You could pick almost any day.

Let’s say it’s February 13—a Wednesday, the day before Valentine’s.

If you had wandered through the libraries of Duke on that perfectly unremarkable day earlier this year, here are a few things you would have seen.

In Perkins Library, people were limbering up for a monthly yoga class that meets in the library. Downstairs, IT staff from across the university and health system had come together to discuss ways to improve Duke’s IT infrastructure, while in the room next door a training session was under way for new academic advisors. Meanwhile, students browsed a Valentine-themed “Mystery Date with a Book” display, with each book carefully gift-wrapped to pique their interest.

Next door in Bostock Library, Drew Keener, a Geospatial Analyst with the Libraries’ Center for Data and Visualization Sciences, offered one of his popular workshops on building “story maps.” Around the corner, three senior Duke faculty members led a panel discussion for undergrads on “How to Make the Most of your Relationships with Duke Professors.” And downstairs, staff from Duke Learning Innovation hosted a lunchtime discussion of the book What the Best College Teachers Do for new and early-career Duke faculty members.

Over in the Rubenstein Library, the Ciompi Quartet was warming up for one of their free lunchtime performances. And caterers were prepping for the opening reception of a new student-curated exhibit, Black Students Matter: Taking Over Allen in ’69, marking the fiftieth anniversary of a landmark student protest at Duke.

Meanwhile, on East Campus, two librarians held a pop-up survey in Lilly Library to ask students what kinds of loanable technology they want the library to provide, while the sounds of 3D printers in the Innovation Co-Lab whirred in the background.

None of this even counts the constant ebb and flow of students, faculty, and staff going about their daily work, asking questions, getting help, meeting up, knuckling down, grabbing a coffee, printing reams of paper, and countless other scenes that play out across every Duke library, every day.

And this nonstop stream of activity only hints at how complex the role of the modern research library has become. More than simply a vast storehouse of information, our libraries today are directly involved in almost every aspect of the work of the university. As you’ll read in this report, we teach (857 instruction sessions and workshops this year), we design (new tools for researchers, new discovery systems), we connect (publishers, researchers, students, the public), we collect and share (research data, Duke history, women’s history, expert advice).

In short, we support the entire academic enterprise—no small matter at a place as enterprising as Duke. And we do it day in, day out.

Behind all of the statistics and accomplishments summarized in the pages that follow are hundreds of individuals who make up our incredibly hard-working staff. They are the real subject of this report. Some serve on the front lines, others behind the scenes. But they all come together to meet the teaching and research needs of the entire Duke community. And they’ll be happy to show you what’s happening in their part of the library, any day you choose.

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

Resources

7,478,410
Total volumes

463,883 2,080,932
e-Journals e-Books

63,132 linear feet
Manuscripts and archives

Services & Staff

214,947
Books and other items checked out

29,611 39,546
Loans to other libraries Loans from other libraries

149
Hours open per week (out of 168)

8,032 256
Research consultations Full-time staff

Just FYI

Books moved from Lilly Library to the Library Service Center in anticipation of the Lilly renovation

Books still to be moved:

About 200,000

Food items collected as part of our “Food for Fines” drive to assist the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

Library fines forgiven: $275

Visits to the Biddle exhibit suite: 9,520

Duke students invited to curate, install, or create library exhibits: 71

Researchers who visited the Rubenstein Library: 4,875

Countries they came from

Percentage increase in research visits since the library was renovated: 50

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.
Support for Digital Publishing
The traditional scholarly monograph may still be the stock-in-trade of the humanities, but sophisticated digital research projects are starting to change that. With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a cross-departmental team of Duke Libraries staff co-authored a whitepaper outlining how libraries can work with university presses, humanities institutes, and foundations to support such projects from start to finish. The paper, “A Framework of Library Support for Expansive Digital Publishing,” is freely available online.

New Catalog, New Discoveries
After two years of work by library staff at Duke, UNC, NC State, and NC Central, we launched a new catalog for researchers to access more than 15 million books, DVDs, music, archival materials, and other items held here at Duke and the other three partner universities. The new collaboratively developed, open-source library catalog replaces the decade-old catalog and includes a number of enhancements our users asked for. Best of all, it’s a reminder that the holdings of all four Triangle institutions are like one big collection available to all.

