

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016–17



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

Dalhousie Libraries







# A LOOK AT OUR YEAR



It is heartening to see the Dal Libraries heavily used and so well loved, defying the dubious predictions that libraries are no longer needed. In the past three years, as soon as we opened two new learning commons and re-opened the transformed Kellogg Library, the spaces immediately filled up and became vibrant, dynamic places of learning.

Seating is still at a premium, though the Dal Libraries now have five libraries, two learning commons, and two additional off-campus service points. We are fortunate that Sexton campus includes easy access to the Halifax Central Library, where some of our students also find modern, beautiful spaces for studying.

It is true that more and more scholarly resources are available electronically, and use of our e-resources through our virtual service point (our website) is increasing, but this hasn't detracted from the use of our welcoming library spaces.

The Dal Libraries remain in a state of constant change, integrating new platforms and software into our daily routines as quickly as the seasons pass and adapting our service models and our infrastructures to make the most of technological developments.

Our users still demand from us the traditional things that have always been requested of the university library: a quiet place to study, reliable scholarly resources, and expert assistance in using those resources. We continue to provide these services while keeping up with user demands for digital access, dynamic online and physical learning spaces, and engagement through varied forms of communication with students and faculty. The innovative and less traditional services are a little less visible than shelves of books and rows of study spaces, but these services are in demand.

Increased capacity for support services in Brightspace — our learning management system — improvements to classroom technologies, enhancements to our GIS and Data services, and an increasing array of licenses for statistical, bibliometric, lecture-capture, research analysis, and academic integrity software were highlights of the past year. More support for evidence synthesis, research data management, and data literacy were provided by Dalhousie librarians, who also received numerous research grants, best paper awards, and other distinctions for their research.

In 2012, the Dalhousie Libraries undertook an organizational restructuring which we continue to adjust and refine as new opportunities present themselves. Top of mind for all Dal Libraries staff is how we serve the University. Our strategic plan puts the University's plan into a Dal Libraries' context, ensuring that everything we do is in strategic harmony with Dalhousie. This focused approach to our work has made it clear how we fit into the University and Libraries staff are reporting high levels of pride in working here.

The Dal Libraries' centrality to the University is widely acknowledged, and each year we find new partners eager to work with us, to better serve our community. We are extremely grateful to Dalhousie's President, Provost & Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Administration and Finance, and other colleagues within the University, for their continued support. We also are deeply indebted to our many generous donors who demonstrate their belief in the Dal Libraries through their wonderful donations.

The expectations of Dalhousie students, faculty, staff and community members inspire us in the Dal Libraries to strive for continuous improvement, to embrace change, and to remain worthy of the integral place we hold as the heart of the University.

**Donna Bourne-Tyson**  
University Librarian





## MISSION

To support teaching and learning through innovative services, physical and virtual spaces and the dissemination of knowledge in all forms.

To actively partner in the research endeavour through collaboration, dissemination and management of information resources and the preservation of Dalhousie's scholarly output.

To provide inclusive and inviting spaces to enable our diverse communities to thrive intellectually.

## VISION

We strive to be a leading research library that inspires the creation, exploration and discovery of knowledge in all forms through user-focused engagement with our diverse communities.





## TEACHING & LEARNING

Enhance the transformative power of teaching and learning.

Academic Technology Services (ATS) continues to lead training sessions on using Brightspace, Dal's learning management system (LMS), for faculty. Sessions range from casual drop-ins held three times a week to registered sessions focused on building skills around using specific tools.

the fundamentals of good records management practice and the various records management resources available.

Every year the Dalhousie Libraries hire interns from the MLIS program at Dal to work in our libraries and archives. At the annual [Summer Shine](#) event the interns presented their summer work projects for library staff, incoming and current MLIS students, and faculty from the School of Information Management.

We held our second annual PechaKucha Day, presenting to each other in the fast and engaging style about

what we learned at conferences we recently attended. It was a great opportunity for all who took part to sharpen presentation skills and to share the knowledge they gained with colleagues.

