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The future of information science is marveled at UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre Tour



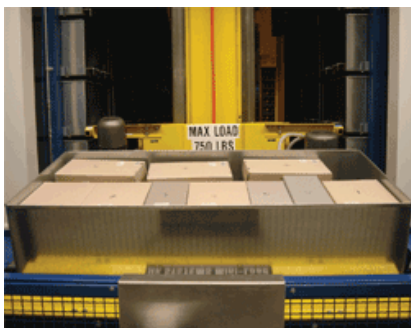
UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Centre was the scene of ARMA Vancouver's latest program. A tour of this building opened many eyes to the scale and variety of information management and creation at UBC. The building contains a full scale academic library, Rare Books and Special Collections, the University Archives, the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, as well as dozens of units concerned with teaching students as well as staff and

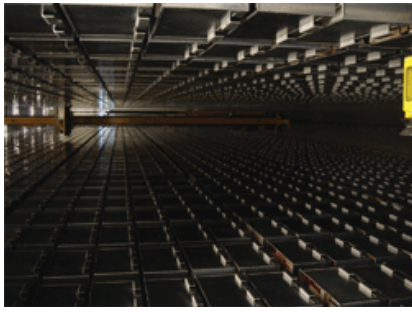
faculty. Most exciting for many seemed to be the "robot" otherwise known as the Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS).

Alan Doyle, the President Elect of ARMA Vancouver and University Records Manager for UBC was the event host and tour guide. Some highlights of the tour included the stunning artwork by artists John Nutter and Jeff Burnette, as well as a surprise invitation to tour the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies (SLAIS) which allowed us to see their shiny new facilities, and resulted in an impromptu review of the InterPares Project research by Randy Preston InterPARES Project Co-coordinator Leslie Field, Archives assistant with the University Archives spoke eloquently about the substantial digitization efforts being carried out by the University Archives, and Simon Neame, the Head, Chapman Learning Commons & Coordinator, Programs & Services for the Learning Centre gave an excellent recap of the approach the Library and University has taken with the Learning Centre, and what distinguishes it from a typical library space. Finally, Michelle Mallette the Student Services Coordinator for SLAIS spoke of the availability of Library and Archives students to do sponsored projects for credit. The idea of free labour certainly seemed to pique the interest of several attendees!

The program was the first ARMA event conducted at UBC and although not specifically focused on Records Management provided some unique insight into the way information is created, managed, and shared at UBC. The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre is a fascinating place, and as many of the presenters made clear, not just for UBC but for BC, Canada, and the world.

Here's a couple more photos to pique your interest:





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