

noteworthy

news from the university of toronto libraries

Fall 2023



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1973—2023

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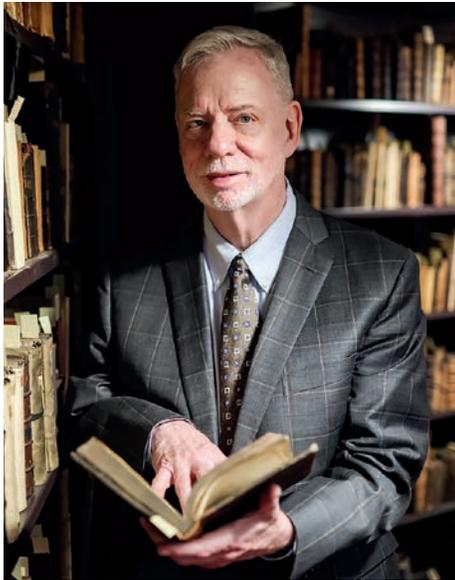
Cover: Fifty years of foot traffic at Robarts Library. University of Toronto Archives. Robert Lansdale Photography Fonds. B1998-0033/741055 [LAN741055-016]. Composite photo by Hanna Borodina.



**50 Years of
Robarts Library**

See our digital exhibit!

<https://features.library.utoronto.ca/robarts50/>



For half a century, Robarts Library has been a place of connection—a place where we share ideas and spark new ones, preserve and create knowledge in every field, retell our stories and reimagine our future.

This milestone anniversary is an occasion to reflect on the enduring legacy of our libraries and the pivotal role they have played in advancing the academic mission of the University of Toronto.

Over the course of five decades, Robarts has served as a flagship for the University of Toronto Libraries, the leading research library system in Canada and a stand-out leader among research libraries globally.

In our fractious digital age, the library stands as one of our most vital democratic institutions. Far more than a repository of knowledge, the modern library is a firewall against rising online disinformation and distortion. Our library system is also a preserver of our collective cultural memory, and the catalyst for collaborative discoveries in health, science, social justice, and many

other disciplines crucial to solving pressing global challenges.

The University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) is the driving force behind why U of T remains one of the world’s great research institutions, making a lasting impact in nearly every field. Drawing on one of the largest collections of its kind, UTL not only provides the lifeblood of U of T’s groundbreaking research, teaching, and innovation, but it also circulates critical and enlightening information through a variety of materials to learners in our community and beyond. It ensures we don’t lose sight of what’s gone before.

By supporting UTL, you’re safeguarding a fundamental democratic institution at a time when it’s more critical than ever to preserve the knowledge and truths society needs to thrive. You’re making a foundational impact across the entire U of T community and beyond, fuelling the leading-edge work of students and researchers as they take on the great challenges of our time. You’re elevating the student experience by supporting open, inclusive, and inviting spaces where they can access one of the world’s great collections of knowledge. Furthermore, you are empow-

ering one of the largest research libraries to preserve and re-examine our collective past, explore dynamic new ways to showcase unheard perspectives in our present, and set a global example for how libraries can bring together bright minds and innovative technologies to shape our future and uphold what we know to be true.

As we come together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Robarts Library, I wish to thank you for the friendship and support you’ve shown the library—it continues to be needed, and now more than ever.

For the University of Toronto community, Robarts has always been more than an iconic building—it’s the symbolic heart of the University, bringing together everyone from every discipline to help make lasting change around the world. It is with great enthusiasm and immense pride that I invite you to discover in the pages of this issue of *Noteworthy* what Robarts means to the University of Toronto, and how you can help it thrive for another 50 years and beyond.

Larry P. Alford

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From Fort Book to the Heart of Campus: 50 years of Robarts Library

Famously called ‘Fort Book’ and nominated on social media as the ugliest building in Toronto by readers of the *Toronto Star*, the fortress-like John P. Robarts Research Library, built in the Brutalist architectural style, has inspired equal measures of disdain and admiration. Robarts seems to evoke strong emotions in everyone who sees or visits it; generations of students and researchers have used the building, some of whom cherish fond memories while others may not share the same sentiment.

This retrospective look at Robarts Library is based on a special anniversary exhibition.

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Some content was adapted from the previous exhibitions, *University of Toronto Libraries at 125* and *Forty Years of Fort Book: The Story of Robarts Library*.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

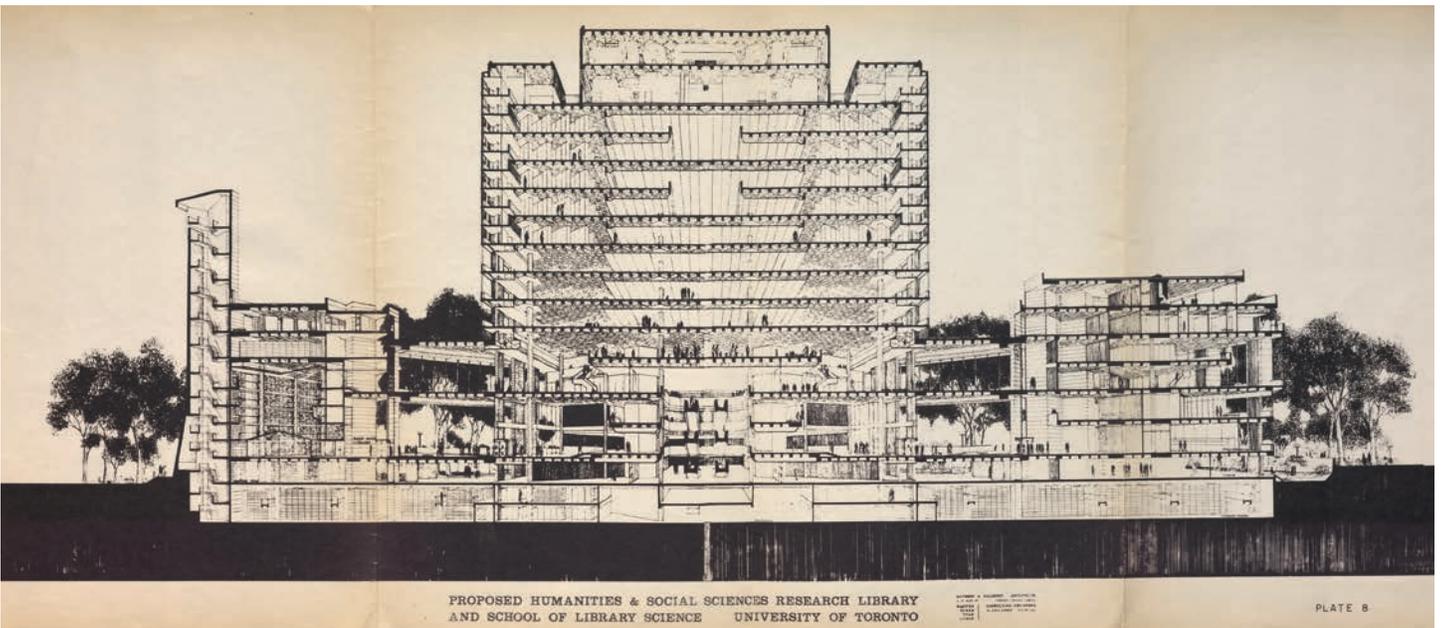
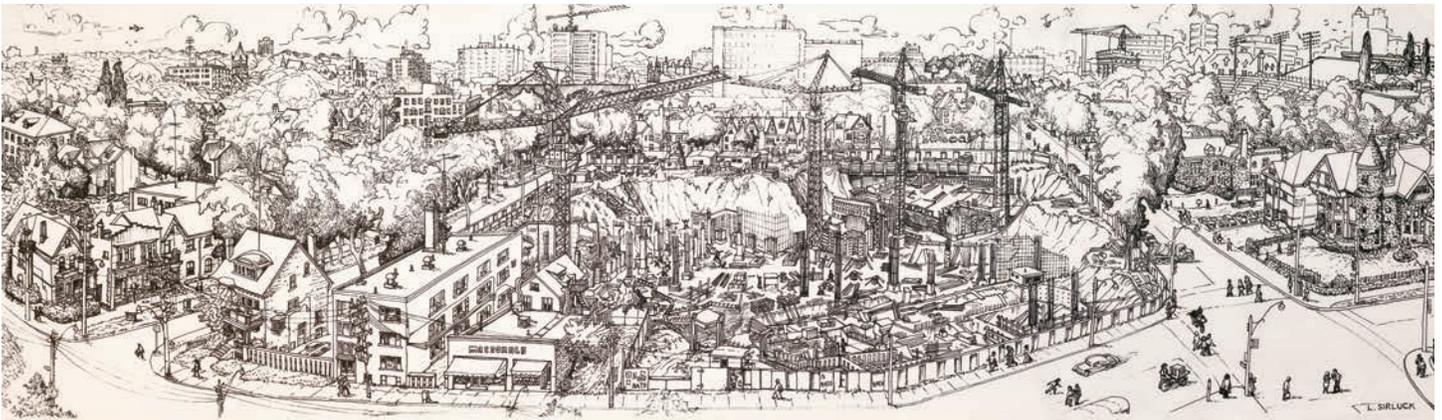
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The Roberts Library complex opened in the fall of 1973 to accommodate the arrival of the post-war 'Baby Boom' on the University of Toronto campus. At the time, it was the largest academic library building in the world, covering 1,036,000 square feet, housing nearly 3 million volumes, and providing space for 4,100 users.

