# 2019 OKANAGAN LIBRARY REPORT TO SENATE

Heather Berringer Chief Librarian and Associate Provost, Learning Services The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus Covering the period January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 The Okanagan Library prides itself on being an inclusive space, a service-focused team, and a nexus of scholarly engagement. A proactive campus leader, our Library advances research, learning, and teaching excellence by connecting communities, within and beyond the University, to the world's knowledge.

Solidly aligned with campus and institutional strategic priorities, the Library continued to make significant contributions to the Okanagan Campus in 2019 in each of its areas of focus: **Teaching and Learning**, **Discovery and Research**, **Campus and Community**, and **Spaces and Collections**.

# Teaching and Learning

Embedded in student and campus life, the Okanagan Library is integrated in transformative teaching and learning efforts, providing essential services, spaces, and resources for student success. In 2019, the Library continued its foundational work in providing excellent reference services, launched new information literacy initiatives, and actively participated in the opening of the new Student Learning Hub, which provides a full range of learning supports in one convenient and welcoming location.

# Providing outstanding library reference services

The Okanagan Library has three primary service points: the campus Library's single service desk, the Special Collections service desk located in The Commons, and the Innovation Library, located in downtown Kelowna at Okanagan Regional Library's Kelowna branch on Ellis Street. Together, these handled over 17,000 individual questions over the past 12 months. 2,500 additional in-depth research consultations took place during the same period through referral to professional librarians.

# Information literacy initiatives

During the period covered by this report, librarians taught nearly 250 instructional sessions, many of which were integrated directly into course content. Topics ranged from subject-specific information search and retrieval strategies to sessions on copyright, scholarly communication and publishing, research data management, performing systematic and literature reviews, critical evaluation of information, and effective integration of published research into academic writing, including appropriate use of citation styles.

The Learning & Curriculum Support Librarian's immediate priority in 2019 was developing an internal training program in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning on the Foundations of Teaching and Learning. This was run in the spring and summer of 2019 and saw eight librarians participate in six workshops co-designed by the Learning & Curriculum Support Librarian and the Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning. This was further adapted to provide an enhanced library science and information literacy perspective, and offered to all UBCO Library employees by the Learning & Curriculum Support Librarian and the Scholarly Communication Librarian. Participation included librarians and staff from the Centre for Scholarly Communication, Inclusive Technology Lab, and Student Learning Hub, including student employees. This program has resulted in further development of an established community of practice amongst the participants related to instruction and information literacy within the Library.

Additional highlights from 2019 include curriculum mapping projects completed with the School of Social Work and nearing completion with Human Kinetics, and the peerobservation program, which has expanded to include library colleagues at Okanagan College.

New projects in the area of Teaching and Learning include the development of a series of citation modules for APA and MLA citation styles, which provide an opportunity for students to develop these skills via an assessed component. Further, the Library was successful in attaining an Aspire Learning & Teaching (ALT) grant to develop a series of online Canvas modules that will provide students with guidance in university-level foundational information literacy skills; these modules will be piloted beginning in Summer 2020.

The first-year English program has continued to thrive with 67 classes taught to first year English students between Winter 1 and 2 2019. An initial assessment of this program centred around faculty input has indicated that the program is well received, and should be maintained.

#### **Student Learning Hub**

During late spring and throughout the summer, the Library was buzzing with activity as the Student Learning Hub rapidly became a reality. The newly combined tutoring services (writing and language learning + math and science) has brought together the expertise of team members from Student Services and the Library.

#### Writing and Language Learning Supports

In 2019, the undergraduate writing and language learning side of the Student Learning Hub performed 1,724 individual appointments. The unit also provided 16 workshops and 10 tailored, classroom-embedded sessions that reached nearly 650 undergraduate students in interdisciplinary courses ranging from Geography to Cultural Studies. Most of these sessions emphasized writing standards in the disciplines, especially how to correctly integrate sources.

# Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) Program

The demand for academic integrity support has increased over the course of the year. Whereas 10 students were referred to the program in 2018, that number jumped to 44 in 2019 (30 of those from Sept.-Dec.). A curriculum redesign early in 2019 made it possible for more students to benefit from the program.

