

SFU

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MEMORANDUM —

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** October 29, 2024
FROM Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President, **PAGES** 1/1
Academic and Chair, Senate Library
Committee
RE: Senate Library Committee Annual Report



Please find attached the annual report of the Senate Library Committee and the Library Penalty Appeals Committee. We also include a copy of the Library's annual report in order to share with Senate information about activities of the SFU Library during the past year, beyond what is captured in the SLC report.

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/26348/SFU%20Annual%20report%202024%20web.pdf>

cc:

Senate Library Committee &
Library Penalties Appeal Committee
Annual Reports for 2023/24
(September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024)

Senate Library Committee

MEETINGS

The Senate Library Committee met 3 times during 2023/24:

- November 3, 2023
- February 12, 2024
- June 17, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

November 3, 2023

- D.Rassier, Provost, became the new Chair of the committee
- Update on asbestos abatement work being undertaken on Bennett Library's 5th floor. The floor is closed to staff and users while asbestos is removed. Shelving frames are being replaced to meet current seismic standards and aisle width is being adjusted to meet accessibility standards.
- Discussion of limitations on services at Bennett Library along with closure of Belzberg and Fraser Library during TSSU strike in October.
- Discussion of plans for the Library's upcoming External Review. The last one was conducted in 2017. Committee members will be invited to meet with reviewers when they are on site.
- Update on library collection expenditures. There have been significant increases in costs for both print and e-books. To balance the budget and maintain current subscription commitments, book lines were slightly reduced this year. The library is also looking at other cost saving measures.

February 12, 2024

- Discussion of library and service hours. At start of 2024, hours were reduced at all three libraries due to staff shortages arising from SFU hiring freeze and the library's budget cut.
- Report on the Coast Salish ceremony that was held to officially open the Indigenous Curriculum Resource Center on Bennett Library's 4th floor in mid-January.
- The committee endorsed the revised SFU Library Collection Policy. This policy will be reviewed as required, at a minimum every 5 years.
- Presentation of results from the comprehensive user survey in the library ran in November 2023 to hear directly from students, faculty and staff. The survey results will be used to create an action plan for the Library.
- The committee voted to support the changes to the Central Open Access Fund

June 17, 2024

- Discussion of the [Collection Cost Reduction Plan](#) that was created to provide transparency on the decision-making process and reductions made to the library collection, in response to budget pressures.
- The committee supported the allocation of the collections budget which had an overall reduction of 8%.
- The External Review Report and Action Plan were reviewed by the committee and forwarded to SCUP.
- Discussion of the Library's input into the next Academic Plan at SFU. Last fall's user survey and the recent external review report are being used as two sources of input for this planning document.
- Report on the opening of the Dick Kouwenhoven Book Arts Studio in Bennett Library in May 2024. The studio has been receiving substantial interest from academic departments around SFU.
- Update on the search for the next Dean of Libraries/University Librarian, as G.Bird's second term is coming to an end.

Senate Library Committee Membership, 2023/24

Gwen Bird, Dean of Libraries/University Librarian

Valorie Crooks, Associate Vice-President, Research and International

Harkirat Walia, Undergraduate Representative

Cristina Eftenaru, Senator

Kate Elliott, Graduate Representative

Michael Everton, Faculty of Art and Social Sciences

Roger Frie, Education (*Effective June 1, 2024*)

Mark Jordan, Associate Dean of Libraries

Yolanda Koscielski, Librarian Representative

Daniel Leznoff, Senator

Ward McLean, Library Staff Representative

Mary O'Brien, Graduate Studies

Stuart Peacock, Health Sciences (*Effective June 1, 2024*)

Geoffrey Poitras, Business

Jane Pulkingham, Senior Advisor, Academic Affairs – Chair (*effective September 11, 2024*)

Dilson Rassier, Provost – Chair (*till September 10, 2024*)

Michèle Schmidt, Education (*till May 31, 2024*)

Judy Smith, Lifelong Learning Representative

Susie Smith, Recording Secretary

Scott Steedman, Communication, Art & Technology

Ljiljana Trajkovic, Applied Science

Harkirat Singh Walia, Undergraduate Representative

Vance Williams, Science

Aaron Fung, Alternate Undergraduate Representative

Senate library Committee/Library Penalties Appeal Committee (SLC/LPAC)

Annual Report for September 2023 – August 2024

Since June 2023, the library has had two unresolved library penalty appeals.