The Kellogg Library took part in the [Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotians \(PLANS\)](#), a camp for African Nova Scotian teenagers interested in pursuing the health professions. The Kellogg Library provided a scavenger hunt, a session on how to identify fake news on the internet, and had discussions with students on how librarians can help students with classwork.

In the spring, librarians held the third annual [Research Bootcamp](#) for research and teaching assistants. Topics covered were library basics; literature reviews (searching and writing); citation tools; writing abstracts and grant proposals; copyright, open access and academic publishing; legal resources; engineering resources; PubMed and other health sciences databases; humanities resources; Canadian data and stats; grey literature; research data management; Excel; data visualization; and conference posters. Throughout the summer, we offered workshops on records management for all university staff that outlined the policy,

## RESEARCH

Expand the opportunities for research, scholarly and artistic work.

We conducted [university-wide consultations](#) about the *Taylor & Francis* package and an eBook collection consultation through the Kellogg Health Sciences Library. Results from these faculty consultations helped shape purchasing decisions. We also took part in the **national journal usage project**.

GIS & Data Services **launched a quarterly newsletter** for the GIS and Data communities at Dalhousie called [Layers](#).

**Chuck Humphrey**, the Director of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' Portage Network, gave a presentation about research data management at the Dalhousie Libraries. Other institutions in the region were connected to the presentation through Collaborate, a tool in Brightspace.

During **Right to Know Week**, we partnered with Library & Archives Canada and Dalhousie's School of Information Management to host a one-day symposium to the local information management community about the importance of access to information.

For two weeks, we hosted [The Archive of Missing Things](#), an innovative **theatre production** by Zuppa Theatre, attracting hundreds of people to the Killam Library over its run.

The [Digital Kipling Project](#) launched, giving Kipling scholars digital access to original scrapbooks.

For [Open Access Week](#), the Dalhousie Libraries offered sessions on two campuses about how to create a data management plan and hosted a screening of *The Internet's Own Boy: the story of Aaron Swartz*.

During the #1Lib1Ref campaign, the Dal Libraries hosted a [Wikipedia edit-a-thon](#), editing 28 citations.





## SERVICES

Catalyze the intellectual, social and economic development of our communities.

**Blind Date with a Book** launched on Valentine's Day, a one-day event to promote our fiction collection and the joy of reading, attracting over a hundred booklovers to our displays in Halifax and Truro in a few hours.

The MacRae Library launched **Bust Your Stash!** a stress-busting initiative, providing space and some supplies to do crafts in the library in the weeks leading up to exams. All five libraries and two learning commons continued the tradition of providing healthy snacks to students studying in the library during exams.

**Dal Reads** had two events in support of *The Hermit of Africville*. Author Jon Tattrie was joined by panelists Dr. Isaac Saney and Executive Director of the Africville Museum Sunday Miller in Halifax, and by panelists Lynn Jones and Tawnya Barrington on the Agricultural Campus.

Dalhousie Canadian literature teacher and writer **Dr. J. A. Wainwright** and Thomas Raddall Award winner, **R. W. Gray** gave readings at the Killam.

The **Seed Library** did programs throughout the summer for girls aged five to seven in the Central Nova Women's Resource Centre Girl Power Jr. camp.

## PARTNERSHIP & REPUTATION

Take our place nationally and internationally.

A new **LGBTQ+ health guide** was created, the result of a partnership between Dalhousie Libraries, Nova Scotia Health Authority Library Services and Halifax Public Libraries. Resources from all three organizations are linked in the guide, including publicly available resources.

The Dal Libraries **Student Input & Feedback Team** officially launched with meetings on each campus attracting more than fifty students. The meetings generated lots of useful feedback that the libraries have used to inform a number of recommendations.

**Food for Fines**, the biannual food drive of Novanet, was offered in all five Dalhousie Libraries. Staff collect money and food donations for local food banks in exchange for waiving overdue fines.