To increase student access to academic integrity knowledge prior to a referral, the Writing & Language Learning Services Manager has worked to integrate AIM content into a wider variety of delivery modes: Jumpstart campus orientation; discipline specific and in-class workshops; and regular drop-in workshops on correct source use (plus librarian-led MLA

and APA workshops). Future collaborations are planned to expand student access to this much needed information.

# Support for students with language backgrounds other than English

Excellence Funds (awarded in 2018) supported the wages of an experienced peer tutor to pilot English academic conversation support; 104 hours of academic conversation appointments were delivered in 2019. In collaboration with an Education faculty member, funds were also used to develop, deliver, and assess English as Additional Language (EAL)-specific training for writing consultants to improve support for students with language backgrounds other than English. Preliminary results were shared at the May 2019 Canadian Writing Centres Association conference in Vancouver.

# College Reading and Language Association (CRLA) Certification

In 2019, most of the new writing consultants completed all three levels of the CRLA International Tutor Training program (which we have been certified to offer):

- 12 completed Level 1: 10 training hours + 25 tutoring hours
- 11 completed Level 2: 10 more training hours + 25 more tutoring hours
- 10 completed Level 3: 10 more training hours + 25 more tutoring hours

#### Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Awards

The Manager, Writing & Language Learning Services continues to support the IKBSAS Undergraduate Research Award (URA) winners through a series of targeted workshops and one-on-one consultations. The Manager also provided feedback on each URA winner's presentation during two half-day practice sessions in preparation for the Symposium. The 2019 participants included 16 URAs and 6 International URAs; the 13 NSERC-USRA winners were also invited to participate in the summer workshops and Symposium. Each summer workshop was attended by approximately 23 students; the January 2019 "Writing the URA Application" workshop was attended by 40 students.

# **Research and Discovery**

The Library continues to play a critical role in the research enterprise, seeing steady growth in the number and variety of individuals – from graduate students, to lab managers, to post-doctoral fellows, to researchers completing Tri-Agency grant applications – attending relevant workshops and requesting assistance with the creation of research data management plans. This year, we have focused on streamlining services to researchers and strategically supporting Open Science efforts.

# **Centre for Scholarly Communication**

The Library's Centre for Scholarly Communication (CSC) supports faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students at every stage of the research life cycle. The CSC's suite of services provides support in the areas of scholarly writing, publishing, and other critical scholarly communication constructs including copyright and academic integrity.

The CSC provided 1000 individual appointments in 2019, 60 workshops/bootcamps with 317 workshop participants, and 18 classroom-embedded sessions in multiple disciplines to a total of 430 students.

### Service partnerships with the College of Graduate Studies

The Centre for Scholarly Communication continues to work closely with the College of Graduate Studies to find areas of alignment and potential collaborations. The Peer Writing Group Network partnership has led to the formation of ongoing peer writing groups. The Thesis Formatting Service partnership provides students with a flexible, reasonably priced option for resolving issues relating to document formatting (i.e.: tables of contents, margins, text formatting, alignment of tables and charts, etc.) while respecting the academic purpose and integrity of the thesis writing and submission process. This service also flags copyright issues arising in theses and refers students to the CSC for guidance on how to quickly resolve copyright concerns to ensure timely graduation.

The annual May Graduate Writing Bootcamp partnership was once again a tremendous success with registration reaching capacity within minutes of being open. The bootcamp provides students with three days of programming, expert on-site support, and dedicated writing time and space to focus on their writing. Many participants are kick-starting a thesis or journal article while others are making a final push for completion of their writing tasks. In response to increasing student demand for participation, two bootcamps will be run in May 2020.

# CSC expansion and new service partnerships

Services and tools that support UBC Okanagan faculty research are dispersed among units, creating barriers to access for researchers, interfering with researchers' seamless transition between research support units, and contributing to a lack of awareness of a constantly expanding list of services and tools. Faculty consultation and feedback have indicated that the effort and time required to discover, access, learn, and use these services and tools slow down research activities and can be a burden for the researcher. This is especially true for new faculty.

