



**SFU LIBRARY
HIGHLIGHTS 2018/2019**

SFU LIBRARY



2018 Celebration of Authors at SFU Library

CONTENTS

Message from the Dean	2
Welcome to the SFU Library	3
We Build Capacity	5
We Enhance the Student Experience	7
We Collaborate	9
A Year of SFU Library Engagement	11





MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

SFU LIBRARY

It was my great pleasure over the past year to create and host a series of events called “talk:library,” inviting SFU students to meet over an informal lunch and give direct feedback about the Library and about their lives as students. The SFU Library does not have a formal student advisory group, and I decided to try this less structured approach — I couldn’t have been more impressed by the way students showed up and engaged in the process, and it was a delight to spend time with them!

We are putting the finishing touches on the Maker and Media Commons in Bennett Library as I write this, and we are finalizing big plans for the renewal of Bennett Library through our Master Space Plan. The plan outlines the program for a substantial renovation of this 55 year-old building, to transform it into a contemporary research library that will meet the needs of students and scholars in the digital age, while showcasing and preserving the treasures of our collections.

I was delighted to be reappointed for a second 5-year term as Dean earlier this year. We have many initiatives underway and I am honoured to be invited to continue the work. I will be on leave July – December 2019, and look forward to returning re-energized in January 2020 to embark on five more exciting years working with the outstanding team at SFU Library.





Photo credit: Simon Fraser University

WELCOME TO THE SFU LIBRARY

In person, online, and in the community, the SFU Library cultivates welcoming, inclusive spaces.

In 2018-19 1.7 million people visited the Library's three branches: W.A.C. Bennett Library in Burnaby, Fraser Library in Surrey, and Belzberg Library in Vancouver. Visitors made enthusiastic use of the Library's in-person services, equipment loans, flexible spaces, and broad collection of physical materials. The Library's vast and rich online presence continues to attract more than two million visitors per year. In addition to the 6.7 million electronic articles, e-books and more downloaded in 2018-19, online student support services AskAway and WriteAway saw strong usage over the past year.

Outside its walls and online spaces, the SFU Library strives to foster events in the community that invite human connection and innovative thought. In early 2019 a sold-out audience enjoyed the sincere and often hilarious conversation between Indigenous authors Cherie Dimaline and Eden Robinson at One Book One SFU. SFU Library also welcomed Dean Spade to speak on 'pinkwashing and mainstreaming' at the 2nd annual Dean's Lecture on Information and Society. After this thought-provoking talk, audience members praised the inspiring speaker, and the Dean's Lecture series as a whole.

SFU Library's values of openness, diversity, and creativity are ever-present in its activities. The following page highlights some of the ways the Library advances these values.

We respect and value commonalities and differences across race, sex, gender identity, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, ability, nationality, and religion.



Dean's Lecture 2019 with Dean Spade

OPENNESS

In collaboration with the SFU Graduate Student Society, in 2018 the SFU Library awarded 27 students with the GSS Open Access Award. Given to students who publish their research in open access journals, the award shines a spotlight on the value of disseminating research in an open, publicly accessible manner. To further support open access scholarship, SFU Library awarded this year's Library Travel Scholarship for OpenCon 2018 to Anointing Momoh, a Public Policy student and Director of Graduate Services for the SFU Graduate Student Society. OpenCon brings together a diverse and engaged group of students and early career professionals to learn about and promote Open Access, Open Education, and Open Data.

DIVERSITY

The SFU Dean of Libraries has established a Working Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), which makes recommendations for advancing diversity both internally and externally at the Library. The group's work supports both the Library's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 goal to "Respect and value the diversity of Library staff and work to expand it across multiple dimensions," and aims to incorporate the value of diversity throughout the library. In 2018, the Working Group produced an EDI Action Plan which outlines concrete steps to take in addressing EDI in six core areas: internal training, community engagement, recruitment and retention, collections, physical spaces and services, and technology.