Over time, Roberts Library has undergone renovations and expansions to improve accessibility, incorporate technology, and meet the changing needs of users. The library has witnessed student protests and labour disputes, adapted its spaces and programming in line with evolving research practices, incorporated new disciplines into the collection, developed innovative services, and responded to social and technological changes and disruptions.

This exhibition celebrates and reflects on the remarkable history of Roberts Library over the past 50 years. The exhibit brings

the viewer on a journey through topics including the library's architecture, its controversial design and major renovation milestones, how the library both shaped and responded to social change, its significance as a centre for technological innovation, and the individuals who have dedicated their time and resources to make this place what it is—as donors, library leaders, workers and students. Built to last, no doubt, Roberts' evolution will continue as the University grows and evolves, and the nature of research and learning does, as well.

Roberts Library is built on the land of Tkaronto, which is commonly called Toronto. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and is the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. It remains the home of many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We recognize the ongoing harms of imposed

colonial knowledge structures and values in our library system and how Roberts Library has participated in and contributed to these harms. Echoing the Library's Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Statement, we seek to build and improve relationships with Indigenous communities to better understand our obligations and responsibilities. We seek to carry out the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the Canadian Federation of Library Association's Truth and Reconciliation Committee's recommendations.

Top: Sketch of Roberts Library under construction, ca. 1969, by Leslie Sirluck. [UoT Archives, B1993-0026/001P] • Bottom: Cross section of the proposed Social Sciences & Research Library and School of Library Science by Mathers & Haldenby Architects. [UoT Archives, B2010-0029/001(03)]



Robarts Library: A Brutalist Masterpiece

Planning for the construction of a new social sciences and humanities library at the University of Toronto (U of T) began in the early 1960s, driven by an increasing student population and supported by President Claude Bissell and Chief Librarian Robert H. Blackburn. Initially, the University had planned to expand only one of its existing libraries, but the growing student population had begun to put a strain on library collections and increase the demand for research and study space.

In 1962, President Bissell asked the group responsible for managing the library space—the Users' Committee on the Central Library—to plan for a new library building that would be capable of serving the needs of the University for at least the next 50 years.

By 1965, New York design firm Warner, Burns, Toan and Lunde had been selected

to oversee the design of a new library building alongside Toronto-based firm Mathers and Haldenby. Selecting the area bordered by St. George and Harbord Streets for the location of the future library, the User's Committee chose the now-familiar Brutalist triangle design for the building, with hexagonal wings for the Rare Book Library and School of Library Science.

Robarts Library was one of many modern concrete institutional buildings constructed in the Brutalist style on university campuses across Canada in the 1960s and 1970s. The scale and rawness of this architectural style was considered controversial even at the time of its design.

In 1967, President Bissell declared that the new library would be U of T's Canadian Centennial project and construction began in November of 1968. The School of Library Science was completed in 1971 and the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library in 1972. By the summer of 1973, at a final cost of \$42 million dollars, the entire library complex was complete. The library

was named after John P. Robarts, the former Premier of Ontario, who had done much to secure provincial funding for the library.

Upon opening, the John P. Robarts Research Library complex covered 1,036,000 square feet. With room for 4,100 patrons, the building housed nearly 3 million volumes on more than 50 linear miles of shelving. President Bissell summed up what the new library meant to the University, proclaiming, "the building of the library was the final, climactic stage in the development of higher learning at the University of Toronto."

Space within the library was quickly adapted by staff to fit user needs and make room for new collections. The Map Library (now the Map and Data Library) and the East Asiatic Studies Library (now the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library) moved into spaces within the building in 1974. A large coat check area—an original feature designed to reduce theft—was abandoned to make room for administrative workspace.



From Book Space to People Space

In the 1990s, factors including the need to make Robarts more accessible for all users, increased enrolment, changing student needs, emerging technology, and the toll that time and heavy use had taken on its interiors, prompted the library to adapt and renovate its spaces. However, with budgets limited by provincial government austerity, the administration needed to be creative with how and what kind of renovations they would be able to accomplish.

A major architectural challenge for the library was its lack of accessibility for both users and staff. The staircases leading to the second-floor entrances were very difficult, if not impossible, to use for persons with disabilities. Visitors and staff described the open-air areas outside the second-floor entrances as wind tunnels, particularly on stormy winter days.

Out of frustration at the inaction of the University, in 1993 the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) instituted a levy paid by their members to create an

entrance on the first floor of the library — a first step toward addressing the accessibility challenges. In connection with the entrance change, circulation services were moved from the fourth floor to the first floor of the library, and the Map Library was relocated from the first floor to the fifth floor. Although the opening of the first floor entrance was a positive move for accessibility, it did create challenges with navigation in the building. The first-floor entrance was obscured by the architecture, leading many users to continue entering the building from the second floor.

The next big step in Robarts' evolution began in 1995 with the development of the Information Commons (IC) on the first floor, which provided computing and technology services and facilities to the U of T community. In November of 1997, the Information Commons was renamed the Scotiabank Information Commons, for that bank's \$2 million dollar gift in support of its expansion, which included 60 new computer workstations, scanners and printers.

In 2008 Chief Librarian Carole Moore announced The Robarts Renewal and

Expansion Plan. By 2011, when the final phase of the renewal was complete, the apexes in the stack floors had been renovated to bring in more light and create additional study spaces. The Map and Data Library had reopened along with an expanded study area and a rearranged space for the government publications collection. Media Commons, housing material related to Canadian and international media on the third floor, had been expanded. The windswept porticos on the second floor had been enclosed, and a new staircase had been added to the entrance of the Fisher Library. Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, Robarts Common officially opened in August 2022, adding 1,200 much-needed study spaces. Finally, the renovation of the main reading rooms brought the Robarts revitalization plan to fruition.

After 50 years, Robarts Library had completed its journey from a collection-centred research facility to a user-centred space, and is poised to enter its next 50 years ready to adapt to the evolving needs of the U of T community while anticipating new developments in digital research, scholarship, teaching and learning.



Activism and Labour

At the time of the design and construction of Robarts Library, the University of Toronto was a centre for social change and activism, which extended to the library before it even opened its doors. In early 1972, with the library still under construction, University administration planned that stack access would be granted only to faculty, graduate students and fourth-year undergraduate students. All other students would need to request that books be retrieved for them by staff.

The Students' Administrative Council (SAC) rejected this plan and demanded equal access for all students. On March 11, 1972, student protesters occupied the Senate Chamber in Simcoe Hall. While 25 students were forcibly removed by the Toronto police two days later, the advocates ultimately achieved their goal, as Acting President Jack Sword agreed to their demand for equal access.