The CSC is undergoing an expansion to create a storefront that will bring together researcher-facing services and tools provided by the Library, Research Computing Services, and the Office of Research Services and will support a more formalized partnership to better coordinate services and maximize institutional investments. The CSC storefront will be a single point of contact and access to create a more seamless support network for researchers, allowing them to access, in one location, the information, tools, and services needed to support the entire research lifecycle. This will also facilitate better tracking of research support and gathering of assessment metrics for services that are currently being tracked in multiple units. This data will ensure quality control, assist in empirically identifying gaps in support services and tools used by researchers, and allow evidence-based investment in improving research support. Some examples of areas that the CSC storefront will support through services and tools include:

- Video-Conferencing
- High Performance Computing
- Lab Set-up/Research Support and Grant Consultation

- Research Data Lifecycle Management
- Data Storage
- Tri-Agency Open Access Policy Compliance
- Research Metrics
- Digital Asset Creation
- Copyright Support
- Open Scholarship
- Grant Proposal Review

The CSC Steering Committee is currently leading the implementation phase of the CSC expansion. A directory of researcher services and tools available to UBC Okanagan researchers has been created through consultations with campus research support units, and this directory will become the database for a new researcher website. The CSC is working with a website design and usability specialist and a content strategist to develop this new CSC website. To complement this new online access to services and tools, the CSC has moved to a newly renovated location on the second floor of the Library, which will become a central physical point of access for researchers. A CSC Coordinator has been hired to meet and work with researchers in the CSC reception office. This newly expanded CSC will be launched in late Summer 2020.

# **Fostering Open Science**

*Fostering Open Science*, a UBC cross-campus strategic project supported by the Excellence Fund, aims to integrate Open Science into all aspects of the research process by building a community of practice in the undergraduate classroom, the graduate lab, and faculty research. This project made great strides in its work this year.

Building on outreach in 2018, the project team launched the second pilot in first year Biology of a complementary online learning module to enhance critical awareness of undergraduate students in Open Science principles and practices. The success of this pilot has allowed continued integration into the second semester of classes and initial discussion with Human Kinetics on migrating content for their curriculum.

This year also saw the successful implementation of CWL integration into the online platform, Open Science Framework (OSF), allowing researchers to affiliate their research with UBC. This is the first institutional adoption of the platform in Canada and was accompanied by the launch of a website to share and highlight these activities (<u>http://openscience.ubc.ca</u>).

Outreach efforts have resulted in increased integration and uptake of guest graduate seminars, workshops, and guest lectures across both campuses. The team continues to work with several units on both campuses to shift the culture of practice and evaluation of scientific research and researchers through education, outreach, and consultation.

# **Campus and Community**

The Okanagan Library displays leadership in the establishment of partnerships with campus and community in order to advance the University's strategic initiatives and take our passion and expertise outside the Library's walls. In 2019, our community partnership initiatives included our Digitized Okanagan History project, another successful Leader in Residence event, and renewal of our partnership with Project Literacy in addition to the community programming delivered through our Innovation Library (see p. 11). Oncampus and inter-campus projects included a new season of our podcast series *Frequencies*, a variety of events and programs created and delivered by our student Peer Technology Assistants, and expansion of the records management program collaboration with the UBC Records Management Office.

# Digitized Okanagan History (DOH)

Currently in its third year of operation, DOH continues to grow in terms of both participating partner organizations and the volume of contributed digital objects. At the end of 2019, the DOH website included over 110,000 digital objects drawn from 29 participating repositories.

The project provides digitization services and a common online platform that facilitates free access to scanned copies of local historical resources on a 24/7 basis. DOH has enjoyed overwhelmingly positive response from the Okanagan heritage community as many of the small partner organizations lacked the financial and technological resources to pursue this digitization work on their own. Overall, these organizations recognized an alignment with their mission, which includes a principled commitment to contributing to the public trust of historical materials, and welcomed this valuable opportunity to collaborate.