Earning Credit with Grad Students
Fall Break traditionally offers Duke undergrads a chance to escape campus and recharge their batteries. But graduate students tend to stick around and continue their work. This year, a team of library staff used the class break to offer two full days of workshops designed to help grad students satisfy their Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) credits, a certain number of which are required to graduate. Over a hundred appreciative grad students from twenty-six different departments attended.

Digitizing Duke Press Books
Duke University Press was founded almost a century ago, in 1921. Since then, a copy of every book they’ve published (more than three thousand and counting) has been deposited in the library. This year, in collaboration with the press, we launched a multi-year project to scan them all. When complete, a significant number of those titles will be open access. But even those we can’t make freely available online (because of copyright restrictions) will still be available for text analysis through the HathiTrust digital library.

Research Data Repository Launched
Every year, more funders and scholarly journals require researchers to share and archive their data. To help Duke researchers comply with those mandates, the Libraries launched a new research data repository this year. The repository offers a secure online platform for depositing and sharing datasets, so that they are preserved and accessible for the long-term. The goal is to increase the visibility, accessibility, and reproducibility of research conducted at Duke.
Record-Breaking Records Management

Among the many things the Duke University Archives collects are the business records of academic departments and offices around campus. Transferring records to the Archives frees up precious office space, protects important records from being destroyed, and reduces legal risk for the university. And an institution like Duke generates a lot of records. This fiscal year, our Records Management program oversaw the transfer of 245 linear feet of material to the University Archives from 32 offices and departments. That’s enough freed-up office space to reach the top of Duke Chapel.

Baskin Exhibit Travels to NYC

This spring, visitors flocked to our largest library exhibit ever, *Five Hundred Years of Women’s Work: The Lisa Unger Baskin Collection*. It was the first time the public has been able to see the diversity and depth of the collection—one of the largest and most significant archival collections on women’s history anywhere—since Baskin began assembling it almost fifty years ago. The exhibit now travels to New York’s Grolier Club, the oldest bibliophilic society in America, where it will be on display December 11 – February 8, 2020.

Ramping Up to FOLIO

For many years, libraries have relied on expensive proprietary software systems to manage certain routine yet vital functions—things like circulation, acquisitions, billing, and managing electronic resources. But a new open-source system that can handle those functions is being developed collaboratively by libraries around the world, for libraries around the world, including here at Duke. It’s called FOLIO (for the “Future of Libraries Is Open”), and a team of library staff has been working hard to roll it out next year. Because it’s a back-end system, the transition won’t be noticed by most of our users. But it promises to change the way we work for the better by putting the essential tools of running a modern research library in our own hands.

Instructive Individuals

Teaching library users how to find the information they need quickly and effectively remains our bread and butter, and this year we witnessed a record demand for library instruction. Staff from across the Libraries offered 857 classroom instruction sessions, workshops, and trainings on everything from data visualization to teaching with archival materials to “Shaping Your Professional Identity Online.” No matter the object of inquiry, we probably have someone who can teach a class about it.
Selected Noteworthy Acquisitions

**Allan Gurganus Papers.** The author of such works as *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* and *White People*, Gurganus adds to the Rubenstein Library’s strong collection of writers in the southern literary tradition.

**Locus Science Fiction Foundation Collection.** The archives of *Locus*, the preeminent trade magazine for the science fiction and fantasy field, include over 16,000 volumes, including numerous landmarks of science fiction and fantasy, along with correspondence from some of the genre’s best-known authors.

**Duke Forest Archives.** Over 100 linear feet of maps, papers, photographs, and other artifacts illuminate the fascinating history of Duke Forest, the 7,000-acre woodland that has been managed by Duke for teaching and research purposes since 1931.

**Paul Kligfield Cardiology Collection.** This remarkable collection of historical rare books by Dr. Kligfield, a noted cardiologist and medical book collector, establishes the Rubenstein Library’s History of Medicine Collections as a leader in the field of the history of cardiology.

*On the cover:*
Photo by Megan Mendenhall / University Communications.