If you had walked into Perkins Library this fall, you would have passed through a fascinating exhibit on Duke history. It has been 175 years since a one-room schoolhouse opened in Randolph County, North Carolina, launching the educational institution that would become today’s Duke University.

Duke is a place of many milestones and anniversaries. Last year marked the fortieth anniversary of Title IX and women’s varsity athletics. This year we observed the fiftieth anniversary of Duke’s desegregation. Here in the Libraries, we’re celebrating twenty-five years of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, part of the Rubenstein Library.

Anniversary celebrations are part of the culture of universities. They underscore the value we place on heritage and tradition. But they also speak to a basic human impulse to acknowledge things that endure.

Few places embody that impulse better than the library. We are the keeper of things that endure, not to mention the official custodian of university history. Longevity is our business.

So is change. The environment in which students and faculty operate today is immeasurably more complex than when Duke was a younger institution. The same is true for Duke’s libraries.

We do more now than we have ever done, as a library system and as individuals who work in one. We collaborate with a wider range of people, academic programs, and partners in industry. We are constantly adjusting to changes in technology, which in turn drive changes in our services and resources.

And yet there is continuity with the basic mission of any research library. We are a place for discovery and learning. We collect, organize, and preserve knowledge. We serve as a portal to resources beyond our walls. We help people with their teaching, learning, and research.

With all of this in mind, we recently decided to do something as an organization to help us think our way forward. In true academic fashion, we decided to go back to school.

Earlier this year, I sent out a call to our entire staff to convene throughout the academic year for an informal series of readings and discussions on the present and future state of libraries. Not quite a strategic planning process, we’ve taken to calling this guided thought-experiment our “Seminar on the Research Library.”

The word seminar denotes a gathering of individuals who come together in intensive study and the active exchange of ideas. As with any seminar, our aim is to pause, reflect, and engage with one another in an atmosphere of common purpose and intellectual respect. We want to question basic assumptions, make bold predictions, and re-imagine the very nature of what we do.

There are no grades. No final exams. But we hope to come out of the exercise with a clear idea of where we have been as a library and where we are heading next.

I’m looking forward to the discussions and insights that come out of our seminar. Who knows? Maybe it’s the start of another time-honored Duke tradition.

Deborah Jakubs
Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway
University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs
By the Numbers

Resources
Total volumes: **7.2 million**
Manuscripts and archives: **65,687 linear feet**
Journals and Periodicals: **146,000**
e-Books: **1.4 million**

Services & Staff
Books and other items checked out: **424,568**
Loans to other libraries: **24,176**
Loans from other libraries: **28,656**
Reference questions answered: **61,699**
Instruction and training sessions: **536**
Full-time staff: **241**

Space
Main West Campus library complex (Perkins, Bostock, and Rubenstein Libraries, plus the von der Heyden Pavilion): **484,967 gross square feet**
East Campus libraries (Lilly and Music) and the Library Service Center: **90,033 gross square feet**
Combined total campus library space: **575,000 gross square feet** (excluding professional school libraries)
Miles of shelving: **60**
Comfy seats: **2,000**

Just FYI
Library gate count: **4,962,724**
(Equivalent to someone walking through the door **every 6 seconds**, all day long, every day of the year!)
Annual visits to library.duke.edu: **2,695,073** (one every 12 seconds)
Percentage of collections budget devoted to electronic resources: **63**

Images, texts, video, and audio files digitized: **400,000**
Size, in terabytes, of server space needed for digital file storage: **77**
Projected size, in terabytes, of server space needed in five years: **6,500**
Fragile items repaired or housed in protective enclosures by Conservation Services department: **20,547**
Items pulled from Perkins Library shelves and delivered to campus locations: **21,414**
Paintings, drawings, and other works of art moved due the Rubenstein Library renovation: **173**

Fine Print
“Resources” figures include all libraries in the Duke University Libraries system (Perkins, Bostock, Rubenstein, Lilly, Music, the Library Service Center, and Pearse Memorial Library at the Duke Marine Lab) as well as the four professional school libraries: the Divinity School Library, Ford Library at the Fuqua School of Business, Goodson Library at the Law School, and the Medical Center Library. All other figures in this report refer only to the Duke University Libraries and do not include the professional school libraries.
Planning the Research Commons
To meet the needs of interdisciplinary, data-driven, team-based research at Duke, the Libraries undertook a planning study to create a new specialized service hub on the first floor of Bostock Library. Dubbed the Research Commons, it will offer faculty and students technology-focused services, resources, and spaces for collaborative work, as well as expert staff who can consult on data management, data visualization, digital scholarship project support, and other topics. Renovation plans have been approved by the Board of Trustees with a construction timeframe of Spring – Fall 2014.

