

2024 edition mclaughlin library update









AMANDA ETCHES

# UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN WELCOME

Welcome to the latest McLaughlin Library Update! I am delighted to share with you some recent news and highlights about the amazing people, resources, services, and programs at McLaughlin Library.

As you read these stories, you will see that two connected threads emerge. One is a focus on all the ways we have an impact on our campus and community: from how we prioritize and support the creation of accessible content for our users, to how we use collections and English language support to build a more inclusive community, to how our research data services help support a

generation of researchers who care about sharing and using publiclyfunded research data. As a library, it's always been important to us to create impact at different points in our users' academic and research journey, and the stories we highlight in this report are a testament to that focus.

The other thread interwoven throughout this report is a strong emphasis on introspection. As a sector, post-secondary education has been going through fiscal challenges in recent years, not just in Ontario, but across the country, as well as internationally. Given the centrality of the library to the University, we have not been exempt from the impact of these challenges. As a result, we've spent much of the past year undertaking a number of exercises to establish our areas of strategic focus so that we can prioritize what is essential to us and identify where we can have the most significant impact. Despite the challenges, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment, and my hope is that this report shines some light on how we have continued to do that.

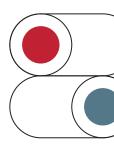
Of course, none of what you read about in this report would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our talented and knowledgeable staff. They are the very heart of what we do here at McLaughlin Library, and I feel fortunate that I get to work with them every day!

Warmly,

Amanda Etches Interim University Librarian

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# MAKING TIME FOR ASSESSMENT

For the better part of two decades, assessment and reporting have been critical pieces of the work we do at the library, helping us better understand our users, align our services, and continue to grow and evolve as an academic library. But it wasn't until more recently that these two functions came together in a single team. "We've always prioritized evidence-based decision making, and now our organizational structure reflects the importance of continuing to use data to help us make the best decisions we can about how our users experience the library," said Amanda Etches, interm university librarian.

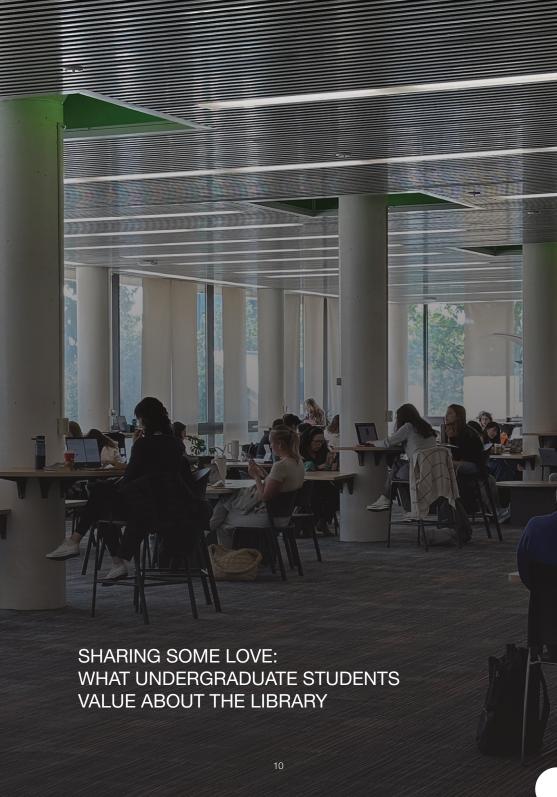
The Assessment & Reporting team helps improve the quality of library services and the experience of library users. They do this by undertaking user experience research and assessment projects, gathering data, and then using that information to help inform decisions about library services, programming, collections, digital and physical spaces. "Our job is to use data and insights from conversations with students, faculty, and staff to inform decisions about everything the library does—from the design of the website to the library's hours. The goal is to benefit library users to the best of our ability," said Robin Bergart, user experience librarian, Assessment & Reporting.

The work of this team benefits the library- and University at large. "By focusing on developing infrastructure to support assessment work throughout the library, we are better positioned to provide the University community with the support they need—both academically and from a research perspective," said Etches.

The team's work is rooted in their principles, which include being user-centered, ethical, equitable and inclusive, strategic, and pragmatic. With these principles in mind, the team developed, ran, and analyzed an undergraduate student survey this year. With responses from over 1,000 students, the team gathered data that helps us understand the undergraduate student perspective and experience. This data provides the library with valuable information to use when making improvements to the library that will support student success at U of G.



Learn more about this year's undergraduate survey and its results: <a href="mailto:uoguel.ph/UndergraduatePerspective">uoguel.ph/UndergraduatePerspective</a>



"I value that the library is a place where I can go to concentrate. I value that it has many floors that each suit different needs. For example, when I need to go somewhere to really focus, I have the option to use the quiet floors but if I want to go review notes with friends or catch up while doing some minor coursework I can go to the group study floor."

"I value the environment and community of the library. Every student that comes here is dedicated to their schoolwork, especially on the quiet floors where socialization is minimized. Whenever I go to a quiet floor, my work always gets done. I also enjoy the choice to work on a group study floor, as when I am tired of being in a quiet area, I can move to a more sociable and less stressed domain."

