

UBC Library Vault

Wonders that reside within UBC Library's unique collections are now available at users' fingertips for free. At the UBC Library Vault—found at www.ubcvault.ca—visitors can discover enticing images and stories hailing from Rare Books and Special Collections and other UBC Library divisions.

The Library Development Office spearheaded the site, which serves as a gateway to an array of material that resides within the nooks and crannies of the Library, and which has largely remained hidden from the public eye—until now. Items range from the meticulous, such as zoological giraffe drawings by an 18th-century naturalist, to the monumental, including pages from a German book of prayer created at the dawn of western printing in 1500.

Since its beginnings, the site's concept has been to reach out to UBC Library's array of supporters and those fascinated by its archives. "We want to create a community of engaged and excited users," says Shakeela Begum, the

Library's Director of Development. "The UBC Library Vault website allows us to connect with people—including donors, alumni and users across the spectrum—who want to know more about the amazing items held at UBC Library. It's also our way of saying thank you to those who have supported us."

Visitors can join www.ubcvault.ca for free, and each month they will receive an image that's been selected from UBC Library's many special collections, along with its story.

The site also contains an array of distinctive gifts based on Vault images. For example, visitors can purchase card sets that feature themes ranging from 18th-century musical manuscripts, to luxurious flora and fauna, to prints from famed Canadian landscape painter Toni Onley. Holiday themed sets are also available. Future gifts will likely include journals, umbrellas and prints. Each time a gift is purchased from the UBC Library Vault, a portion of the proceeds is directed to one of the Library's many funds and endowments.

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