

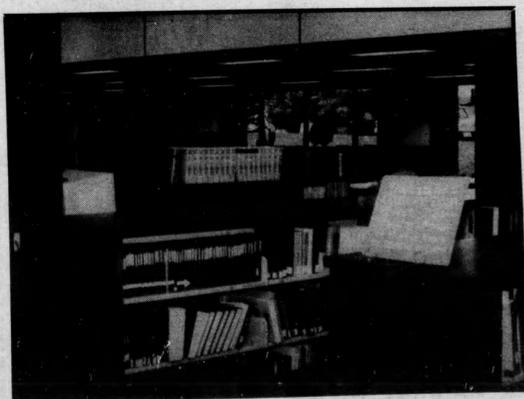
# The secret of success



Harriet Irving Library 20 years and going strong

By TOM HENDERSON

So you want to make the Dean's List, do you? A's and A-'s across the board, right? Well, here's the secret to doing it for those of you who aren't members of MENSA (the organization of people with IQ's in the genius range). It's called WORK and it starts at one of the campus' five (yes people, there actually five different libraries) separate depositories of study and reference materials.



The Science Library as you enter the facility

The biggest of the libraries is of course Harriet Irving and it holds Government documents, the social sciences and humanities collection, the archives and special collections such as the Lord Beaverbrook everything the others don't--the Engineering library in Head Hall for Engineering and Computer Science materials; the Science library in the IUC (Integrated University Complex) which has the science and forestry books; the Education Resource Centre at Marshall D'Avray Hall; and the Law Library which is administratively separate from the rest of the Libraries.

This year the Harriet Irving Library is 20 years old and in conjunction with the anniversary the library will be holding an open house with special tours and presenting lectures during National Universities Week in the last week of October.

There are tours held daily at Harriet Irving at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday throughout the year. Simply go to the information counter inside the main entrance and you will be shown such diverse things as how to use the computerized catalogue to search for materials, what the microforms are and how to load a reel of an old newspaper and get a photocopy of a particular page, and where the bathrooms are. In the other libraries tours are available simply by asking the person at the information desk to show you around. Don't be shy, contrary to popular opinion, librarians like to show people how to find whatever they're looking for.

There are approximately 150 people who work at the libraries, including part time people who staff the buildings at night. They administer and care for a portfolio of 900,000 books and 1.25 million microforms (reels of old newspapers and fiches of documents) in addition to 5,000 different periodicals which are subscribed to each year. When the average replacement cost per book of \$35 is considered, the amount of funds required to replace the libraries books would be over \$315 million. Is it any wonder the librarians urgently request that users take good care of anything they borrow?

When you walk into one of the libraries the first thing you will probably notice is the computer terminals. This is the PHOENIX system, the library's automated catalogue. Where most libraries have cards with the relevant information typed on them, UNB/STU has a computer which holds the data on all the books that have been received

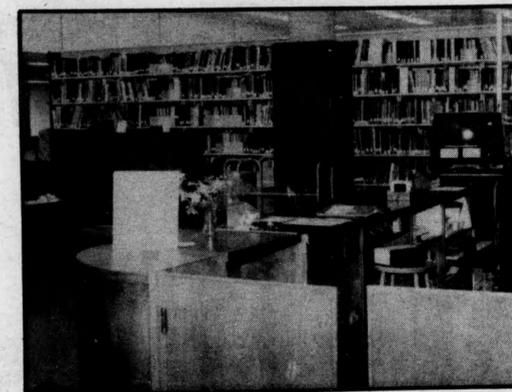
since 1977. This means that finding the appropriate books is much faster than by hand as you learn more about the capabilities of the program you can do more with it. Don't be afraid to try it out, after all, the worst thing that'll happen is having to ask for assistance and that's happened to everyone at least a couple times in their lives.

Major changes have taken place all over the library system in the last year. The Education Resource Centre at D'Avray Hall has undergone a major renovation with the installation of a new fire sensing and extinguishing system as well as a security system like the one at Harriet Irving. The Microform department at Harriet Irving has been moved from the basement up to the first floor and changed from staff operated to a self-service arrangement. This makes the old newspapers accessible on a continual basis. In addition there is a microform printer available that operates the same as a photocopier.

A reverse credit card system has been introduced for the photocopiers and microform printers. Users pay a deposit of \$1 for a debit card which they then have inscribed with monetary balances to be used in the copiers. The copiers still take change but you can't get bills changed at the circulation desk anymore. When the debit balance on the card is used up, you simply trade it in on a new one for which costs only the amount inscribed on it. At the end of the year, you turn the card in for a refund of your deposit and whatever unused balance remains.

Probably the most important change instigated by the libraries in the last year is the ability to do custom searches on any topic. The person needing to have a search done fills out a form detailing the required information. The search itself is done by an experienced librarian with the person present to provide additional information if needed. The computer searches any of many databases available throughout the world and goes through the summaries of the articles on the database, ending up with a list of appropriate and usable reference papers that can then be pulled from the stacks.

Understandably this use of external facilities is done on a cost recovery basis but for those who don't have days to spend manually going through indexes and abstracts this is the answer to your prayers.



Marshall D'Avray home of the Education Resources Centre

Future plans for the library system include moving the periodicals down to the first floor to make them more accessible; automating the circulation system to provide more control over materials and rapid recovery of overdue loans; and the continuing investigation and possible installation of CD-ROM databases such as the US-British book index 'Books in Print.' The library's emphasizing of utilizing the computing facilities available has given students access to one of the best library services in place today with confidence that tomorrow will bring even more improvements.



Harriet Irving - THE place to study