



FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

University of Victoria
MacLaurin Building, David Lam Auditorium - A Wing
3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria BC

UVIC LIBRARIES, CAMOSUN COLLEGE & GVPL

PROGRAM

8:00-9:00am	Registration Table Opens
9:00-10:30am	Opening Remarks Elders' Traditional Welcome Keynote: Vickery Bowles
10:30-10:45am	Break/Transition
10:45-11:30am	Session 1
11:30-11:45am	Break/Transition
11:45-12:30pm	Session 2
12:30-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-2:15pm	Session 3
2:15-2:30pm	Break/Transition
2:30-3:15pm	Session 4
3:15-3:30pm	Break/Transition
3:30-4:40pm	Booksmack Closing Remarks
4:40-6:00pm	Reception

KEYNOTE: VICKERY BOWLES



Vickery Bowles was Toronto's City Librarian from 2015 to 2025. Throughout her tenure, Vickery demonstrated a passionate belief in the difference public libraries make in the lives of individuals, in communities and cities.

Vickery's unwavering dedication to Intellectual Freedom is a hallmark of her career. She has championed the public library as a vital democratic institution, uniquely positioned to preserve and protect democratic values and freedoms. She led the development of a comprehensive set of initiatives, ranging from programming and civic engagement to policy development and advocacy, including the adoption of an Intellectual Freedom Statement to guide policies, service planning, and communications.

Vickery launched TPL's newest Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 to support social connections, civic engagement and democracy; to enhance physical spaces for resilience and belonging; to expand learning opportunities for all; and to increase awareness and availability of library services.

Vickery is the former Chair the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) headquartered in Washington, D.C., was a member of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC), and a Board member for the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL).

SESSION 1: 10:45 - 11:30AM

1A - Trans(formation): Digitizing the Rikki Swin Institute Trans+ Activism and Outreach Media Collection

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

In 2024, UVic Libraries received a landmark CLIR grant to digitize, preserve, describe, and make accessible 519 at-risk audio-visual items documenting histories of Trans+ activism throughout the 1970s-2000s. The ensuing project is still in process. It centers the ethical and practical tensions that cultural organizations must grapple with when creating digital collections of historical materials depicting marginalized communities. The project builds upon a foundation of community-created best practices by developing additional practical criteria, including metadata and technical access interventions, and identity management protocols. This session will review the progress of the project, identify its primary ethical concerns, invite feedback from participants, and screen a brief sample video of the digitized materials.

Presenter:

Michael Radmacher, University of Victoria Libraries

1B-1 - Relational Leadership and Relational Coordination

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

In my dissertation research for my Doctorate of Educational leadership I have been learning about relational leadership and relational coordination and would like to share my learning with you in a short, single topic 20 minute presentation. Relational coordination is a way to encourage viewing a problem from multiple perspectives, speaking and coordinating with everyone involved, and collectively anticipating unintended consequences. There are three stages identified by Gittel (2016) in this process: relational interventions, work process interventions, and institutional interventions, taken together can be a way to anticipate change, give agency to those affected by change, and to create lasting change within the organization.

First, we must recognize the coordination involved between different people in the various departments within a library. For this step we have to think of everyone involved in every step the decision must take. This is a chance to learn about everyone else's role in their work and how they fit together.

Second, collectively recognize what is and isn't working in the workplace, and how we might together streamline a process. For example, learning that two people are actually duplicating work or learning that a process was put into place that is no longer necessary.

Third, working to make policy changes that reflect all the collective learning, formalizing the language surrounding the change to add legitimacy, and to celebrate the progress made. At the end of this process there is the possibility to start again, in a cycle of continuous improvement.