On May 3, 2024, the LPAC committee chair proposed, and the library has approved, granting full appeals for both cases.

- 1 Alumnus – \$30 late fine
- 1 Undergraduate student – \$96 late fine

This decision is informed by the amount of time elapsed since the appeals were submitted and the library's decision not to seek reimbursement in these cases. This was discussed over the phone between the Chair and the Ex-officio secretary and emailed to the committee. The patrons were informed of the decision and fines and penalties were waived accordingly.

Going forward under a new chair and secretary as of September 2024, this committee will convene in a more timely manner to consider appeals soon after they are filed with the library.

Other Business

There were two (2) new individuals elected by acclamation to the both the Senate Library and Library Penalties and Appeals Committees:

- Aaron Fung, Undergraduate Rep (Alternate)
- Pok Man Tong, Graduate Rep (Alternate)

LPAC Membership 2023/2024

Chair -- Elected by and from voting members of the Committee

Danny Leznoff, Senator at Large (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Cristina Eftenaru, Senator at Large (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Harkirat Singh Walia, Undergraduate Rep (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Aaron Fung, Undergraduate Rep (Alternate) (*effective until May 31, 2026*)

Kate Elliot, Graduate Rep (*effective until May 31, 2025*)

Pok Man Tong, Graduate Rep (Alternate) (*effective until May 31, 2026*)

Mark Christensen, Ex-Officio, Secretary (non-voting)

Terms that expired this year

Anastasiya Zhukova, Undergraduate Rep (Alternate) (*effective until May 31, 2024*)

SFU LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS 2023/2024





Catherine Hernandez, author of *The Story of Us*, in conversation with Jillian Christmas at One Book One SFU 2024.

W.A.C. Bennett Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skw̱xwú7mesh (Squamish), səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), and kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem) Nations.

Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library is located on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skw̱xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library is located on the lands of the q̓ícəy (Katzie), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), qʷə:nɬən (Kwantlen), Səmyáma (Semiahmoo), and sc̓əwaθən (Tsawwassen) Nations.

Acknowledging the benefits of occupying this land, the Library commits to becoming a more welcoming space for Indigenous Peoples by centring Indigenous voices in our collections, services, and programs.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I am delighted to share this report featuring highlights from 2023-2024 at the SFU Library. It is always rewarding to look back on the year and reflect on the many ways the Library supports student learning, advances research, sparks creativity, and brings together the campus and broader community. This year has been no exception.

We hosted a stellar evening with Dr. Safiya Noble at the Dean's Lecture on Information and Society in November. We launched a highly popular orientation series for faculty on managing research data. We hung beautiful Coast Salish weavings in the Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre, and officially opened that space according to protocols of the local host Nations. We surveyed our community and received invaluable feedback to inform our services and planning. And we continued with our successful Community Scholars program and Non-Fiction Writer in Residence. You will find details about many of our activities in these pages.

My second five-year term as Dean of Libraries will come to an end in September 2024. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the community in this role for ten years, and to lead the outstanding team in the libraries. While there has been much change during this time, the core functions of the library remain steadfast—providing diverse, enduring collections, offering inspiring space for study, reflection and research, providing access to current technology, and marshalling the expertise of library faculty and staff. As always, we are deeply grateful for your support of our work.

Gwen Bird,
Dean of Libraries



WELCOME TO SFU LIBRARY

OPEN FOR RESEARCH
OPEN FOR LEARNING
OPEN FOR COLLABORATION

Authors and guests, including featured speaker Dr. Julia Smith, joined us at our 2024 Celebration of SFU Authors, celebrating the creative and academic publications of the SFU community.

