Annual Reflections

Fall. The busy, blustery season of the academic year.

As the days grow shorter, somehow the calendar fills up faster. Before you know it, the library is packed with stressed-out students cramming for exams.

Sometimes the rhythms of university life feel as old and familiar as Duke stone. But once in a while, something new and remarkable happens that perks up the old Gothic Wonderland.

This fall, we welcomed a new president, Vincent E. Price, as Duke’s tenth leader. In his inaugural address, President Price, a distinguished scholar of communication, introduced a new framework for communicating about Duke. The framework is simple—just five words—but it is powerful and broad, and it contains plenty of room for every student, faculty member, academic program, and ambition at Duke: **Teach, Learn, Discover, Heal, Serve.**

The more I’ve thought about those five words, the more they seem to sum up what we do in the Libraries every day. I keep thinking of examples.

**Teach:** From the moment first-year students arrive at Duke, they are assigned a residence hall librarian—someone who is there to help them ace that first college-level paper, navigate the world of research at their fingertips, and offer guidance when they don’t know where to start. That way, students can spend more time taking advantage of everything Duke has to offer.

**Learn:** Libraries have always been at the heart of the learning enterprise. But we also pride ourselves on having a work environment that promotes intellectual growth and professional skill development. Here at Duke, we recently launched a Copyright Consultant program aimed at cross-training library staff on copyright law and giving them the expertise to field copyright questions from students and faculty.

**Discover:** Not only is the library the place where scholarly discoveries take place, but we are always trying to improve the ways people find and access information. We’re especially interested in increasing the discoverability of research conducted here at Duke. By helping faculty and researchers deposit copies of their new publications in our open access repository, we are expanding the readership and citation of Duke research.

**Heal:** It may seem like a stretch to think of the library as a place of healing. But when the statue of Robert E. Lee was removed from Duke Chapel earlier this year, our archivists were called on to organize a library exhibit about Duke’s complex history. They are working on that exhibit now. The library is a communal space where history can be contextualized, civic dialogue can flourish, and the past can be discussed without fear or frenzy.

**Serve:** Ask almost any library staff member and they will tell you the reason they were drawn to work in a library was to help people. Ours is a service-oriented profession. And we take pride in tracking our impact. This past year, our librarians answered some 10,860 reference questions from patrons. That’s the equivalent of 178 consecutive games of *Jeopardy!*

As you’ll see in this report, the teaching, learning, discovering, healing, and serving don’t stop there. The work summarized here in statistical form is critically important to the work of the Duke community as a whole. And it carries on day in and day out, through all the seasons of the year.

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By the Numbers

**Resources**

- **7,183,145** Total volumes
- **220,862** e-Journals
- **1,864,810** e-Books
- **59,287** linear feet Manuscripts and archives

**Services & Staff**

- **303,191** Books and other items checked out
- **33,817** Loans to other libraries
- **26,582** Loans from other libraries
- **149** Hours open per week (out of 168)
- **10,860** Reference transactions
- **249** Full-time staff

**Just FYI**

- Pages printed by Duke students on library printers this year: **5,926,169**
- **29.6** Weight, in tons, of all that paper
- **13.25** Weight, in tons, of an average campus bus
- Researchers who visited the Rubenstein Library: **3,919**
- **56** Percentage who were Duke students
- Films streamed by Lilly Library for Duke classes: **1,234**
- **51** Weekends of binge-watching that equals
- Comic books housed in archival sleeves and envelopes: **About 50,000**
- Combined total campus library space: **662,927 square feet** (excluding professional school libraries)

**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 at the Fuqua School of Business, Goodson Library at the Law School, and the Medical Center Library.
Duke Forward Wraps Up

Duke Forward, the largest fundraising campaign in Duke’s history, concluded on June 30, having raised $3.85 billion for strategic priorities across the university. By the campaign’s end, the Libraries had raised almost $64 million—142 percent of our goal—a success that belongs to everyone who treasures a great library at the heart of a great university.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council

A guiding principle of our 2016-2021 strategic plan is that diversity strengthens us. As a library, we aspire to reflect the diversity of our patrons in our services, collections, staff, and spaces. To that end, a new group composed of staff from across the Libraries was charged this year with promoting constructive change and dialogue. Throughout the year, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council (DivE-In) has been organizing education and training sessions, hosting webinars, recommending staff readings, and promoting Duke events that address diversity, equity, and inclusion issues.

Specialized Support for Research and Data Management

Every year, more funders and scholarly journals require researchers to share and archive their data. To help researchers comply with new data management mandates, our Data and Visualization Services department has launched a new Research Management Program. With funding from the Provost, we added two senior research data management consultants and two digital repository content analysts. The goal is to support the complete research lifecycle—from the early planning phases to final publication and archiving—thereby increasing the visibility, accessibility, and reproducibility of research conducted at Duke.

Increasing Duke’s Open Access Footprint

The Libraries’ Office of Copyright and Scholarly Communication has been working hard to increase the amount of Duke scholarship shared through the DukeSpace open access repository. By emailing notifications to faculty about their eligible publications, library staff saw an 80 percent increase over last year in open access articles deposited and shared online.
Textbooks on Reserve
A new initiative this year allows students to check out textbooks for their classes from the library. The books cover some of Duke’s most popular courses in Economics, Chemistry, Math, Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish. They can be checked out for three hours at a time from Perkins or Lilly. Although students are still advised to purchase textbooks of their own, they appreciate being able to borrow the library’s copy in a pinch.

Adopt a Digital Collection
All of the historical documents, audio, and video we digitize every year can add up to a truly massive amount of data. This year the Libraries launched a new Adopt a Digital Collection program, which ensures that all those digitized assets remain on our “shelves” for as long as the internet is around. Each time a student or researcher accesses one of our adopted digital collections, they are doing so thanks to a donor who adopted it. The program allows us to expand the long-term preservation of important cultural and scholarly resources, making them accessible far into our future.

Multispectral Imaging
Over the past year, a team of library staff have been investigating the potential research applications of multispectral imaging, which uses a series of light frequencies and filters to illuminate an object. The goal is to reveal information invisible to the human eye, such as palimpsests or the chemical composition of inks and paper. The early results are promising. Not only can imaging make ancient manuscripts more legible, but it can also help save other historical documents in danger of disappearing—like old photocopies that are too faded to read.

Expanded Online Learning Offerings
With support from the Duke Learning Innovation (formerly the Center for Instructional Technology and Online Duke), Duke’s partnership with Coursera has now extended the knowledge and expertise of Duke faculty to some 4.7 million learners across the globe, most of whom would never have access to a Duke education. This year we also helped launch Duke Extend, a Duke-owned and operated online course platform that allows Duke faculty to offer online modules to Duke students, learners beyond the university, or even the entire world.

Engagement and Community Building in the Rubenstein
Several Rubenstein Library initiatives aim to deepen engagement with the Duke community and integrate special collections into the classroom. Archives Alive, now in its second year, features courses that give students hands-on experience working with original and rare materials. This year also saw the second installment of Duke History Revisited, a summer program that lets undergraduates conduct research into unexplored topics or under-represented populations in Duke history. Finally, archivists have been reaching out to student groups through Your Organization Lives On (YOLO), a program that reminds student organizations to deposit their records in the University Archives.
Selected Noteworthy Acquisitions


