



DUKE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES

# Annual Report 2014–2015

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## Annual Reflections

The end of the year—time for taking stock of everything we’ve accomplished. Or haven’t, in the case of that stack of books I meant to read, still sitting there on the bedside table. It has been a busy year!

Looking back, I’m glad to say this has been a banner year for the Duke University Libraries. As you’ll read in this report, we’ve made remarkable improvements to our facilities, collections, and services. We created an attractive new research hub in the heart of campus—The Edge: The Ruppert Commons for Research, Technology, and Collaboration—and completed a three-year renovation of the magnificent David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, the newest point of pride on campus.

We have expanded collections across all disciplines and secured some exceptional one-of-a-kind acquisitions—like the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection—that are already attracting the attention of scholars.

We have launched digital initiatives that are supporting new methods of scholarship, won grants to support innovative activities, and surpassed our fundraising goal for the Duke Forward campaign two years ahead of schedule.

And we’re just getting started—because the end of the year is also a time for looking ahead. And as I write this, we’re setting our sights several years into the future.

It’s strategic planning time at Duke. At the instigation of Provost Sally Kornbluth, the university community is engaged in a campus-wide effort to chart the future of our institution.

The steering committee in charge of this effort has already drafted a framing document that outlines the broad goals of the university’s next strategic plan. Reading through it, one thing soon becomes clear: the future of Duke will be less about new buildings and programs and more about connecting people and creating intellectual communities.

As Provost Kornbluth puts it, “Duke in the last decade has introduced so many new programs, new centers, new initiatives. What this plan needs isn’t a whole slew of new programs, but a focus on how we build a community of students and faculty to take advantage of all of these things that have taken place.”

Here in the Libraries, we’re planning on a parallel track to the university. Our strategic plan will necessarily reflect the realities and perspectives of the Libraries, but it must also respond to the directions indicated by the university as a whole.

For a number of years now, our focus has primarily concentrated on improving library facilities. The new buildings and renovations that resulted from the fifteen-year-long Perkins Project were all important and badly needed. Further improvement is called for on East Campus, where we recently commissioned a feasibility study to consider renovating and expanding Lilly Library. But to help the university realize its strategic ambitions, we must turn our focus to other important needs and priorities.

Some of those priorities include **endowments for collections**, which are the infrastructure of research; **funding**



**for technology**, which permeates everything we do; and **expert staff**, which requires specialized skills you might not think a library would need.

The scope of our work is constantly expanding. And yet there is continuity with the basic and timeless mission of a research library: preserving the past while trying to anticipate the future of scholarship, learning, and teaching.

As we look to the years ahead, the future of Duke is still barely coming into focus. But I think it’s safe to say that the Libraries—and the people who rely on us, use us, and work for us—will be right there in the middle of the picture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Jakubs". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Deborah Jakubs

Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway  
University Librarian and  
Vice Provost for Library Affairs

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## By the Numbers

### Resources

Total volumes: **6,913,085**

Manuscripts and archives: **55,268 linear feet**

Journals and Periodicals: **269,055**

e-Books: : **1,413,479**

### Services & Staff

Books and other items checked out: **296,127**

Loans to other libraries: **26,040**

Loans from other libraries: **30,965**

Hours open per week: **149** (out of 168)

Instruction and training sessions: **1,010**

Full-time staff: **246**



### Space

Main West Campus library complex (Perkins, Bostock, and Rubenstein

Libraries, plus the von der Heyden Pavilion): **485,114 square feet**

East Campus libraries (Lilly and Music): **47,813 square feet**

Library Service Center: **52,000 square feet**

Combined total campus library space: **584,927 square feet** (excluding professional school libraries)

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### Fine Print

Figures in this report refer only to 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) and do not include the separately administered professional school libraries: the Divinity School Library, Ford Library

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## Just FYI

Average cost of an academic book 25 years ago: **\$44**

Average cost today: **\$107**  
**(142 percent increase)**

Books added by the Duke University Libraries in the FY15 fiscal year: **61,201**

Average cost of subscribing to a scientific journal 25 years ago: **\$443**

Average cost today: **\$2,495**  
**(463 percent increase)**

Massive open online courses (MOOCs) created by Duke faculty with the help of staff in the Libraries' Center for Instructional Technology: **31**

Individuals worldwide who have taken a Duke MOOC: **1.68 million**

Visitors to exhibits in the Mary Duke Biddle Room since the renovated Rubenstein Library opened: **3,313**  
**(57 per day)**

News articles, tweets, and other online mentions this year of scholarly articles by Duke researchers, as recorded by Altmetric, a new tool that tracks conversations about academic research happening online: **76,449**



at the Fuqua School of Business, Goodson Library at the Law School, and the Medical Center Library.

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## 2014–2015 Milestones



### A New Rubenstein Library

After almost three years under construction, the renovated David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library opened at the end of August 2015. The renovation has transformed one of the university's oldest and most recognizable buildings into a state-of-the-art research facility where students, faculty, and visitors can engage with the Libraries' collection of rare and unique scholarly materials. The research, instruction, storage, and exhibition capabilities of the Rubenstein Library have all been greatly increased. The library's main entrance has also been redesigned with new doors, windows, and lighting to give the entire library complex a more unified and welcoming presence on the historic West Quad.

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### A Noteworthy Acquisition

In 2015, the Rubenstein Library acquired one of the largest and most significant private collections on women's history, documenting the work and intellectual contributions of women from the Renaissance to the modern era. Carefully assembled over forty-five years by noted bibliophile, activist and collector Lisa Unger Baskin, the collection includes more than 10,000 rare books and thousands of manuscripts, ephemera, and artifacts, including author Virginia Woolf's writing desk. Taken together, they comprise a mosaic of the ways women have been productive, creative, and socially engaged over more than five hundred years.