Throughout the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Simon Fraser University Library held an integral role in the learning, teaching, and research of the university through development of rich collections, provision of expertise to SFU students, faculty, staff, and the SFU community, and curation of spaces for learning, collaboration, and creativity.

Our inclusive spaces include our robust online platforms, and our three physical branches, the W.A.C. Bennett Library at SFU Burnaby, the Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library at SFU Vancouver, and the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library at SFU Surrey. The Digital Library Services team regularly improves the accessibility of our website – visited 4.11 million times over the year – including ensuring our online content and our booking tools are accessible for users with screen readers and visual disabilities. As renovations on the fifth floor of Bennett Library continue, as well as the expansion of learning spaces in Fraser Library, we look forward to welcoming the SFU community into them soon. Within our online and physical spaces, we build and curate deep and responsive collections, champion open educational resources and open scholarship, and build partnerships across campus and in the community. Through our comprehensive instruction and consultation programs, we provide critical expertise to students, staff, and faculty in areas of research, writing, academic learning, pedagogy, and scholarship. We also host writers and speakers in lively, engaging public events; this year included Safiya Noble, Catherine Hernandez, and Chelene Knight.

We continue to move forward on our three-year strategic plan (2022-2024), which calls on us to reflect and reorient ourselves around five priority approaches: relationships and community, reconciliation and decolonization, evidence-informed decision-making, equity, and climate action. As we make progress with this work, our enriching partnerships, responsive collections, and indispensable expertise reflect how SFU Library continues to advance the learning, research, and creativity of the SFU community.



The Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre at Bennett Library hosts four weavings from Coast Salish artists and weavers, including from left to right: Debra Sparrow (Musqueam Nation) and Angela George (Squamish Nation).

Photograph by Rachel Topham Photography

ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE



Fostering undergraduate excellence

The Library enables the academic success of SFU's undergraduate students by providing key writing, learning, and research services, including workshops, consultations, and self-help tutorials and guides. This expertise from the Student Learning Commons and the Research Help team aims to empower students with critical skills to build robust learning strategies, to find and evaluate information, and to communicate their ideas effectively – both during their academic studies and as global citizens.

"I struggle with references and have tried asking plenty of times. ... I did attempt to do it on my own but I know I didn't have it correct all the way through. Today I received help that helps me learn to eventually do it on my own."

- Undergraduate student using AskAway online chat for research help

Highlights from our library user survey

In November 2023, we asked the SFU community to share feedback on the Library's services, spaces, and resources, providing a rich source of data to inform library operations and planning. Here's what we heard from our users!

1,468 responses, including:

From all SFU faculties

From all campus locations

From undergrads, graduate students, faculty, & sessional instructors

Where we are doing well

Reliable answers to questions

Help is available from library staff when needed

In-person services are meeting our community's needs



Biggest priorities for improvement

Quiet study spaces

Online search experience

Ensuring our information resources meet our users' needs



What have we done, and what else are we going to do?



Added more Bring-Your-Own-Device stations in all libraries

Continue to improve search experience and access to resources

Using all of the responses to inform our planning and decision-making, including in operations, services, spaces, and communication



BELZBERG & FRASER LIBRARIES

In the heart of the city: Belzberg Library

Located in busy downtown Vancouver, the Samuel and Frances Belzberg Library welcomes students, faculty, and members of the community to browse the collection and use the popular computer stations and study spaces. The collection's focus on contemporary arts and urban design supports students and researchers in unique Vancouver campus programs. Offering floor-to-ceiling views onto busy sidewalks, Belzberg provides a quiet oasis for study, research, and relaxation.



In the bustling city centre: Fraser Library

Located within the Central City complex in Surrey's downtown core with views northwards to Civic Plaza and local mountains, Fraser Valley Real Estate Board Academic Library is a robust, growing hub for students and researchers. In addition to work and study space and computer stations, the library offers a games room as well as unique collections such as video games, board games, and camera and video equipment to support design and technology programs. Fraser Library is a welcoming spot for studying and research as well as relaxation and finding community.



