

# DIGITIZATION CENTRE IMPACT AND ACTIVITY REPORT | 2022-2023

## COLLECTION EXPANSION

The Digitization Centre is constantly working to improve access to collections and to enhance user experience.

**Japanese Special Collection** – This collection was digitized through funding provided by the David Mark Gram Memorial Fund and the Japan Foundation Toronto. It contains rare Japanese language materials including manuscripts, building plans, and karuta [playing card] items held at Rare Books and Special Collections.

**Uno Langmann** – Completed digitization of more than six thousand items on June 28, 2023. Additional labour was needed due to culturally sensitive materials such as photographs of minstrel shows and residential schools.



**BC Newspapers** – There are more than seventy thousand issues in the BC Historical Newspaper collection. Recent titles with additional content are the "Aldergrove Star," "The Similkameen Star" and the "Nelson Daily News." Even more content coming soon!

**Natural History Specimens** – Over eight hundred illustrations of fish and insect specimens as well as fish radiographs. These materials are from the Beaty Biodiversity Museum on the UBC Campus.

**Western Manuscripts** – This collection is held at Rare Books and Special Collections. It contains 95 items dated between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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.

## DIGITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (DAMS) PROJECT

The DAMS replacement project has continued to progress through 2022-2023 with the final phase of migration to complete in Fall 2023. In partnership with UBC Library IT and DSpace service provider, ATMIRE, the Digitization Centre has:

- Processed more than 50% of content to the new repository
- Resolved metadata mapping issues with a subset of collections
- Revised IIIF manifest requirements for integration with Open Collections
- Completed integration with Archivematica via API/callback service
- Proceeded with drafting workflow documentation
- Explored potential upgrade to DSpace 7.6

## DIGITAL PRESERVATION

The Digital Preservation Team successfully conducted a third Trusted Repository Audit and Certification (TRAC) self-audit to evaluate our digital preservation capabilities and identify strengths as well as gaps within our system. This assessment took place from November 2021 to October 2022. UBC Library has consistently enhanced its ratings through each self-audit, showcasing a commitment to continuous improvement in digital preservation.

The Digitization Centre has been fulfilling the Library's digital preservation mandate by using Archivematica to preserve our locally created digital assets since 2013. In line with this commitment, we have recently completed preservation of all packages from [BC Sessional Papers Collection](#), [The Shakespeare First Folio](#), [Kamishibai Propaganda Plays](#) and [Historical Children's Literature Collection](#).

## 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. This past year we partnered with UBC's SCARP Housing Research Collaborative to archive web content related to the impact of Vancouver's Broadway Plan.

We also partnered with SFU, VIU, and UVic Libraries on a collaborative project to capture web content for the [City of Vancouver](#) and its [Broadway Plan](#), as well as other [areas of B.C.](#) These new projects, in addition to continuing to develop our institutional UBC materials and other collections, resulted in the Library archiving more than 1 TB of ephemeral web content.

The Digitization Centre engages with our on campus community, local communities, and global communities in partnering on digital projects.\*

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



## POPULAR COLLECTIONS

The BC Historical Newspapers collection is by far the most viewed collection. Here are the top five most viewed collections:

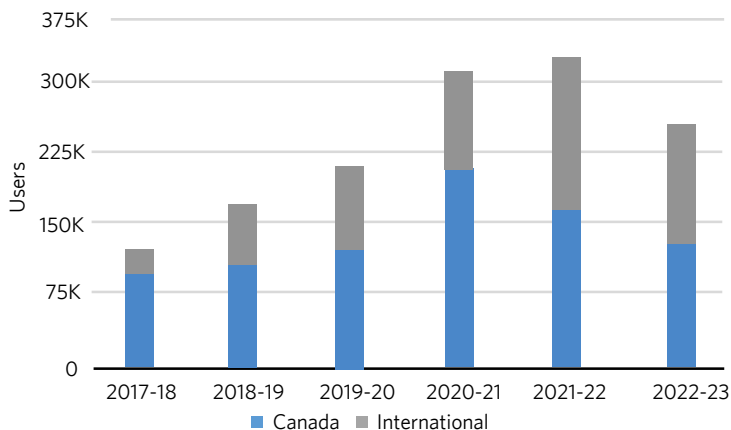
1. [BC Historical Newspapers](#) (153,098)
2. [Archival Photos](#) (38,440)
3. [BC Historical Books](#) (37,173)
4. [The Chung Collection](#) (34,748)
5. [UBC Publications](#) (19,844)



## ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

This year we had a total of 230,677 users access our Open Collections. 130,909 of those users were from Canada, and the remaining 100,488 users were International users. We saw a slight decline in users from the pandemic years, dropping from the all-time high of 346,000 in 2021-22. However, this year's total still represents a significant increase from the pre-pandemic years.

Users: Canadian & International



### 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:

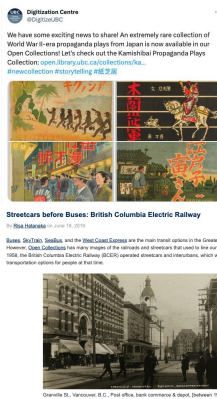
1. United States of America
2. People's Republic of China
3. United Kingdom
4. The Republic of India
5. Ireland

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

[Twitter](#): 128,000 impressions, 870 link clicks, 1,720 likes. This year we reached two-thousand followers! Our top tweet was the announcement of the the Kamishibai Propaganda Plays Collection.

[The Digitizers' blog](#) had 14,345 page views over the year, an increase of more than one thousand viewers from the previous year. The most viewed post was on Streetcars, read it here:

<https://digitize.library.ubc.ca/digitizers-blog/streetcars-before-buses-british-columbia-electric-railway/>



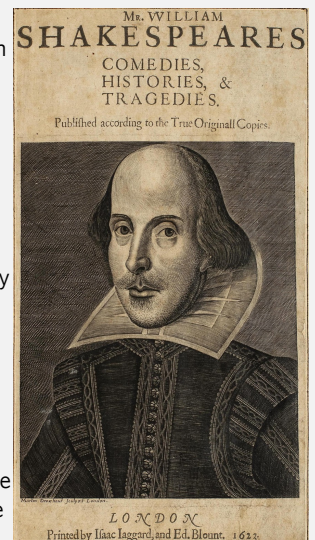
## Sex and Migration in the Transpacific Underground by Dr. Ayaka Yoshimizu and PhD Candidate, Saeko Suzuki.

This [online resource](#), created by Dr. Yoshimizu and Saeko Suzuki, is a bilingual (Japanese and English) educational resource about the lives of historical Japanese migrant sex workers in Canada. Part of the resource is called "[Exploration of the Devil Caves](#)," and is based on the [Tairiku Nippo](#) newspaper collection. The newspaper is mostly written in Japanese, and the articles have been translated in this resource.

This resource is an example of how the Digitization Centre is able to support and enable scholars at UBC to conduct research and create multicultural educational materials. Dr. Yoshimizu and Saeko Suzuki have made the digitized materials more accessible by contextualizing the views of sex work by Japanese-Canadians and Japanese citizens during this time.

## FEATURED COLLECTION: William Shakespeare First Folio

This year, the Digitization Centre had the opportunity to digitize [William Shakespeare's First Folio](#) held in Rare books and Special Collections, one of the most important publications in the history of the English language. Former staff member Marina Botnaru was the main digitizer of the material. This particular text proved to be challenging to digitize due to the tight binding of the pages. However, comprehensive meta is included with the digital object so users can access the important information contained within the pages. Within the Folio there were handwritten notes, annotations, edits and newspaper clippings that needed to be transcribed manually. Because of the amount of care and effort that went into the digitization process, it took several weeks to completely digitize the Bard's work.



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

\*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>