In the fall of 1975, the library was the site of the first strike by the newly established Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1230, formed to represent and protect the labour rights of its membership—full-time, part-time, and student casual workers at the library. With its collective agreement due to expire, CUPE 1230 pressed for a new agreement that would include protection against layoffs

and contracting out of jobs, and allow for seniority-based promotions, monthly time allowances to attend union meetings, and wage increases. The three-week strike led to an agreement, but lingering issues remained.

The 1970s were also pivotal years for librarians at the University. Shortly after the formal establishment of CUPE, the Librarians' Association of the University of Toronto (LAUT) was formed, establishing a professional body to represent librarians and "to promote the welfare of the libraries, librarians, and other library staff of the University of Toronto."

In 1974, Chief Librarian Robert Blackburn was presented with a memorandum signed by 15 members of the Robarts Reference Department. The memorandum made several recommendations related to gender pay equity and managerial hierarchy. It was fuelled, in part, by the unfair treatment of the Head of the Reference Department, Anne Woodsworth. Woodsworth, who upon learning that her salary was lower than male administrators in similar roles, asked for a salary adjustment, was denied, and decided to resign. Her resignation was rejected and Woodsworth was fired, which caused deep resentment within the Reference Department, helping trigger what has been referred to as the 'Reference Revolution'. Ultimately, this revolt was spurred by the library's outdated governance structure and management style, concerns about the status of women, and

the absence of women in senior management positions. The University implemented several important changes in response to the Reference Revolution, including a review of library operations based on principles from the Association of Research Libraries, and establishing new committees to examine policies and procedures in the library.

Moving into the 1980s, library administration and workers were again conflicted over issues brought on by the dual pressures of budgetary austerity and emerging technology. By March of 1991, CUPE 1230 was once again threatening to strike. The union was frustrated by long delays in grievance procedures, unresolved concerns with the reclassification of positions and pay equity and worries about the impact on library workers of automation and technology. Negotiations throughout the spring and summer were contentious, and, unable to come to an agreement, CUPE workers went on strike for 14 weeks in the spring of 1991. The strike ended when the union voted to settle and return to work. While not all its demands were met, many of the contentious issues around the grievance procedures had been resolved, and CUPE 1230 had established itself as a powerful voice for library workers.

Student protest sign. [UofT Archives, B1998-003/721064.11] Student protesters occupy the Governing Council Chamber in Simcoe Hall. [UofT Archives, B1998-0033/721064.4]



Social Changes and Disruptions

As Robarts Library entered the twenty-first century, it continued to evolve and adapt to changes at U of T which, in turn, reflected changes in society and higher education more generally. These changes included a growing awareness of systemic inequalities and biases due to racism, colonialism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and other social problems. The library began to focus on initiatives that would support equity, inclusion, diversity, reconciliation and anti-racism, and Robarts Library aimed to become a more welcoming and inclusive space for students, staff and faculty who had historically been marginalized in both the design, administration and use of the space.

In 2018, Canada's first Family Study Space in an academic library opened on the ninth floor of Robarts Library. Users with children had always been allowed in the library but had not been explicitly welcomed and no space had been set up to accommodate their specific needs. Now users with children have their own dedicated space where they can work and their children can be comfortable.

In addition to the new family-friendly space, the library added spaces for nursing, meditation, mindfulness and prayer, and an ablution room for Muslim students. Reading rooms in Robarts became spaces that sup-

ported not only study and research, but also collaboration and wellness. Therapeutic lamps to combat Seasonal Affective Disorder were acquired, librarians organized 'unstudy spots' with puzzles, origami and other activities to provide brain breaks for stressed and tired students, and the library organized 2SLGBTQ+ events and programs like film nights, escape games, and the student-led Queer Study Buddies sessions. The library also partnered with U of T Student Life to provide space for end-of-term mental health counselling and flu vaccination clinics. Through a variety of other events and programs, students practised yoga, shopped for holiday gifts, listened to live classical music, and were given healthy snacks or sweet treats.

In addition to these changes to physical space, policies on space usage evolved over the years to include more conversation-friendly spaces for collaborative work, and spaces where students could eat and drink to stay fuelled during long study sessions. At the request of students, overnight hours were piloted for five nights per week, and due to its popularity in 2011 became an ongoing service for students, many of whom indicated they focus better during the night.

The collections in Robarts Library continued to grow alongside these broader social changes, to include new disciplines and topic areas such as Indigenous Studies, Black Studies and Sexual Diversity Studies. Modern book displays now feature titles on

a wide range of social justice themes, including Indigenous history, Black Canadian literature and women of the Global South. Recent exhibits highlighting the collections have been curated on reproductive rights in Canada, human rights in Ontario and Canadian sex work history, amongst other topics.

The single greatest disruption to Robarts Library in its 50 years was the COVID-19 pandemic and its corresponding sudden closure. Its shift to operating as an exclusively online library in March of 2020 and gradual reopening spurred innovations in services, including the provision of a temporary emergency controlled digital lending library which made available digital copies of books held physically at the library, a curbside pickup service and physically distanced study spaces. During the early stages of the pandemic, both users and staff became more comfortable with remote meetings and e-resources.

Clockwise from top left: The Family Study Space. [Photograph by Maureen Morin] • Reflection Room in Robarts Library. [Photograph by Francesca Kennedy] • Renovated fourth floor reading room in Robarts Library. [Photograph by Larysa Woloszansky] • Study space in Robarts Common. [Photograph by Maureen Morin]



Transforming Library Services

Having opened with pneumatic tubes to deliver book requests to the stacks and a corresponding elevator system to deliver the requested books to readers, Robarts has always been a leading-edge research library with state-of-the-art services and technology. From the beginning it was planned that the library would have an electronic catalogue, but it took time for the technology to catch up and allow the realization of this vision.

Library workers at Robarts were among the earliest adopters of the machine-readable format for catalogue records, which had gained popularity in the early 1970s. The MACHine-Readable Catalogue (MARC) standard facilitated the creation of records that could be read by computers and shared among libraries. When Robarts opened in 1973, the use of MARC records for new titles had become the standard for the Cataloguing Department—a major shift from the traditional paper card cataloguing process. The department collaborated with forward-thinking computer scientists at the University to modernize the catalogue, notably led by

Professor C.C. (Kelly) Gottlieb. Gottlieb, as the Director of the Institute of Computer Science, helped the library acquire its first computer in 1969. Through this partnership Robarts established an early tradition of staying at the forefront of technology and library services.

The push to automate library services continued during the 1970s, driven by the library's strong ties to computer science research at U of T and its significant leadership role within the North American library community. When the Library of Congress announced its plan to discontinue its card catalogue as part of the 1976 American Bicentennial celebrations, Robarts Library followed suit, and in 1976 its printed card catalogues were replaced by a microform catalogue using the latest technology. The new catalogue enabled library users to search the collections on film or fiche. Ironically, the Library of Congress Card Catalog (LCCC) was not closed until 1980. Other major universities and public libraries were also slow to adopt these changes.

Library users continued to search the collection on microfiche (a type of microform) using the readers in the reference areas of the library until 1987, when 'Felix,' the first online catalogue was launched. Felix, a text-based electronic catalogue,

allowed patrons to search by author or title, which displayed brief records for each title in the library. The electronic interface resembled cards from a traditional catalogue. By 1988, Felix was available at all libraries on campus via a dial-up connection, but its catalogue records were static and needed to be edited offline, limiting its responsiveness to updates.

Felix was eventually replaced by the Data Research Associates (DRA) catalogue in the early 1990s, a more dynamic cataloguing system. In 2002, the library adopted Sirsi, an advanced cataloguing program which included functions such as the ability to review loans and place holds online, ushering in online services for users. Sirsi accommodated natural language web-style searches—a huge leap from the clunky Boolean search required in older systems. Sirsi served the library for nearly 20 years, until a new platform, Alma-Primo, dubbed LibrarySearch, was launched in 2021.

Clockwise from top left: Book elevator in the Robarts Library stacks. [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/053(07)] • Card catalogues in the Reading Room. [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/053(07)] • Systems office. [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/053(07)]



Bringing the University Online

In the early days of computing and technology in the library, computer terminals were reserved for staff use only. Library patrons needed to ask staff to perform catalogue and database searches on their behalf. There was even a separate department responsible for making photocopies for users. As computers and other technological equipment became more widely available, Robarts Library began to provide computer access and self-service options, and to support users with technology.

