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Be a Friend

Norma Mickelson

The UVic Library needs you – so why not be a friend? Recently, a new group was formed – Friends of UVic Libraries. As the second largest research library in British Columbia and the largest on Vancouver Island our library supports learning and research for all those at UVic – staff, students and faculty to say nothing of many members of the community. Friends of UVic Libraries are ~~ded~~ded to enriching the Libraries' resources, ensuring the excellence of academic programs and extending cultural and intellectual resources to the community.

By becoming a Friend, you help with acquisitions and with supporting innovative projects in library technology and information access. You will also receive the newsletter and will be invited to various library events such as workshops, library tours and Friends sponsored

Renovations at the McPherson Library

Wendie McHenry, Projects and Planning Librarian

For more than a decade, the McPherson Library has struggled to provide services in an overcrowded environment. Built in 1964 and expanded in 1974, the building was designed for 7,000 students, whereas enrollment now exceeds 18,000. Growth of the print collection combined with electronic developments has strained the library's capacity. Through study and consultation, including input from staff, faculty and students, the University of Victoria developed a plan for renovation and expansion of the facility.

Minor Capital Funding provided the means to renovate portions of the basement, the second, the third, and most recently, the first floor. Each phase included seismic upgrading, lighting, ventilation and fire suppression. These renovations are designed to fit in with the future building plan as well as complement the original architecture of the library.

First floor renovations centralize high use services to the building core: the Loan/Reserve Desk, the discharge area, the McPherson Gallery and the Map Library have been relocated to enhance visibility of all service points on one side of the floor. The main corridor is now opened up to reduce traffic congestion, combining the entrance and exit. A central reference desk, an electronic classroom and new Gateway workstations form the first phase of the Information Commons. Comfortable seating and study tables in the former loan desk area balance the need for quiet study on the floor. In addition to these changes, new finishings, lighting, flooring and furniture create a warm and welcoming environment.

Once funding is available, the next phase in first floor renovations will include moving current periodicals forward and expanding the Information Commons throughout the remaining floor area. Group study and resource rooms for students with disabilities are also planned.



The new Reference Desk and part of the Information Commons



The new Loan Desk and Reserve Reading area



Renovations in progress at McPherson Library

With the many challenges inherent in renovating, we at UVic feel fortunate that the McPherson Library is such a solid, attractive building. Careful planning makes it possible to "link new spaces with old as well as linking the library of the future with the library traditions of the past." (The New McPherson Library Preliminary Program of Requirements Report, June 30, 2000, p. 6)

With the completion of the latest phase of the first floor, several objectives have been met:

- x increased visibility and access to service points on the main floor
- x moved Map Library into McPherson building
- x reduced congestion
- x created an Information Commons
- x improved staff work areas
- x established balance of quiet and active space
- x updated work stations
- x increased and improved study spaces
- x upgraded technological infrastructure