

LIBRARY

UPDATE 2014



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

WATERLOO



As University Librarian, I am frequently asked to speak about the role of research libraries in the 21st century. How are students using libraries today? What support are libraries providing to faculty members in an increasingly complex research environment? How has the role of libraries evolved since the Internet entered the mainstream two decades ago?

The recent strategic Library Review offered us an opportunity to reflect on these questions and on the essential role the Library plays in supporting research and learning at Waterloo.

This issue of Library Update highlights how our new strategic directions — Advancing Research and Scholarship, Enabling Student Success, New Skills for New Times, and New Spaces for New Times — are inspiring new initiatives in the Library to advance the University's Strategic Plan goals.

You will read how the Library is supporting one faculty member's open access publishing efforts, how librarians are providing students with opportunities for experiential learning, and how we are optimizing print collections for space and accessibility. You will also see photos of recently-renovated spaces that are enhancing the student experience, as well as read about librarians moving beyond the Library's walls to offer in-person research help to students across campus.

As the University propels forward to meet pressing global challenges, the Library is positioned to play a vital role.

MARK HASLETT, University Librarian



Signs of **New** Times: Behind the Scenes and Beyond the Library's Walls

The Library today is characterized by new initiatives and hires, decisive action, and positive momentum. Following the recent strategic Library Review, library staff are directing their energy and resources purposefully, both behind the scenes and beyond the Library's walls, to further the review's recommendations in support of the University's Strategic Plan goals.

» Behind the scenes, the Library recently reorganized to create three new departments — Digital Initiatives, Library Technology and Facilities Services, and Collection Development. These new areas are enabling staff to streamline their efforts in the respective areas of web development, facilities and computer support, and collection development and maintenance. Results will include a new website and web services, forward-looking maintenance of the Library's spaces and public computers, and relevant collections that effectively support transformational research and academic excellence.

» Moving beyond the Library's walls, librarians are rethinking traditional reference service by offering in-person research help to students in locations across campus. In recent months, librarians have provided research help at the Turnkey Desk in the Student Life Centre and at the Student Success Office (SSO) as part of the SSO's drop-in study sessions.



WVA

"The furniture on the 6th floor of DP actually motivates me to go to the library to study."

– MELIKA BOZORGI,
Honours Science

New Spaces, Happy Faces

Students are enjoying the Dana Porter Library's recently-renovated sixth floor. New features include adjustable study carrels, lockers for students to store their valuables, and comfortable lounge seating. This renovation was inspired by a generous seed gift of \$100,000 by Elise Devitt in memory of her late husband James Devitt.



"The sixth floor of DP is a hidden gem — a secret you want to keep to yourself, but you tell your friends because they have to experience it for themselves."

– YEBIN CHUNG,
Mathematics and Business



15,000+



QUESTIONS at the
research help desk
each year

2,000+



17,000+

VISITORS each day

In Conversation with Jay Dolmage

Dr. Jay Dolmage is Associate Professor of English and the founding editor of the *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*. In this interview, Dolmage shares his experience as editor, how the Library supports his efforts, and why open access is essential.



» How has editing the *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies* had an impact on your research and scholarship?

Editing the journal has taught me a lot about the breadth and depth of the field of disability studies. But the major way the journal has changed my research and scholarship has been about access: the journal is open access and all of the content is available anywhere in the world for free. Moreover, we use specific formats and stylistic guidelines to be sure that the content is accessible to all readers. I have been shocked by how many readers we have, and where they come to us from. This has changed what I think of as the role for disability studies in a globalizing world: we need to work hard to make the field as accessible as possible, globally.

» How has the Library supported your efforts?

The Library has been tremendous — handling all of the technical details associated with hosting the journal, archiving the data, ensuring that updates are installed. The Library also “gets” the open access philosophy and has invested in it.

» What advice would you have for faculty members interested in starting an open access journal?

