The UW–Madison Libraries lead in curating, presenting, and sharing knowledge. We create environments that inspire engagement, discovery, and learning. We deliver exemplary information services to advance our world-class research university’s mission and strategic priorities. We aspire to be essential partners in advancing discovery and scholarship. By continuously transforming services, we empower university’s research, teaching, and creative endeavors at enabling access at scale.

I am pleased to share our accomplishments and ongoing efforts in progressing our strategic directions and related initiatives. These guideposts shape our decisions as we look to another year of opportunities to support the University and knowledge creation across the academic ecosystem.

This past year, the Libraries further enabled the university’s mission and strategic priorities. We aspire to be essential partners in advancing discovery and scholarship. By continuously transforming services, we empower University and knowledge creation across the academic ecosystem.

Powers Campus Excellence in Research and Scholarship

The Libraries’ extensive reach requires access to library resources—from collections to expertise to spaces and equipment. It’s all about broad access to services across constituencies. Regardless of the inquiry, we connect people to the resources they need. This can be as specific as a one-on-one consultation and item-level description or as vast as our various projects to leverage infrastructure and consortial partnerships to broaden and deepen access to knowledge. The UW-Madison Libraries excel at enabling access at scale.

Enhancing Discovery and Delivery

With the implementation of Rapido, a new resource-sharing platform from Ex Libris, and the integration of WorldCat Search into our Coordinated Discovery Platform, the Libraries implemented solutions for next-generation discovery and delivery. These innovations make it possible for patrons to request an item from the Libraries’ discovery platform, regardless of whether UW-Madison holds the item, and receive actionable next steps relevant to their needs in terms of format, time-to-delivery, and length of the loan.

Stewarding Vast Collections

In the past year, we invested in efforts to enhance the efficiency with which the Libraries provide the discovery, access, and delivery of research collections. We improved acquisition workflows and integrated related processes with campus procurement systems. We classified and described over 34,000 physical items and item-level description or as vast as our various projects to leverage infrastructure and consortial partnerships to broaden and deepen access to knowledge. The UW-Madison Libraries excel at enabling access at scale.

Collections concentrated their processing work to enhance resource sharing across disparate library locations.
The Libraries are essential collaborators in cross-campus partnerships that facilitate the research enterprise. We support research at all stages of scholarship, including undergraduate, graduate, and faculty work. In addition to daily consultations, collaboration on research design, and subject advisory services, several specific initiatives expanded, expanded, and highlighted UW-Madison’s research.

Launched the Researcher Toolkit This joint project between the Libraries, WID, the Data Science Hub, and DoIT helps faculty, staff, and students discover and navigate the variety of on- and off-campus resources and services available to support each phase of a research project.

Understanding the Use of Big Data In conjunction with the Research Cyberinfrastructure Initiative in DoIT, the Libraries conducted a study on campus researchers’ practices called “Supporting Big Data Research: Data, and Analysis from UW-Madison Researchers,” with focus on using data science methods. This greater understanding of researchers’ workflows provides a roadmap for improved research support for individual units, labs, and scholars across campus while contributing to national findings.

Enhanced Digital Scholarship Skills The Libraries partnered with the UW-Madison Communities to provide Python and R Programming Workshops to campus researchers. These workshops, with over 478 attendees in 35 sessions, responded to a need for computational research skills and prompted plans to add advanced topics next year. Similarly, librarians and technologists provided outreach and workshops on text and data mining (TDM) tools, including Constellate Beta, HathiTrust, and Gale Digital Scholar Lab, which enable natural language processing against large-scale data sets of historical texts. Interest in TDM continues to rise across disciplines, particularly in the Humanities.

Michigan Press Fund to Mission Open Access Monograph Model and the MIT Press Direct to Open framework. We joined the BTA Wiley open access publishing pilot, which enables University of Wisconsin researchers to publish up to 265 accepted articles open access in Wiley’s hybrid journals.

The Collection’s Impact on Research With a collection budget that has grown incrementally over the past three years, we have increased subject funds by 5%, while many of our peers have had to reduce allotments. This allowed us to address years of flattened or reduced purchasing power and improve researcher access to essential resources across all disciplines.

