

SAGA Annual Report 2003 – 4
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The space on the main floor of the Koerner Library (with 15 workstations) is now available for use by researchers, and has been used over the past year by visiting scholars, faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, and graduate students. It has already brought together researchers who are interested in making future applications for funding for innovative, collaborative, interdisciplinary projects using the facility, and this will be a priority in the coming year. SAGA has a dual mandate, to preserve a legacy of auto/bio/graphical materials relating to women's lives (initially in BC) which might otherwise be lost, and to solicit new materials (such as oral histories) through research projects. We have already received some offers of archival materials (diaries etc.), and are currently investigating what we should welcome, how to assess and classify the materials proposed, and what can be converted to electronic form. A pilot project will be completed, with text scanned, tagged, and made available on-line to researchers, once the database is up and running (by Dec. 2004).

So far, SAGA has provided employment for several RAs associated with the CRWSGR's graduate programme, all of whom have made valuable contributions. Bianca Rus was responsible for overseeing the space in the first months of operation (summer 2003), and began to catalogue the book collection. Sara Koopman and Sedi Minachi shared responsibility during the academic year 2003-4. Sara has set up the web-page (incorporating information from the PWIAS project on Narratives of Disease, Disability, and Trauma from which SAGA grew) and established a communications network. We now have two list-serves, one for those interested in auto/bio/graphy related events in the Vancouver area, and one for those engaged in relevant research who want to be involved in SAGA. Sedi has prepared a database of community groups and organizations in the Lower Mainland interested in collaborating on future SAGA projects, such as collective oral history. This summer (2004), the RAs are Xin Huang and Huiling Lin. Jenéa Tallentire (History) will be taking a lead in getting the database up and running for a pilot project based on her research. We have already welcomed a number of international visiting scholars from Asia and Europe, and hope these contacts will contribute to forming an international network of feminist researchers working on the stories of women's lives, told through various media and analysed from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

The CFI/BCKDF grant that enabled SAGA to become a reality covers only infrastructure (space, furniture, IT connections) and equipment. We have to spend the remaining portion of this grant by the end of December 2004, and still have some purchases to make (transcribing equipment, mobile scanner etc.). Unfortunately the grant does not cover operating costs or the training of researchers, so we need to obtain further project-based funding in the coming year. In the meantime, we greatly appreciate the support of the administrative staff at the CRWSGR, FoGS IT services, and staff members at the Koerner Library. Our thanks go to the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies for allowing us to use part of the Wall grant for SAGA operations, and also to our Advisory Committee members: Jean Barman (Ed. Sts/ BC history), Connie Canam (Nursing/ qualitative research), Sneja Gunew (CRWSGR/cultural studies), Gabi Helms (English, autobiography), Anne Martin-Matthews (Social Work/ aging), and Carla Paterson (Foundations/history of medicine). To find out more about SAGA, consult our web-page (saga.ubc.ca) or contact us at saga@saga.ubc.ca. We welcome input from all those whose research interests relate to auto/bio/graphics, gender and diversity across the lifespan.