"It's a universal space for students to study and interact. It's an important tool I use to focus. It's a place that connects students and creates a feeling of community." "

I value it as a place to study where I don't have to spend money to be there (unlike cafes or similar). I like that it's clean, accessible, and it's easy to get help. I like that people who are there are generally there to study or do other work, and I am surrounded by people who inspire me to do the same. I like that there is a coffee place in the library, so I don't have to worry about leaving to get coffee. Basically, I value almost everything about it."

### DEVELOPING INTERNAL FLEXIBILITY IN AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

During 2023-2024, the library underwent an activity and service review project to develop internal flexibility and gather critical information to help shape our path forward. The project encouraged employees to engage in creating an inventory highlighting the various services and activities each team is involved in. Together, employees named over 250 services and activities, which were then categorized into one of three categories: growth, mature, or sunset. "We have long acknowledged that there is a regular lifecycle to our activities, and the timing felt right to undertake a comprehensive review of our work," said Kelly Bertrand, director, Administrative Services.

The final report serves as a foundational document as we continue to redefine what it means to work in a modern academic library. "This project has offered us a unique opportunity to develop a shared understanding of the library's path forward as we continue to evolve in a dynamic and ever-changing landscape," said Bertrand. The final report provides information to examine when considering resource allocation, decision making, and staffing plans. Along the way, the project has also helped the library intentionally align with the University of Guelph's 2022-27 Strategic Plan, *Our Time*.





Read the University of Guelph's 2022-27 Strategic Plan:

uoguel.ph/OurTime

### INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY AT THE LIBRARY

At the library, we're committed to a continuous process of examination and transformation that advances inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) in our organization, which aligns with the University of Guelph's Anti-Racism Action Plan and Indigenous Initiatives Strategy. "Under the leadership of Sarah Beaubien, our former associate university librarian, academic, the Library Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee developed a public statement on IDEA that guides our work as a library and affirms our responsibility to make the library a welcoming, inclusive environment for our community," said Amanda Etches, interim university librarian.



Read our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Statement: uoguel.ph/LibraryIDEA





#### DESIGNING WITH ACCESSIBILITY IN MIND: A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF LIBRARY USERS

In the past year, a group of library employees were given a mission—to take stock of all digital work we are engaged in and empower teams to do what's necessary to ensure their content is accessible for all library users. "We want to make sure that the content we are creating in the library is as accessible as possible, so students don't encounter barriers when accessing the resources they need to be successful in their courses," said Lindsey Robinson, manager, Content and Accessibility Services, and co-chair, Library Accessibility Task Force.

In addition to actively working with teams from across the library to improve workflows where needed and empower employees, they also focused on developing guidelines, policies, and offered regular training to staff. "Developing accessibility training sessions has been a truly rewarding experience that has allowed us to work with library colleagues with a wide range of skill levels, from beginners to those with a high level of experience creating accessible content and experiences," said Ryan Moore, digital accessibility coordinator, Digital Strategy & Technology, and co-chair, Library Accessibility Task Force. "Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that all members of our community can fully engage with the libraries' wide array of services and content."

Beyond the work individual teams do to support library users, the library's website is a key place where people access information and resources. While we aim to create everything with accessibility in mind, we believe it's important to provide a way for people to provide feedback—whether it's to flag something that isn't accessible or to let us know they need something in a different accessible format. As such, a new footer was added to each page of the library's website for this purpose.





Want to learn more about the items we've mentioned in this article?

Read our Accessibility Policy: uoguel.ph/AccessibilityPolicy



#### Check out these guides:

Create an Accessible Word Document <a href="mailto:uoguel.ph/AccessibleWordDoc">uoguel.ph/AccessibleWordDoc</a>

Make your Digital Media Projects Accessible uoguel.ph/Accessibility



IN 2024, OUR HOW TO CREATE A CONCEPT MAP VIDEO SURPASSED 1-MILLION VIEWS ON ON THE LIBRARY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL. THIS VIDEO, CREATED IN 2017, CONTINUES TO PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.



# TEAM HIGHLIGHT: LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Library Accessibility Services provides support to U of G students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). "We collaborate with students and SAS staff to remove barriers to ensure students with disabilities get access to the materials and technology they need to be successful academically during their time at U of G," said Lindsey Robinson, manager, Content and Accessibility Services.

#### These services include:

- » Adaptive technology access and instruction students can receive personalized support using adaptive software, mobile apps, and equipment.
- » Alternate format support students can receive course textbooks and readings in alternative formats (e.g., digitized text, audio books, Braille, and tactile images), as well as have captions, transcripts, and audio descriptions created for course-based audio-visual materials.
- » Accessible study space in the Library Accessibility Services Lab, students can access a private, quiet study space, equipped with ergonomic tables and chairs, high-walled study carrels to reduce distractions, variable lighting options, a relaxation corner with sound dampening chairs and break activities, computers with a full range of conventional and assistive software, and a colour closed caption TV.
- » Appointments and support for reading, writing, note-taking, and studying.



#### SHARING SOME LOVE: STUDENT APPRECIATION FOR LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

"Library Accessibility Services helped me more than I could have ever anticipated. I can't believe I had gone through all of my previous schooling without alternate-format textbooks. I was able to understand the text much deeper and significantly faster than ever before."

"Library Accessibility Services changed my life. I would have failed out this semester and not graduated. So grateful."