Partnered to Leverage Distinctive Collections With Professor Emily Arthur and the Chazen Museum of Art, Special Collections co-curated “Seeing Audubon: Robert Havell, Jr. and the Birds of America,” which brought together rare books and art collections to explore historical printing techniques. Curators hosted popular gallery talks, and the exhibit was a highlight of the Southern Graphics Council (SGCI) conference. Mills Music Library collaborated with the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures to host Musician-in-Residence Beth Hoven Rotto. Her exploration of our rare Scandinavian music collections advanced Rotto’s research and engagement with students.

Gathered Communities of Scholarship UW-Madison’s Librarians and archivists are national leaders in their fields who lead and engage in dialog across many disciplines. This year we brought those national academic conversations to Madison. The Office of the Gender and Women’s Studies Librarian co-ordinated the annual UW System Women’s and Gender Studies Conference with over 700 attendees. Kohler Art Library and Special Collections offered supplemental experiences for SGCI, including exhibits and events and hosting a standing-room-only talk by artist Julie Chen. University Archives and Special Collections staff and our partners at the Wisconsin Historical Society hosted the Midwest Archives Conference’s 50th-anniversary conference. Through these efforts, we promoted the excellence of UW-Madison’s scholarly expertise, collections, and services to a diverse national audience.
The Libraries regularly offer robust support for instruction and teaching. We innovated to revitalize long-existing services and built capacities that ensure continuity of library services in our physical and virtual spaces. The growth of online learning content, including the creation of micro courses, advanced the Libraries’ facilitation of educational innovation across campus.

Open Educational Resources
Our Open Educational Resources (OER) efforts aim to reduce course material costs for students and increase instructor productivity. In partnership with the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring, we presented a series of exploration workshops introducing instructors to the fundamentals of using such resources. One such workshop focused on OER-Enabled Pedagogy. The Libraries worked with the Engage Coordinator to identify high-quality resources to add to the Unizin E-Text Order Tool to aid in the adoption of OER on campus. Updates to the library catalog increased the ease of discovering OER materials held by other institutions.

Created Content for Online Courses
Science and Engineering Libraries (SEL) assisted with developing a fully online Summer Animal/Dairy Sciences 101 course, a critical foundational course. SEL also created an online version of the Communication B Biology 152 Library Lab. This allowed us to move from a 3-hour in-person information literacy session to a hybrid model involving an asynchronous online module supported by a 1-hour class visit to reinforce and apply the module content to the students’ semester-long research project.

ENGAGE IN EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION
(Continued)

Increased Understanding of Plagiarism
The UW-Madison Libraries Intro to Plagiarism Tutorial was developed in partnership with the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, the Writing Center, and International Student Services. This online resource introduces complex but essential scholarship principles to help students recognize and avoid plagiarism.

Go Big Read
The Libraries’ management of the Go Big Read program, in coordination with the Chancellor’s Office, brought the academic community together around topics and stories that impact us all. This year’s read, Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi, instigated conversations and pedagogy related to race, mental health, immigration, and identity.

Centralizing Efficiencies on Campus
L&S transferred Learning Support Services streaming media services to the Libraries, centralizing the management and delivery of these resources. This allows the Libraries to provide improved support for streaming media across schools and disciplines and aligns the technical infrastructure with enterprise library services and systems. The use of this resource for campus digital learning needs has increased since the transfer.

Return of SOAR to College Library
Incoming students, the Center for First-Year Experience, and advisors benefited from the setup and maintenance Libraries provided for the Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) program. Libraries IT specialists reconfigured College Library to offer welcoming advising spaces with over 350 laptops and a dozen printers. This technology expertise provided on-site technical support during all hours of SOAR, including providing additional laptops to schools on demand.
REVITALIZING SPACES TO ENABLE RESEARCH
Contributes to a Vibrant Campus Community

The Libraries develop spaces that support the proper stewardship of our valuable collections and create welcoming learning spaces where students thrive in their academic endeavors. Our immediate and long-term plans support evolving pedagogical approaches both in library spaces and across campus.

Investment in Stewardship
With the recently funded $33 million Library Collections Preservation Facility as an enabling project, the Libraries are poised to continue the development of innovative library spaces.

With the recently funded $33 million Library Collections Preservation Facility as an enabling project, the Libraries are poised to continue the development of innovative library spaces per the Libraries Facilities Master Plan. Meanwhile, we continue to invest in managing deferred maintenance, such as upgrades to the extensive mobile shelving in Memorial Library.

