

ANNUAL REFLECTIONS

The end of the year—time for looking back, taking stock of all we’ve accomplished, and (most importantly) practicing gratitude.



I’ve been doing a lot of that lately. I’m grateful in particular to be here at Duke, writing these words as your new University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs. Since my first week on the job in August, the same week our newest class of Blue Devils arrived on East Campus, I’ve been continually reminded of how much there is to be thankful for.

You could not ask for a better combination of ability and opportunity than we have right now in the Duke University Libraries. How well-positioned are we to meet the future of research and teaching at Duke? Let me count the ways.

For starters, I could cite the progress this organization has made toward becoming a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive place to work, research, and study. Or I could point to our strong national reputation in the “open” community—having established a leadership position around open access, open software, and open science. These are areas of increasing importance to universities everywhere, much like data management and visualization, another forte of ours. Our impact is made even greater by being part of active and influential consortia, including the Triangle Research Libraries Network and the Ivy Plus Libraries.

Then there’s the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library with its incomparable collections that draw researchers from around the globe. Or how about our beautiful, updated library facilities? For years, our West Campus libraries underwent a sustained period of physical beautification and growth. The new buildings and renovations that resulted from those efforts were all

important and badly needed. Further improvement is coming to East Campus, where Lilly Library will soon be renovated and expanded. Now we get to turn our focus to what happens inside those inspiring spaces and the exciting programmatic opportunities they represent.

But our strongest asset of all, of course, is our people. I’ve been fortunate to work with colleagues at some of the best and biggest libraries in American higher education. None of them compare to the staff here, who have gone out of their way to make a newcomer like me feel welcome.

Many libraries have some of these things going for them. None except Duke have them all. For that I have to thank my predecessor, Deborah Jakubs, and the dedicated library staff who laid the foundation for the promising future we see ahead.

Another reason to be grateful is that we’ve entered the next phase of living with the pandemic. Students have returned to our reading rooms in droves. In-person events are happening again in our classrooms and assembly spaces. We are once again abuzz with activity, as libraries are meant to be.

At the same time, the pandemic has created demand for new services and modalities, as you will read in this report. We’re shifting resources to accommodate more digitization requests from remote researchers. We’re moving more workshops and instruction sessions online, where we can reach more people. We’re getting creative about making textbooks more affordable for students.

And we’re just getting started—because the end of the year is also a time for looking ahead. As I write this, we’re about to embark on a strategic planning process, setting our sights several years into the future. Our plan will necessarily reflect the realities and perspectives of the Duke University Libraries, but it must also help the university as a whole realize its larger strategic ambitions.

The last thing I’ll say, as we sum up the story of this outgoing year, is that we’re fortunate to enjoy a high degree of esteem and support from our university community, as well as our network of library friends and supporters, without whom none of what you see in the following pages would be possible.

That final token of gratitude goes out to you, reading this. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Salem, Jr." in a cursive script.

Joseph A. Salem, Jr.

*Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and
Vice Provost for Library Affairs*

BY THE NUMBERS

Resources

8,089,572

total volumes

279,837

e-Journals

2,897,404

e-Books

65,318 LINEAR FEET

manuscripts and archives

Just FYI

Physical books, music scores, and audiovisual material cataloged and added to the collections:

22,050



Different languages in which those materials were produced:

35

Different languages represented across *all* library collections:

438



Library exhibits highlighting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) history and culture:

4

Duke students involved in curating those exhibits:

49



Services and Staff

86,784

books and other items *checked out*

19,778

loans *to* other libraries

20,855

loans *from* other libraries

6,070

research consultations

233

full-time staff

Space

MAIN WEST CAMPUS
LIBRARY COMPLEX

(Perkins, Bostock, and Rubenstein Libraries, von der Heyden Pavilion):

485,114 SQUARE FEET

EAST CAMPUS LIBRARIES

(Lilly and Music):

47,813 SQUARE FEET

SMITH WAREHOUSE

(Library Staff Offices):

24,192 SQUARE FEET

COMBINED TOTAL CAMPUS LIBRARY SPACE:

609,119 sq FEET (excluding professional school libraries)



LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER (LSC)

52,000 SQUARE FEET

MARINE LAB LIBRARY

3,000 SQUARE FEET

2021–2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Welcome Aboard! Stay Awhile.

Like every other part of the economy, libraries have felt the impact of the “Great Reshuffling.” Our human resources department worked to fill 70 vacancies this fiscal year, including 17 librarian positions. That’s nearly three times as many job searches as last year. We have been thrilled to welcome so many talented new colleagues to the Duke community. At the same time, our average library employee has 13 years of service, which says something about the kind of workplace community this is.

The Googlization of Knowledge

For the last four years, Duke librarians Hannah Rozear and Linda Daniel have co-taught an interdisciplinary undergraduate class called “The Googlization of Knowledge:



Information, Ethics, and Technology.” It delves into the ethical questions raised by our rapidly changing communication systems. The course is different every time Rozear and Daniel teach it, constantly evolving with current events—as do the readings, guest speakers, podcasts, discussions, and research projects. Interest in the course has grown, and the Duke *Chronicle*

hailed it as one of nine “classes you shouldn’t miss out on” in fall 2021. Course evaluations have borne out the hype. “My favorite classroom experience at Duke because of the instructors,” raves one. “I urge Duke to ensure that this class is available to students every semester,” says another. The class is just one example of the many eye-opening, only-at-Duke instructional experiences our librarians create throughout the year.