I would say do it! I knew very little about it before I began, aside from the fact that I believed that a disability studies journal had to be open access. I have learned as I went along — with the help of the Library.

Enabling Experiential Learning

Master of Digital Experience Innovation (MDEI) students Steve Wilkinson and Laura Rankin recently developed a concept for a library module, in the University’s course management system, LEARN, as their final project for Dr. Paul Doherty’s course Digital Media Solutions: Project Management. Working closely with Liaison Librarian Tim Ireland, Steve and Laura successfully pitched their concept to the University’s Learning Environment Operations (LEO) team. The Library’s Digital Initiatives department is now developing the final module, which is scheduled to launch within LEARN in the spring.

Providing Barrier-Free Access to the Library’s Print Collection



Students, faculty, and staff with print disabilities can now discover and download books in accessible formats via a new web-accessible repository. The Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and participating Ontario university libraries have joined efforts to convert and supply in-demand print titles from the libraries’ collections. The online repository currently includes over 1,400 titles — Waterloo has supplied over 25 percent of these titles.

Optimizing Collection Space Across the Tri-University Group of Libraries (TUG)



The Library has further enhanced its collaboration with TUG partners, the University of Guelph Library and the Wilfrid Laurier University Library, to implement a large-scale review of the TUG libraries' print book collections with a focus on identifying and possibly removing duplicate copies of older, low-use books from the libraries' collections.

Working with Sustainable Collection Services (SCS) to extract and enrich library holdings data, the TUG libraries are using that data to inform decisions relating to big-picture questions like “what defines a low-use book?” and to determine how much duplication exists across libraries' collections in TUG, in Ontario, in Canada, and beyond. Using this data, the TUG libraries can consider opportunities for reducing duplicates down to one copy in TUG for older, low-use, and widely-available items.

Collections space gained through this initiative will be repurposed to meet each of the TUG libraries' local needs — meaning that the Library will have more room for the resources and services that matter the most to our students and faculty.

» CONNECT WITH YOUR LIBRARY

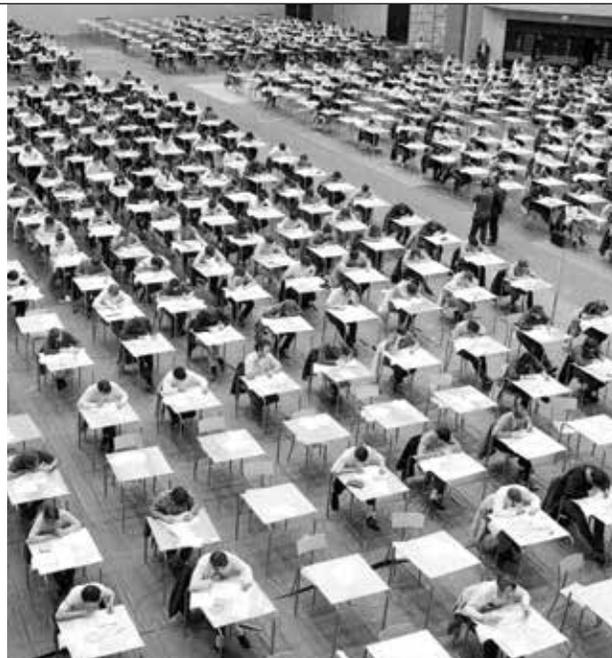


 **TWITTER**
@uwlibrary

 **FACEBOOK**
/danaporterlibrary
/daviscentrelibrary
/musageteslibrary
/witerlearningresourcecentre

 **FLICKR**
/uwlibrary

 **INSTAGRAM**
@uwlibrary



Keep up to date with the University of Waterloo's yesterday! Follow the Library on Twitter or Instagram to see the Library's popular “throw-back Thursday” images taken from Special Collections' archives. Pictured right: Exams in the Physical Activities Complex, April 7, 1969. Kitchener-Waterloo Record Photographic Negative Collection, University of Waterloo Library.