Presenter:

Melissa J. Goodchild, Greater Victoria Public Library

1B-2 - Reconsidering “Participation”: Effective Library Classroom Strategies for Introverts and the Socially Anxious

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

Many of our persistent and beloved classroom engagement techniques (active learning, verbal participation, and collaborative learning, for example) often favour extroverted or outspoken students. This session explores the challenges experienced by introverted or socially anxious students, encourages alternative considerations of “participation” and “engagement” for librarian instructors, and provides a variety of teaching considerations and techniques that create an inclusive and respectful library classroom for all students. Our talk is based on our personal experiences as learners and library instructors, and seeks to respond to increasing numbers of accommodation requests that seek to address students’ social anxiety and social risk avoidance in the classroom.

Presenters:

Tina Bebbington, University of Victoria Libraries

Bill Blair, University of Victoria Libraries

1C-1 - Beginning the Journey with a Single Step: UVic's Indigenous Hub

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

UVic Libraries is committed to reconciliation and decolonization in our spaces, resources, and practices. But while these efforts bloomed in person, the work remained invisible online. Our recent website redesign sought to address this gap through the creation of the Indigenous Hub -- a digital space that surfaces local Indigenous collections and shares our actions towards reconciliation. Creating a decolonized, relational space within an institutional website brings many challenges; the current Hub is our first step toward that ideal. In this talk, we will share perspectives on this work through the lenses of web design and resource curation.

Presenters:

Caitlin Keenan, University of Victoria Libraries

Jessie Lampreau, University of Victoria Libraries

Artie Goshulak, University of Victoria Libraries

1C-2 - How Hard Could it be? Vibe Coding Language Revitalization Tools with a Community Partner

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

An educator on Vancouver Island needed a digital soundboard for language revitalization, but no free tool fit their requirements. To help, I offered to "Vibe Code" a custom web based application for them. It took me 5-minutes to create a functional soundboard for the Portuguese alphabet - richmccue.github.io/brasil-letters/

This session explores how the project evolved from a 5-minute experiment into a collaboration to create a community-specific learning tool. Attendees will learn to build their own web-based applications like a language soundboard, or game like Flappy Bird - richmccue.github.io/papertowel/ - using generative AI to turn creative ideas into functional web based software without traditional programming.

Presenter:

Rich McCue, University of Victoria Libraries

1D - Censorship and Western Canadian Public School Library Learning Commons

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

A discussion of the landscape of Information Freedom and censorship in western Canadian public school libraries, covering foundational IF documents and statements, provincial legislation, school district policy, the Canadian Library Challenges Database, Alberta Ministerial Order 034-2025, BC Parental Transparency and Age-Appropriate Education Act (Bill M-215), action4Canada and far-right censorship tactics, and recent challenges in the south island area.

Presenter:

Adam Reese, Greater Victoria Public Library

1E - It's Like Talking to a Good Friend (AI)

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Join us for a discussion of the importance of human connection in the library as generative AI increasingly fills the role of confidant, counsellor, and content creator. We will break down how different digital services (like OverDrive, Naxos, NoveList, and more) curate their content using artificial intelligence, algorithms, or humans, and why this difference matters. Whether you're hoping to improve your reader's advisory skills or are contemplating breaking up with Spotify, this conversation will prepare you to better understand and explain the irreplaceability of library workers and why receiving a good recommendation is like talking to a good friend.

Presenter:

Allison Jones, Greater Victoria Public Library

Brooklyn Kemp, Greater Victoria Public Library

SESSION 2: 11:45AM - 12:30PM

2A - Everything Old is LLM Again (AI)

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT are often described as powerful and forward-looking, yet they struggle with hindsight bias, interpreting past events as inevitable once outcomes are known. To address this, researchers are training “historic LLMs” on older texts, allowing models to encounter historical uncertainty as it was actually experienced rather than as a known outcome. Our digitized collections of older newspapers and other primary period sources are becoming essential inputs for building better AI systems. This session explains how LLMs learn from text, why older collections matter, and what this growing demand means for library stewardship, access, preservation, and ethical responsibility.

Presenter:

Corey Davis, University of Victoria Libraries

2B - Where Can We Help You? An Evolution of Service Points in the McPherson Library

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Since the McPherson Library opened over 60 years ago, we have had four major renovations of the circulation service point, and multiple shifts of other services including reference, periodicals, and music & media. This talk will show the physical space changes and discuss how library use, technology changes, and design theory have both necessitated and impacted the renovations and how the physical changes in turn affected policies, staff scheduling, desk coverage, cross training and more.

