance rights. Videos were purchased through Advanced Education Media Acquisitions Centre. The video collection is being utilized primarily by the Interactive Arts program area.   A start has also been made on building a music/audio collection to support courses in web audio and sound interaction under development.

The backlog in cataloguing was cleared and efficiency was attained with the new cataloguing software CATME provided by OCLC. Free access to the National Library of Canada's records was offered to libraries in July and TechBC took advantage of this offer. A Z39.50 client is used to download these records into the library system.

Manuals were created for Ordering, Cataloguing, Database Maintenance, Interlibrary Loans and Circulation.

Information Services and Bibliographic Instruction

This Fall, the Portal has begun the implementation of distributed reference services to provide research

assistance and information services to TechBC users located in two sites.

The Information Resources Specialists at the Portal (TechBC Library) collaborated with ET&L (Educational Technology and Learning), faculty and learning staff to create interactive online user instruction presentation (Mastering Educational Technology and Learning Course). This course is designed for new faculty members joining TechBC, to facilitate their adjustment to course development and delivery in online environment. The Information Resources Specialist for Reference and Resource Development has also developed the content for the *Information Processes* unit of the TechOne Process Elements interdisciplinary course.

The user instruction sessions and Portal orientation sessions were presented to faculty, learning staff, TechOne (first year) and TechTwo (second year) Learners.

Plans are underway to develop and implement a comprehensive online bibliographic instruction program that will reside on TechBC's Course Management System and integrate with the Portal web site.

Library Staff

The Portal staff currently consists of three full-time professional librarians plus two library technicians:

- Gohar Ashoughian, MLIS, CLIS, Louisiana State University
  Position: Managing Director, Information Resources and Digital Library
- Naomi Lloyd, MLIS, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  Position: Information Resources Specialist, Acquisitions and Technical Services
- Donald Taylor, MLIS, University of British Columbia.
  Position: Information Resources Specialist, Reference and Resource Development
- Paul Burry, Library Technician Diploma, Langara College
  Position: Information Services Support Specialist, Acquisitions & Technical Services
- Mabel Tang, Library Technician Diploma, Langara College
  Position: Information Services Support Specialist, ILL and Document Delivery

University College of the Cariboo

submitted by Nancy Levesque, Director, Library & Information Services
Fall 2000

The University College of the Cariboo Board and Administration approved an additional Librarian position, commencing Fall 2000. This past summer, Christina Neigel was hired, though she is now on maternity leave until mid-April 2001.

Effective September 1, 2000, the UCC Library is a full member of COPPUL, the Council of Prairie and Pacific University Libraries. We look forward to collaborative projects with our Western colleagues.

For the past year, the UCC Library has been using the ariel system to receive articles from several universities and CISTI. We have been impressed with the system's ease of use, delivery, and quality of copy. The UCC Library has purchased a scanner and the transmitting software to send articles to other libraries. This has made a great difference in the response time and quality of material sent to support students and faculty at the UCC Williams Lake campus library.

University College of the Fraser Valley

submitted by Kim Isaac, Director of Library Services
November 2000

New Building in Chilliwack

The good news: the long-awaited Phase III building for the Chilliwack campus, in which the Library will be the major tenant, has been approved for funding by the Ministry. The bad news: the plans for this building were designed in 1993/94, and were costed at that time at $12.8 million. The Ministry agreed to go ahead with the building if UCFV could demonstrate that it can build it for $10.3 million, in today's dollars. Library staff have been working to try to find ways to reduce the costs of providing this replacement Library, as well as ways to update the plans to accommodate the significant changes in technology that have taken place since the original plans were designed. And we don't want to get too excited until the ground is actually broken, in fear that a change in government might put an abrupt halt to the construction plans!

A Strategic Plan

December 14-15 will mark the beginning of a strategic planning process for the Library, which will likely continue over the winter semester. All permanent Library staff will be involved in the two-day retreat, during which we will review and revise our Mission Statement, engage in discussion with a variety of guests who will help us with our environmental scan, and determine the issues around which task groups might be struck. The Chair of UCFV's Business Administration Department, whose area of expertise is strategic management, will facilitate our retreat, and continue to provide advice as we work toward having a strategic plan in place by the summer.

Computer Use and Mis-use

The University College is in the process of developing a revised Appropriate Use of Computing Technology Policy, which will require users of computing resources to be sensitive to other users. If images that are likely to be disturbing to others need to be accessed for research purposes, students are expected to make special arrangements through their instructors and the Director of Library Services. This policy revision comes partly in response to a request from the Library, where on a number of occasions Library staff have been confronted with extremely distressing images being left on the screens of public computer workstations. The Library is also in the process of establishing a login requirement for all public access computers, which at present are available to all comers with no sign-on required. Students will sign on as they would in general computer labs, and members of the public will still have access through the librarians, who will sign them on. We suspect that most if not all the mis-use of Library computers has been by individuals not affiliated with UCFV in any formal way, and having to be signed on will be a deterrent to this kind of activity.

SIRSI

Judy Inouye, Technical Services Coordinator, and Patti Wilson, Public Services Coordinator, continue to expand on the range of reports that can be generated from SIRSI. Faculty and staff now automatically receive notices generated from the system the minute that fine-producing materials become overdue, and we hope that this will reduce the number of complaints from faculty that they "didn't know" they were being charged. Department heads also receive regular reports on which materials requested by their departments have been ordered, and which have arrived.

Online Services

UCFV continues to add to the number of courses that are offered online through WebCT, and the Library continues to expand services to online students and faculty. This fall, Patti Wilson designed an self-marking orientation exercise that students can do online, the results of which can be forwarded to their instructor if required. If you would like to have a look, you can find it at http://www.ucfv.bc.ca/library/orientation/page1.htm.

