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[2016. 10. 11]

The role of the Media Commons was and is to provide classroom media support for the University – all three campuses. That is still a main component of our mission even though many affiliated Libraries now have their own AV collection.

I order the films that are requested for classroom use, Charlotte Jacobs then books them for the requestor. The Media Commons also provides space (which Charlotte books) to conduct a course or to screen a film in the form of two theatres. If you are contacted by a faculty member who wants to use film, send them on to me. My email address is on our webpage. I can advise on purchases, place the orders, and advise on copyright, screenings, etc. A large part of my job is to communicate with faculty who must come to me because my constituency is so large that I cannot usefully come to them. However, if you think that it may be useful for me to come to your constituency and talk about what we do at the Media Commons, I am happy to do.

Classroom support is the traditional role for media libraries and one that most Libraries across Canada still adhere to. However, the Media Commons' role has changed over the last 10 years to building a collection that will be used as a research collection, hopefully, for many years to come. We have over 20,000 AV items and growing at the rate of about 1,600 items a year. We have feature films from over 100 countries in all genres, television programs from mainly Canada, US and the UK. Documentaries on all subjects. This collection makes us somewhat unique. In Ontario, only York University, so far, is building a similar collection, although their focus may be different. My goal is to create as deep and rich a collection as possible. This fall we will be expanding to include board games, and hopefully, in the New Year, video games as a pilot project.