While the project initially adopted an itinerant model in which student teams made summer trips to participating repositories to digitize local material on-site, the reporting year witnessed an important transition to centralized digitization on the UBCO campus. Made possible through the development of mutual trust with our partners, the movement of archival materials rather than people resulted in greater efficiencies and a significant expansion in the volume and scope of materials that could be scanned on a year-round basis. Digitized copies of photographs, documents, audio and video recordings, publications, maps and plans, and local newspapers, along with associated descriptive information, have been uploaded to the DOH website (<u>http://doh.arcabc.ca</u>) which forms part of *Arca*, a provincially recognized platform maintained by the British Columbia Electronic Library Network.

# Kootenay/Columbia Pilot Project

The model of working collaboratively and providing a common technological infrastructure to house digital content has clearly resonated with the heritage community. Based on preliminary inquiries from repositories in the neighbouring Kootenay/Columbia region, the DOH coordinators conducted a pilot project resulting in the collection of digital copies of several thousand photographs, oral and video recordings, and textual documents from seven repositories in that area. This material will form the basis of a new and parallel regional collection to DOH and, taken together, the two collections will represent historical, primary source, and archival materials housed in 40 to 50 community heritage institutions throughout the Okanagan, Shuswap, Similkameen, Boundary, West Kootenay, East Kootenay, and Columbia regions of British Columbia's southern interior.

#### **Community Newspaper Digitization**

Using the comprehensive information gathered as part of the "Newspaper Digitization Feasibility Study" undertaken in 2018, the DOH team has also embarked on a community newspaper digitization project for the Okanagan region. With funding provided by Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan Library, the first phase of this project has resulted in the digitization of the following major Okanagan newspapers: Kelowna Courier (1904-1949), Vernon News (1891-1950), and Penticton Herald (1906-1953). This content will be available online in late spring 2020.

DOH represents a unique initiative and positions UBC Okanagan as a regional leader in digital preservation as well as, more broadly, a recognized partner in growing the collective capacity of the heritage community to create and provide access to local historical digital content while providing the infrastructure capable of hosting additional regional partnerships in the future.

# **Frequencies Podcast Series**

The Library's *Frequencies* podcast series provides a platform for campus researchers to discuss their research in a highly accessible format. Each season revolves around an emerging topic or current event, with each episode tackling the issue from a different perspective. Season 4 was released in 2019 and focused on the theme of water. In this episode, Fiona McDonald, Assistant Professor in Community, Culture, and Global Studies, discussed the Sensory Storytelling Project, an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and community-based project exploring the perceptions of water in our everyday lives.

# Leader in Residence

In June, the Library's Leader in Residence (LIR) program was expanded to a two-day event featuring Elliot Shore, former Executive Director of the Association of Research Libraries, and Camille Callison, Indigenous Strategies Librarian at University of Manitoba and Chair of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Indigenous Matters Section Standing Committee. There were 52 in-person attendees across the two days from 10 different institutions.

The Library is excited to continue this event in 2020 with Kayla Lar-Son, whose contributions to The Indigenous Matters Committee and development of an Indigenous Contexts course at the University of Alberta's School of Library and Information Studies have positioned her as a leader within the library field in Canada.

# Peer Technology Assistant (PTA) programming

Peer Technology Assistant programs animate the main floor of the Library with student perspectives on Library services and important campus topics. With the goal of creating

an inclusive and informative service zone for all Library users, these programs also provide an enriching learning opportunity for student employees.

Through programming and displays, the Library collaborated with the following campus partners in 2019: Move UBC, Thrive, BARK2GO (School of Education), Student Experience Office, UBCSUO, Academic and Involvement Office, Pride Resource Centre, Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, Development and Alumni Engagement, Campus Food Exchange, Campus Daycare, Scholar's Catering, International Programs and Services, Equity and Inclusion Office and Co-op Office, and The Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention. On-campus community engagement has included collaboration with Let's Talk Science and Okanagan Regional Library.

# **Project Literacy Partnership**

Via the Student Learning Hub, the Library supported student access to Project Literacy's one-to-one English tutoring program. In 2019, Project Literacy Okanagan's Coordinator made 30 successful learner-tutor matches. Both graduate and undergraduate students with language backgrounds other than English have benefitted from these free supports.

# **Records Management**

The Records Management program at UBC Okanagan continues to both expand in new directions, and routinize its existing operations.