CREATIVITY

Few events bring writers together from such a broad spectrum of disciplines like SFU Library's annual Celebration of Authors. The popular event celebrates the SFU community's creativity, hard work, and innovative contributions. Dr. Hannah McGregor, Assistant Professor in Publishing at SFU was the guest speaker at this year's 13th Celebration of Authors, sharing her remarks and a reading from *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins*, a book of essays challenging injustices that lie at the core of Canadian literature.

betideth youre herte, the politen beten and
 Ioyes, Dremes, dreames, dooth than that
 To faule, preynt your herte, that no paine
 Channe onal the been, yete that alle the
 And cryng, al the been, yete that alle the
 To traunte me my governour in the
 They were to my governour in the
 And the owene clerke everyn, alle the
 Or nevere the owene clerke everyn, alle the
 by temple me upal, they fute ad dret
 And of phelie in celphus, he fute ad dret
 And of my peone, he teem on my
 And with that word in newe compa
 It is brother, he lay north in a
 Dis brought, which that luse of
 Lete I this worful tormet, and to beede
 These be, for me, whether he wol
 honorour.
 In comen boon, and of there
 men.
 That hat thy luse, howe now, thou
 The freshe myght, the worthy man
 Nothing list thee, as his owene
 If any wight had spoke, whi
 To hire of love, he hadde of
 But thought entred, he hadde of
 And thus in love and blisse, I
 And of the alle Aurelius wol I
 In langour and in torment, I
 Two yer, and in I tell.
 Auretyus, and in I tell.
 Er any foot he moore lay
 Ne confort in this I tyme
 noon.
 Save of his brother, which that
 he knew of at this wo, and at
 for to noon oother creature
 Of this matere he dorste no
 Under his brest he dorste no
 than evere dide Pamphilus for
 his brest was hool, withoute
 And in his herte ay, was the
 But men wene that of a surge
 In surgerye is perillous to
 But men myghte touche the
 Til atte laste hym fit in rem
 That whiles he was at Orlens
 As yonge clerkes, that been
 To reden artes that been



“Chaucer shows us we can take something from a period even 650 years ago that is still very relevant to the issues we are grappling with today—inequality, gender, sexual violence, past trauma.”

David Coley, Associate professor, SFU Department of English

WE BUILD CAPACITY

HISTORICAL WORKS RESONATE TODAY

From ornate woodcut illustrations of the 1896 Kelmscott Chaucer, to vibrant DIY posters that were displayed around Vancouver over the last forty years, SFU Library’s Special Collections and Rare Books provides access to distinctive historical works that continue to resonate with scholars today.

The elegant *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, published by Kelmscott Press and known as the Kelmscott Chaucer (pictured left) was generously donated in 2018 by The Turtle Press of Vancouver. Not only do Chaucer’s writings remain relevant for current researchers of literature, the volume is a formidable example of the artistic traditions of bookmaking. In addition to being showcased for staff, faculty, and retirees, the book has been viewed by students in a range of classes from Victorian Literature to Graphic Design.

Special Collections also acquired the Perry Giguere ‘Perry the Poster Man’ collection in 2018 – a fascinating assortment of 35,000 promotional posters that chronicle events that took place in Vancouver since 1978. Once ephemeral, these posters are now preserved at SFU Library and are a valuable resource for those studying the history of grassroots movements, activism and protest, local theater, graphic arts, and much more.

MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE

As part of a community-engaged institution, SFU Library is committed to helping students and faculty share their knowledge in ways that not only academia, but also the public, can understand and make use of. In 2018, SFU Library offered an inaugural series of workshops focused on communicating and disseminating research broadly. Attendance was high and feedback positive; attendee Ranah Chavoshi, MSc candidate, shared: “the Knowledge Mobilization workshop series was useful as it provided me with insight in how to communicate my research effectively. This is important to me as a researcher because science communication is an emerging field in STEM, and by doing it effectively, you can inform the general public and policy decisions.”