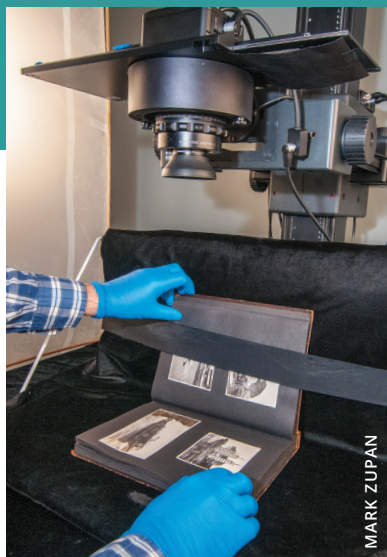
Breaking the Big Bundle

You might not realize it, but most scholarly journals are published by a handful of for-profit corporations. Like cable TV providers, academic publishers push libraries to purchase “Big Deal” bundles of journals, only a small percentage of which see significant use. Over the last year, library staff across Duke have been working to renegotiate these bundle packages by shifting to a title-by-title approach, based on usage, price, journal impact factor, articles authored by Duke researchers, and other variables. All told, those efforts have saved \$1.2 million this fiscal year. But the rising cost of academic journals, concentrated in the hands of a few profit-driven publishing giants, remains unsustainable.



You Passed. Now Pass It On!

For several years, we have purchased copies of the textbooks for a wide range of Duke courses and made them available to check out for free. It’s one of our most popular services, and no wonder, when the cost of a single textbook can often exceed \$300. This year we invited students to help: they could donate their textbooks to us at the end of the year, passing on those heavy hardbacks after they’ve passed their classes. Approximately 175 usable textbooks were collected during the first donation drive and are now available for semester-long checkout through the Libraries. It’s just one small way we’re working to make a Duke education more affordable for all.



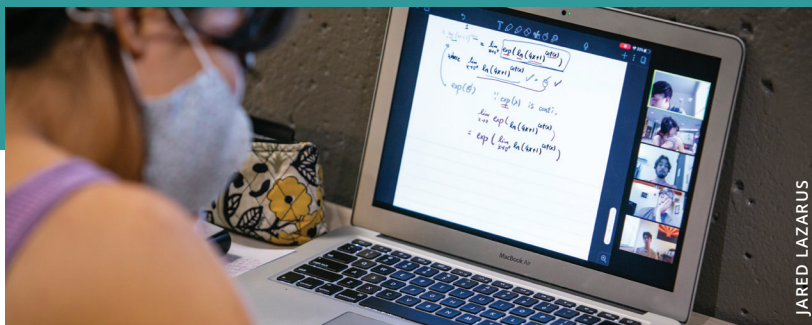
MARK ZUPAN

We're Scanning Like the Wind

Early in the pandemic, when access to campus buildings was restricted, demand for digitized library materials rose sharply. Although researchers have since returned to our reading rooms, digitization requests haven't slacked up. Our Digital Production Center and the Rubenstein Library fulfilled a combined 1,082 reproduction requests from remote researchers this year, up 234 percent over pre-pandemic levels. That's on top of 1,500 out-of-copyright books from our general collections that we scanned and made freely available on the Internet Archive, including 135 volumes specifically requested by patrons.

Ramping Up to Renovation Time

After a long hiatus, planning for the renovation and expansion of Lilly Library resumed in earnest this year. Library staff have been evaluating collection materials before their eventual removal from the building, including Lilly's extensive film and video collection and a trove of art and historical artifacts. The Libraries' Conservation Services department has created custom housings for materials requiring special handling. Some materials have already been transferred, but the bulk will move next calendar year, with a goal of breaking ground in early 2024. The move is being implemented in phases so that library operations and services can be maintained with minimal interruption.



JARED LAZARUS

In the Zoom Where It Happens

Just as "zooming" to class has become normal thanks to the pandemic, so has online instruction multiplied how many people can fit in the "classroom." Last year, when the Libraries' Center for Data and Visualization Sciences moved their popular series of workshops online, they noticed a spike in attendance. This year, demand for online workshops remained strong, with attendance up 118 percent over pre-pandemic years. Virtual consults were likewise up 178 percent. Across the Libraries, staff are seeing a growing preference being expressed for service via Zoom over in-person, email, or phone. Out of nearly 1,000 research consultations with librarians this year, 25 percent of them took place on Zoom.

More Research Data Monkey Business



TOM STRUHSAKER

Books and journals aren't all that libraries collect. We also preserve monkey sounds. This year we published our 200th dataset in the Duke Research Data Repository. It's a collection of digitized field recordings of African monkey vocalizations by Tom Struhsaker, adjunct professor of Evolutionary Anthropology at Duke. Struhsaker has spent a long career leading wildlife research and conservation efforts in Africa. One species captured on the recordings—the red colobus—is the most critically endangered of all African monkeys. The recordings are freely available for other researchers and primatologists to use—or just for anyone who wants to know what these remarkable animals sound like, while they can still be heard.



JARED LAZARUS

FINANCIALS

Total Library Donors

2,459 2,497
FY21 FY22

Giving To The Libraries



ANNUAL FUND GIVING: \$1,134,914
TOTAL GIVING TO THE LIBRARIES: \$7,886,085



ANNUAL FUND GIVING: \$1,031,068
TOTAL GIVING TO THE LIBRARIES: \$10,818,802

FY22 Budget



SALARIES AND WAGES
\$17,831,987

OTHER OPERATING
EXPENDITURES
\$4,679,664

LIBRARY MATERIAL
EXPENDITURES
\$13,960,731

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:
\$36,472,382

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.