ADVANCING LEARNING & RESEARCH



"The undergraduate research symposium was not only an opportunity for me to go through the entire research process from formulating a research question to presenting my findings, but it was also an opportunity to learn about the different passions of my peers. As we are all early in our journeys to becoming scholars, it is important to have platforms like the SFU UGRS where we can present, learn, collaborate, and create meaningful connections."

- Hitika Gosal, BSc candidate, Health Sciences

Celebrating interdisciplinary undergraduate research

Returning as an in-person event for the first time since 2019, the Undergraduate Research Symposium (UGRS) is a university-wide showcase and celebration of the diverse, high-quality undergraduate research at SFU. Co-coordinated by the Library, SFU's Graduate Studies, and the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, the event featured 59 undergrads from across disciplines sharing their research activities in short presentations as part of faculty-moderated panels and in research posters. Following the event, the student research was published in the [UGRS's online open access journal](#), and posters were exhibited in the Library.

Participating undergrads were guided through the process of proposal submission, acceptance, and preparation, offering them academic conference experience in a non-competitive and supported environment. The program also increases their skills in research communication and scholarly publishing, fosters interdisciplinary connections, and hopes to inspire them to pursue graduate school at SFU.



Creating a supportive space for exam-time studying and relaxing

In spring 2023, Cynthia Wright, a learning strategist and coordinator of the Student Learning Commons (SLC) in Surrey, transformed the SLC space in Fraser Library into a chill, cozy space to relax and study – or nap – during exams. Providing comfortable seating, low lights, LoFi music, and a tea and hot chocolate station, the SLC Chill Lounge also offered activities for de-stressing and relaxation such as colouring books and puzzles. The space was so popular with students that Wright has continued the tradition every exam period – and the Chill Lounge has even expanded to Bennett Library on Burnaby campus.

For Wright, this is a way of acknowledging students during periods of academic stress as well as supporting and sustaining student success and wellness: "A place to be supported in both their studying, but also in achieving balance between their studies and mental/physical/emotional health." As one example of the positive impact of the space, a student commented: "This has been one of the hardest terms for me, but this place is single handedly getting me through my 4 finals. THANK YOU!!!!"

Enabling the digital repatriation of the Tse'K'wa archive

More than fifty years of archaeological knowledge and scholarship about Tse'K'wa, an ancestral site of the Dane-zaa people for over 12,500 years, [is now available online](#) in Summit, SFU's institutional research repository. Working with Jon Driver, a professor in archaeology, the Library has been supporting the project since 2018. Summit, which is coordinated by the Library, was a natural platform for this large, multifaceted collection, including primary records from excavations, such as maps and photographs, descriptive data sets, and more.

"The digital archive is a triumphant example of digital repatriation," shared Alyssa Currie, executive director of the Tse'K'wa Heritage Society, in an article on SFU News. "It will greatly enhance our ability to provide access to the collection and will strengthen, not replace, the physical repatriation process." As the physical collection is returned to Tse'K'wa, the Library will continue to host the open access digital archive, ensuring persistent public and research access to these significant materials and knowledge.

The Somewhere in Dreamland exhibit in Spring 2024 featured SFU Publishing students' work on display in all three branches of the library, investigating formats, forms, and content of publishing and publications.

GROWING COLLECTIONS AND CAPACITY

Taking steps toward open access with transformative contracts with publishers

SFU Library's read-and-publish agreements with academic publishers, also known as transformative agreements, enable SFU authors to save on open access publishing charges and represent a significant step towards a more equitable landscape for scholarly publishing. These agreements provide SFU researchers waivers or discounts on author processing charges or APCs (fees authors are required to pay in order to publish in many open access publications), saving SFU authors over \$459,000 in 2023. With new agreements with Elsevier and Oxford University Press joining our existing agreements, the opportunities and benefits to SFU authors are considerable.

