UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

2021 Impact Report

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021
PLUS: Latest News
Cover image: Student workers Hanan Bare and Alison Davis with 3D printers in the Breakerspace at the Toaster Innovation Hub, located in Walter Library.

Photographer: Asha Belk

With thanks to Erik Halaas, Carolyn Bishoff, Kylie Foss, and all the student employees and users of the Toaster. Located in the basement of Walter Library, the Toaster is a place for collaboration, fostering entrepreneurial ventures, and creating all kinds of connections among students, grad students, faculty, staff, and business people from our Twin Cities community.

The Toaster Innovation Hub is a partnership between the Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management and the University of Minnesota Libraries.
May 2022

Dear supporters,

I am pleased and excited to share this annual impact report with you. Our staff has worked so hard this year and I hope you see as well as I do the impact they are making on campus, around the state of Minnesota, and throughout the world.

Thank you for your engagement with the University of Minnesota Libraries — be it through accessing our resources and expertise online or in person, by attending one of our Friends Forum events, or through a philanthropic gift. We are grateful for your support.

Yours,

Lisa German
University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, McKnight Presidential Professor
Strategic Plan

OUR VISION: Powering curiosity, discovery, and connection

We respect each person by striving to create spaces, services, and collections that make individuals feel welcome, included, and represented, reflecting our commitment to diversity and anti-racism work. We support wellbeing and embody a shared culture of respect.

We lead with expertise by striving to bring excellence and transparency to our work and share our knowledge to advance learning, exploration, and the common good.

We are accountable by striving for equity and sustainability across the work of the Libraries to allow each of us to be responsible stewards of our resources and active participants in our community and in our world.

We support the journey by striving to provide accessible, open, and shared resources, and maintain integrity and trust in our collaborations to enable evidence-based innovation, individual growth, and organizational transformation.

Together we make the difference.

By the Numbers

LIBRARY USE FY21

- Research questions answered: 22,304
- Article downloads: 6,456,128
- Website visits: 2.1 million
- E-book downloads: 1,505,819
- E-books available: 2,542,014
- E-serials available: 237,879
- Database searches FY21: 4,726,081

Student Success

THE TOASTER IS HOT

More than 2,300 people joined our Toaster Community by the end of the Fall 2021 semester. The Toaster Innovation Hub offers students:

- Reservable spaces for group meetings
- Workshops and events
- A makerspace with hands-on equipment and supplies
- Access to all things UMN innovation and entrepreneurship.

In short, the Toaster is a place devoted to collaboration. It is a partnership between Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management and the University Libraries.

2,300+ people joined our Toaster Community by the end of the Fall-21 semester.

STUDENT SAVINGS

- Library course materials were embedded in 2,703 course websites at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in FY21.
- More than 53,000 items* reached 73,088 students.
- If every student took advantage of these resources, the potential savings would have been $6.2 million in FY21.

*including multi-use e-books, open textbooks, and licensed journal articles
INSTRUCTION, LIBRARY GUIDES, AND ONLINE TUTORIALS

Library staff provided instruction in 809 classes, reaching a total of 20,408 students.

The Libraries 879 course guides and research guides were viewed a total of 377,454 times.

Library tutorials — including “How to read and comprehend scientific research articles,” and “Choosing a Research Paper Topic” — were viewed nearly 142,959 times during fiscal year 2021.

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD LAUNCHED IN FALL 2021

libguides.umn.edu/sab

Ten outstanding students make up our inaugural Student Advisory Board. Board members represent the undergraduate student body and share feedback on library spaces, collections, and services. They meet monthly with Dean Lisa German and key Student Success staff members, including Carissa Tomlinson, Richmond Kinney, Kate Peterson, and Phil Dudas.

PEER RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

Our Peer Research Consultants (PRCs) enjoyed a record year in FY2021, providing more consultations than ever before. PRCs are students trained to help other students with research papers and assignments — while also helping students interested in working on a faculty research project. In FY21, PRCs provided:

- **300 one-on-one research consultations across 75 different courses**
- **Presented to 150 students at the BIOL 1806 online information session regarding getting started with faculty-sponsored research at the U.**
- **Helped 30 students with online library workshop follow-up requests**
- **Worked one-on-one with 20 College in the Schools students from Apple Valley High School.**

“Super helpful and constructive! She gave great direction and ideas, and answered all of my questions thoroughly! I am very happy with my experience and I would definitely use this resource again.”

