

Important pieces of nursing history now online

The University of British Columbia (UBC) Library is providing a glimpse into the world of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) by offering online access to a collection of her letters.

UBC has digitized 159 letters written either by or to the woman who is recognized as the founder of modern nursing. Much of the correspondence is from Nightingale to longtime friend Mary (Clarke) Mohl and her husband, Julius. According to Glennis Zilm, an honorary professor at the UBC school of nursing and a nursing historian, Mary Mohl was supportive of Nightingale's independent lifestyle, which did not fit society's view of the role of a young lady at that time.

"Digitization allows us to take our small but important collection of Nightingale letters and make them available to anyone, anywhere in the world. This material would have only been available to serious researchers who were in a position to travel to the UBC campus to access it," says University Archivist Chris Hives.

To view the letters, go to http://angel.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/index_coll1.php?CISOROOT=/coll1.