The program's tailored electronic records review service, which delivers an information governance framework in collaboration with departments, continues to attract interest. As of December 2019, a total of 14 projects were in various states of stewardship; four of these have been completed and have entered cyclical maintenance. An additional two units closed the year on a waiting list.

With the move to The Commons, the capacity of the records storage program has increased and transactions have accelerated. Eleven units store records in the program, and over 300 boxes were added to inventory in 2019. At year's end, 450 boxes of institutional records were in custody. In September 2019, the program executed its first mediated secure destruction action.

A number of cross-campus information governance collaborations have also advanced:

- UBC Okanagan has implemented a coordinated approach with the Records Management Office at UBCV to jointly leverage a single inventory control database for records boxes in storage (O'Neill / RS-SQL).
- The Online Payment Tool (OPT) Digitization Policy Development Committee articulated the functional requirements of a digitization program that would permit scanned images to replace paper records as authoritative records. The documentation produced by this committee has been reviewed and certified by a third-party auditor for standard compliance.

- The Integrated Renewal Program (Workday) Digitization Policy Development Committee was convened in the wake of the success of the OPT committee and seeks to reapply policy, procedure, and UBC standard to digitization in the new Workday environment, supporting increasingly paper-light information management conventions with the implementation of Workday.
- A Digital Transfer Tool Working Group has been struck at UBCV, with the UBCO Archivist participating as domain expert. This group seeks to apply and expand the progress made in the 2018 UBCO pilot of the same name, which developed an effective means to transfer inactive digital records to virtual storage through greater enmeshment with IT services and existing inventory tracking databases.
- A working group reporting to the cross-campus Records Management Steering Committee has been assigned the task of developing conventions for email retention at UBC has been established, with UBCO participation.

# **Spaces and Collections**

The Library's resources and facilities are very much at the core of its mission, and we make every effort to be both proactive and responsive in their provision. The 2019 opening of The Commons represented a tremendous opportunity to enhance the student experience, with new programming being delivered in purpose-built, and often technologically enhanced, spaces. The Library also launched its new website, significantly enhancing its online presence, and bringing it line with the campus standard.

The addition of makerspaceUBCO to the Library's portfolio generated new opportunities for campus and community engagement, and the new ORL@UBC facility saw increased usage over the course of the year, providing convenient campus access to the vast collections of the Okanagan Regional Library system.

# Spaces

# Inclusive Technology Lab (ITL)

Through collaboration on campus and in the community, the Inclusive Technology Lab is increasing awareness of the important role that assistive technology can play for everyone. Individual students continue to express deep appreciation to the Library and the anonymous donors for the unique spaces and technology that we make available through this initiative.

In 2019, The ITL Coordinator provided 98 consultations to students. These students were provided with individualized instruction on how to utilize assistive technology to support their studies. Additionally, ITL equipment was loaned to 218 times to 68 unique students. Many of these students renewed items, allowing them to rely upon the technology

throughout the term. The most popular items are Dragon Naturally Speaking headphones, SmartPens, Voice Recorders (which allow for voice to be converted to text), and ergonomic mice.

#### Innovation Library

In 2019, the Innovation Library hosted a number of programs focused on connecting the wider community to UBC Library resources. For example, the Innovation Library offered public workshops on the topics of genealogical research and scanning archival documents during the "Find Your Family at the Library" event, hosted by the Kelowna and District Genealogical Society. Additionally, the Inclusive Technology Lab Coordinator offered a workshop to community members on accessing the assistive technologies on their smart devices.

The Innovation Library participated in Open Access Week (October 21-27) by hosting a free screening of the documentary *Paywall: The Business of Scholarship*. During Small Business Week, which took place concurrently, the Library held an open house event for local entrepreneurs and small business owners to learn about accessing UBC library electronic resources and getting research help from a librarian. The Innovation Library used this event as an opportunity to promote the UBC Small Business Accelerator to professionals in the Okanagan.

One of the most notable events of the year was the annual Sugarplum Ball, a downtown Kelowna community event celebrating diversity and inclusivity. This year it was co-hosted by the UBC Innovation Library and the downtown Kelowna branch of the Okanagan Regional Library. During the event, the Innovation Library hosted a pop-up makerspace. Over 175 people visited the Innovation Library and engaged with the free photobooth, courtesy of makerspaceUBCO.