### Unveiling The Edge

In January 2015, the Libraries opened an attractive and innovative new destination on the first floor of Bostock Library—The Edge: The Ruppert Commons for Research, Technology, and Collaboration. Renovations lasted eight months, during which time the space was completely reconfigured to meet the growing needs of interdisciplinary, team-based, and data-driven research at Duke. To bring The Edge to life, the Libraries worked with architects at Shepley Bulfinch, the same firm that designed and built Bostock Library and the von der Heyden Pavilion in 2005, renovated Perkins Library between 2006 and 2008 (including the creation of the Link), and renovated the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, which also opened this year.



### Duke Joins BorrowDirect Partnership

Duke has joined eleven peer institutions in BorrowDirect, a resource-sharing partnership that offers students, faculty, and staff 3-5 day delivery of interlibrary loan items from other major research libraries, including Harvard, Yale,

Cornell, Columbia, and others. The agreement gives Duke researchers access to a combined collection of more than 60 million books and resources beyond their home library. The program also grants reciprocal in-person borrowing privileges to library users in good standing. Borrowed items may be returned at either the lending library or the user's home library. (For example, a book checked out at Yale could be returned at Duke, and vice versa.)

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### Bringing Archives Alive

This year witnessed the launch of a new series of archive-based courses for Duke undergraduates. “Archives Alive” is a collaboration between the Libraries and the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences. The goal is to develop a series of courses that allow students to develop innovative and significant projects based on original materials held in the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, with a view toward making history real and relevant. Students get first-hand exposure to advanced research practices and immersive learning that goes beyond traditional coursework. The first Archives Alive courses to be offered this year are “Modern and Contemporary African American Art,” “Gender and Philosophy,” and “Topics in Digital History and Humanities: NC Jukebox.”



### Digitized Films Reanimate History

Before selfies and YouTube, there were “Movies of Local People.” During the Great Depression, moviegoers across the Carolinas could see themselves on the silver screen whenever traveling cameraman H. Lee Waters (1902–1997) came to town. We recently digitized hundreds of hours of footage by Waters of small-town life in the Depression-era South. It's the only collection of its kind, and it captures a fascinating moment in American history, often in rich Kodachrome color. Although most of the “local people” in them have long since passed on, contemporary viewers will recognize something of themselves in the faces that still live on in the archives.

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### Project Vox

With support from the Mellon-funded Humanities Writ Large initiative, a team of Duke library staff worked with Andrew Janiak, Creed C. Black Associate Professor of Philosophy, to launch *Project Vox* ([projectvox.library.duke.edu](http://projectvox.library.duke.edu))—an online resource hosted by the Libraries that aims to “to recover the lost voices of women who have been ignored in standard narratives of the history of modern philosophy.” So far the website features four philosophers—Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway, Émilie Du Châtelet, and Damaris Masham—whose life and work are represented through a rich array of primary texts (many difficult to find otherwise), secondary sources, and bibliographic materials. The site is intended for teachers and students of philosophy and includes sample syllabi, timelines, and other pedagogical resources.

## Financials

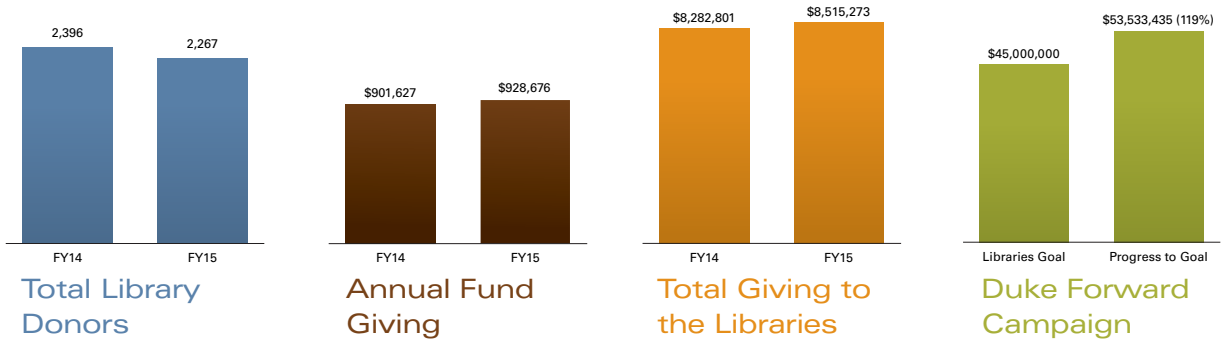
### Financial Highlights

Total Operating Budget: **\$34,318,409**

Library Material Expenditures: **\$16,469,395**

Salaries and Wages: **\$14,676,403**

Average expenditure per student (undergraduate and graduate): **\$2,268**



### Selected New Grants

**The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation:** **\$604,000** over three years to support the creation of a digital gateway that will document the history and organizational strategies of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the Civil Rights Movement.

**Bernard H. Breslauer Foundation:** **\$30,000** to support the acquisition of rare copies of William Blake's *Illustrations of the Book of Job* (1825), pictured at right, and Edward Young's *The Complaint and the Consolation; or, Night Thoughts* (1797), illustrated by Blake.



On the cover: The new secure stacks in the renovated David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library have the capacity to store 50,000 linear feet of rare books and manuscripts on-site, an increase of 52 percent over the old building.