In 1985 the Centre for Computing in the Humanities (CCH) opened on the fourteenth floor of Robarts Library. Founded by University of Toronto Professor Emeritus Ian Lancashire, in partnership with IBM Canada Limited and the Centre for Mechanical Engineering, the CCH aimed to introduce academics and humanities researchers to computing, marking the beginning of digital humanities in the library. The opening of CCH demonstrated the library's commitment to making technological resources more available to library users and signalled the beginning of broader access to technology in the library.

In response to growing demand for computer access, the library opened the Scotiabank Information Commons in 1995, followed by the New Media Suites and Digital Studio in 1999. The Suites were

equipped with digital audio and video equipment, while the Digital Studio had high-end scanners for text, images and film, and professional graphic design software.

The library also helped the University community get online, providing support for internet access in dorm rooms. Students would wait in long lines in September to get the necessary software and hardware, including multiple CD-ROMs. At the same time, the library was exploring WiFi. The subsequent WiFi rollout, which began in 2008, prompted conversations about the health effects of spending all day in a space with wireless signals. It wasn't until a decade later that WiFi was available throughout the library.

In 2004 Robarts librarians piloted an online research help service, LiveHelp, to support the University community. LiveHelp, now known as Ask a Librarian, expanded considerably and has become a province-wide service managed by Scholars Portal of the Ontario Council for University Libraries.

Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, the library continued to launch new programs to support digital scholarship, including mapping, and data research and analysis. An open access repository, TSpace, was developed to support research and hold theses, dissertations and other publications authored by the U of T faculty and student community.

More recently, concerns about the exponential growth of digital information spurred

the library to embark on ambitious projects to archive and preserve government websites and publications, research data, and changing or obsolete digital formats. These projects are supported by infrastructure that encompasses over 600 virtual servers, along with the capacity to manage over 5 petabytes of data, ensuring that these invaluable digital assets remain accessible and preserved for future generations.

One of the library's biggest technological leaps was the transformation of the library into an exclusively online operation at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Library staff worked around the clock to set up remote workstations, migrate library services to an exclusively online environment, and make available online more than 2.5 million of the library's print books. When the University returned to more regular operations in 2022, the preference for online resources, services and workshops continued, even as visits to Robarts Library returned to pre-pandemic levels.

As Robarts Library enters its next 50 years, it continues to innovate and respond to technological change, for instance, incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into library operations, considering AI's implications for library services and resources, and considering how the library can best support research, teaching and learning now and in the future.

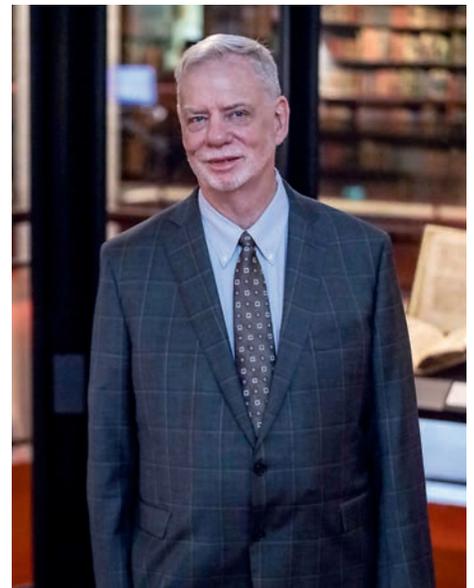
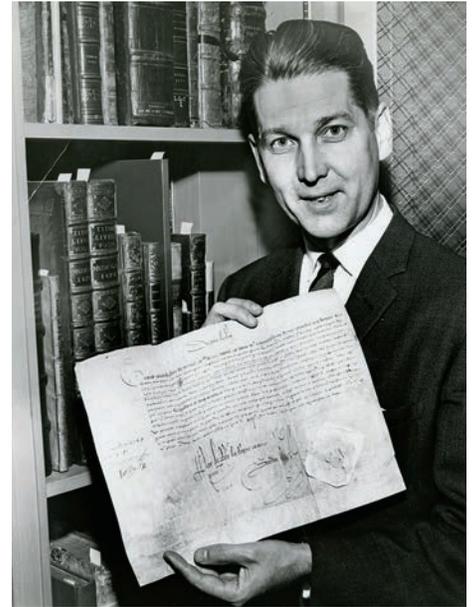
Robarts Library Data Centre. [Photograph by Jesse Carliner]



The Heartbeat of Robarts

The history of Robarts Library is more than a history of architecture, technology or social changes—it is a history of the people who created the library, worked in it, led it, supported it and used it as students, researchers or faculty. No single exhibit could do them all justice. This section highlights some of the people who have contributed to the rich history of Robarts Library, making it the centre for study, research and meeting that it is today. Some highlighted contributors are well known, and others left an impact through their daily behind-the-scenes efforts over many decades. All helped significantly to shape the library and the experiences of those who have used it over the past 50 years. Together, they laid the foundation for the next 50 years.





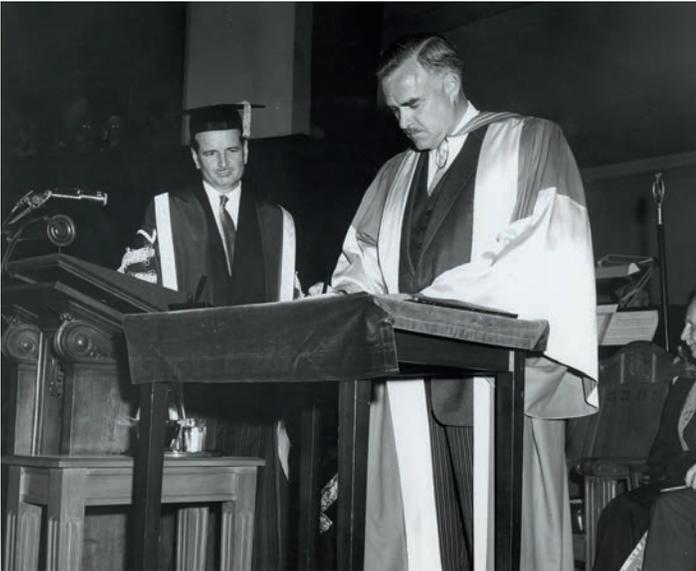
Claude Bissell (1916–2000) was a distinguished Canadian academic and university administrator. After obtaining undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of Toronto, he furthered his education with a doctorate at Cornell University. Initially an English professor at University College, in 1956 he assumed the presidency of Carleton College, but eventually returned to the University of Toronto in 1958 to become its President. During his tenure as President of the University of Toronto, Bissell confronted the challenge of accommodating a rapidly growing student body while maintaining academic excellence. Under his

guidance, new academic programs were introduced and the campus experienced significant expansion, including the establishment of three colleges and two satellite campuses. Bissell was particularly devoted to strengthening the graduate studies program and was instrumental in the creation of the Robarts Library complex. In recognition of his commitment to libraries, the north wing of the complex was named the Claude T. Bissell Building, now housing the Faculty of Information.

Robert H. Blackburn (1919–2019) served as Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries from 1954 to 1981. His

leadership led to the acquisition of nearly five million volumes, transforming the U of T Libraries into one of the leading academic library systems in the world. With his forward-thinking approach, Blackburn embraced information technology, including the use of the MARC record and University of Toronto Library Automated System (UTLAS), which were groundbreaking for their time. During his tenure, the iconic John P. Robarts Research Library was built, becoming a focal point and essential research resource for students and faculty. In addition to his role as Chief Librarian, Blackburn authored two books,

Top row: Claude Bissell pictured with a model of Robarts Library, 1970. [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/053(06)] • Robert Blackburn, pictured in 1962 with the library's millionth acquisition, a royal patent issued to Troilus de la Roche de Mesgouez (1536–1606). [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/053(18)] • Bottom row: Three generations of Chief Librarians—Carole Moore (centre) pictured with Larry Alford (left) and Robert Blackburn (right). [Photograph by Paul Terefenko] • Larry Alford pictured inside the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, 2022. [Photograph by Paul Terefenko]



Evolution of the Heart: A History of the University of Toronto Library up to 1981, providing a firsthand account of the planning, design, and the opening of Robarts Library, and *From Barley Field to Academe*, a memoir of his life and career.