The Innovation Library also offered programming targeted towards students studying offcampus. In November, the library held two Procrastination Stations where students could drop by to get help with their research and writing. In addition, the Library offered free activities for students to help them de-stress during exam time.

# makerspaceUBCO

Initiated in 2017, makerspaceUBCO is an inclusive and interdisciplinary learning space located in the EME building. The space serves a hub for innovation, design thinking, and prototyping, focusing heavily on engaging cross-sectorial collaboration within the UBCO community.

Directed by its interdisciplinary steering committee of colleagues and the newly appointed position of makerspace Manager, the space is open to both course-related and personal projects. Since its opening, makerspaceUBCO has hosted over 315 visits in the form of tours, and facilitated more than 900 engagements with design space and technical tools/equipment. In addition to this, through the badging system created for certified use of the space, 1,482 badges have been awarded, indicating 581 unique users of the space.

Serving users from 11 Faculties, 2 campuses and 32 courses, makerspaceUBCO continues to operate in its current form of open shop usage, while planning to offer a

variety of educational and hands on workshops, programs, and maker days in 2020. This variety of usership interaction will delve into both the technical skills needed to operate the equipment in the space as well as design thinking methodology, resulting in an enriched STEAM experience on campus.

# ORL@UBC

Located on the main floor of the Library, ORL@UBC, which has been in operation for just over a year, is a satellite Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) location that offers a rotating leisure reading collection and the opportunity for on-campus holds pickup; in 2019 over 1,800 hold items were retrieved at the UBCO location. The Library also accepts return of ORL materials on campus (over 2,000 were returned this year): these items can be dropped off at the Library's service zone or in Library book drops.

#### Website Redesign

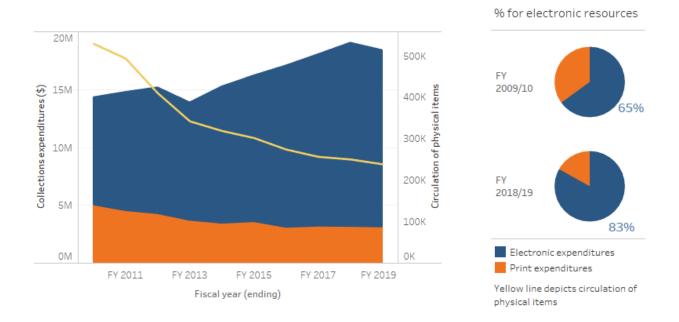
The most popular "space" in the Library, our website represents the Library point of contact most regularly accessed by users. After many years, and in alignment with the launch of the new <a href="http://ok.ubc.ca">http://ok.ubc.ca</a> website, the Library began the process of a major website redesign in 2018. User experience testing took place that Fall, and site inventory and development of content strategy rolled out throughout the remainder of 2018 and early 2019. The new website (<a href="http://library.ok.ubc.ca/">http://library.ok.ubc.ca/</a>) launched in late Summer 2019, and represented just over a year of concentrated work on the part of many Library employees and stakeholders. User feedback about the redesigned site has been overwhelmingly positive since its launch.

# Collections

UBC Okanagan Library circulation represented nearly 29,000 transactions in 2019, including book, audiovisual resource, and technology lending. Our physical collections represent a robust, active working collection of approximately 196,000 volumes, with reliance on the Vancouver campus primarily for access to multiple copies and deep research collections.

Today, **83%** of UBC Library collections funds are spent on licensing or acquiring electronic resources, reflecting the transformation in scholarly dissemination. Loans of physical materials continue to decline while use of electronic content grows, underlining a shift in usage patterns underway for more than a decade.

Across both campuses, UBC Library has adopted an e-preferred purchasing policy, which provides increased online access to materials to both campuses. In addition, the document delivery service moves print collections between campuses on a daily basis.



