

DIGITIZATION CENTRE

IMPACT AND ACTIVITY REPORT | 2021-2022

NEW ADDITIONS

[Alma Mater Society Image Collection](#): A collection of more than 4,000 historical photographs from the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia Vancouver.



[BC Historical Books](#): 60 items totaling more than 12,000 pages, dating from 1790 to 2002, have been digitized. The new items are now available in Open Collections.



[BC Historical Newspapers](#): More than 5,600 issues of [Nelson Daily News](#), [Similkameen Star](#), [The Grand Forks Sun](#) and [The Cumberland News](#) totalling more than 44,000 pages are uploaded. The digitization of the local newspapers is continuing.

[H. Colin Slim Stravinsky Collection](#): 70 new items dating from 1911 to 1970 are uploaded, bringing the total number of items available in Open Collections to 130.

[Kamishibai Propaganda Plays](#): An extremely rare collection of World War II-era propaganda plays from Japan, containing 52 Kamishibai plays created between 1938 and 1945. Each play consists of 15-20 cards with a script on one side and lithographed color illustration on the other.

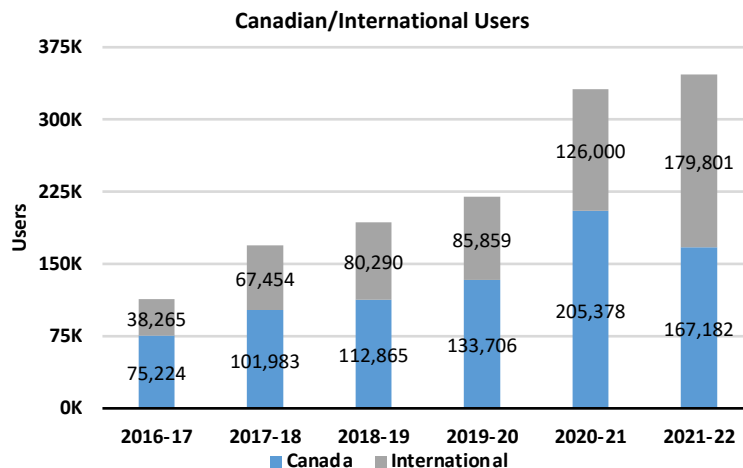
The Digitization Centre has the infrastructure to collect, organize, provide access, disseminate and preserve collections.*

* These outcome statements are derived from the Association of College & Research Libraries' Standards for Libraries in Higher Education available at <https://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/standardslibraries>

The UBC Library Digitization Centre embraces new technologies, methods of access, workflows and preservation strategies while building sustainable digital collections to support and enrich the educational, cultural and economic endeavors of the University, the people of British Columbia and communities beyond.

ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Since the launch of [Open Collections](#) in October 2015, the number of visitors to the digitized items has grown steadily. During the COVID-19 pandemic year, the number of visitors has surged by 51%. In 2021-22, **more than 346,000 users** accessed digitized items, with approximately 48% coming from Canada. International users outnumber Canadian users accessing digitized items for the first time in years. Approximately 69% of the Canadian users were from British Columbia.



Our top five Canadian provinces from this year were:

1. British Columbia
2. Ontario
3. Alberta
4. Quebec
5. Manitoba

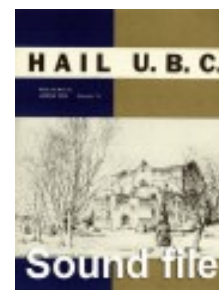
Our top five international countries from this year were:

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. Sweden
4. China
5. India

COLLECTION ENHANCEMENT

The Digitization Centre is constantly working to improve access to collections and to enhance user experience. This year the Digitization Centre targeted four important collections for metadata cleanup and enhancement:

- [Alma Mater Society Image Collection](#) (4,193 items)
- [UBC Archives Audio Recordings Collection](#) (118 items)
- [UBC Legacy Video Collection](#) (151 items)
- [UBC Institute of Fisheries Field Records](#) (11,109 items)



The Digitization Centre engages faculty, students and the greater community in partnering on digital projects.*

POPULAR COLLECTIONS

The past year saw **more than 664,000 page views**, and the most popular digital collections were:

1. [BC Historical Newspapers](#) (260,975 views)
2. [BC Historical Books](#) (67,997 views)
3. [UBC Archives Photograph Collection](#) (54,528 views)
4. [The Chung Collection](#) (49,100 views)
5. [UBC Publications](#) (34,816 views)



DIGITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DAMS) PROJECT

The DAMS replacement project has continued to progress through 2021-2022, with the aim to launch in 2022. In partnership with UBC IT Library and DSpace service provider, ATMIRE, the Digitization Centre has:

- Finalized the code developments for the launch of DSpace 7
- Migrated more than 85% of our digital collections to the new DAMS
- Reviewed and verified the content imported into the new DAMS
- Updated the metadata standards document for DSpace collections
- Revised metadata mapping across systems
- Reviewed and verified the integration with Archivematica via API/Callback service
- Delved into writing documentation of new workflows for in-house and ongoing partner units
- Explored the potential upgrade of DSpace from 7.0 to 7.2

DIGITAL PRESERVATION

Archivematica

The Digitization Centre continues to implement the Library's digital preservation mandate by digitally preserving our locally created digital assets using Archivematica. The Digitization Centre has ingested more than 500 new AIPs (archival information packages) to Archivematica this year. Additionally, in collaboration with Artefactual and ATMIRE, the Digitization Centre will be developing a service in which Archivematica can communicate with DSpace. The Digitization Centre has also been working with all relevant digital preservation stakeholders to conduct the Library's regular TRAC self-audit of digital preservation activities and infrastructure.

Web Archiving

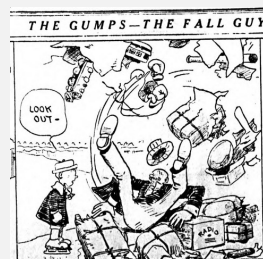
The Digitization Centre continues to build collections of web archives to ensure that ephemeral and at-risk content that contributes to the University's research, teaching, and learning is preserved and accessible over time. In this past year two new publicly-accessible collections were launched: the [British Columbia Wildfires 2021](#) collection that documented aspects of the catastrophic 2021 wildfire season in B.C. including on the Village of Lytton, and the [BC Extreme Weather Events](#) collection that addressed the local consequences of the November 2021 atmospheric rivers. In addition to the ongoing work to develop the collections of institutional UBC materials and COVID-related content, this resulted in the Library archiving 1.5 TB of ephemeral web content.

DIGITIZING SHAKESPEARE CHALLENGE ON UBC GIVING DAY

On April 6, 2022, the Library's Digitizing Shakespeare Challenge invited people to donate in support of digitizing Shakespeare's First Folio as part of [#UBCGivingDay](#). 22 people donated, and for every 10 donors, an additional \$1,000 donation from a generous donor was unlocked. The Library raised \$3615 in support of our goal, which will allow our community to enjoy these works from anywhere in the world.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

[@DigitizeUBC](#) is one of the most active Twitter accounts across the UBC Library units. Last year, the Digitization Centre posted 20 tweets per month to **more than 1,900 followers**. The [@DigitizeUBC](#) account has **more than 98,000 impressions** and **more than 13,000 profile visits**. [Our top tweet with the most impressions](#) is about the Chinese Rare Books Collection. Additionally, the weekly Digitizers' Blog posts had **more than 13,000 pageviews** this year with the increase of 1,000. Our top popular Digitizers' Blog post is [Newspaper Comic Strips published on Christmas Eve \(December 24, 2021\)](#).



HIGHLIGHTED COLLECTION

Kamishibai Propaganda Plays

A private collection of 52 Kamishibai plays from Professor Sharalyn Orbaugh of the Department of Asian Studies at UBC. With a generous grant from the Toshiba International Foundation (TIFO), as well as funding from the Office of the Dean of Arts and the Department of Asian Studies at UBC, the Digitization Centre worked in collaboration with UBC Asian Library, RBSC and Department of Asian Studies to digitize these rare and fragile materials and make them available through our Open Collections.



The Digitization Centre preserves and ensures access to unique materials of cultural, historical and research significance.*

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