However, the agreements themselves are not a solution to the global problem of paywalled research and the barriers to open access publishing. "They should be a temporary measure," explained Mar González Palacios, associate dean of collections and content strategy; the agreements allow libraries to financially support the transition of journals from a subscription-based model to open access. They also perpetuate inequities in scholarly publishing, as the discounts are only available to researchers affiliated with institutions that can pay for the agreements. We're proud to enable open access SFU research through these agreements now, but we will look for opportunities to contribute to advancing a more equitable scholarly publishing ecosystem.

Preparing for research and learning at SFU's new medical school

As the university prepares to open a new medical school at the Surrey campus, pending accreditation, with a first class joining in Fall 2026, the Library has been integral to the development and decision-making. Incoming students, faculty, and staff will require specialized library spaces, collections, and resources, and we envision a new branch of the library to act as a central hub and catalyst for student-centered learning, interdisciplinary research collaboration, and enriched community-building. The new school will also necessitate a rich and responsive medical collection for students, staff, and faculty, including clinical faculty. This new library, with its innovative technology and collection, will be an active partner in teaching and learning, as well as in the life cycle of research and scholarship, including planning, discovery, knowledge mobilization, publication, and lifelong learning skills for new physicians.

Promoting writing for public audiences

Award-winning author, editor, and creative coach Chelene Knight joined the Library as our 2024 Non-Fiction Writer in Residence. Offering popular manuscript coffee chats, and a series of practical workshops on non-fiction writing, Chelene's activities helped SFU students and faculty to develop skills to share their stories and research with public audiences.

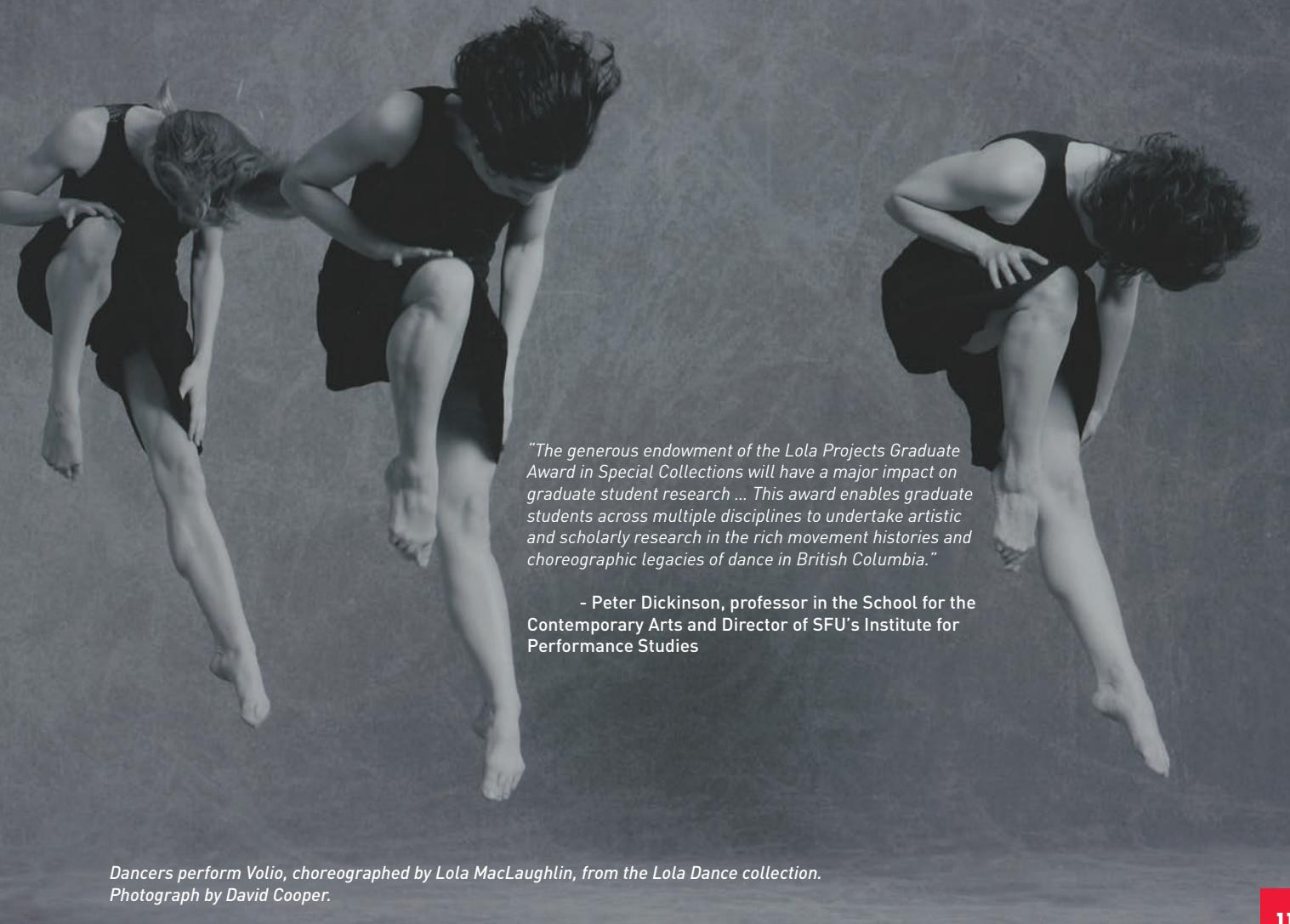
A new home for a unique Vancouver-focused multimedia dance archive