Carole Moore was the Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries from 1986–2011. Moore started her career at the University of Toronto Libraries in 1968 and attended the groundbreaking of Robarts Library. She held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility in Robarts Library, including Head of the Reference and Cataloguing departments, and Associate Librarian for Technical Services, before eventually becoming Chief Librarian of the Central Library System. Moore led Robarts Library during a time of budgetary austerity,

rapid technological change and a growing need for improved and expanded study spaces. Moore established U of T Libraries as a modern, digital library, spearheaded the construction of the off-site Downsview preservation facility, and led the planning and launch of the Robarts Library Revitalization Plan. The Plan included the enclosure of the porticos, and renovations of the stack floors, Map and Data Library, and the Media Commons Archives. Moore also initiated the design and secured initial funding for the Robarts Common addition, which was completed in 2022.

Larry Alford has been University Chief Librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries since 2011. Before coming to the University of Toronto, Alford worked at the University of North Carolina for 30 years in

roles of progressive responsibility before becoming the Dean of University Libraries at Temple University in Philadelphia. As University Chief Librarian he has invested in the development of Robarts Library as a centre for digital scholarship and inclusive student experience. Initiatives have included the expansion of digital research services and infrastructure, the creation of a digital preservation unit, the construction of a Family Study Space and a pilot program to offer free childcare, the latter two initiatives funded by his Chief Librarian's Innovation Awards program. Alford oversaw the groundbreaking and completion of the student-focused Robarts Common addition, and renovation of the iconic Robarts Library reading rooms on the second, third and fourth floors. His focus on progressive

Top row: Robarts receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from President Claude Bissell, 1966. [UofT Archives, A1978-0041/018(28)] • Petro Jacyk pictured with his daughter, Nadia, at the opening of the Petro Jacyk Resource Centre in 1994. [Photograph supplied by Ksenya Kiebuszinski] • Bottom row: Cheng Yu Tung (middle) pictured with President Robert Prichard, Ms. Cheng, Chancellor Rose Wolfe, and Chief Librarian Carole Moore at the opening of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, 1991. [UofT Archives, A2012-0009/45(5)] • Russell and Katherine Morrison pictured at the Thomas Fisher Library, ca. 2009. [Photograph by Dave Chan]

social change led him to establish the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism Committee, and secure funding for new staff positions and initiatives to advance equity and inclusion in the libraries. Alford also led the libraries during the tumultuous COVID-19 pandemic, successfully ensuring continuity of the library operation and the gradual, safe reopening of its spaces and in-person services.

John P. Robarts (1917–1982) became the seventeenth Premier of Ontario in 1961, serving until 1971. He was known for his strong commitment to education, overseeing the establishment of five new universities, numerous teachers' colleges, and the community college system. He also initiated various educational and infrastructure projects, such as the Ontario Science Centre, Ontario Place and the GO Transit commuter rail system. Robarts introduced nuclear power to Ontario's electricity grid and launched the Ontario Scholar fund for high-achieving students. Throughout his tenure, he maintained balanced budgets and earned the nickname "the Chairman of the Board." In recognition of his contributions, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada, and the John P. Robarts Research Library at the University of Toronto was named in his honour.

Born in Ukraine, **Petro Jacyk** (1921–2001) left his native country following the Second World War and immigrated to Canada in 1949. He became a prominent

businessman in the construction industry in Toronto. Mr. Jacyk applied the same "building" ethic to his philanthropic activities. In 1986, he established the Petro Jacyk Education Foundation to advance scholarship and knowledge of Ukraine at academic institutions in the West and to foster better understanding and cooperation between Ukraine and the world community.

Petro Jacyk's contributions to the University of Toronto Libraries include the purchase of the Peter Jacyk Collection of Ukrainian Serials (1983); the creation of a gift-trust fund to develop the Ukrainian collection (1994); and financial support for the creation of the Petro Jacyk Central and East European Resource Centre (1995). His foundation continues to provide funds for the acquisition, description and digitization of Ukrainian library materials.¹

Cheng Yu Tung (1925–2016), a prominent Hong Kong businessman and founder of New World Development, significantly contributed to the East Asian Library, located on the eighth floor of Robarts Library. In 1987, he donated \$1.5 million dollars for its modernization and expansion. Renovations were completed by spring 1991, and in July of that year the library was renamed the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library to honour his contribution. In 1996, further expansion was made possible with remaining funds from his initial donation and a generous gift from the Japan Exposition World Fund, creating the East

Asian Current Resources Centre. Beyond his business success, Mr. Cheng was a passionate philanthropist, actively supporting global education and healthcare initiatives. His generosity transformed the East Asian Library into Canada's leading library for East Asian Studies and has enriched charitable endeavours worldwide.²

Russell Morrison (1923–2016), a renowned investor, and Katherine Morrison (1925–2019), an accomplished author and literature professor, were esteemed philanthropists known for their contributions to education. Katherine, who held a PhD in English, taught literature courses and was an avid user of Robarts Library during her time as a student. This firsthand knowledge of the library's significance to the student experience shaped the couple's philanthropic endeavours. Notably, their support led to the creation of the Morrison Pavilion at the Gerstein Science Information Centre, Morrison Hall at University College, and the renovation of Robarts Library, including the construction of the Robarts Common addition.

¹ Contributed by Ksenya Kiebuszinski, Head, Petro Jacyk Central & East European Resource Centre

² Contributed by Hana Kim, Director of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library at the University of Toronto



Photograph taken when officials toured the Robarts Library construction site in February 1971. [UoF Archives. B1998-0033/711025]

Robarts Library: Fabulous at Fifty!



On September 26, University of Toronto Mascot True Blue and Robarts Library staff kicked off the fiftieth anniversary celebrations on the sidewalk in front of the iconic building.

The souvenir cookies and buttons were a hit with enthusiastic students and passersby who stopped to chat with staff, pose for photos, or enter the draw for library-themed prizes.

CELEBRATION



A Rare Honour

Michael Walsh, a Rare Book Collector Who Helped U of T Build a Major Philosophy Collection, Receives Honorary Degree



Michael Walsh enjoyed a highly successful career as an investment banker—but he never left schooling in philosophy behind, channelling his interest in the subject into building a rare book collection of some of the most important works of philosophy in the Western canon.

In 1999, after carefully assembling several thousand volumes, he donated them to the University of Toronto’s Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library—in the hope that scholars around the world would be able to use them to develop new philosophical insights.

On June 2, F. Michael Walsh received a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa* from the University for his outstanding service to U of T through his commitment to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library and his gift of an extraordinary resource—the Walsh Philosophy Collection.

A financial executive for most of his career, Walsh earned both a bachelor of arts and a master’s degree in philosophy from

the University of Guelph. He earned an MBA from York University in 1975, graduating with a specialization in economics and public administration.

Walsh spent more than two decades in the fast-paced world of investments, ultimately serving as senior vice-president, secretary and director of First Marathon Securities. But he maintained an interest in philosophy, and completed a PhD in the subject at the University of Guelph in 1992.

Along with his passion for philosophy came a love of books—not just for reading but as physical objects. When he landed a job in the investment business, he decided to start a collection. “I became especially interested in books of philosophy and ideas,” he told *University of Toronto Magazine* in 2012.

In that interview, he recalled his first big purchase—a first edition of Scottish philosopher David Hume’s *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1739). He paid \$11,500, handing over a cheque to the antiquarian bookseller

who had contacted him. “This was twenty times more than I had previously spent on an ‘expensive’ book—a very big leap,” he said. “That was when I knew there was no turning back as a collector. I was hooked!”

With volumes covering western philosophical thought from before 1500 through to the twentieth century, the Walsh Philosophy Collection is a valuable resource for philosophers, theologians, historians and students at U of T and in the broader community. The collection helps the University attract the world’s best philosophy students and researchers, and has raised U of T’s profile as the home of one of the leading rare book libraries in the world.

