



ANNUAL REFLECTIONS

I recently passed the one-year mark as Duke's University Librarian. And while it felt like a pretty big deal to me personally, the rest of the university will be celebrating a truly momentous work anniversary soon. Next year marks one century since Trinity College officially became "Dear Old Duke."



Anniversary celebrations are part of the culture of universities. They underscore the value we place on history and things that last. Few places epitomize that value better than the library. We are the keepers of things that last and the official custodians of Duke history. Longevity is our business.

So is change. As you'll see in this report, the environment in which students and faculty operate today is immeasurably more complex than it was a hundred, fifty, or even ten years ago. The same is true for Duke's libraries. The nature of our work is constantly evolving.

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 stakeholders than ever before. We are constantly adjusting to changes in technology, which in turn drive changes in our services and resources.

And yet we remain guided by the basic, timeless mission of a research library: preserving the past while trying to anticipate the future of scholarship, learning, and teaching.

That timeless mission has been much on the minds of our staff this year as we've embarked on a library-wide strategic planning process, setting our sights on the next five years—or the first five years of Duke's second century, if you prefer the long view.

We're excited to roll out our new plan in the coming months. But it's worth previewing a few highlights, as things take shape.

For a number of years, our highest strategic priority was improving library facilities. The beautiful new buildings and renovations that transformed our West Campus libraries were all important and necessary. Further improvement is coming to East Campus, where I'm proud to say we will finally break ground on the long-overdue renovation and expansion of Lilly Library next year.

But to help the university realize its strategic ambitions going forward, we must now turn our focus to other important needs and priorities. Some of those priorities include **collections**, the raw material of research; **diversity, equity, and inclusion**, which must be embedded into every aspect of our work; **technology**, which permeates everything we do; **outreach** to the communities we serve, to launch them on their own journeys of discovery; and **organizational wellness**, to ensure our workforce, workplace, and work culture remain sustainable and resilient over the years to come.

Our ability to meet the challenges ahead will depend, of course, on securing sufficient financial resources. We do not underestimate this, but we are confident in the case we can make to all the partners and supporters who have helped us become the beacon of innovation and talent the Duke University Libraries are today. Fundraising has long been a point of pride for this organization—another thing you will see in this report—and we are fully committed to marshalling the resources needed to achieve our long-term goals.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our gifted, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff, who I'm fortunate to call my colleagues. They're the real reason this has been, if you'll pardon the expression, another good year in the books.

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

Joseph A. Salem, Jr.

Rita DiGiallardo Holloway University Librarian and
Vice Provost for Library Affairs

BY THE NUMBERS

Resources

8,364,131

Total volumes

358,842

e-Journals

2,891,140

e-Books

66,883 LINEAR FEET

Manuscripts and archives

Just FYI

Terabytes of data by Duke faculty deposited in the Duke Research Data Repository:

2.15



Petabytes of digital and digitized collections stored on library servers:

0.5

Years of continuously streaming HD-TV video half a petabyte equals:

6.5

Views of online articles, e-books, e-journals, and databases we subscribe to:

23,338,633



Views we got in the time it took you to read that:

3

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):

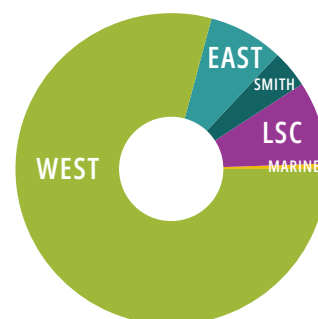
24,192 SQUARE FEET

LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER (LSC)

52,000 SQUARE FEET

MARINE LAB LIBRARY

3,000 SQUARE FEET



COMBINED TOTAL CAMPUS LIBRARY SPACE:

609,119 SQUARE FEET

(excluding professional school libraries)

Services and Staff

117,006

Books and other items checked out

19,965

Loans *to* other libraries

15,891

Loans *from* other libraries

7,282

Research consultations

247

Full-time staff

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS



International Students in Focus

This past year, a cross-departmental team of library staff conducted in-depth focus groups with international undergraduate and graduate students at Duke. The goal was to understand their experience of using the Libraries and improve how well our services, staff, facilities, and materials meet their needs. The 50-page report, available on our website, outlines findings and recommendations based on what we learned. It has been downloaded and viewed hundreds of times and shared widely with academic leaders at Duke. The survey builds on previous library user studies with under-represented Duke student groups, including first-generation students and Black students.