## EXPERIENCING THE WORLD THROUGH A VARIETY OF LENSES: LIBRARY ALL STAFF DAY FOCUSES ON ACCESSIBILITY

Each year, the library hosts an all-staff day to bring people together, build community, and create space for growth. This year's focus was centered on accessibility. "Ongoing learning about accessibility is important to creating a truly inclusive library. We are very fortunate to have experts to help guide us to more accessible practices," said lan Gibson, acting associate university librarian, research.

We opened the day with a keynote speech from Dilshan Fernando, U of G's accessibility and equity officer, Office of Diversity & Human Rights, who spoke of the importance of creating connections to help to create positive change at U of G. "Activating communities of practice, creating a sense of belonging, and valuing the expertise of those with lived experience can help us to move beyond compliance and achieve real disability inclusion," said Fernando.

Following the keynote, staff could choose their own adventure and attend a variety of short sessions designed to highlight a variety of experiences library users or staff may have. Sessions were offered to staff in-person, online, or hybrid when possible. The sessions included:

- » American Sign Language: participants were introduced to the basics of American Sign Language, including how to sign each letter of the alphabet, how to sign some basic words and phrases, and some aspects of deaf culture, such as learning ways to interact with those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- » The Skinny on Screen Readers: participants learned what screen readers are, how they are used, and why they are an integral part of accessing, creating, and testing accessible content.
- » Podcast Reflections: participants were encouraged to listen to or read the transcript for the Disability Visibility Project Podcast, "Disabled Students" episode. Participants then shared their reflections in a facilitated environment. The session's purpose was to raise awareness of post-secondary student experiences and develop a sense of community with colleagues.



- » Accessibility is the New Punk Rock: participants listened to a 10-minute story recorded on The Moth by Gaelynn Lea, a folk singer, violinist, teacher, public speaker, and disability activist from Duluth Minnesota. Lea was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic condition that causes complications in the development of bones and limbs. The story was followed by a facilitated discussion among staff.
- » Spoon Theory: participants were asked to contemplate and consider "spoon theory" by Christine Miserandino. The session introduced spoon theory and "spoonie" terminology, participants completed a hands-on spoon exercise and engaged in a group discussion about the theory. The session got employees thinking about their own personal relationship with spoon theory, and how it may impact those around them.







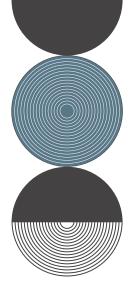
Access some of the content we used:

uoguel.ph/DisabledStudentsPodcast uoguel.ph/AccessibilityIsTheNewPunkRock

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT: DEVELOPING AND DELIVERING PROGRAMS TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE CAMPUS

One of our areas of focus is supporting users who don't use English as their dominant language—they include undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, staff, instructors, and faculty. "Studying in a second, third, or fourth language is demanding and complicated work, so we go beyond writing support by offering workshops and appointments that focus on reading, listening, and speaking, in addition to writing," said Mary McCaffery, writing specialist, Writing and Learning Services.





Our English Language Series gives graduate students an opportunity to focus on developing a skill set that focuses on communicating in different situations. Programming in the past year has included topics like listening, presenting, reading, and communication skills, as well as topics like listening to different English accents, or writing feedback to students as teaching assistants. "When we tailor programs to support those who speak English as a non-dominant language, we make our institution more inclusive to everyone's benefit. Our students feel more welcome, and our classrooms become more diverse," said McCaffery.



Learn more about building vocabulary for reading and speaking in this guide: uoguel.ph/ReadingAndSpeakingGuide

# COLLABORATIVELY CURATING COLLECTIONS: MAKING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

At the library, we want our space to be one where everyone feels like they belong. Over the years, we've cultivated meaningful relationships with library users and on-campus groups who dedicate their time and effort into curating thoughtful collections that we proudly feature on our website and in our physical and digital spaces. "Curating these collections allows us to build diverse, inclusive library collections that we hope resonate with our diverse community," said Meg Ecclestone, acting head, Collections & Content. In the past year, two of the collections we've had the pleasure of featuring are Black History Month 2024: 360°; Health and Wellness, and Winter Pride 2024.



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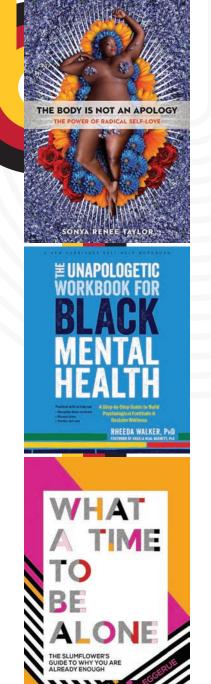
A SELECTION OF TITLES FROM BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024: 360°; HEALTH AND WELLNESS.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024: 360°; HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Guelph Black Students Association (GBSA) and the University of Guelph's Cultural Diversity team in Student Experience celebrated Black History Month with a digital library display titled Black History Month 2024: 360°: Health and Wellness.

The collection's goal is to emphasize the importance of a holistic approach to health and wellness. The collection is based on the Seven Dimensions of Wellness and includes perspectives that recognize the influencing factors on wellbeing, and approaching balanced lifestyles through emotional, physical, social, intellectual, occupational, environmental, and spiritual wellness. A health and wellness display during Black History Month helps to promote inclusivity, diversity, and awareness and offers an opportunity to celebrate the richness of Black history and culture while addressing important aspects of wellbeing that are relevant to the community.