The Libraries celebrated the opening of the Finance Analytics Lab (FAL) within Grainger. Research shows that activity-based learning is one of, if not the, most effective way of learning, and the FAL absolutely supports that way of teaching. I regularly use the dual monitors so students can build company models in Excel on one screen, while pulling from real company financials or financial databases like Bloomberg or CapitalIQ on the other. I also use the fact that students are situated in groups within the classroom to facilitate team exercises. They can share and project their screens to their teammates within a pod, which supports collaborative learning and analysis. The FAL takes collaboration and real-world application in the classroom to the next level.

The Libraries invested deeply in initiatives focused on enhancing our organization’s culture, and supporting staff development. We strive to implement our organization’s and the University’s values in our work, respect, inclusion, communication, collaboration, and empowerment drive our efforts, not only in our accomplishments but in our efforts to improve.

Evaluated Workplace Climate
Alongside the campus climate survey, the General Library System (GLS) conducted a workplace climate survey in follow-up to a 2015 assessment. With high response rates among staff (70% of University Staff, 84% of Academic Staff, and 29% of student employees), this survey provides a baseline understanding of investments we can make in providing a supportive and inclusive workplace.

Invested in Diversifying the Workforce
We revised the Diversity Resident Librarians Program to result in appointments strategically aligned with long-term positions upon completion of the residency. We also initiated revised recruitment practices to diversify our applicant pools.

Added Leadership Development Opportunities
Libraries leadership participated in several intensive trainings to improve our management practice with an equity mindset. The Executive Team, directors, and some managers completed the Racial Equity Institute (REI) with peers across BIPOC Libraries. These managers and their colleagues participated as an expanded cohort in the Inclusive Managers Toolkit.

Furthers the University’s Goal to be a High-Performing Organization

Increased Resources for Vital Programs
The Libraries significantly increased its number of donors, including new donors. Through an improved annual appeal process, we had increased participation in events such as #GivingTuesday and Day of the Badger, where we saw a 66% increase in donors. We also participated in Fill the Hill for the first time.

DEVELOP ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH

Facilitates the University’s Goal to be a High-Performing Organization

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Developed or expanded opportunities to support student development.

66% increase in donors during #GivingTuesday and Day of the Badger.

LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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Above: Business Learning Commons (University Communications)
LIVING THE WISCONSIN IDEA

Contributes to a Vibrant Campus Community

Engaged Wisconsin Book Lovers

A pandemic-related backlog of donated books and an in-kind donation to the Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries from Dr. Lewis Bosworth resulted in a record-breaking year for the Friends’ book sales. Over 95 volunteers rallied to host hundreds of community members at Memorial Library to buy books for their personal collections while raising nearly $70,000 for the Libraries. Books & Hooks drew students to this event featuring music on Library Mall from Mills Music Library.

Engaged Our Community in Conversation

The Friends raised the Libraries’ visibility among diverse audiences with virtual and in-person collaborative events. A partnership with Centro Hispano highlighted the cartonera collection, an event with the LGBTQ+ community focused on marginalized communities and archives, and a sponsored author conversation at the Wisconsin Book Festival featured Jarrett Adams, author of Redeeming Justice.

STRATEGIC PURSUIT OF OUR MISSION

A PATH FORWARD

Our future focuses are clear. We aim to vigorously empower UW-Madison research, teaching, and learning through library services and expertise while improving access to and discovery of our remarkable collections. We will articulate a focus on scholarly communications efforts and pursue partnerships to leverage our networks and maximize our impact. The Libraries Collections Preservation Facility offers an exciting opportunity to pursue our goals of collections stewardship, faculty engagement, and re-imagining dynamic library spaces. In the face of significant budget constraints, we will need to rebalance our activities for optimal impact. Our greatest asset is the talent and expertise of our library staff, and cultivating their development and organizational improvement will result in more significant outcomes for the faculty, staff, and students that make up our world-class university.
LIBRARIES BY THE NUMBERS

12,041
Pick up appointments
January 2021–March 2022

2,560,476
Libraries Website
page views

418,005
Pages scanned

1,548,176
Number of 2021
digital collections session
visits

25,782
Instructional
session learners

1,361
Instructional
sessions taught

5,707
Laptops loaned

55,826
Requests filled for other
universities from UW
collections:

95,618
Total inter-library
loan requests

32,706
Requests filled, received
from other institutions’
collections

2,355,307
UW Digital Collections page views

Study space
appointments
25,524

*Data pulled from January
2021–December 2021