Staff who reached employment **milestones** were honoured at an annual luncheon. Later in the year, the annual staff social event took place in Truro, the community where Dalhousie's Agricultural campus is located.



## INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPORT

Build our institutional capacities.

The **Kellogg Library reopened** in the Tupper Building after an **extensive renovation**. The renovated space features compact shelving and forty spaces for quiet individual study.

The Library Information Technology unit became **Academic Technology Services** and grew by six staff. The unit is now also responsible for **supporting technology in the classrooms**, covering installation, design and support.

The **Archives reached milestones** of 250,000 descriptions and 10,000 digital objects in the collection. The Archives catalogue and online collection also got some major upgrades, including an inventory list to sort and view file- and item-level descriptions by title, date, or reference code.

We formed a new working group focusing on **training and development** and a new committee focused on **diversity and inclusion**. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee organized a blanket exercise, led by Dalhousie Elder-in-residence Geri Musqua-LeBlanc, to give library staff an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of Indigenous Canadians.

# How did we help you?



2.8 million  
views on [libraries.dal.ca](http://libraries.dal.ca)



3,000 copies  
of the Dal Reads book, *The Hermit of Africville*, distributed



6,923  
research consultations



567 models  
printed in 3D



14,117  
titles loaned through  
Document Delivery



Top five most-used  
journals: *Nature*, *Science*,  
*The Lancet*, *JAMA: the Journal of  
the American Medical Association*,  
*PLoS One (Public Library of Science)*



258  
copyright questions answered



20,386  
computer problems solved  
at the Help Desks



375  
library instruction classes taught



# Thank you to our donors

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*The Dalhousie Review*

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Budge Wilson

And five anonymous donors





### **Office of the University Librarian**

Administration for the Dalhousie Libraries is located on the main floor of the Killam Memorial Library.

6225 University Ave.  
Studley Campus  
(902)494-3601

### **Dalhousie Medicine NB Library Services**

100 Tucker Park Rd.  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
(506)648-5693

### **Kellogg Library Learning Commons**

Found on the second floor of the Collaborative Health Education Building (CHEB), the learning commons features study spaces, computers, and assistance from library personnel.

5793 University Ave.  
Carleton Campus  
(902)494-2482

### **Killam Memorial Library**

Dalhousie's largest library. With a million books and over 40,000 journals, its collections cover the faculties of Science, Arts & Social Sciences, Management, and Computer Science.

6225 University Ave.  
Studley Campus  
(902)494-3617

### **MacRae Library**

The MacRae Library serves the Faculty of Agriculture and is the largest repository of agricultural resource material in the Maritimes. It is also the home of Seeding Ideas, the first university-funded seed lending library in Canada.

135 College Rd.  
Agricultural Campus  
(902)893-6669

### **Sexton Design & Technology Library**

The Sexton Design and Technology Library has a collection of resources for the Faculties of Engineering and Architecture & Planning. The space is bright and comfortable with a terrific view of Halifax Harbour.

3rd Floor,  
Buildings A&B  
1360 Barrington St.  
Halifax

### **Sir James Dunn Law Library**

Occupying four floors in the Weldon Law Building with bright, comfortable space for study and research.

6061 University Ave.  
Studley Campus  
(902)494-2124

### **Wallace McCain Learning Commons**

Featuring bookable study rooms, computers, research assistance, and a Help Desk, this new space was made possible by a donation from the McCain family.

Lord Dalhousie Dr.  
Studley Campus  
(902)494-6997

### **W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library**

Serving the Faculties of Dentistry, Health Professions, Medicine, and health professionals throughout the Maritime provinces.

Sir Charles Tupper  
Medical Building  
5850 College St.  
Carleton Campus  
(902)494-2479

### **Virtual Library**

Access to thousands of articles, eBooks, databases, live chat research assistance and more.

[libraries.dal.ca](http://libraries.dal.ca)