

ABSTRACT

A Traditional and Indigenous Healing Collection is now available at the University of Alberta John W. Scott Health Sciences Library at the University of Alberta.

The ceremonial opening of the collection included presentations from a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, emeritus faculty members with long standing research interests in cultural aspects of healing, Indigenous healers and Library representatives. The opening ceremony was a demonstration of the inclusion of diverse communities in the Library's work to support traditional and indigenous health sciences. The collection also represents one of the many unique strengths that make the University of Alberta Libraries a great research library.



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Why a Traditional and Indigenous Healing Collection?

The impetus for the development of this collection came mainly from the Centre for Cross-Cultural Health and Healing at the University of Alberta. The Director and Board of the Centre collaborated closely with the Libraries in developing the concept and establishing basic collection policies.

This healing collection is as much about being a space in which traditional and indigenous healing methods are valued as it is about the collection. This is a space in which it is safe to explore methods other than western health sciences. It stands apart from the rest of the collection, both physically, in an alcove, and visually, through the rich earth tones used throughout the distinctive wall decorations.

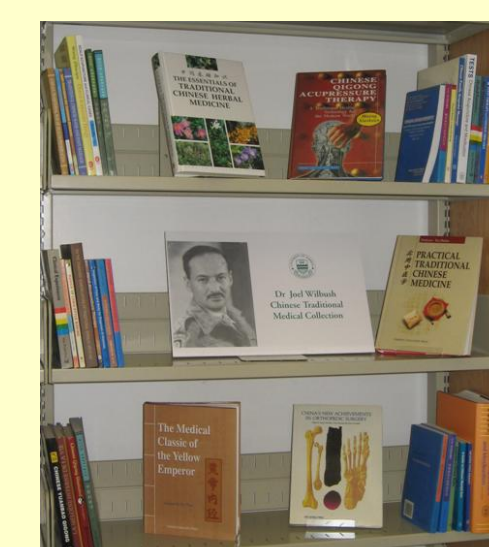


"All of healing is like one big hospital. That hospital needs many doors. We need to choose the best door for each patient."

Dr. Steven K. H. Aung, Clinical Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and traditional Chinese medicine practitioner

The Collection

The core materials in this collection come from two community sources. The Indigenous collection comes from the collection at the University of Alberta's Centre for Cross-Cultural Health and Healing. The Oriental Collection is being purchased through a donation from Dr. Joel Wilbush, an emeritus faculty member. While primarily English language, the collection includes many bilingual works in Indigenous and Oriental languages. Material may be in any format and is available for anyone to use on-site.



Rare materials from this collection are housed in the Phyllis Russell Rare Book Room and may be viewed by appointment.

Opening Ceremony

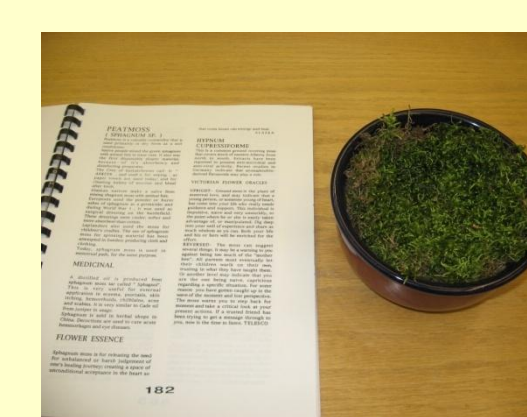
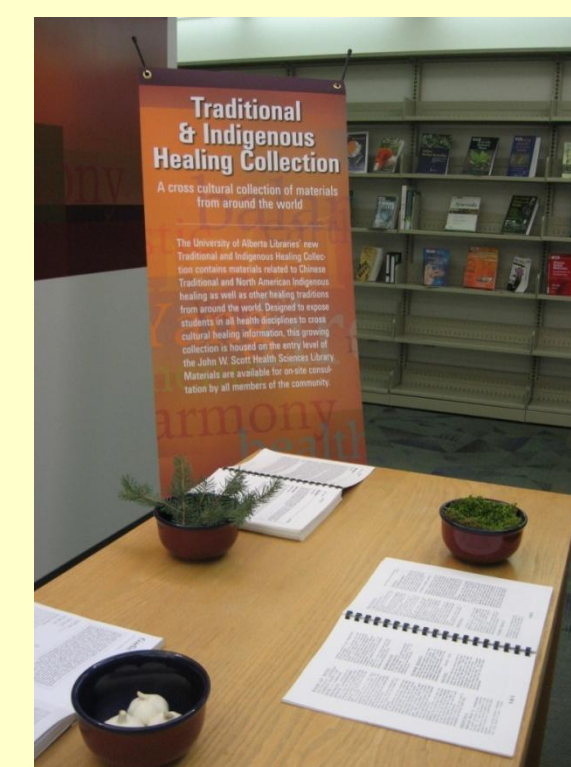


Clifford Cardinal cuts the ribbon while Mary-Jo Romaniuk (Acting Chief Librarian) and donor, Dr. Joel Wilbush look on left and Dr. Stephen Aung (traditional practitioner and Clinical Instructor), Dr. Earle Waugh (Director, Centre for Cross Cultural Health and Healing) and Marlene Dorgan (Head, John W. Scott Health Sciences Library) look on right.

The Opening Ceremony involved Oriental and North American Indigenous healers, as well as Faculty and Library representatives. Ceremony, itself, is one of the tools of the Indigenous healer. Sundance Chief and Assistant Professor of Medicine and Dentistry, Clifford Cardinal, placed an eagle feather on the podium and began the Opening Ceremony with a traditional Cree blessing.

Plants and Texts

For the opening ceremony, books which described specific uses of plants for healing were displayed, along with samples of the plants.



Working With Community



Back Row: Frank Shannon (Haida), Rueben Quinn (Papaschase), Keith Horse Looking (Lakota), Clifford Cardinal (Cree), Emil Durocher (Salteaux); Front row: Dr. Earle Waugh, Dr. Stephen Aung, sitting: Dr. Joel Wilbush.

The Opening Ceremony was timed to coincide with a gathering of Indigenous healers from across Canada and the Western United States.

Community members are encouraged to use the space and to donate unique healing publications that they may have in their personal collections.



Donor Dr. Joel Wilbush spoke eloquently about the need to value and incorporate alternative therapies and alternative understandings of health and healing.

Future Developments

Faculty in all Health Sciences disciplines and community members are encouraged to use the Traditional and Indigenous Healing Collection space for their teaching and personal research.



A web-page is under development to provide access to the many related publications that are available in electronic format.

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/healthsciences>