Walsh’s involvement with the library extends beyond the collection and endowment. He served for more than a decade as the chair of the Friends of the Fisher Library Steering Committee, and still advises on acquisitions of unique rare books.

With files from Scott Anderson, U of T News

Above: University Chief Librarian Larry Alford (left) with Michael Walsh (right).

One in a Million

Hyun Tae Kim Makes History at the Bora Laskin Law Library



On September 13, the Bora Laskin Law Library celebrated a significant milestone with the arrival of second-year Law student Hyun Tae Kim, who made history as the one-millionth visitor when he walked through the doors just after 12:30 p.m.

Bora Laskin is an integral component of the Faculty of Law, playing a vital role in supporting the academic journey of hundreds of students. The library's extensive collection is a valuable resource, encompassing primary legal materials from major common law countries, including Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and other select jurisdictions. In addition, the library subscribes to more than 700 scholarly legal periodicals from around the world and curates an extensive collection of legal and law-related texts and treatises.

The library was named in honour of Bora Laskin (1912–1984), one of the founding figures at the Faculty of Law. As a faculty member, he was an outstanding scholar, particularly in the fields of consti-



tutional and labour law. He also served as Canada's fourteenth Chief Justice from 1973 to 1984.

This milestone is a testament to the importance of Bora Laskin in our academic community. Staff and librarians at the

library look forward to continuing to serve their students and researchers for many years to come.

By Nina Haikara

Top, left to right: Chief Law Librarian Gian Medves with Hyun Tae Kim, Alexia Loumankis, Sooin Kim, Alexandra Kwan, and Sufe Xu. Centre and below: Inside the library, students line up for commemorative buttons and cookies.



How to Win a Research Prize Six Undergraduate Students Shine at Awards Ceremony

On May 26, six exceptional University of Toronto undergraduate students were recognized for their innovative research skills and use of library services.

Andrew Huynh, Adrian Jaime, Sophia Stellato, Alex Liu, Fatema Mullan and Jai Singh are the latest recipients of the Patricia and Peter Shannon Wilson Undergraduate Research Prize, which is awarded by U of T Libraries to undergraduate students who make effective and innovative use of information sources. This award gives students an opportunity to reflect on their information-seeking experience while showcasing their research skills beyond the classroom. In addition to receiving a \$1,000 prize, their reflective essays and assignments are shared on TSpace, U of T's online research repository.

The awards ceremony was hosted by Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President & Provost, University of Toronto and Larry P. Alford, University Chief Librarian who observed how “truly inspiring” it was to witness students explore library resources creatively to generate stellar research. “This year’s submissions were exceptional, showcasing the remarkable talent and dedication of our undergraduate students in a wide range of disciplines,” he said.

Andrew Huynh, a first-year double major in Biology for Health Sciences and

Chemistry at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), explored the intersection between molecular biology and human health in the project, ‘Does Sleep Deprivation Increase the Concentration of Amyloid Beta Peptides in the Central Nervous System?’ Andrew was sponsored by Professor Francis Wong.

Adrian Jaime, a second-year double major in History and Political Science at UTM, submitted ‘A New Transcription and Translation of Pedro de Ayala’s 1498 Letter’. When he stumbled upon primary source documents relating to 15th- and 16th-century Spanish-Scottish diplomacy written in Spanish, he fulfilled a long-held wish to put his Spanish language skills to use while conducting research. Adrian was sponsored by Professor Mairi Cowan.

Sophia Stellato, a major in Music Education at the Faculty of Music, was intrigued by an anomaly in a manuscript. This inspired her project, ‘Illuminating History: Analyzing the Antiphonarium and Breviarium Manuscript Illuminations and their relation to the Catholic Church’s Power in the 14th and 19th Century Societies’. Sophia was sponsored by Professor Ellen Lockhart.

Alex Liu, a fourth-year major in History at Victoria College, was sponsored by Professor Juan Carlos Mezo-González.

Alex’s project, ‘Redefining Community, Desire and Liberation: Gay Asians of Toronto’, was inspired by an interest in exploring how local and international forces impacted the experiences of a specific group within a much wider cultural movement.

Fatema Mullan, a third-year major in Diaspora and Transnational Studies at Woodsworth College, has research interests rooted in the histories of empire and colonialism and how these histories continue into the present. Fatema’s project, ‘Law and Land: Coloniality in the Labour Landscape of Trinidad’, was sponsored by Professor Eric Jennings.

Jai Singh, a fourth-year major in Political Science at Victoria College, was sponsored by Professor Michael Donnelly. Jay’s project, ‘The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Under MONUSCO’, was inspired by anti-MONUSCO protests in the DRC in the summer of 2022, which provided the opportunity to explore how the DRC has been shaped by the UN’s presence.

This annual award is made possible through an endowment by Patricia Shannon Wilson and Peter Wilson that supports U of T Libraries in promoting excellence in undergraduate research.

Contributed by Mimosa Kabir



A Time for Reflection

Asian Canadian Voices: Facets of Diversity

In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, the East Asian Library hosted a successful book launch event for its new publication, *Asian Canadian Voices: Facets of Diversity*.

This publication highlights the works of eleven authors who share their personal stories, reflections, and insights on the Asian Canadian heritage and experience. The book was a true collaboration, bringing together diverse perspectives from various fields of research to present remarkable narratives and insights related to Asian Canadian heritage.

The book launch, held on May 9, began with Larry Alford, University Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries, giving his welcoming remarks, followed by Hana Kim, Director of the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library. Dr. Wei Djao, a long-time friend and supporter of the East Asian Library and widow of Dr. Anthony Bernard Chan, also spoke to those in attendance.

The event attracted a diverse audience of students, faculty, and community members to hear guest speaker Dr. Larissa Lai, who delivered an engaging talk entitled “Risking Recovery: Memory, Imagination, Archive”, exploring the intersection of memory, imagination, and archival research in understanding Asian Canadian heritage. Dr. Lai’s

presentation stimulated the audience to reflect on the topic. Following Dr. Lai’s lecture, a panel discussion took place featuring several contributing authors, including Dr. Adrienne S. Chan, Dr. Aminur Rahim, Arlene Chan, and Dr. Josephine Pui-Hing Wong. The panelists engaged in a dynamic discussion about their experiences writing for the book, the challenges of representing diverse Asian Canadian perspectives, and the significance of promoting greater diversity and inclusivity in various fields in Canada.

The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, who, as the first Canadian of Asian descent appointed to the Senate, played a vital role in establishing Asian Heritage Month, was in attendance. Dr. Poy’s motion to create Asian Heritage Month was adopted, and in May 2002, the Government of Canada officially declared May as Asian Heritage Month. It was a fitting tribute having Dr. Poy in attendance.

Asian Canadian Voices: Facets of Diversity is a testament to the East Asian Library’s commitment to promoting and preserving Asian Canadian heritage. The book is also a tribute to all Asian Canadians, in particular the late Dr. Anthony Bernard Chan, a dedicated supporter of the Library and

Asian Canadian Studies. Dr. Chan’s contributions and dedication were instrumental in developing the Library’s outreach programs on Asian Canadian Heritage from 2012 to 2014, and inspired the publication of *Asian Canadian Voices: Facets of Diversity*. Dr. Chan was a pioneering figure in Asian Canadian Studies, widely respected as an academic leader, filmmaker, and community activist, championing Asian Canadian Studies in Canada and beyond.

Lastly, to complement the book launch, the East Asian Library curated an engaging book display centred around the Asian Canadian Studies Collection. This initiative was designed to foster a deeper understanding of Asian heritage within the community.

The book launch served as a shining example of the profound impact of dialogue and community engagement, leaving an impression on all who were in attendance. The East Asian Library continues to be committed to nurturing meaningful conversations within its community, and it endeavours to consistently shed light on the rich tapestry of the Asian Canadian experience.