Presenter:

Page DeWolfe, University of Victoria Libraries

2C - What Is...Data Literacy? A Jeopardy-Style Guide for Today's Libraries

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

The presenter (me, Cairo) is dressed like Alex Trebek. Audience members can choose a question of varying difficulty from 6 categories like in Jeopardy: Terminology, Data visualization, Technology, Accessibility, Security, Surveys. Anyone from the audience can try and answer the question, not just the person who chose it. Each answer is followed by a 1 slide lesson/description about the data concept from the question. Treats ensue.

Presenter:

Cairo Sanders, University of Victoria Libraries

2D - Rails to Trails & Beyond: Come Journey with Us as We Explore British Columbia's Historic Traveling Libraries

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

We will explore the Provincial Library's Travelling Libraries program from the 1890s to the early 20th century, before its transition to the Public Library Commission. Beginning in 1898 with shipments to Duncan and Delta, the program expanded access to books across British Columbia by serving communities without local libraries. Sharing our re-discovery of the program, we'll highlight recent work that uncovers its legacy through materials held at the Legislative Library. This project preserves a compelling chapter in British Columbia's library history and invites reflection on how earlier outreach models can inform future initiatives. We also hope to encourage collaboration with other libraries and organizations that may hold related materials.

Presenters:

Ciara O'Kelly, Legislative Library of BC

Anna Loster, Legislative Library of BC

2E-1 - What do you do? Reversing Outreach

Lightning Talk - 7 minutes

Outreach is an essential part of library work. We frequently push out our services and resources to students, faculty, our communities. The UVic Advanced Research Services unit is trying to flip this approach around. Rather than pushing services, we're reaching out to our research community to learn more about what they're doing. We're asking them to talk about their work rather than our work. Who doesn't love talking about the work they do? Learn more about why and how we're taking this approach and how you can try it too!

Presenter:

Krista Godfrey, University of Victoria Libraries

2E-2 - (Nearly) Ten Years of *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

Celebrating a decade of VILSC is a timely opportunity to reflect on the nearly ten years since the publication of the first issue of UVic Libraries' scholarly journal, *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*. *KULA* publishes scholarship exploring the intersections between knowledge production and technology, including the changing digital environment of scholarly publishing itself. In this presentation, we will consider the past, present, and future of the journal in this context, focusing on how *KULA*'s editorial vision and philosophy have been and continue to be shaped by such technological innovations.

Presenters:

Karina Greenwood, University of Victoria Libraries

Samantha MacFarlane, University of Victoria Libraries

Caroline Winter, University of Victoria Libraries

2E-3 - *The Kula: Library Futures Academy*

Lightning Talk - 7 minutes

A lightening talk outlining the developments of "library futures" in the Kula: Library Futures Academy at UVic Libraries.

Presenter:

Matt Huculak, University of Victoria Libraries

SESSION 3: 1:30 - 2:15PM

3A-1 - Seeds of Collaboration: Growing the Open Science Community of Victoria (OSCV)

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

This presentation introduces the Open Science Community of Victoria (OSCV), a new cross-institutional network between the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University dedicated to advancing transparent and accessible research. With approximately 100 members and spanning a wide range of roles and disciplines, OSCV highlights libraries' growing leadership in shaping a more open scholarly landscape. I will share early milestones and upcoming programming that work to make open research skills visible, learnable, and sustainably supported through grassroots community building.

Presenter:

Monique Grenier, University of Victoria Libraries

3A-2 - Pop-Up Recording Studio - Music in the Library

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

Musicians recording music in the Library - For Free - with a professional music producer and audio engineer.

We remove the financial, technological and expertise barriers to recording music at Salt Spring Island Public Library.

