

# DIGITIZATION CENTRE

## IMPACT AND ACTIVITY REPORT | 2020-2021

### COVID-19 IMPACT

#### Temporary Centre Closure

In light of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, the Digitization Centre was closed from March through November 2020, at which time operations were resumed at a reduced level until the Sept 2021 reopening. As a result, most of our active digitization work was paused for the time of the report. This pause provided a chance to focus on our DAMS replacement project, continued metadata cleanup, and web archiving, among other projects.



#### Remote Working

We quickly transitioned to working effectively from home and completed several valuable projects that would not otherwise have been prioritized including the transcription of [CITR Audiotapes](#) (28 items), [Westland](#) (54 items), and [WWI & WWII Posters](#) (59 items). All of the transcriptions have been added to the metadata for these collections.



### COLLECTIONS

[Nelson Daily News](#): In partnership with Touchstones Nelson, this project scanned and made more than 7,000 issues available from 1902 to 1930. Since becoming available, the collection has received more than 273,000 item views and more than 1,400 item downloads.

#### [Recollections of my Indian career](#):

The memoirs of General JM Cripps was published in 1888 and digitized in partnership with UBC Asian Library and a great-grandchild of JM Cripps.



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 2020-2021. In partnership with UBC IT Library and DSpace service provider, ATMIRE, we have:

- Implemented a new managed hosting infrastructure
- Conducted successful user testing on our instance of DSpace BETA
- Kept up to date with the code developments for the launch of DSpace 7
- Initiated content upload to the new DAMS
- Testing integration with Archivematica digital preservation service
- Commenced documentation of new workflows for in-house and ongoing partner units

### DIGITAL PRESERVATION

#### Archivematica

The Digitization Centre continues to implement the Library's digital preservation mandate by preserving 46.7 TB of content using Archivematica. Recently, we have completed preservation of all legacy BC Historical Newspapers as well as BC Historical Books. Additionally, working with UBC IT Library and local company, Artefactual Systems, we have successfully updated our operating systems on our servers and all Archivematica pipelines and storage service have been upgraded from 1.9 to 1.11.

#### Web Archiving

We continue 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. We have used Archive-it to create 16 collections with documents and archived data available since 2013. In this past year, we collected information related to the COVID-19 and developed [the first COVID-19 collection](#) to document this pandemic in BC. We also create several web archives documenting different facets of the COVID-19 pandemic, including [UBC's response](#), [K-12 education in British Columbia](#), its [impacts on the Downtown Eastside](#), and [incidents of racism against the Asian communities in Canada](#).

### SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

[@DigitizeUBC](#) is one of the most active Twitter accounts across the UBC Library units. Last year, our [Top Tweet with the most impressions](#) was about the [BC Historical Books Collection](#), and our top popular [Digitizers' Blog](#) post was [Nelson Daily News Goes Online](#) (August 26, 2020).



\* 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>



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Highlights

The Digitization Centre opened its doors 10 years ago, March 2011.  
We have highlighted some of our projects on this page.

## PARTNERSHIP

We work in collaboration with UBC departments, UBC Library branches and other groups within the UBC community to build our digital collections. We also partner with public libraries and archives throughout British Columbia and academic institutions around the world to create the digital resources available through our Open Collections. These partnerships make our work possible by providing access to rare and unique materials worth preserving.

### National Central Library of Taiwan (NCL)

UBC collaborated with NCL for the Puban Collection (蒲坂藏書) from the [Chinese Rare Books Collection](#). The Collection is one of the most distinguished Chinese collections in North America, containing about 45,000 volumes in Chinese studies.

### UBC Library branches

We had collaborations with more than 10 UBC Library units and the wider UBC community on projects and collections. We worked together for multiple collections: [Japanese Canadian Photograph Collection](#), [Royal Fisk Gold Rush Letters](#), [Japanese Maps of the Tokugawa Era](#), etc. [The Chung Collection](#) is one of the ongoing projects in collaboration with the Rare Books and Special Collections, with more than 1,236,000 item views and more than 46,000 item downloads.

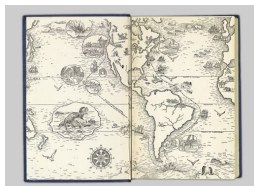
### Graduate Students

We partnered with the graduate students from the CNERs Department for the [Epigraphic Squeezes Collection](#). An epigraphic squeeze is a filter paper impression of an inscription, which provides a precise copy of the incised letters on the original; this makes them a valuable tool for research when students and scholars cannot access the original materials stored in museums.



### Contribution from Multiple Collaborators for a Featured Collection

[BC Historical Books](#) combines the traditional tools of bibliography with the new tools of the digital world to transform our understanding of, and insight into, the history and life of British Columbia. The 160 works which seeded this digital featured collection were contributed by UBC Library, Legislative Library of BC, Royal BC Museum and Archives, Simon Fraser University Library, University of Northern British Columbia Library, University of Victoria Libraries, and Vancouver Public Library.



## STUDENT IMPACT

In the past ten years, we provided work opportunities that enhanced the learning experience of more than 250 UBC students. They performed a wide variety of tasks to support the digitization project, including scanning using a variety of scanning equipment, digital image editing, applying metadata, and uploading digital content.

“It has been an absolute treat to learn more of how a digitization unit functions, and to be able to be part of so many different projects. I think the skills I have learned will transfer directly when I begin looking for jobs once a graduate.”

-from one of the Digital Projects Student Librarians in 2016-17

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

## COLLECTIONS

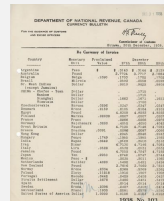
### Oldest Digitized Material

Cuneiform tablets in the [Ancient Artefacts Collection](#) are the oldest materials we have digitized. The oldest tablet dates from 2029-1982 BCE. It records the receipt of rent paid in kind to the temple authorities.



### First Collection

[German Consulate Fonds](#) is our first digital collection. It contains general and personal documents from German Consulates at Ottawa, St. John's, Newfoundland, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver from 1909 to 1939.



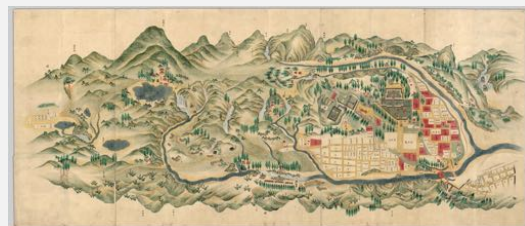
### Most Popular Collection

The most popular digitized content in Open Collections is [BC Historical Newspapers](#). This collection features historical papers from around the province. The titles, which range from the Abbotsford Post to the Ymir Mirror, date from 1859 to 1995. It has received over 257,000 item downloads and more than 13,832,000 item views.



### Number of Collections

We have developed and maintained 68 [locally-created digital collections](#). These publicly-accessible collections have grown constantly. They document a diverse range of people and places, activities, and events, and serve as a resource for students, historians, genealogists, and other researchers.



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

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