The cIRcle 2010 Olympics Project

by Tara Stephens, cIRcle Olympics Project Librarian

The cIRcle 2010 Olympics Project Report
The cIRcle Olympics Project (October 2009—April 2011) was a unique effort to gather, showcase and preserve UBC’s intellectual output related to the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Targeted content included research and teaching outputs, proceedings or webcasts of conferences and other events, and any other material that was Olympics inspired and of long-term value. Over the course of 18 months, material was gathered in a variety of formats on a range of Olympics related topics from ethics and sustainability to inclusivity and social responsibility. The result is a unique collection of valuable material that receives thousands of views and downloads from around the world and serves as an important record of UBC’s significant contribution to the Vancouver Olympic Legacy.

Building Relationships with the UBC Community & Its Partners
The momentum generated by the cIRcle Olympics Projects continues to create support for cIRcle and strengthens the repository’s growing reputation across the university and beyond. At the “Up Close with cIRcle” Celebrate Research Week event in March 2010, Joe Weiler, UBC Faculty of Law Professor and one of the Olympics Project’s early contacts, spoke enthusiastically about cIRcle’s potential to help create a true community of scholars at UBC. To illustrate, he related his own experience discovering the work of previously unknown colleagues by browsing the cIRcle Olympics collection. In the past year, many key relationships have since extended beyond the cIRcle Olympics Project, leading to partnerships across the academic community.

Collection Highlights

- Sport, Peace, and Development: How Can Sport Contribute to Positive Social Change?
  - Viewed 605 times!
- Olympic Games Impact (OGI) study: Results and Lessons from the Pre-Games Report
  - Viewed 239 times!
- Hunting for the Olympics Bounce: Any Evidence in Real Estate
  - Viewed 774 times!
- The open-source outbreak: H1N1, the Olympics and new directions for public health
  - Viewed 671 times!
- Tim Horton, Tim Hortons, and Hockey Night in Kandahar: Towards a Postmodern Canadian Imperialism
  - Viewed 224 times!
- Pecha Kucha-Inspired Olympics Forum
  - Viewed 418 times!
New Partnerships
One of the project’s earliest contacts, Dr. Robert Sparks, Director of the UBC Centre for Sports and Sustainability and Director of the School of Kinesiology, was involved with a number of Olympics related events and research activities that Tara Stephens, the cIRcle Olympics Project Librarian, was able to capture in some way for cIRcle. One of these events, the Invitational Think Tank on Sports Mega-Events, Sustainability and Impact Assessment, was a panel discussion of leading experts in sport and sustainability and included a presentation on the Olympic Games Impact Study by Dr. Rob VanWynsberghe, UBC Lead on OGI. Through sustained email communications, in-person meetings, and liaison with Dr. Sparks and members of the Centre’s team, what began as content recruitment for the Olympics Project has evolved into discussions to create a cIRcle community for the high-profile Centre for Sport and Sustainability and the School of Kinesiology. Tara Stephens has also begun consulting with members of the David Lam Library staff on a strategy for disseminating research and coursework from the Sauder School of Business. Through these growing partnerships, cIRcle actively supports UBC’s vision to increase the impact of UBC’s research and scholarship.

Top countries viewing cIRcle Olympics collection
- United States
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Russian Federation
- China
- Germany
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Korea
- Australia
- France
- Côte d’Ivoire

The UBC Olympic Legacy
The goal of the cIRcle 2010 Olympics Project was to capture UBC’s intellectual output surrounding the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The resulting collection represents the broad range of topics researched and discussed by UBC and its partners, and features a selection of unique material that may have otherwise been lost or remained inaccessible to users beyond the university. The project itself helped make significant inroads to the goal of operationalizing cIRcle and contributed to a vision of the repository as a fully integrated library service. While active recruitment of content for the Olympics collection will cease to be a priority, the insight gained from this project continues to inform cIRcle’s growing operations. In this way, the cIRcle Olympics Project, tasked with preserving a legacy, has created a legacy of its own.