Presenter:

Ryan Shepard, Salt Spring Island Public Library

3B - Permacomputing Community of Practice

Hands-on Workshop - 45 minutes

"In a time where computing epitomizes industrial waste and exploitation, permacomputing encourages a more sustainable approach, maximizing hardware lifespans, minimizing energy use and focusing on the use of already available computational resources." [permacomputing.net]

Workshop participants will brainstorm ideas for incorporating principles of permacomputing into library praxis, thinking through ways we might extend the lifetime of equipment, foster deeper understanding of and engagement with computing systems, and decrease reliance on proprietary systems owned by extractive multinational corporations in increasingly fraught geopolitical conditions.

Presenters:

John Durno, University of Victoria Libraries

Dana McFarland, Vancouver Island University

Luke McLeod, Vancouver Island University

3C - Who Are You? Identification, Identity, and Community Participation

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

What does it mean to be a person without ID? Without a legal identity, it can become nearly impossible to access essential services including food banks, healthcare, housing and social programs.

Greater Victoria Public Library has partnered with two organizations, the Community Social Planning Council, and the Pro Bono Students Canada UVic Chapter, to offer a regular ID Clinic and TransID Clinic to assist individuals in the community access ID services.

This presentation will explore the logistics of the clinics, and the other related relationships, program opportunities, and partnerships that have resulted.

Presenters:

Megan Clark, Greater Victoria Public Library

Nina Mosallaei, Greater Victoria Public Library

Caitlin Ottenbreit, Greater Victoria Public Library

3D - Book Histories, Book Futures: Book Arts Pedagogies at UVic Libraries

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

The proposed panel will discuss how book history and contemporary book arts are meaningfully interconnected and impactful for learners and researchers. The panelists will provide examples of learning and research in UVic Libraries' Farallon Book Arts Lab and Special Collections and University Archives, from semester long courses, such as Media Studies 350: Cultures of the Book, to one-shot sessions, to interdisciplinary collaborative research projects, and will demonstrate how hands-on, experiential learning facilitates deeper understanding and enriched student engagement.

Presenters:

Heather Dean, University of Victoria Libraries

Jacob Maddison, University of Victoria Libraries

3E - Beyond the Next Renewal: Reflecting on the Past and Future of Library Acquisitions and Electronic Resources

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Within the last 10 years, the landscape of acquisitions and electronic resources work has shifted dramatically, including the wide acceptance of electronic material as the format of choice, advancements in integrated library systems, and shifts in staffing structures. In the next 10 years, this work could change just as much. We invite you to reflect on the past decade, and think with us on emerging issues like threats to perpetual access; the future of print; and budget instability that may shape the next decade.

Presenters:

Kjell Cawsey, University of Victoria Libraries

Evelyn Feldman, University of Victoria Libraries

SESSION 4: 2:30 - 3:15PM

4A-1 - From Search Skills to Sensemaking: Instructional in an Increasingly Complex and Turbulent Infosphere

Single Topic - 20 minutes

Over the past decade, the information landscape has expanded in complexity, urgency, and unpredictability. This session reflects on how my information literacy instruction has evolved in response to shifting technologies, political tensions, and changing student needs. From foundational search skills to nuanced conversations about authority, bias, and algorithmic influence, my teaching has adapted to an infosphere that increasingly demands critical thinking and socio-political alertness. I will share key lessons learned, strategies that supported this evolution, and insights on preparing learners to navigate an information ecosystem that shows no signs of deceleration.

Presenter:

Justin Harrison, University of Victoria Libraries

4A-2 - Libraries' Future Roles in Knowledge Mobilization and Experiential Learning: A Case Study of the Invisible Companion Digital Resource

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

The Invisible Companion digital exhibit project at UVic Libraries centers on the development of an open online education resource that illuminates the everyday lives of urban youth living under political dictatorship in 1960s and 1970s in China. The resource takes the form of a ten episode series adapted from the 1986 Chinese novel *The Invisible Companion* by Zhang Kangkang, translated by former University of Victoria professor Daniel Bryant.