“This experience was very helpful! I now have much more clarity on the specific requirements of my research assignment. The assignment was worded in a way that was confusing to me, but the Peer Research Consultant helped me understand it clearly.”

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED

- Finding Sources: 113
- Getting Started with Undergraduate Research: 72
- Selecting a Research Topic: 56
- Forming a Research Question: 46
- Citing Source: 25
- Writing or Grammar Support (other than student writing support): 17
Research

DATA CURATION NETWORK GROWS

As researchers encounter increasing requirements to store their data in places and ways that make it available online to anyone, the Data Curation Network (DCN) — a U of M Libraries-led collaborative — has stepped up, growing from six institutions to 15 over the last four years and by curating more than 270 datasets.

“This is the direction that things are going — more transparency — and I embrace that,” says Jay Austin, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Because of the DCN’s work, Austin, his research peers, and community members seeking to use his data, benefit.

In the last year, the DCN — funded by grants from the Sloan Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services — has moved toward sustainability through a membership approach to address shared costs.

The Data Repository for University of Minnesota (DRUM) is the place for U of M faculty, staff, and students to share, publish, and preserve their digital research data for long-term access and future use.

The University Digital Conservancy (UDC) holds more than 90,000 articles, University documents, dissertations, datasets, and more — and provides free, public access and long-term preservation to work created at the U of M.

In FY2021, our librarians were involved in 92 systematic review projects from 11 different colleges and schools. We compile and present the published outcomes of this work in Experts@Minnesota.

PUBLISHING ADVANCES

In 2021, Libraries Publishing Services

- Launched a new catalog to showcase publications: publishing.lib.umn.edu. The catalog makes it easy to find the growing number of journals, monographs, and textbooks published by the Libraries.

- Expanded its campus reach. As of January 2022, Libraries Publishing has now worked with authors and editors from 12 colleges and three institutes or research centers across the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus, Extension, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and four scholarly societies.

- Produced three monographs and six textbooks, and launched two new journals.
The Digital Arts, Sciences, and Humanities (DASH) program supports faculty and students who employ digital technologies in their research, teaching, and engagement work.

257 CONNECTIONS MADE THROUGH DASH THIS YEAR

PRAISE FOR DASH’S SOFTWARE CARPENTRY WORKSHOPS

“The instructors were saints — so patient with a group that came from different disciplinary and knowledge bases. I really appreciated how open they were to questions and resolving issues that came up with different learners… I’m a new advocate for the Carpentries and will encourage all of my students and peers to do these workshops ASAP in their careers.”

— SOFTWARE CARPENTRY PARTICIPANT

PRAISE FOR THE DASH RAs

“Thank you so much for your vision and labor and for the generosity, care, and attentiveness that you devoted to every little task associated with my website project. I am full of admiration and appreciation.”

— RICHA NAGAR, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

Experts@Minnesota displays research profiles for people at the U of M and feeds publication lists to U of M center and department websites. But it also saves the University money by providing ready-to-use data on University research outputs for reporting to funders. And it can demonstrate U of M collaborations among colleges or campuses or with researchers around the world.
Dear Terrific Loan Librarians,

Wow, just five minutes ago I requested: Title: “The Difference is Great Teachers”, Author: Eric Hanushek, Book Title: “Waiting for ‘Superman’: how we can save America’s failing public schools” and poof! I got it! In less than five minutes! Thank you so much for a speedy delivery and everything you do to support my education.

The Libraries filled 92% of the 44,367 Interlibrary Loan/Digital Delivery requests in FY21. Of those 798 e-books were purchased for the collection to fill user needs and 3,816 were completed by scanning existing print and microform collections.

Nearly 1/3 of the requests were delivered to the homes of U of M faculty, students, and staff.

“Dear Terrific Loan Librarians,

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In FY21, the Libraries also advanced Open Access through these collection development efforts and educational opportunities:

- Signed an open access publishing agreement with Cambridge University Press and joined PLOS’s Community Action Publishing program
- Began supporting “Demography” and IWA Publishing as they moved to innovative, new publishing models
- Hosted open access workshops for graduate students, staff, and faculty authors

Follow the #OpenAccessUMN blog at z.umn.edu/OAUMN
THE BIG COLLECTION

We continued our collaborative work with the BIG Collection initiative, which aims to leverage collective resources across the Big Ten Academic Alliance libraries to manage their separate collections as a single collection. In 2021, the BIG Collection Steering Committee was formed and charged with a number of responsibilities, including:

• Stewarding the strategic roadmap
• Endorsing budgets and resources
• Ensuring alignment across the initiative, and
• Ensuring that the BIG Collection advances Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) values of the respective institutions.

