

# Learning, Connecting, and Belonging

## *A Message from the Librarian*

**A** library is much more than a collection of books. It's a key gathering space—a place where people can learn, connect, and belong.

The existing library was originally built in 1950 to serve as a cafeteria and a college store. In 1964 the building was re-purposed for a library. But yesterday's facilities won't adequately serve students for the future. For this reason, together with your help, we're building a new library.

The modern facility will feature new quiet places for study and reflection and will provide collaborative learning spaces and meeting rooms.

**Learning.** Students will, of course, have access to books and popular articles, but learning opportunities don't stop there. The majority of Burman's acquisition budget is earmarked for specialized digital resources. In addition, virtual learning tools will enhance knowledge. The Burman library will foster exploration, nurture research, and prepare students for success in a society that values information.

**Connecting.** Scholarly activities, scientific discovery, and responsible research are enhanced by a network of educational opportunities and support. Besides collaborating for research, students will be able to create multi-media projects from resources shared by several departments. A "makerspace" will allow students from all disciplines to creatively apply their knowledge.

**Belonging.** Group study rooms and the fireside in the Fitch Forum will accommodate students who favour different styles of learning and social interaction. The library will also provide meeting places for clubs and committees, perhaps even for lectures and community events.

Learning, connecting, and belonging – they're all at the heart of the Burman University library.



**Sheila Clark, MLIS**  
*Librarian*



*Knowledge is increasing exponentially — IBM estimates that it doubles every 11 or 12 hours. Individuals and groups can self-publish material, creating a vast repository of facts and ideas. One example is the Digital Commons Network which brings together free, full-text scholarly articles. It is used by over 500 institutions to share their scholarly output and special collections.*



# The New Library: An Overview

## The new library will feature...

- 18,032 square feet.

## On the upper floor, you'll find...

- 4 study alcoves, with individual windows, that foster concentration and reflection.
- Fireside in the Fitch Forum that nurtures conversation and growth.
- Information commons that facilitates research and discovery.
- High-density shelving that reduces the overall storage footprint—it's only 19% of the floor space. This provides the convenience of on-site access to print materials and allows for increased space for other activities.
- Centre for Peace and Justice, whose programs promote inclusive and harmonious communities.

Connecting the upper and lower floors is a staircase featuring a beamed ceiling and open spaces. You can also use the elevator.

## On the lower floor, you'll discover...

- 4 group study rooms that provide space for collaboration.
- Prayer room to nurture reflection and contemplation.
- Makerspace, a collaborative work space, designed to promote critical thinking and hands-on creativity.
- Classroom with cutting edge technology for sound and video.
- Special collections room where students can hold heritage in their hands.
- The Writing Centre where students can learn to become confident and informed writers.

## Throughout the library...

- You'll sense the care and commitment of Burman University and its donors.





# The Heart of the Campus

**A**vibrant library is a centre where learning, scholarship, and technology meet. It's a place where students learn to find, evaluate, and use real world information, where they discuss ideas, and plan for the future.

In our digital age, university libraries have become learner-centered places rather than book-centered spaces. It is here that librarians mentor learners as they seek knowledge, training them to evaluate information and sources critically and to incorporate selected information into their knowledge bases and value systems. It is here that scholarly activity begins. And it is here—in the library—where discovery blossoms in a network of support and opportunities.

At Burman University, the library will be the heart of the campus.



In one sense, libraries are not a *place*. They are the transportation ... to knowledge, to wonder, and to growth.



Libraries are communication hubs that connect individual learners with each other and with the shared knowledge and wisdom of many voices.



Libraries help us see possibilities more clearly. They inspire us to search, to find purpose and belonging.