Systemic Change

Although most library users won't notice any difference, we announced big upcoming changes to an important back-end system we use to handle the everyday work of library staff, from checking out books to managing thousands of databases. Duke's legacy library enterprise system is sunsetting soon, to be replaced by the Ex Libris Alma Library Services Platform between now and summer 2024. The decision was made after evaluating financial considerations, impact on staffing, the sustainability of wide-ranging technology projects in which we've invested heavily, and the needs of the separately administered libraries serving the Business, Law, Divinity, and Medicine schools, as well as Duke Kunshan University Library.



New Residency Program Launched

As part of our commitment to diversifying and enriching the library profession, we launched a new residency program for early career librarians. The program provides work placements in specialized fields of librarianship with guaranteed professional development funding, aligning the professional goals of residents with the strategic goals of the Libraries. Residents are placed with the intention of their positions becoming regular, ranked librarian positions if successful during their first three years. Our first two residents—Adhitya Dhanapal, Resident Librarian for South and Southeast Asian Studies, and Zhou Pan, Resident Librarian for Resource Description—started in the fall 2023 semester.



An Exhibit 100 Years in the Making

To help celebrate Duke's centennial year, the University Archives sponsored a Story+ project with the Franklin Humanities Institute, inviting a small team of undergraduate students to curate a special library exhibit around this once-in-a-lifetime anniversary. For six weeks in May and June, the students conducted research in the University Archives, searching for artifacts that spoke to different parts of the Duke story. Their final exhibit, *Our Duke: Constructing a Century*, presents a mosaic of moments from Duke's complex, rich, and sometimes uncomfortable history, as told from a student perspective. The first half of the exhibit will be on view January – June 2024, with the second half going on display July – December, inviting visitors to come back for more historical highlights later in the centennial year.



Renovation Anticipation

With the renovation of Lilly Library finally slated to begin next year, we've been working on several "enabling projects" to get ready. Library staff have been inventorying and evaluating collection materials before they're removed from the building, including Lilly's extensive film and video collection and a trove of art and historical artifacts. Most materials are being relocated to the Library Service Center and Perkins and Bostock Libraries, where they will remain accessible until the project is complete. Renovation preparations are being implemented in phases so that library operations and services can be maintained with minimal interruption. Construction officially begins in 2024 with an expected completion in 2027, just in time for the building's hundredth anniversary.

Talk Data To Me

As data-driven research has grown at Duke, our Center for Data and Visualization Sciences has experienced more demand than ever for workshops and consultations. Some 1,197 researchers attended a workshop this year, up 13 percent over last year and a whopping 30 percent over pre-pandemic levels. Research data consultations are likewise up nearly 30 percent since 2020, with 1,726 individuals coming to us for help this year—our highest number ever. Interest is especially high among students and faculty in the Pratt School of Engineering, Nicholas School of the Environment, Sanford School of Public Policy, and School of Medicine, where new data-sharing policies for federally funded research are driving demand for guidance and training.

Instructive Individuals

Teaching people how to find, evaluate, and use the information they need remains our bread and butter, and this year witnessed increased demand for undergraduate and graduate-level instruction. Graduate students make up more than half of the Duke student body, and several library initiatives are aimed at supporting this important constituency, including a popular series of workshops designed to help them earn enough Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) credits to graduate. At the same time, some 2,151 undergrads (roughly one-third of the total undergraduate population) visited the Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library for a class. Which just proves the truth of the old adage—nobody graduates from the library, but nobody graduates without one.



Native American Studies Expands

As part of an effort to expand the diversity of curriculum offerings, Duke launched a Native American Studies Initiative earlier this year, backed up by several Native American faculty hires in Trinity College. In support of this interdisciplinary initiative, we appointed our first a Librarian for Native American Studies—Linda Daniel, Teaching and Learning Strategist, who also serves as Librarian for Cultural Anthropology—and established a special fund for purchasing library materials in Native American Studies. Next year, the university will launch its first American Indian language program with a series of Cherokee language courses, and plans are under discussion for a new Native American Studies minor.

FINANCIALS

Total Library Donors

2,497

2,444

FY22

FY23



Total Operating Budget



** Includes market salary adjustments by university not reflected in operating budget*

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.

On the cover: Twilight, von der Heyden Pavilion, Perkins Library. Photo by Jared Lazarus.