

News from New Brunswick

News from UNB Libraries

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Women in Engineering (WiE) Collection at the Engineering and Computer Science Library (UNB) Fredericton

WHY A SPECIAL COLLECTION IN ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The Engineering and Computer Science library at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) – Fredericton, has several special collections. These special collections are often resources in either print or electronic formats that specialize in engineering or computer science (CS) fields. Special collections can include theses and dissertations, standards, technical reports, codes etc., that are related to engineering and CS disciplines. As such, the selection of materials for these special collections must be consistent with our library's mission and policy as well as our faculties' research interests and needs. Moreover, special collections within the Engineering and CS Library play a central role in forming the entire library collection as a whole that supports the research endeavors of our faculties and students.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

As the name suggests, the Engineering and Computer Science Library serves both the Engineering and Computer Science faculties at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton campus. Our patrons include students, faculty, staff, alumni, and on some occasions, the general public. In terms of the physical space, we are small in size, but in terms of door count and space use we are, per capita (per square feet), the busiest library on campus. Our library consists of several special collections that focus on the research needs and research output of our faculties and students.

For instance, special collections housed in the library are print graduate theses from computer science and engineering that span from 1930 to present, while the most recent years are available in electronic formats via the UNB Scholar (Institutional Repository). Another special collection that our library currently house is the senior reports, which are final year undergraduate theses/reports from all of the engineering departments. This collection spans from the 1920s to today with the most recent years being available via UNB Scholar. The library also retains extensive research report holdings from Canadian and international research organizations in addition to subject specific standards and other

special collections. As such, the newest special collection that was recently developed and currently being maintained on an annual basis is the Women in Engineering (WiE) collection.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING (WiE) COLLECTION

Since 2015, a new special collection of books dedicated to women in the engineering profession was established in the Engineering & CS Library. In early 2015, the Women in Engineering (WiE) Society executive approached the Engineering and CS Library and wanted to see whether we would accept a donation from the WiE society on an annual basis to be added to our collection. The only special request they had was that we keep the donated books in the Engineering and CS library, so that all students would have access to the books conveniently since the Engineering and CS Library is located in the Engineering building. As such, they did not want the donated books scattered through other UNB Library locations. Moreover, they did not want the donated books to be circulated via inter-library loans (Doc Del). The WiE society also stated that they would be donating books on an annual basis, and as such, they would be selecting these books themselves. Even though these books aim to promote leadership, creativity, and professional development for women in engineering, the collection, obviously, would be accessible to everyone. As such, this was a great opportunity to build a special collection that is dedicated to women in engineering with a great partnership with the WiE society and the library. Most importantly, the collection would be consistent with our library's mission and policies, hence it would enhance our research and user experience.



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Taking the WiE society's request into consideration, the library wanted to make sure that this collection would have a prominent presence in the Engineering and CS library. As such, we decided to give this collection its own location code of **ENG-WIE which would ensure that it would be in a single dedicated space. Having a dedicated location would also ensure that the students and faculty would be able to browse and access the collection with much ease. We also wanted to make sure to display the WiE collection at a prominent location within the library and as such, we decided to place it closer to the main lobby of the library. We also made sure that we highlighted the collection by having a variety of signage that would give greater exposure and hopefully increase its the usage.**

Once the WiE collection was built and displayed in the desired location within the library, we decided to promote it to the entire UNB community. In this capacity, with the aid of the library's communication team, we created web blogs via the UNB libraries' website and created posters that would be displayed

throughout the engineering student and faculty lounges. We also decided to market the collection via email to engineering students and faculty directly so they would be aware and possibly make use of it.

HOW THE COLLECTION IS RECEIVED BY OUR USERS

Since 2015, our users have been making use of the WiE collection on a regular basis. Moreover, in addition to the WiE society donations, our faculty and other students have also been donating to the collection annually. As a result, our collection has expanded gradually each year; we hope it will continue to grow in the future. Informally, we have also received constant praise from our students and faculty regarding the collection. Even retired faculty members have commented on the WiE collection and have donated relatable books that we have added to it. In the future, with the support and generosity of our community, we are hoping that the WiE collection will continue to grow and form a large and vital section of the Engineering and CS Library.