

**Genealogies, family and immigration archives in North American libraries:  
showcasing the collections at the University of British Columbia, Canada**

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The paper affords a panoramic view of the genealogy and diasporas collections in North American libraries and an in-depth report of the family and immigration archives at the Asian Library, UBC. Through a close examination of the research projects evolved around its major collections, it suggests that there is great potential for an array of scholarly exercises on such materials. Societies are founded on families and family ties continued to influence patterns of immigration to Canada. Kinship formed not only the basis for social life but also for entrepreneurship and partnership. Referencing to some of the records, it illustrates how these family manuscripts, business and immigration records can serve as critical sources for business, economic and social history. While digitization and preservation are widely recognized as top priorities for librarians and curators overseeing these collections, the provision of easy access and promotion of scholarship deserve allocation of equitable resources and attention. The challenges faced by the librarians at UBC are generic: their experiences in the rescue and management of archival materials as well as the creation of knowledge are valuable lessons to be shared with many information professionals overseas.