Special Collections and Rare Books is now home to the archive of Lola MacLaughlin, a renowned experimental and interdisciplinary dancer and choreographer, generously donated by SFU alumnus Tony Giacinti. Also an SFU alumnus, MacLaughlin was an inventive and well-respected figure in the Vancouver arts community, and the founder and artistic director of Lola Dance and co-founder of EDAM (Experimental Dance and Music). Her rich personal archive includes behind the scenes and performance photos, video recordings, documents related to the administration of her innovative dance company, her professional life, and more.

The archival donation is supported by a generous gift from Giacinti that will ensure a \$2000 annual award for graduate students working with our dance and movement archival collections. Joining our existing dance-related collections, the multimedia materials in the Lola Dance collection offer a new array of materials for students and researchers interested in dance, choreography, performance, theatre, movement studies, and the history of dance.



Photo credit: John McRae



Dancers perform *Volio*, choreographed by Lola MacLaughlin, from the *Lola Dance* collection.
Photograph by David Cooper.

"The generous endowment of the Lola Projects Graduate Award in Special Collections will have a major impact on graduate student research ... This award enables graduate students across multiple disciplines to undertake artistic and scholarly research in the rich movement histories and choreographic legacies of dance in British Columbia."

- Peter Dickinson, professor in the School for the Contemporary Arts and Director of SFU's Institute for Performance Studies



EXPANSION AND GROWTH

Students in the Media and Maker Commons, our collaborative, hands-on makerspace in Bennett Library, have opportunities to make, create, and play.

Building the Future

In 2023-24, 349 generous donors contributed 1,715 gifts, valuing \$1,660,246, in support of SFU Library including:



\$368,362

value of gifts in kind to Special Collections and Rare Books

\$12,678

to the WAC Bennett Fund to improve resources, pilot new services, and enhance physical spaces

\$29,834

to the Alumni Library Endowment to update student learning spaces

\$57,900

pledged from Anthony Giacinti to create the Lola Projects Graduate Award in Special Collections Endowment

\$277,030

in donations and gifts in kind to create, preserve, and activate the CBC Writers & Company archive

Spotlight: expansive usage of our digital collections

4.2M

digital items used (includes downloads of articles, ebooks, book chapters)

Over
151

digital items accessed per student and faculty member



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*Installation at Belzberg Library, in collaboration with SFU Galleries:
"who claims abstraction? Echoes from the SFU Art Collection."*

Photo credit: Rachel Topham Photography