Accomplishments in 2021 include signing the Wiley extension to facilitate open access content from BTAA authors and kickstarting several pilot projects, including the re-visioning of the UBorrow service and creation of an e-book collection that advances DEI.

TEACHING AND LEARNING AT THE ARCHIVES

For several years, the archivists at the Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections have been working with the U of M Heritage Studies and Public History program. Their work has primarily focused on grad students’ internship projects. This fall, however, the archivists developed and taught the course Archives for Historians. Topics covered included archival theory, selection and appraisal, arrangement and description, reference and access, physical and digital preservation, exhibits and outreach, and ethics. The course was designed to give students a sense of what it means to be an archivist.

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LATEST NEWS

On the move: The Bell Room

In March 2018, the James Ford Bell Library moved from Wilson Library into the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The collection of materials that document the premodern history of trade and cultural exchange mostly moved all at once. Left behind in Wilson, but certainly not forgotten, was the imagined period room, assembled by Mr. Bell, a University of Minnesota alumnus, longtime Regent, and founder of General Mills, based in Minneapolis.

In the spring of 2022, the Bell Room has been carefully dismantled and then reimagined in new space in Andersen Library. The new Bell Room will reopen as a special exhibition gallery in mid-June 2022 with the exhibit: “Becoming Greenlanders: An Immigration Story.”

The Libraries is grateful to Ford Bell and the James Ford Bell Trust for embracing and supporting this new vision.
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

During FY2021, the Libraries Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership Committee (DEI-LC) focused on drafting, approving, and circulating a statement of support for the Libraries’ approach to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA). The Emergency Procedures Task Force used an IDEA lens to examine the Libraries’ emergency policies and procedures pertaining to library spaces. The group reviewed incident data, recommended improvements to building Emergency Procedures manuals, and supported training for Libraries staff (including anti-bias approaches and de-escalation tactics).

The DEI-LC also advised on a number of projects across the Libraries, including:
• the launch of the Student Advisory Board
• creation of a Racism in Libraries LibGuide
• a screening of the “Change the Subject” documentary, and
• a historical language statement for Archives and Special Collections.

Beginning in May, the DEI-LC began working with Strategic Diversity Initiatives (SDI) to conduct an IDEA climate assessment survey for Libraries staff alongside further IDEA strategic planning for FY2022.

—KATE DIETRICK AND EMMA MOLLS, FOR THE DEI-LC

Through a crowdfunding campaign on Give to the Max Day, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, the Libraries raised money to help support free e-textbook access for students. Pictured: Libraries student worker Ibrahim Ismail-Adebiyi holding a tablet. The concept for this image is based on a photo created by olesz002 and submitted to the U of M Libraries for our Student Photo Contest in 2014.
Community Engagement

Minitex, an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University Libraries, celebrated 50 years of service to all Minnesota libraries and others across the region. Anniversary activities included profiles of original partner libraries, digitizing Minitex photos, and hosting four virtual events.

minitex.umn.edu

Online Events

The Friends Forum continued online in 2021, due to COVID-19, reaching more than 1,500 people. Sponsored by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries, these events can be viewed online at z.umn.edu/FriendsEvents

Emeritus Professor Dr. John S. Wright discussed his intellectual forebears and the African American renaissance men and women who inspire his work at the Feb. 18, 2021 “A Feast of Words” event, sponsored by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries and the Campus Club. Watch the event video online at z.umn.edu/Feast21

Poet Deborah Keenan — the author of 10 collections of poetry — was the featured poet at the 12th Annual Pankake Poetry Reading on April 7, 2021. Her book, “Willow Room, Green Door: New and Selected Poems,” received the Minnesota Book Award for Poetry. Watch the event video at z.umn.edu/Pankake21

Amplifying Black Narratives was a three-part series held in fall 2021 as part of the Friends Forum, sponsored by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries. The series featured Jokeda (JoJo) Bell, Tia-Simone Gardner, Catherine Squires, moderator Cecily Marcus, Mélina Mangal, Rekhet Si-Asar, Dionne Sims, moderator Kate McCready, Sheletta Brundidge, Larry McKenzie, Sagirah Shahid, and moderator Dara Beevas. Watch the event videos at z.umn.edu/ABN21

The mission of Minitex is to strengthen libraries, cultural institutions, and the communities they serve. Minitex connects libraries and individuals with information, ideas, and experiences to enrich lives and strengthen communities.