Library Staff

My first year as Director is rapidly coming to an end, although for the first six months I was only able to assume these duties on a half-time basis while completing my term as department head for the Library and Information Technology Program at UCFV. Since the summer I've been full-time in the Library and am finally starting to feel as though I know what is going on. Many thanks to those CPSLD directors who've

offered their support, advice and assistance this year.

January 2001 will see the retirement of long-time Reserves Technician Laura Unger, who just celebrated 20 years of service in the UCFV Library. We want to wish Laura all the best, and look forward to her regular visits now that she will have lots of time to bake!

Educational leaves create staffing changes nearly every semester, as our librarians and technicians are eligible to apply for short- and long-term leaves. This creates opportunities for movement within our existing staff, and often creates temporary positions for new technicians as well. Two educational leaves coming up in January 2001 will likely mean changes for a minimum of seven individuals because of the trickle-down effect that is created.

Vancouver Community College

submitted by Brenda Appleton, College Librarian

People

Mark Goertz has stepped down as Department Head, Library Information Services. Irene King has been elected to that position and is the new Department Head, Library Information Services effective November 1, 2000.

In Technical Services, Flora Ip is on maternity leave. Her position has been replaced by Sue Fell and Sue has been replaced by KatVan Dusen.

In Circulation Services, both Melanie Primeau and Nancy Morgan are on half time education leaves. They have been replaced by Shane Neifer and Aimee Torres. Eva Sharell completes her 2nd three year term as Head, Circulation Services in December. There is a contractual cap of six years (or two terms) for individuals in department head positions.

Cross Training

Through the work of our Library Mobility Committee, we now have a process which enables library staff to act in a higher capacity when another staff member is absent. In the past, we did this only within a specific Library department, so for example, Circulation staff could act other circulation functions such as Media Booking. However, we didn't act across departmental lines, but rather used on-call staff when necessary to cover absences in Technical Services and Reference.

We focused on finding a way to allow library staff to have the opportunity to experience and work in other capacities. After much discussion about process, calls for the expression of interest were sent out to the entire Library staff, and acting pools were created (and continue to be dynamic with individuals able to opt in and out of specific pools). There is no set number of people within a pool, but all are required to meet the hiring criteria for that specific position. Staff are trained to do the acting job and are then called upon in seniority sequence to cover absences. By doing this, staff gain:

- insight into each other's duties;
- experience in other positions;
- the opportunity to be trained in new tasks and procedures;
- the chance to know whether they would be interested in applying for specific positions in the future.

The Library is also a big winner with this new approach. We have profited with a much more flexible and knowledgeable pool of staff members who can take on many duties and functions when called upon to do so. By having the opportunity to learn new skills, and work in other areas, staff remains fresh and excited about working at the VCC Library. We have also found that we have an incredibly capable group of people working in the Library who have embraced the opportunity to become proficient in other areas of the Library. Staff

have worked hard to acquire new skills and master new tasks. We've been able to provide training for many different jobs to several individuals in the Library, thereby enhancing the knowledge and skill pool within the Library.

Library Department Heads have uniformly been pleased with the quality of work performed in "acting" roles and have been pleasantly surprised at how well this new way of replacing absences has worked. This new process has also allowed us to be more flexible in how we schedule to cover absences.

In some instances, however, scheduling has become a bit more complex. The group of schedulers got together over the summer to try to find a scheduling program that could help simplify the process for us. So far we have not been successful but will continue to look for ideas to assist us.

Cross training for staff has been an unqualified success. As a matter of fact, the experience has been so good, that a few librarians have approached me with a request that a similar process be considered for them.

Library PD Day

In June, we held our first ever Library Professional Development Day. The Library was closed June 2 for a day of workshops, socializing and plenary sessions. By all accounts, the day was an overwhelming success. The planning committee did an excellent job in making sure that the day was both fun and informative. Already, we are putting together a committee to begin planning next year's P.D. Day event. Several volunteers have already come forward. I know that we all look forward to this becoming an annual event for the VCC Library.

Buy a Book Campaign

The VCC Library and VCC Foundation mounted the first annual Library fundraising called the Library Buy a Book Campaign. Several individuals on staff in the library worked with our Foundation to plan and run this campaign. For our first effort, we will be able to purchase over $10,000 worth of library materials. That is really quite incredible for a first try!

We will mount the campaign again next year and look forward to an even more impressive tally for donations.

Job Talks

Over the past several months, librarians and staff have hosted a series of job talks. Each presenter prepared sessions, where they shared their jobs and answered questions from others in the Library. The job talks have been very well attended. We have had the opportunity to learn what tasks and responsibilities are inherent in many library positions. We have new insight into the complexity of many jobs, and how they inter-relate to the rest of the library. For some of us, a job talk sparked a desire to put a name onto the "acting pool" for that position. For others, job talks gave important information will assist in deciding whether to apply for vacancies as they appear in the Library. Yet for others, job talks provided more insight into the reality that everything we do in the Library is interdependent upon the work of our colleagues in every position within the Library. Hopefully, this year, job talks will be scheduled for those positions we have not had the opportunity to hear about, and possibly others will be scheduled for a second round if there is substantial interest.

Circulation Department Restructuring

Discussions are presently underway exploring the restructuring of senior responsibilities in our Circulation Services Department. It is envisioned that staff supervisors may report directly to the College Librarian and be given a more significant leadership role in the department. The Circulation Librarian will continue to be responsible for the development of policy, special projects, and guiding us in new directions in circulation functions such as media booking and inter library loans. At the time of this writing, no final decisions have yet been made.