The books chosen centre historically underrepresented Black voices to foster inclusivity, education, empowerment, and community building. This is a critical step in addressing the historical underrepresentation of Black voices in academic settings, while also providing a better understanding of Black health and wellbeing. While the topics discussed may specifically resonate with Black readers, everyone is welcome and encouraged to read the books from this display as lessons can be learned regardless of age, level of education, or race.



While there are many incredible works featured in this display, here are a few titles the GBSA chose to highlight:

The Body is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love by Sonya Renee Taylor advocates for self-love, emphasizing the importance of embracing one's body and identity without shame or apology, and explores the intersections of body positivity, social justice, and activism (such as body image, race, gender, and disability). Taylor encourages readers to challenge societal norms and embrace self-acceptance.

The Unapologetic Workbook for Black Mental Health:

A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Psychological Fortitude and

Reclaim Wellness by Rheeda Walker addresses the unique mental health challenges faced by the Black community delving into the historical, social, and cultural factors that contribute to disparities in mental health care. She provides practical tools and strategies for emotional wellness, empowering readers to navigate the mental health system effectively.

What a Time to be Alone: the Slumflower's Guide to Why You Are Already Enough by Chidera Eggerue encourages readers to embrace solitude and find strength in being alone. It challenges societal expectations and encourages individuals to prioritize self-love and self-discovery. In a candid and relatable writing style, Eggerue covers topics such as self-worth, relationships, and personal growth, providing practical advice and affirmations to help readers navigate their journeys toward self-acceptance.

Thank you to the Guelph Black Students Association and U of G's Cultural Diversity team for curating this digital display.



#### WINTER PRIDE

Winter Pride is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on queer activism and visibility. This year, OUTline—U of G's resource and support service specializing in questions and information relating to sexual orientation and gender identity—curated a Winter Pride digital display that features works that celebrate LGBTQ2IA+ identities and creations. From fiction with queer characters to historical accounts documenting queer advancement, this curated collection invites readers to explore, reflect, and celebrate the rich tapestry of the LGBTQ2IA+ community.



At the heart of this display is a commitment to learning and celebrating activism, recognizing history, and encouraging readers to ponder the profound impact of identity. Featured titles in this collection encapsulate the spirit of Winter Pride:

Our Work is Everywhere: An Illustrated Oral History of Queer and Trans Resistance by Syan Rose visually captures the resilience of diverse queer and trans communities, exploring themes like Black femme mental health, Pacific Islander authorship, fat queer performance art, disability advocacy, and sex worker activism.

We are Everywhere: Protest, Power, and Pride in the History of Queer Liberation by Leighton Brown & Matthew Riemer chronicles queer liberations roots to present activism through 300+ photos that challenges LGBTQ2IA+ history assumptions.

**Stonewall:** A Building, an Uprising, a Revolution by Rob Sanders presents a visually striking oral history of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City, a catalyst for the U.S. gay liberation movement, and outlines the subsequent history of LGBTQ2IA+ rights.

Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde is a collection of essays that challenge societal norms, advocating for change through the lens of feminism, racial justice, and embracing social differences.

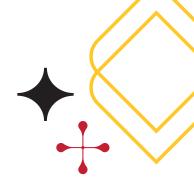


The Winter Pride 2024 digital display aligns with the overarching goals of Winter Pride, focusing on the celebration of queer identities and creations. Literature plays a pivotal role in understanding the history of queer advancement and the future of activism. By increasing the visibility of LGBTQ2IA+identities through media representation, this collection contributes to fostering a more inclusive and accepting society.

For the LGBTQ2IA+ community at the U of G, this display sends a powerful message—that queer identities and activism hold a significant place within the community. These carefully selected works allow community members to deepen their understanding or enjoy novels where their identities are reflected. This collection is not just a display of books; it is a celebration of diversity, resilience, and the ongoing journey towards a more inclusive future.



Explore the collection: uoquel.ph/WinterPride2024



# THERE'S AN EQUITY ISSUE IN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

The library is a long-standing supporter of open access initiatives. We're on a mission to help transform the scholarly communication environment, envisioning one that is more equitable and accessible, for everyone. Unlocking scholarly content from behind paywalls not only helps relieve the library's budgetary constraints—it also helps address a global social injustice.

Researchers pay, sometimes astronomical fees, to have their articles published in scholarly journals. The library then buys that research from the publisher for increasingly unsustainable amounts, to provide access to our community, sometimes the same community who authored the works. This method is both financially unsustainable and creates barriers for traditionally marginalized voices in academia. How can we change this? Supporting open access is a start.





# MAKING U OF G ARTICLES OPEN TO EVERYONE

U of G researchers publish over 2,800 academic articles each year. Open Access (OA) means research outputs, like academic articles, are free and available to everyone. At the library, we're committed to OA and invest in open initiatives by allocating a part of our acquisitions budget to support open content, infrastructure, and advocacy organizations. "Open is a strategic investment. When we make our content open, we are exposing it to people who likely would not have had access otherwise, that includes potential partners in the community, in industry, and in the government—it can dramatically increase our impact and helps to raise U of G's profile," said lan Gibson, acting associate university librarian, research.

Read & Publish (R&P) agreements, sometimes known as transformative agreements, are one of the ways we support OA at U of G. Our R&P agreements include U of G reader access to paywalled collections, while also ensuring research articles written by U of G authors are available OA, meaning they are free to read by anyone in the world.