Contributed by Hana Kim

Donor to Media Commons Archives Documented History in the Making

A Tribute to LGBT and Human Rights Activist Nancy Nicol



On February 9, U of T Alumni Relations and Media Commons Archives co-hosted an event at the Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto to honour filmmaker, scholar, and activist Nancy Nicol.

Nicol recently donated two important collections of LGBT and human rights materials to the University of Toronto's Media Commons Archives: the Nancy Nicol Collection and the Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights Fonds. The Nancy Nicol Collection covers Nicol's extensive lifework from 1979 to 2016. Notably, she was the principal investigator of the Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights research team from 2011 to 2016. This collection showcases her dedication and contributions through various media such as early experimental films, original photography, art book-works, documentary films, and videos that explored issues like reproductive rights, working conditions for

women, migrant workers' rights, and LGBTQ+ organizing in Canada. The collection encompasses a wide array of materials including videotape masters, digital video files, research notes, production materials, interviews, archival documents, artwork, reviews, and more. Nicol's published papers and conference presentations are also part of the collection, underscoring her comprehensive efforts in advocating for human rights.

The Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights Fonds has a broader scope, containing raw uncut video interviews and documentary footage collected by research and videography teams in Africa, the Caribbean, and India from 2012 to 2015. This collection provides a comprehensive look into the diverse voices and perspectives that shape the global fight for human rights. It includes participatory documentaries, video shorts, and portraits that emerged from the

Envisioning project, reflecting the collaborative nature of human rights advocacy.

Alumni and community members learned about the collections through screening of film excerpts and from Nancy Nicol's talk and Q&A session.

The significance of this event and the collections it celebrated lies in their role as historical records of activism, advocacy, and research in the realm of human rights. These collections offer insights into the challenges faced by different communities and the strides made towards achieving equality and justice. By preserving such materials, the Media Commons Archives at UTL ensures that the efforts and achievements of individuals like Nancy Nicol and her pioneering work in LGBT activism will be remembered.

Contributed by Rachel Beattie

The Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights team in 2014 at the Toronto World Pride Parade.

A Look at Women Artisans, British Abolition, and Data Visualization

Winter and Spring Lineup at the Fisher

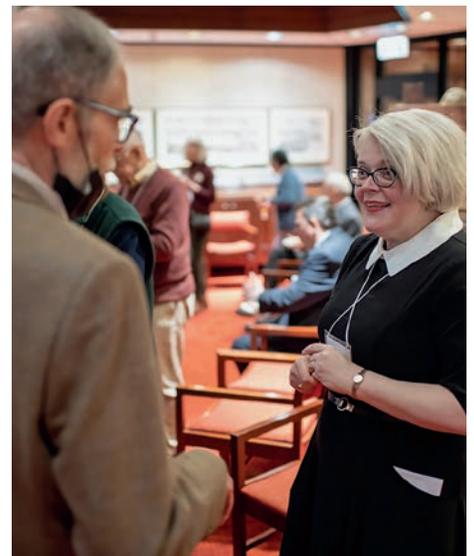


A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN THE BOOK ARTS
 From January 23 to April 28, the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library proudly showcased the exhibition *The Sister Arts: Fashioning the Victorian Luxury Book*. This remarkable display delved into the pivotal role luxury book production during the Victorian era played in empowering women who worked in the book arts, and offered profound insight into the invaluable contributions of women to the book industry.

Curated by Dr. Holly Forsythe Paul, a former Hilary Nicholls Fellow at the Fisher Library, the exhibition paid homage to a diverse array of talents, including illustrators, illuminators, engravers, designers, and publishers. The exhibition shed light on how the creation of opulent books paved the way for women to embrace a variety of professional roles in the world of literature.

When asked about the inspiration behind the exhibition at the opening on March 7, Dr. Forsythe Paul recounted her background in Victorian literature and her quest to fill a gap in our understanding of Victorian book trades, extending beyond the hand press period. Her exploration led to a profound revelation: the significant influence of women in luxury book design. Initially, gift books catered to women as their primary audience. Over time, women began to make their mark in the printing professions, thanks to access to arts education and intricate professional networks.

She noted that the Victorian era serves as a captivating intersection of material history, socio-cultural dynamics, economics, and intellectual landscapes. This era not only provides a historical lens but also connects with contemporary issues, particularly the expanding role of women in the printing



Above: Books on display in the *Sister Arts* exhibition. • Below: Curator Holly Forsythe Paul (right) chats with a guest during the exhibition opening.

trade, which is intrinsically tied to the early feminist movement and the fight for women's rights.

One standout piece in the collection is 'The Alphabet of Wild Flowers', an 1857 manuscript illuminated by Lady Louisa Strange. Commissioned as a gift, this manuscript beautifully encapsulates Lady Strange's artistic talents and her resilience as an artist who overcame financial challenges. It serves as a testament to the extraordinary artistic abilities of women during that era.

Reflecting on the exhibition's impact, Dr. Forsythe Paul expressed her hope that it would inspire researchers, educators, and casual visitors alike. She emphasized the exhibition's celebratory and optimistic essence, affirming the resilience of individuals who surmounted adversity to create enduring and beautiful works.

The Sister Arts celebrated the enduring legacy of women who left an indelible mark on the world of book arts. As we reflect on this exhibition, we are reminded of the

enduring power of creativity, innovation, and determination that transcend time.

Contributed by Larysa Woloszansky

THE BOYCOTT THAT MIGHT HAVE SAVED 500,000 SLAVES AND OTHER EPISODES FROM THE PRINT HISTORY OF BRITISH ABOLITION

On April 20, the Fisher Library welcomed Michael F. Suarez, S.J., who delivered the thirteenth annual Johanna and Leon Katz Memorial Lecture. The subject was a remarkable historical event—the consumer boycott of West Indian sugar and rum during the early 1790s. This movement engaged an astonishing 300,000 British citizens who sympathized with the abolition of the slave trade. Interestingly, this number surpassed the combined populations of major cities like Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham at the time.

The talk delved into the intricacies of this grassroots movement, tracing its propagation through various media such as

newspapers, political pamphlets, satirical engravings, and grocers' advertisements. The audience had the chance to explore published sermons and printed circulars that played a pivotal role in mobilizing the public against Britain's shameful trade practices. Through this lecture, attendees were transported back in time to witness a pivotal moment in history and gain insights from a distinguished scholar in the field.

Michael F. Suarez holds the position of University Professor of English and Director of Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. He served as a Distinguished Presidential Fellow of the Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington, DC, and was nominated by President Obama to the National Council on the Humanities. His TED talk, "Glorious Bookishness: Learning Anew in the Material World" passionately defends the significance of physical books.

This annual lecture is generously endowed by the late Johanna Sedlmayer-Katz.

Contributed by Mimosa Kabir

THE INNOVATIVE ART OF DATA

From May 23–August 18, the *Emerging Patterns: Data Visualization Throughout History* exhibition invited visitors to embark on a journey through time and explore the intricate evolution of graphical representations of information. Curators Aurora Mendelsohn, Anthony Gray, and Kelly Schultz meticulously assembled a remarkable assortment of items that told this vivid story of data innovation and creativity.

The exceptional array of artifacts, charts, and visual representations on display in *Emerging Patterns* challenged the notion that data visualization is a product solely of the modern age. Bar graphs, line charts, and other such visual tools have been around for centuries, preceding the digital era. The exhibition explored some of the history of data visualization, revealing how people much like us, from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, have been wrestling with the



Above: Michael F. Suarez delivers the 2023 Katz Lecture. • Facing page: Items on display in the *Emerging Patterns* exhibition.



graphical representation of information for a very long time.

From charts depicting gainful employment across American states to colour-coded maps conveying intricate concepts, the collection proved to be not only educational but also artistically compelling. Notably, the display boasted a selection of uniquely Canadian contributions, alongside

examples crafted by individuals from historically marginalized groups whose influence on the development of data visualization was unmistakable.

The opening celebration on June 22 served as an eye-opening experience for guests, imparting valuable lessons and insights into the evolution of data visualization, the role of technology, and how

historical visualizations were used to inform and persuade.

Emerging Patterns stands as the first exhibition of its kind in Canada and one of the few global exhibitions dedicated to this subject.