IN FY21, MINITEX:

- Saved MN Libraries $5.6 million through its cooperative purchasing program
- Hosted more than 57 million searches in eLibrary Minnesota, a 15% increase over the previous year
- Shared 74,500 items from University of Minnesota collections

Minitex

CONNECTED LIBRARIES. EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES. ENRICHED LIVES.

Amplifying Black Narratives
Recent Events

After having switched to remote events during 2020 and 2021, the Friends of the Libraries events series — the Friends Forum — returned to a line-up of in-person events during spring semester 2022.

The Friends Appreciation event, “Giving Voice to the Past: Performing the Archive,” on Sunday, March 27, 2022, featured the University Singers performing music that had been silent for over a century or, in some cases, never been performed. The event also featured emcee, Bradley Greenwald; U of M Professor of Music Matthew Mehaffey; Dave Fielding, a self-described music “archaeologist” and the driving force behind archiving the music; and U of M Music Librarian Jessica Abbazio.

The 13th Annual Pankake Poetry Reading on Thursday, April 7, 2022, featured David Mura, author of four books of poetry and two memoirs. Mura has won numerous awards for his writing, and has taught at several colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota. His collection of essays on race, history, and narrative, “The Stories Whiteness Tells Itself: Racial Myths in Our American Narratives,” will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in the fall of 2022.
While the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives has grown in size, use, and visibility in the past nine years since the collection came to the University of Minnesota Libraries, there is still so much more that could be done. Currently, the Berman Fund only supports an archivist at 40% time, limiting their ability to fully support the growth of the collection and realize the vision of the collection’s founders. Annual distribution of a $2.5 million Berman Fund endowment will support the salary and benefits of a full-time archivist for the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives collection in perpetuity.

Watch the video: z.umn.edu/UMJA
Support the Berman Fund: z.umn.edu/Berman

The Mapping Prejudice Project

This transformational funding will allow Mapping Prejudice to convene a think tank to bring together academics, researchers, and community fellows under the umbrella of the University of Minnesota Libraries. Over the last year, Mapping Prejudice also received funding from: The Medtronic Foundation, The Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation, The St. Paul and Minnesota Foundation, The Pohlad Family Foundation, and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mapping Prejudice illuminates the history of racism in Minneapolis and provides data to help housing advocates and city planners right the wrongs of the past. This University of Minnesota Libraries project taps into a growing community interest to confront painful legacies of racism and to work towards a more equitable future. z.umn.edu/MapPrejudice

Development and Grants

**DRIVEN CAMPAIGN**

Goal: $18 million

Amount raised: $23.6 million

(131% of goal)

**FY21 FUNDRAISING**

Goal: $1.6 million

Amount raised: $2.5 million

(158% of goal)
Library Staff Promotions

The Board of Regents has granted continuous appointment and awarded promotions to:

**Ben Wiggins**, Program Director for Digital Arts, Sciences, & Humanities (DASH), has received a promotion from Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian with continuous appointment.

**Alicia Kubas**, Government Publications and Data Librarian, has received a promotion from Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian with continuous appointment.

Additionally, two colleagues have been promoted to full rank:

**Shannon Farrell**, Natural Resources Librarian, has been promoted to Librarian.

**Kate McCready**, Interim Associate University Librarian for Collections and Content Strategy, has been promoted to Librarian.

Money Matters

FY 2021 LIBRARIES EXPENDITURES
(OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND EXCLUDING MINITEX)

$43,237,367

- **Collections**: 46%
- **Personnel**: 49%
- **Operating**: 5%
Meet Our Donor: Dr. Robert G. McKinnell

LONG-LIFE LEARNER

Robert G. McKinnell has a lot to share — including his love of the U of M Libraries, the Wangensteen in particular.

Call him Dr. McKinnell, if you like, or Dr. Bob, if you know him well. Or, if you are Japanese, you could call him ロバート G. マッキンネル (pronounced Robāto G. Makkinneru in spoken Japanese). That’s the name on the award plaque behind him, which he received from a member of the Japanese Imperial Family, His Imperial Highness Prince Masahito.

His character, commitment, and caring foster deep feelings among colleagues. “You learn a lot from him, and he clearly wants to learn from you,” says Lois Hendrickson, Curator of the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, where he has had a small office for years. “It’s a great basis for a mentor relationship.”

In his will, besides taking care of his own family, McKinnell names three organizations as beneficiaries: his church, his undergraduate college, and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

“I wanted to remember the Wangensteen because the library is so special,” McKinnell says, “and the people are so special.”