As an author, choosing OA publishing is important for a variety of reasons, a major one being it helps with reproducibility. "When researchers share their datasets, code, and research instruments as part of publishing in the open, this indicates that their work is rigorous and trustworthy. This transparency means the impact of research persists beyond the life of an experiment or funding cycle, aiding in subsequent applications for grants and tenure and promotion," said Ali Versluis, head, Research & Scholarship. Openly depositing datasets and other research products raises the profile of U of G researchers and facilitates findability and increased citations.

Some of the more prominent Open Access Read & Publish Agreements in which U of G authors may publish OA at no charge are:

ELSEVIER: Elsevier Core Hybrid and Core Hybrid Specialty Journals.

**OXFORD:** eligible Hybrid Journals, and at a 10% discount on Oxford's Fully OA Journals.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS JOURNALS: Cambridge Hybrid and Gold Journals.

SAGE JOURNALS: over 900 Sage Choice Journals and in most Sage Gold OA Journals at a 40% discount on article processing charges (APCs).

WILEY: over 1,600 Wiley Journals without paying APCs.

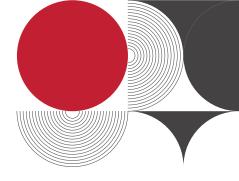


So, what's the impact of these Read & Publish Agreements?

# 2023 data shows U of G authors saved nearly

\$500K

in Article Processing Charges when publishing through just three of our agreements.



Through our R&P Agreements, we're working to provide U of G researchers with the opportunity to reallocate funds usually spent on APCs back into their research. Learn more about how we decide how to distribute the library's OA budget by viewing our Open Investment Evaluation Criteria.

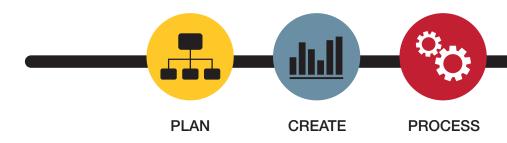


#### Read more:

How we saved U of G Authors 500K in Article Processing Charges: <a href="https://www.uoguel.ph/APCs">uoguel.ph/APCs</a>

Our Commitment to Open Access: <a href="mailto:uoguel.ph/OpenAccessCommitment">uoguel.ph/OpenAccessCommitment</a>

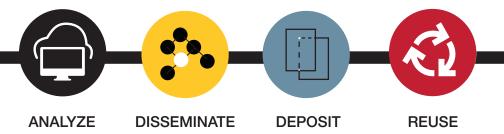
Our Open Investment Evaluation Criteria: <a href="mailto:uoguel.ph/OpenInvestment">uoguel.ph/OpenInvestment</a>



# SUPPORTING U OF G THROUGH THE RESEARCH DATA LIFECYCLE

With a focus on supporting U of G researchers as they navigate their way through the research data lifecycle, the library hosted a variety of workshops and drop-in sessions over the past year. "The library plays a crucial role in training researchers on how to responsibly manage and reuse public-funded research data, which drives innovation, informs decisions, and ensures accountability," said Lucia Costanzo, librarian, Research & Scholarship.

A variety of workshops were offered on topics like research data management, creating data management plans, depositing research in a repository, using RStudio for data wrangling, manipulation, and visualization. "The library offers workshops and resources



on effectively working with data at various stages of the research process, providing critical support when researchers need it," said Costanzo.

In addition to workshops, we offered drop-in chats with librarians who focus on supporting researchers who have questions about their research data management plans, publishing, open access, and open educational resources. "While we've offered one-on-one consultations for years, in 2023 we also ran informal drop-in sessions to ensure that researchers had access to expertise from across the research lifecycle in a convenient way. We get a lot of feedback from researchers about how much they appreciate this personalized support," said Jordan Pedersen, librarian, Research & Scholarship.

With participants from across all seven colleges, these sessions provided researchers an opportunity to get the support they need to effectively navigate their way through the research data lifecycle.



Mother told me a thousand times that bread pudding was delicious, healthful, economical, and I must eat it.

2 eggs, well beaten 1/4 cup seeded raisins 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon Beat the eggs, add the sugar, spices and milk. Butter a baking dish, arrange bread or cake and raisins in the dish and pour the liquid over it. Let stand until bread has been thoroughly soaked. Bake in

Knowing how much I liked chocolate, Mother sometimes put in 2 tablespoons of cocoa instead of the spices and served the pudding with a chocolate sauce instead of the usual custard sauce. I was never fooled; it still was bread pudding.

## HOW TO BOIL CORN

Corn should be prepared this way and no other, on top of the stove. It's wonderful roasted over an open fire but if it is to be boiled, please try it this way and you won't go back to the old method of drowning the cobs in water and boiling them tasteless.

PLACE boiling water, milk and sugar in a saucepan. Don't 12 ears of corn, unhusked 2 cups boiling water

CUT about 1 inch off each ear of corn. Remove the tough outside leaves and as much silk as you can pull from the end, but

PLACE unpeeled corn in liquid mixture. Cover and boil quickly leave a layer of husks.

SEND to the table unpeeled, which keeps the corn nice and 15 to 20 minutes.

warm, or peel before serving.

RECIPES FROM THE LIBRARY'S CULINARY COLLECTION GIVEN OUT AT THE EXHIBIT LAUNCH.