Contributed by Mimoska Kabir



Join the Friends of the Fisher!

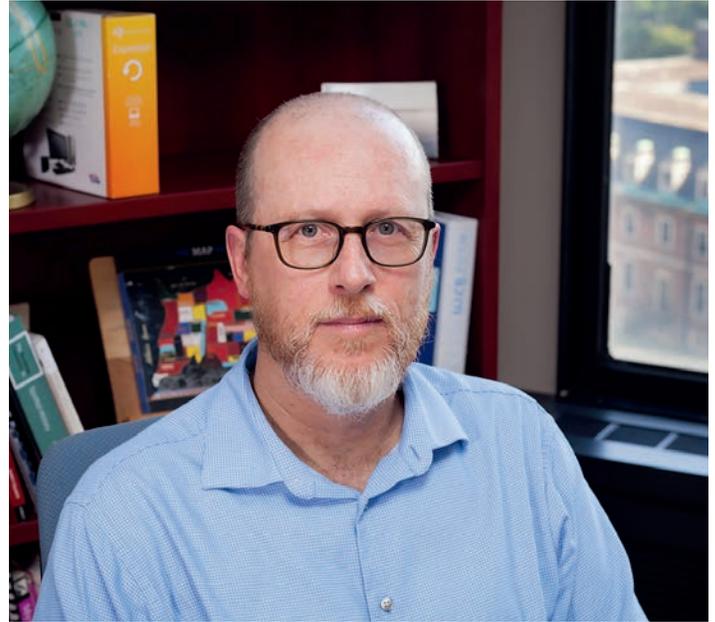
If you enjoyed reading about these lectures, consider joining The Friends of the Fisher Rare Book Library! Your membership supports acquisitions and special programs at the Fisher Library, including the publication of exhibition catalogues.

In addition to invitations to the four members-only lectures hosted by the Friends, you will receive invitations to special events like exhibition openings,

catalogues and *The Halcyon*, a newsletter published twice a year that shares short articles on recent noteworthy gifts and acquisitions, events and other articles about the Library's collections.

To become a member you can visit online <https://fisher.library.utoronto.ca/donations/friends> or contact Anna Maria Romano at 416-978-3600 or annamaria.romano@utoronto.ca.

UTL Welcomes New Library Leaders



DAVID FERNÁNDEZ: FOSTERING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION AT THE FISHER

David Fernández has been appointed the new Department Head of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library.

David brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served as a Rare Book Librarian in the UTL Department of Rare Books and Special Collections since 2013. Over the past decade, David has immersed himself in every facet of the library's daily operations, including collection development, acquisitions, metadata creation, teaching, reference services, exhibitions, donor relations, and event planning.

He also brings a critical, decolonial approach to the profession of rare book librarianship. This perspective is rooted in his Latin American experience. While trained in bibliography and book history for managing rare book collections, he also excels in advocating for cultural heritage's multidisciplinary use. David's approach transcends borders, drawing from Latin American traditions of librarianship as "cultural work" and post-colonial studies to promote the shared cultural heritage of the Americas through public service.

David has spearheaded innovative projects such as the Fisher Summer Seminars, annual workshops that bring together students, faculty, librarians, and archivists from across Canada to explore various aspects of special collections. He has also been a passionate advocate for LGBT2Q+ initiatives, hosting annual PRIDE open house events. This year, the library made history with its inaugural drag reading event in the rare book library, featuring banned books read by local artist Dank Sinatra.

A dedicated educator, David teaches the graduate courses Introduction to Book History and Print Culture as well as Rare Books & Manuscripts at the Faculty of Information. He holds a Master of Information in Library Science with a specialization in Book History and Print Culture and serves as an expert examiner for the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board.

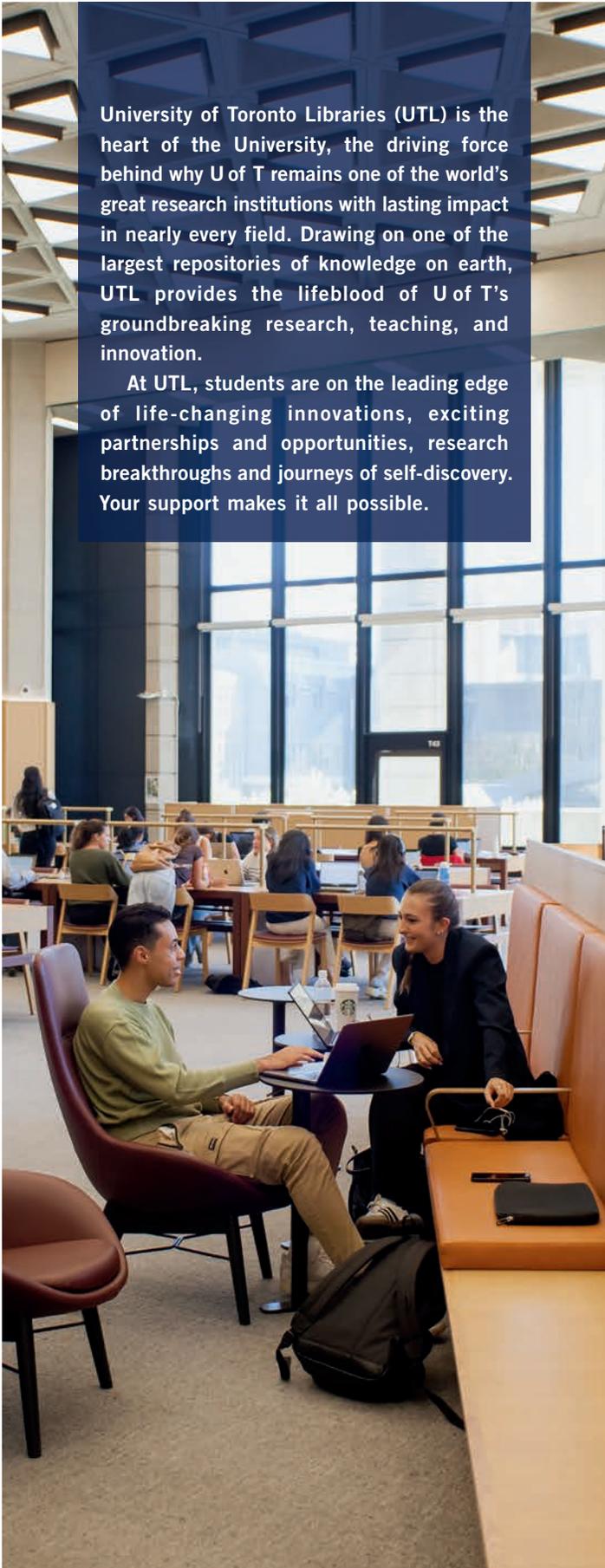
MARCEL FORTIN: CHARTING NEW FRONTIERS AT UTL

Marcel Fortin has been appointed Associate Chief Librarian, Data Services, Digital Scholarship, and Information Technologies for the University of Toronto Libraries.

A librarian at UTL for 24 years, Marcel has been Head of the Map and Data Library, and Special Advisor on Data Sciences, Research Data Management and Digital Research where he has provided guidance in applied technology and the development of data services rooted in the evolving landscape of digital research and scholarship. Prior to joining UTL, Marcel worked at the University of British Columbia, the University of Cape Breton, and the Toronto Star Editorial Library. Throughout his career, Marcel has prioritized the user experience and supporting the research and learning needs of faculty, students, and staff.

In his new position Marcel will have leadership, management, policy, planning, and implementation responsibilities for data, digital scholarship, and information technology services in the central libraries. He will collaborate with colleagues in the University community and beyond to serve the research and academic mission of the University of Toronto. As a member of the University Chief Librarian's Executive Leadership Table, Marcel will also play a key role in advancing the overall strategic goals of the Libraries.

Left to right: David Fernández, Marcel Fortin



University of Toronto Libraries (UTL) is the heart of the University, the driving force behind why U of T remains one of the world's great research institutions with lasting impact in nearly every field. Drawing on one of the largest repositories of knowledge on earth, UTL provides the lifeblood of U of T's groundbreaking research, teaching, and innovation.

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