2016-2017

The Library aims to strengthen learning, teaching, and research at BCIT through innovative and effective resources, partnerships and services.

BCIT LIBRARY & LEARNING COMMONS YEAR IN REVIEW

BCI

TUTOR



LEARNING AND TEACHING

Reference: Sharing a Vision

A core part of the librarians' job remains responding face-to-face, one-on-one, to student and faculty research questions at the Research Help Desk. In the last few years, we are seeing fewer total questions, but they are more complex. Many students and faculty conduct their own research online, but when they come up against either too many results or nothing, they come to us for help. In visioning sessions, we all decided to realign reference desk hours for maximum impact while expanding our commitment to AskAway, the online shared reference service. This should allow for the all-important physical visibility, in the Living Room of the Campus, while allowing extra time for librarians to pursue projects that will support students and faculty in the other place 'where they live' online.

LEARNING COMMONS & WRITING CENTER

What an exciting year it has been for the Learning Commons! BCIT invested in peer-to-peer learning last year and we responded with innovation. This included:

- Moving the Learning Commons to the library main floor to increase visibility
- Introducing lunchtime drop-in tutoring for the Writing Centre
- Delivering a series of thesis writing workshops to MASc/MEng students
- Creating a new Learning Commons Administrative Coordinator position

TECHNOLOGY



3D Printer

Thanks to a partnership with BCIT's Applied Research, a 3D printer is now available in Mediaworks, beginning its transformation to a true makerspace. It has been a very popular addition, and is almost constantly in use.



HoloLens

Twenty Microsoft HoloLens headsets have been added to our collection, and can be borrowed by both instructors and students. The HoloLens allows wearers to interact with high-definition holograms and can be applied to various programs across the Institute.



Digital Scanners

Students can now use two new touchscreen digital scanners stationed on the main floor of the Burnaby Campus Library. The Click and Click Mini face-up scanners allow users to capture multiple pages more easily and up to ten times faster. In addition, the large scanner captures up to 22 x 16 inch books and materials at a resolution of 300dpi.



A new database for the Archives was launched in March of 2016. Featuring an in-browser PDF viewer and a "Popular this week" sidebar, it allows users to easily browse digital images.



Library patrons can request and receive articles outside of the BCIT collection more easily thanks to new interlibrary loan software. Articles from other libraries can be sent directly to the requestor's email, eliminating the need to print off a paper copy, and for students/faculty to come to the library to pick up their requests.

SPACE

Accessibility

Tony O'Kelly (pictured on the right holding the award), Mei Young and Jeff Verbeem won a BCIT Employee Excellence award (Inclusivity category) in May 2016 for their work on the BCIT Library Accessibility Upgrade Project. Working with a student with mobility issues, the team was able to see Library layout and signage through a UX (User Experience) lens. Team members drew up a list of recommendations that are still being implemented. Efforts to improve communication and remove barriers will continue with partners in the Disability Resource Centre.





FlexSpace

Learning and teaching are changing, and the library is keeping pace, receiving funding in 2016 to renovate room 303, our FlexSpace. These renovations facilitate student collaboration, connectedness, and innovation. It offers flexible furniture as well as a number of monitors that students and instructors connect to via their own devices, allowing them to create, present and share online.



Sleep Pods

Last June the Library installed new sleep pods creating one of the biggest media events ever for BCIT. These pods were installed as part of a pilot program for students to have a quick 30-minute power nap in a comfortable, safe and secure environment in the Library.



Places & Spaces

Over the summer the second floor was converted into a collaborative space to support active student learning.

New lounge furniture has been added to the space which allows students to work in a comfortable group setting and doubles as a great space for guest speakers and demos.

BCIT LIBRARY & LEARNING COMMONS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