Perry Giguere ‘Perry the Poster Man’ Collection in Special Collections – SFU Library

CRITICAL LEARNING AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT

The Student Learning Commons (SLC) at SFU Library helps students develop essential writing, learning, and study skills through consultations, workshops, and events. Since 2012 the SLC has provided online writing assistance to SFU students through WriteAway, a provincial consortium of post-secondary institutions. 2018 was a banner year for the service, which saw a 26% increase in SFU students receiving personalized, high-quality feedback. The SLC’s Conversation Partners program likewise saw a 25% increase in participation in 2018. The program promotes English as an Additional Language students’ socioacademic relationships, enhances their English communication skills and strengthens their satisfaction with educational experiences at SFU.

TRANSFORMING SPACES TO ENHANCE LEARNING

Both the Fraser Library (Surrey) and Belzberg Library (Vancouver) made a number of improvements to student spaces for research, study, and collaboration in 2018. Enhancements at the Fraser Library include a new Research Help consultation space, updated Group Study Rooms and Screening Room, and additional and refreshed study spaces. The Belzberg Library student study environment on the mezzanine level was upgraded by replacing decades old carrels with modern individual workspaces. The SFU Library recognizes that by offering flexible spaces that meet student needs for learning and collaboration, inspiration will follow.



STUDENTS TALK, WE LISTEN

In July 2018 the Library hosted its first talk:library session, an informal open-house event inviting students from all departments to share feedback on the Library. Attendees were enthusiastic, sharing their impressions of what “works” in the Library – such as the breadth of materials available at the Library, the inclusive culture, and the friendly, knowledgeable staff – as well as making suggestions for improvement.

Since this initial session, the Library has hosted talk:library events at all three campuses, inside and outside the libraries. The feedback collected will serve as a useful roadmap as the Library evolves to better meet student needs.

MYRIAD BENEFITS FROM PEER PROGRAM

As primary academic space outside the classroom, the Library offers unique opportunities for students to engage with subject matter in new and meaningful ways. One such opportunity is through the Research Commons Peer Program, which employs a team of graduate students at the Masters or Doctoral level who assist peers in four areas: qualitative data analysis software, research programming and data, digital humanities, and geographic information systems.

Building on the success of the Library’s peer writing, learning, and English as an Additional Language programs offered by the Student Learning Commons, the Peer Program deepens peers’ skills in teaching, communication, facilitation, and software use. The program further fosters engagement by expanding peers’ existing networks of support to include library supervisors. And, the interdisciplinary connections that develop between peers and the faculty and students they assist benefit not only the peers themselves, but also the broader SFU community.

Belzberg Library (SFU Vancouver)



“Overall, my work experience at the Research Commons was extremely positive. I was super satisfied with the level of professionalism in the workplace and the amount of things that I have learned and experienced. It definitely made me ready to take on new responsibilities and look for new challenges in my professional life.”

Mehdi Aminipouri, GIS Graduate Peer Facilitator

WE ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

WE COLLABORATE

"Long before scholars in this country were taking notice of Indigenous contributions to literature, German Canadianist Hartmut Lutz began following the careers of a new generation of Indigenous authors, completing a book of interviews in 1991. For my research project, *The People and the Text*, he has been so helpful, sharing insights and resources. I have to give special credit to SFU Library's Melissa Salrin, who was an excellent partner in helping receive Lutz's library, as well as my two amazing RAs, Métis undergrad Treena Chambers, and Inupiaq undergrad Rachel Taylor."

Dr. Deanna Reder, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of First Nations Studies



NEW COLLECTION OF INDIGENOUS WRITING

Starting with a few tentative email inquiries, a successful collaboration grew in 2018 between SFU First Nations Studies and SFU Library, culminating in the acquisition of an impressive new collection of Indigenous literature. Dr. Deanna Reder, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of First Nations Studies, reached out to the Library when she learned she would be receiving a generous donation from Dr. Hartmut Lutz of 1,000 books by and about Canadian Indigenous authors. While unarguably valuable for her department, Dr. Reder and those she spoke with at the Library saw an opportunity to open the collection to the broader community by including these books in Special Collections.