## COOKING UP HISTORY: AN EXHIBITION FULL OF HISTORY AND FUTURE READY OPPORTUNITIES

Upon signing up for their courses, students in two U of G courses, were met with a unique opportunity—to create an exhibition highlighting the 30th anniversary of the Culinary Historians of Canada (CHC). Alongside library staff and under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Beausaert, adjunct professor, department of history, College of Arts, and Melissa McAfee, special collections librarian, Archival & Special Collections, students participated in an experiential learning opportunity they'll remember forever.

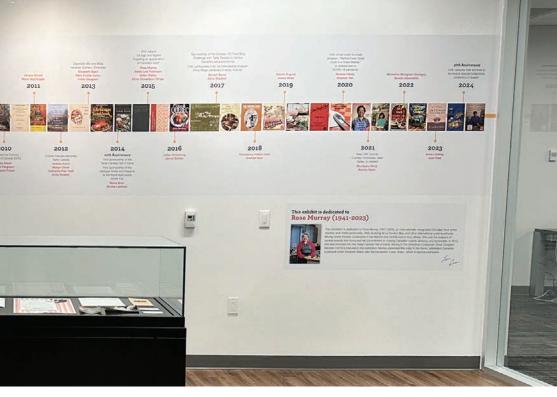
The exhibit, which launched in April 2024, highlighted what happened in Canada's food scene over the past thirty years. "Since their founding in 1994, the CHC have created a large community spanning all provinces and territories that connects Canadians who love food history," said Dr. Beausaert.

The creation of this exhibit provided undergraduate students at U of G an opportunity to take a deeper dive into the library's vast Culinary Collection and explore Canadian food history. "Being part of the University of Guelph community means having the opportunity



to use the vast resources available at the McLaughlin Library and in archival and special collections. Students in courses like food history benefit from the immense collection of cookbooks and other culinary ephemera that is housed there," said Dr. Beausaert.

In addition to those taking Dr. Beausaert's HIST\*3240: Food History course, students in HIST\*3560: Behind the Scenes in Archives and Rare Books, led by McAfee, also took part in interviewing chefs, cookbook writers, collectors, and food activists for the Culinary Milestones podcast. "It is always a great pleasure to work with U of G undergraduate students on exhibits. I was also fortunate to partner with two stellar fourth-year history majors, since the fall of 2023, who provided excellent and thoughtful advice on every aspect of the exhibit from the title to the colour of the case linings," said McAfee.



INSIDE THE A&SC EXHIBIT ROOM, WITH A VIEW OF THE COOKING UP HISTORY EXHIBIT.

One of those fourth-year history students, is Sierra Susi, who spoke of the importance of being a part of the exhibit creation process, "As a history student, it was neat to see cookbooks used to connect with past communities and culinary technologies. I feel as if most people, when they see a cookbook, don't immediately think of it as a historical artifact, and getting the opportunity to share with others the meaning and importance of these classic Canadian recipes and authors was very special to me," said Susi.

Many students who take these courses, and contribute to the exhibit planning team, will pursue work in library and archival science, museum studies, and teaching history. "Upon graduation, students face a competitive job market, so the skills they honed curating this exhibit will help set them apart from their peers. They gained



EXHIBIT VIEWERS EXPLORING THE PAST 30 YEARS OF CULINARY HISTORIANS OF CANADA TIMELINE.

hands-on training working in an archive, handling archival materials, and learning from librarians and archivists. Some of the work they completed for the physical part of the exhibit will be available in the complementary online exhibit, which students can share with future employers or graduate school admission committees," said Dr. Beausaert. In addition to archival specific skills, this experience also provided students with a variety of skills that can transcend a variety of careers, including writing, research, oral communication, and collaboration, all things that help students get future ready.



Learn more about U of G's Culinary Collections: <a href="mailto:uoguel.ph/CulinaryCollections">uoguel.ph/CulinaryCollections</a>

Explore the digital exhibition on the What Canada Ate website: uoguel.ph/30YearsCHC

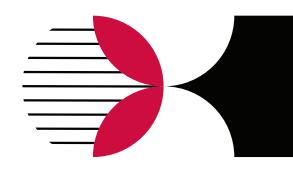
"You cannot understand Canada's contemporary food culture without understanding Canada's culinary past. By highlighting and celebrating the individuals who shaped Canada's culinary history, the CHC plays an important role in preserving Canada's food legacy and traditions."

Graham Burt associate, Archival & Special Collections

## A NEW WAY TO EXPLORE THE ARCHIVES

Library users can now access materials from the library's archival and special collections through a new archives database. In the database, you'll find descriptive information from our collections, as well as miscellaneous archival materials in our holdings. "The new archives database provides users with greater access to our collections, coupled with a better understanding of how the documents they are looking for relate to records they might not even know we have," said Ryan Kirkby, project archivist, Archival & Special Collections. "It's a hugely powerful tool; a gamechanger for the library and most importantly our researchers."

The database is powered by an open-source application designed for archival materials (AtoM). "AtoM has become the industry standard archival discovery layer in the Canadian academic sector, with broad uptake at other Canadian universities. We are excited to be able to join this community of practice as we strive to make our collections as simple to find and as accessible as possible to all users," said Curtis Sassur, head, Archival & Special Collections.