After earning his Ph.D., he worked at a cancer center in Pennsylvania and then established a lab at Tulane University (he met his wife in New Orleans) before arriving at the University of Minnesota in 1970 to teach and do research in the then-Zoology Department. Leopard frogs may have brought McKinnell to Minnesota; his work with their relatively large eggs established his reputation in a field popularly called cloning. His scientific career is outlined in his College of Biological Sciences bio.

Now, 95, he’s kept up with the times. “He’s not a person who has an opinion leftover from 20 years ago,” Hendrickson says. McKinnell continues to be an active scholar. In the Health Sciences Library, Evening Supervisor Melissa Aho cherishes her ongoing working friendship with Dr. Bob.

“He is wonderful,” she says, mentioning that they talk about books online. Last summer, she happened upon him mowing his lawn. After she expressed her feeling that McKinnell was getting a little old for that, he disagreed. He likes to stay active. And he likes to stay in touch with people like Aho.

“Melissa Aho will stand on her head to get me an illustration in the public domain,” McKinnell says.

Despite already having a rich and long career, Dr. Bob is not ready to stop researching and writing and teaching. McKinnell is a passionate independent scholar, who tackles significant topics with a big heart and an engaged intellect.
Dear Friends and colleagues,

A big part of my role as Chair of the board of The Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries (and, really, of all the Friends board members) is to be an advocate for the Libraries. I not only support what the Libraries do with my presence and philanthropy, I also actively promote the Libraries and publicize events, such as the Amplifying Black Narratives series, in my monthly Short Stacks note and on my various social media platforms. I look forward to doing more in the future.

Looking back at this year, however, I am particularly happy to report that our fall 2021 Friends Forum included a three-part gathering under the virtual umbrella of Amplifying Black Narratives, which brought 340 people to listen, ask questions, and meet some really intriguing and forward-looking people from our Twin Cities community. Our online gatherings included:

• Moderator Cecily Marcus, with panelists Jokeda (JoJo) Bell, Tia-Simone Gardner, and Catherine Squires for Amplifying Black Narratives: Past, Present, and Future.
• The Creation of Black Narratives with Dara Beevas, Moderator; Sheletta Brundidge; Larry McKenzie; and Sagriah Shahid.
• Black Publishers and Black Bookstores with Mélina Mangal, Rekhet Si-Asar; Dionne Sims; and Moderator Kate McCready.

Each person is outstanding in their own field, and each brought their energy and lived experiences, contributing to exceptional conversations. I have often described this series as “meeting the moment” that we are in as a nation with regard to conversations about race. I encourage you to take in one, two, or all three conversations, and possibly make the acquaintance of some new friends and colleagues. The third event included a great discussion of how you can amplify diverse voices in your community. You can visit, re-visit, or share videos from this series, as well as other Friends Forum events online at z.umn.edu/FriendsEvents.

Seeing Friends, old and new, is so valuable, particularly as we begin to come out of a time of isolation due to COVID. For the Friends board members, December 2019 was our most recent in-person meeting. As grateful as I am that we have had Zoom to allow us to connect safely during this challenging time, I thrive on human contact — I enjoy meeting people in person, shaking hands (giving hugs to those I know well) and, soon I hope, smiling at people without being masked.

As we on the Friends board look ahead, we seek to re-engage with all our membership and to invite in new people to support, celebrate, and learn more about the U of M Libraries. Please join us, online or in-person, or via our electronic communications.

I myself cannot wait to see those of you who I know or meet those of you who I don’t at one of our in-person events this spring 2022. In the meantime, please feel free to connect with me at amelious@umn.edu. I would love to hear about how we can enhance your experience as a Friend of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Stay well, safe and hopeful,

Amelious Whyte
Greetings!

We at the University Libraries are grateful to each of the donors listed. Their generosity makes an impact on our operations now and on our strategic planning for the future. The University Libraries relies on the generous financial contributions of the donors included in this listing. Many others give their time as well, serving on the boards of our friends groups or volunteering their talents for projects throughout the organization. We wish to thank all our donors and volunteers for their invaluable support.

Thank you all.

Lisa German
University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, McKnight Presidential Professor

Thank you to our Friends and Supporters

This list recognizes all contributions to the University of Minnesota Libraries from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, errors may occur. If we have omitted your name or listed your name incorrectly, please contact Lanaya Stangret at stangret@umn.edu.

Over $500,000
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