2012–2013 Milestones

Supporting Duke MOOCs
This past year, the Center for Instructional Technology supported eleven Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) taught by Duke faculty, with expertise and resources ranging from course design and online teaching strategies to video equipment loans, video editing, course evaluation, and other academic technology needs. Subject librarians also contributed expertise. Total enrollment in Duke-sponsored Coursera classes was over 700,000 students.

Fifty Years of Black Students at Duke
This year marked the fiftieth anniversary of desegregation at Duke. As part of a campus-wide retrospective, the Duke University Archives designed a traveling exhibit examining the contributions of African Americans at Duke, before and after integration. Also part of the fiftieth anniversary, all of the published editions of the Duke Chronicle student newspaper from the 1960s were digitized, giving students a valuable window into this tumultuous era in Duke history.

Piloting the DC3
A $500,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation and the support of Arts & Sciences and the Provost led to the creation of a new unit in the Libraries—the Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing (DC3)—that will advance scholarship in both classical studies and the digital humanities. The DC3 is led by
New Digital Collections

The digitization of the Rubenstein Library’s rare and unique scholarly collections remains a major emphasis and a way to share these valuable holdings with the wider world. Sixteen new digital collections were published online this year. Among these are more than 3,000 photographs documenting the life and philanthropy of Doris Duke, a large collection of Confederate imprints, and 66,000 documents related to the growth and progress of the Long Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina. The last is part of an inter-institutional collaboration between Duke, UNC, NC State, and NC Central dedicated to digitizing civil rights records from the 1880s to the 2000s from all four institutions.

Taking Open Access to the Next Level

In 2011, the Libraries piloted an open-access publishing service, beginning with three academic journals. This year, we began hosting the online publication of Cultural Anthropology, one of the first flagship journals in the social sciences to transition to a fully open-access model. The journal is edited by Charles D. Piot and Anne Allison, both professors of cultural anthropology at Duke. This is part of a series of efforts at Duke, led by the Libraries’ Office of Copyright and Scholarly Communication, to promote open access as an institutional priority and to cultivate sustainable models of scholarly publishing.

More Informed Dorms

Coordinated by Lilly Library on East Campus, the Residence Hall Librarian program matches each first-year residence hall with a Duke librarian. Residence Hall Librarians contact first-year students throughout the year, informing them of events, research services, tools, and tips. The program orients first-year students to the resources and services of a large academic library and provides them with a personal point of contact.

Digitize This Book

From stacks to scanner to your inbox. That’s the idea behind our new digitization-on-demand service that lets Duke students, faculty, and staff have out-of-copyright books scanned and delivered to them digitally for free. If a book is in the public domain (published pre-1923) and available in the library, you can have it digitized and download it to your Kindle or iPad. No more late fees or recalls, because you never have to return it. We even put it online and share it with the rest of the world. Ever since we announced the new service, we’ve received lots of appreciative comments from students and faculty, who enjoy the convenience of having hard-to-find books in a digital format.

Visualize This

Over a dozen students entered the Libraries’ first-ever Data Visualization Contest. The contest highlights undergraduate and graduate work in data visualization, from graphs and charts to 3-D models and data art. A panel of five judges from across campus evaluated submissions based on aesthetics, technical merit, the ability of the visualization to tell a story, and novelty. The purpose of the contest was to recognize outstanding data visualization work at Duke, and to celebrate recent upgrades to our lab space in Perkins Library, the Brandaleone Family Center for Data and GIS Services.
Financials

Financial Highlights
Total Operating Budget: **$33,453,821**
Library Material Expenditures: **$14,162,443**
Salaries and Wages: **$16,040,842**
Average expenditure per student (undergraduate and graduate): **$2,242**

Selected New Grants

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: $500,000** to support the establishment of the Duke Collaboratory for Classics Computing.

**Korea Foundation: $100,000** over five years toward the purchase of Korean-language books and materials. In 2012, Duke became a member of the Korean Collections Consortium of North America, a prestigious group of research libraries with particularly strong collections in Korean Studies.

**The British Library Endangered Archives Programme: $55,000** to digitize and preserve a trove of ancient religious manuscripts related to Bön, the pre-Buddhist religion of Tibet, at Menri Monastery in Northern India.

**B. H. Breslauer Foundation: $50,000** to support the acquisition of Alexander Gardner’s *Photographic Sketch Book of the Civil War* (1866), one of the most important pictorial records of the conflict.

On the cover: Lilly Library, East Campus.