Some examples of what users can find in the new database are:

- » Performance files from thematic and activist-oriented theatre companies, like Black Theatre Canada, Native Earth Performing Arts, and Theatre Passe Muraille.
- » Design records from Canadian landscape architects and urban planners such as Lois Lister, George Tanaka, and Project Planning Associates Ltd., as well as golf course architect Stanley Thompson.
- » The personal and professional papers of L. M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables* (1908) and other notable novels.

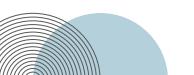


# INSIDE THE LITERATURE AND LIBRARIES OF L.M. MONTGOMERY

Every book lover knows how much their library means to them. So, imagine having the opportunity to see what was on one of your favourite authors' bookshelves. To get a glimpse inside the works that inspired them to create their own masterpieces. On Thursday, October 24, 2024, we gave people from around the world that experience.

Together, we delved into what was on the bookshelves of one of Canada's most beloved and internationally recognized women authors—Lucy Maud Montgomery. The talk was led by Emily Woster, curator of the L.M. Montgomery Bookshelf, and U of G's Ashley Shifflett McBrayne, associate, Archival & Special Collections.

Woster, an L.M. Montgomery scholar and life-long Montgomery fan, shared intricate details of Montgomery's libraries that she's gleaned throughout her years of study. She also provided an overview of the L.M. Montgomery Bookshelf, an open access collection of digital books to browse, based out of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute





L.M. MONTGOMERY, AGE 33.

at the University of Prince Edward Island. "Each book can be explored via an online viewer that lets one turn pages and zoom in," said Woster. "We feature as many high-resolution scans as possible. Each book also comes with a detailed explanatory note about how, when, or why the book was significant to Montgomery."







■ LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY'S DOWNSTAIRS ROOM, CAVENDISH, 1895.

- ♦ LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY, PORTRAIT WITH FAN, CAVENDISH, CIRCA 1890s.
- ATTENDEES CHATTING AT THE EVENT.

Montgomery published many short stories and 20 novels in her lifetime, most notably, the *Anne of Green Gables* series. 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of Montgomery's birth. Shifflett McBrayne also spoke at the event, providing attendees with an insider look at the U of G Library's L.M. Montgomery Collection. "As stewards of the L.M. Montgomery Collection, we wanted to mark the occasion in a special and meaningful way," said Shifflett McBrayne. "Collaborating with the L.M. Montgomery Institute to digitally reunify the Montgomery library here at the U of G, with the books housed in the Ryrie-Campbell Collection at the University of Prince Edward Island, was a way to do that."

This event, sponsored in part by the Bibliographic Society of America, was held in a hybrid format and was attended by individuals from across Canada and internationally, with attendees from the United States including Alaska, and outside of North America, including Belgium, Poland, Finland, Norway, the UK, Sri Lanka, Australia, and Japan.



#### Keep exploring:

U of G's L.M. Montgomery Collection:

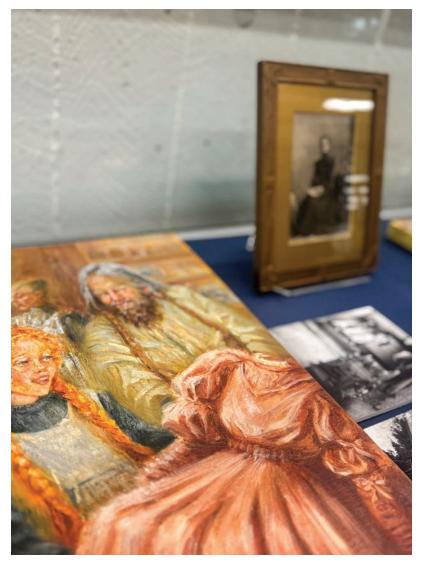
uoguel.ph/LMMCollection

The L.M. Montgomery Bookshelf Project:

kindredspaces.ca/bookshelf

Q & A with the Speakers:

uoguel.ph/QASpeakers



THE PAINTING "DREAM PUFFS," BY JANET REID WILSON, AND TWO PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE L.M.M. COLLECTION FEATURING SCENES FROM CAVENDISH.

## EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT – MAUD OF GREEN GABLES: ART BY JANET REID WILSON

An exhibit titled Maud of Green Gables: Art by Janet Reid Wilson Inspired by the Life and Photographs of L.M. Montgomery was featured on the first floor of the library throughout the fall 2024 semester.

The exhibit featured items from the library's L.M. Montgomery Collection as well as oil paintings by Janet Reid Wilson, a local artist from Eden Mills, Ontario. Reid Wilson wrote and illustrated *Maud of Green Gables: How L.M. Montgomery's Anne Enchanted the World.* It tells the story of L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* from its conception through to its publication by Boston publisher L.C. Page in 1908. Reid Wilson developed the illustrations for the book using original photographs from the library's collection.

The exhibit featured personal effects from Lucy Maud Montgomery's life, quotes from her writings, and photographs from her collection alongside beautifully illustrated paintings by Janet Reid Wilson. Some highlights included Montgomery's pair of Staffordshire dog figurines,



ARTIST JANET REID WILSON

Gog and Magog, her medal of the Order of the British Empire, and selected works from her library.

Every year, the L.M. Montgomery Collection is accessed by individuals who find inspiration for their own creative and scholarly endeavors from items preserved by Archival & Special Collections. For instance, in the fall, we welcomed Yuko Matsumoto, the pre-eminent Japanese translator of Montgomery's *Rilla of Ingleside*. Matsumoto visited with a group from Japan which was part of a thematic tour of Prince Edward Island and Ontario.