The Hartmut Lutz Collection of Indigenous Literature was dedicated in June 2018 and includes both scholarly writings on Canadian Indigenous literature and literary representations of Indigenous people from their own perspectives. Some of the titles are signed by the authors; a noted highlight of the collection is an unpublished novel by Inuit artist and writer Alootook Ipellie. Doubtlessly these books will be of high interest to SFU scholars and interested members of the community for years to come.

LINKING COMMUNITY SCHOLARS WITH KEY RESEARCH

The Community Scholars Program was created by SFU Library in 2016 to provide staff on the ground at non-profit and charitable organizations with access to up-to-date academic research. Now supported via a grant from the McConnell Foundation through the BC Collaborative on Social Infrastructure, the program has grown from 100 to 500 Community Scholars. Librarians at SFU, Vancouver Island University, and the University of Northern British Columbia collaboratively support the scholars through workshops and consultations, and scholars in turn are leveraging this growing network to take advantage of special events like journal clubs and brainstorming sessions.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS EVENTS

SFU Library staff frequently share expertise and materials from the collection with campus and community groups to amplify events. Examples in 2018-19 include collaboration with SFU Public Square to produce a recommended reading list for the 2019 Community Summit: *Confronting the Disinformation Age*, support for the creation of a reading room at the Ann Beam and Carl Beam: *Spaces for Reading* exhibition at SFU Gallery, and a partnership with the Contemporary Art Gallery (CAG) to create a library accompanying Jeneen Frei Njootli's solo exhibition *my auntie bought all her skidoos with bead money*. Speaking of the latter, Kimberly Phillips, CAG Curator, shared: "this partnership with SFU Library, which brought together over 100 texts that have informed Frei Njootli's work and politics, aimed to communicate that an artistic practice never develops in isolation but is enlivened by the voices of many others. The temporary reading space at CAG during the exhibition created a space for study, reflection and discussion, and brought the formidable resources at SFU Library into contact with a broad new set of visual art publics."

Ann Beam and Carl Beam, *Spaces for Reading*. Installation view at SFU Gallery, 2019. Photo: Blaine Campbell.

A YEAR OF SFU LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

In-person, online, and in the community, SFU students and scholars actively engage with the SFU Library in a multitude of ways.

DISCOVERY + USE

3.7 mil

visits to the Library's websites

292,774

physical materials borrowed

6.7 mil

digital resources used (includes downloads of articles, e-books, book chapters, database searches)

6,037

interlibrary loan items delivered to users

SPACE

1.7 mil

visits to all SFU Library branches

30,431

study room bookings

256

hours a week

Any typical week, SFU branch libraries are collectively open



Photo credit: Simon Fraser University

LEARNING + SUPPORT

8,119

consultations with library staff

1,424

workshops offered

27,852

individuals attended workshops offered by the Library



21,000

views of SFU Library's YouTube videos



COMMUNITY

27

recipients of the GSS Open Access Award

\$208,686

to support SFU authors publishing their research in Open Access journals

500

Community Scholars (staff at non-profit organizations who have access to academic content through SFU Library)

588



attendees of SFU Library's Celebration of Authors, Dean's Lecture on Information + Society, and One Book One SFU

BUILDING A BETTER LIBRARY

In 2018-19, 396 generous donors contributed

2.06 mil

in support of the SFU Library

Contributions supported library resources and initiatives for students and researchers in a number of areas; top designations include:

\$1.38 mil

in gifts in kind to Special Collections

\$595,800

for the W.A.C. Bennett Library Development Fund to improve resources, pilot new services, and enhance physical spaces

\$47,411

to the Alumni Library Endowment to update learning spaces

\$26,000

for the Community Scholars Program (see pg. 10)



CONNECT WITH US

lib.sfu.ca



@SFU_Library



@SFU_Library

We respectfully acknowledge that Simon Fraser University is located on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱7mesh (Squamish), Səḻílwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and ḵ'iḵ'əłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nations.

SFU LIBRARY