# UBC Library Collections Expenditures & Circulation of Physical Items (2010-2019)

# Special Collections and Archives

Okanagan Special Collections (OSC) is a vital and growing collection of primary source and special materials related to the Okanagan. It regularly attracts research attention from teaching faculty as well as the community. Notable acquisitions in 2019 include:

- Kelowna Capital News fonds (ca. 600,000 photographs): Kelowna Capital News is a free community newspaper, founded in 1930 and currently published three times weekly. These photographs were captured by staff photographers and document multiple currents of community life in the Okanagan, including notable persons and events. Estimated date range: 1987-1997.
- The Weekly Chronicle of the 47th Overseas Battalion C.E.F. (Vol. 1, No. 1-39). A weekly publication describing events of import at the Vernon Army Camp during WWI. This is a rare collection; the only other discoverable catalogue record pertaining to same belongs to the British Library. Date range: 1915-1916.
- Boulet, Roger. *Walter J. Phillips: The Complete Graphic Works*. Markham, ON: M.B. Loates Publishing, 1981. This limited edition fine art book (177 copies) was donated by the author, who now resides in Summerland. This is the highest-appraised single item currently in OSC.

In 2019, the photographic content of the Simpson Family fonds (OSC flagship archival collection, 2015) was digitized, representing approximately 2,000 images. Ingest into UBC Open Collections and Digitized Okanagan History is currently underway.

2019 also marks OSC's first opportunity to serve as exhibition space owing to the new purpose-built reading room in The Commons. Opening November 2019 was A Queer

*Century*, a rare book and archival collection curated by two members of faculty at UBC Vancouver: Dr. Greg Mackie (English) and Dr. Kyle Frackman (Germanic Studies). Composed of items from UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections, University Archives, and private collections, *A Queer Century* tells stories of the development of analysis and description of sexuality from 1869, when homosexuality was first named as a concept, to 1969, when it was decriminalized in Canada.

OSC has also been instrumental in designing and delivering an experiential learning experience to an intern as part of the Association of Research Library's (ARL) Fellowship for Digital and Inclusive Excellence. This competitive program provides a mode of entry to library and archival practice for undergraduate students who are underrepresented in the profession. Founded in principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and emphasizing digital practice, OSC's involvement with this project has supported substantial student-led projects, and helped cultivate a dynamic of mentorship within the Library.

#### Public Art Program

UBC Okanagan's Public Art Collection has continued to expand by attracting 200 exceptional donations in 2019. Almost all of these are print works on paper, and they have required an enormous amount of research to identify and evaluate. Of note is a historical collection that includes a Rembrandt (dated 1654), as well as Zorn, Hogarth, van Ostade, and Whistler. These works will prove to be valuable assets for teaching and research. Among the more contemporary works were donations of three David Blackwood prints that will complement last year's acquisition of the masterpiece *Fire Down on the Labrador* (1980), given by celebrated Canadian printmaker J. Carl Heywood. Heywood's generosity has also inspired others to donate, leading to an increased interest in our collection and campus. These donations have given us the opportunity to begin to establish significant strength in Canadian and international printmaking, boosting the importance and cultural value of our growing Public Art Collection.

We have seen many new art installations on and off campus this year, one of the most significant of which is a. j. Jaeger's *Wanderlust* (2016), which now resides in The Commons' D. Ross Fitzpatrick Great Hall alongside works in the building ranging from Julie Oakes' large-scale series entitled *Seasoned* to David Wilson's indigenous perspective in three works.

UBC Okanagan's Public Art Curator, Susan Belton, has announced her retirement in March 2020. Susan was the first Curator of the Public Art Collection, and has performed the task of tracking and documenting all pieces in the collection and creating a website to catalogue them. She also established the first Public Art Advisory Committee to review all new acquisitions, and composed a guiding policy for the collection and terms of reference for its annual acquisition awards.

There are now 748 works in the collection; Susan has worked to increase its appraised value from roughly \$132,445 in 2008 to approximately \$1,047,323. This increase is mirrored by a shift in the nature of the collection, with the number of professional artists increasing significantly. In 2008, student works represented 89% of our holdings, while professional works made up only 11%; the professional category now sits at 73%.

For Susan's efforts, she received UBC's Staff Award of Excellence in 2013 for her integration of art into campus life; I thank her personally for all of her contributions, which will enrich the campus experience for many years to come.