#### Q & A with the Curators:

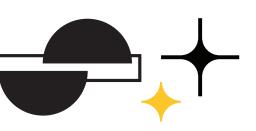
#### uoguel.ph/QACurators

- MONTGOMERY'S FIRST JOURNAL AND TWO PAINTINGS IN THE BACKGROUND.
- ◆ EMILY CLARK POSITIONING GOG AND MAGOG INTO EXHIBIT CASE.
- EXHIBIT CASE DISPLAYING PAINTING AND ITEMS FROM L.M.M. COLLECTION.









## LEARNING & CURRICULUM SUPPORT AWARD WINNERS

## 01. ACCESS SERVICES STUDENT LIBRARY ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR

This award is presented to one or more knowledgeable and collaborative student staff members who contribute to a positive work environment on the Access Services team.

Award Recipients: Daniel Oliker and Sama Mohamed

#### 02. BRENDAN MUNN SUPPORTED LEARNING GROUP (SLG) LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In honour of Brendan Munn, awarded to the SLG leader peer helper who best exemplifies the qualities of intelligence, love of learning, and commitment to helping others as chosen by their fellow peers.

Award Recipient: Sanya Sareen

## 03. DALE LACKEYRAM LEARNING PEER HELPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In honour of Dale Lackeyram, awarded to the Learning Peer Helper who best exemplifies personal and professional integrity, innovation, open mindedness, and a deep love of learning. A learning peer, who, through collaborative communication and academic excellence, serves as a leader, motivator, and educator.

Award Recipient: Katherine Yu

#### 04. HASNUL ABDOLLAH WRITING PEER AWARD

In memory of Hasnul Abdollah, awarded to the writing peer helper who best exemplifies the characteristics of a model peer. This person is a role model for others through their social engagement on campus, their caring and empathetic approach toward fellow students and peers, and their willingness to help others.

Award Recipient: Leo Li

#### 05. MARY WILSON SLG LEADER AWARD

In honour of program founder, Mary Wilson, awarded to the SLG leader who best exemplifies an engaged, innovative, and reflective approach in their practice and is strongly dedicated to the holistic educational development of their fellow students.

Award Recipient: Ashlyn Stuart

## 06. STEPHANIE DAYMOND WRITING TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA) AWARD

In memory of Stephanie Daymond, awarded to the Writing Support TA who best exemplifies the qualities of personal warmth, intelligence, integrity, and commitment to helping others as chosen by their fellow peers.

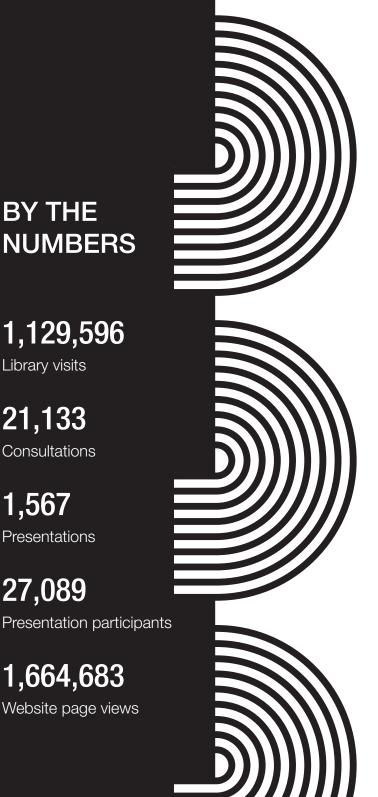
Award Recipient: Alice Hinchliffe

#### 07. STUDENT ATHLETE MENTOR (SAM) AWARD

Awarded to a mentor who develops meaningful mentoring relationships that nurture positive change in the academic attitudes of student-athletes. They are a genuine leader and role model who has made a lasting contribution to the SAM program.

Award Recipient: Nike Abiodun





**BY THE** 

1,129,596

Library visits

21,133

Consultations

Presentations

27,089

1,664,683

1,567

## LEARNING VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

111

YouTube videos

677,810

YouTube views

14,514

Total watch time (hours)

#### **LIBRARY GUIDES**

717

Library guides

906,308

Library guide views

#### **WORKSHOPS**

1,567

Workshops

27,089

**Participants** 

#### **LOANS**

22,471

Loans of regular materials

2,171,424

Searches

2,113,414

eResource downloads

## INTERLIBRARY LOANS & BORROWING

LOANS

13,660

Requests received

9,748

Requests filled

#### **BORROWING**

11,496

Requests sent

8,576

Requests filled

#### MATERIAL EXPENDITURES

\$758,963

One-time resource purchases

\$7,633,738

Ongoing resource purchases

\$494,256

Collections support purchases

\$8,886,957

Total collections purchases



### **CREDITS**

Written and produced by the U of G McLaughlin Library's Communications & Marketing team.

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Designed by Tiffany Murphy

#### PHOTOS PROVIDED & TAKEN BY

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Dilpreet Kaur Banwait
Tiffany Murphy

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Sheryl Cantlon

Juliene McLaughlin

Ron Ward

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at library@uoguelph.ca.

## GIVING TO THE LIBRARY

When you give to the library, you help us create and sustain programming, resources, and spaces that support students, faculty, and staff at U of G.

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