Using the project as a case study, the presenters will examine the experience, challenges and insights gained by the project team through the process of creating it, reimagining the future roles of libraries in supporting experiential learning, advancing knowledge mobilization, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and addressing the growing threats of censorship and misinformation in the age of artificial intelligence.

Presenters:

Ying Liu, University of Victoria Libraries

Bill Blair, University of Victoria Libraries

4B - From Print to Digital to Generative AI: Information Literacy in Legal Research

Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Navigating Legal Research with GenAI: An Open Tutorial Series is a collection of four concise, interactive modules designed to help legal researchers critically, ethically, and effectively engage with generative AI tools. The legal research process has shifted from print to mostly digital and now is shifting again to include GenAI. This presentation will outline the project's development process, highlight lessons learned, and reflect on the continued importance of librarians and information literacy in the context of how rapidly evolving technologies have reshaped legal research support. Created as an open educational resource, the modules invite adaptation and reuse, supporting a future-focused approach to digital literacy in libraries.

Presenters:

Sarah Miller, University of Victoria Libraries

Emily Nickerson, University of Victoria Libraries

Keilah Abello, University of Victoria Libraries

4C-1 - Digital Sovereignty: What is it, Why it Matters, And Why it's Difficult

Single Topic Presentation - 20 minutes

Lately (finally?) everyone seems to be talking about "Digital Sovereignty" - but what do they mean? Come to this session if you'd like to discuss what it means to you, why you think it's important, if it's important what's stopping it from happening, and what we might do about it.

Presenter:

Scott Leslie, BC Libraries Co-operative

4C-2 - Back from the Brink: Rescued Geospatial Data Offers A(nother) Historical View of South-West BC and Vancouver Island

Single Topic - 20 minutes

Dr. Olaf Nieman Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria-UVic retired in January 2020 after 32 years. He was the BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing. Olaf and his Hyperspectral-LiDAR Research Group and partners such as Terra Remote Sensing collected approx. 40Tb of data of hyper- & multi-spectral and LiDAR data from 5cm to 20m spatial resolution from various locations on mostly on Vancouver Island but some from Metro Vancouver, other parts of BC, AB, and the rest of the world. The data were in UVic's Enterprise Data Centre-EDC when he retired and Olaf wanted some of the data to be available to researchers but because of COVID, there was a lapse in describing the data and uploading it to a Canadian national data repository, Federated Research Data Repository-FRDR, so that it could be used by others.

With persistence, the data was re-located in 2025 and the process of the creation of thorough metadata, ReadMe(s) and upload to Federated Research Data Repository-FRDR has begun.

This presentation will share some of the highlights of the data and struggles thus far and ask audience members for their advice and opinions.

Presenters:

daniel Brendle-Moczuk, University of Victoria Libraries

Gabrielle Wade, University of Victoria Libraries

4D - TBR(A): Recommending Nonfiction to Adult Readers

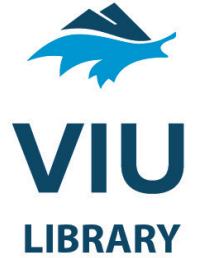
Single Topic Presentation - 45 minutes

Are you looking to expand beyond fiction in reader's advisory? Narrative nonfiction encourages curiosity, includes a diversity of voices, experiences and perspectives, and develops a greater understanding of ourselves and our world—while also providing an enjoyable reading experience. Learn tips for pairing fiction and nonfiction in reader's advisory, while exploring popular authors, titles and subjects including biographies & memoirs, narrative history, science, technology, popular culture, true crime, food and travel writing. By bridging fiction and nonfiction we can expand reading opportunities for our patrons and promote the full breadth of our collection.

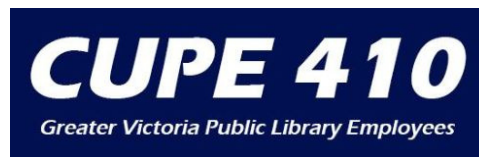
Presenter:

Nicholle Akin, Greater Victoria Public Library

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