

DALHOUSIE LIBRARIES ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Dalhousie Libraries





MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Throughout 2018, Dalhousie University marked our 200th anniversary, and the Dalhousie University Libraries played an active role in the celebrations. Through our Archives, the Dal Libraries provided leadership and engaging content that was used throughout the year, including daily “on this day” social media posts featuring hundreds of historical photos from our collections.

For the 200th anniversary, 2018 was named the Year of Belonging at Dalhousie, and we asked the question: What does it mean to truly belong? Renowned guest speakers such as Buffy Sainte-Marie, Senator Murray Sinclair, Angela Davis, Rick Hansen and Craig Steven Wilder inspired us to create more opportunities for diversity and inclusion at Dalhousie.

The Dal Libraries began a process to refresh our strategic plan, to keep us moving forward while the University creates new strategic directions in 2019. From improving the accessibility of our website and our LibGuides, increasing the diversity of the authors we host and the collections we acquire, and ensuring our hiring priorities are reflective of the communities we serve, the Dal Libraries is striving to bridge any gaps between our users and us, ensuring the Dal Libraries is a place where we all truly belong.

Donna Bourne-Tyson
University Librarian
donna.bourne-tyson@dal.ca



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Enhance the transformative power of teaching and learning

Supporting teaching and learning is an important part of our core mission, and this year we offered more training sessions for research and teaching assistants during our popular Research Bootcamp series. More than 1,000 attendees – mostly graduate students and some faculty members – came to 23 sessions on topics such as literature reviews (searching and writing), citation tools, writing abstracts and grant proposals, copyright, open access, predatory publishers, legal resources, business and competitive intelligence resources, Canadian data and stats, grey literature, research data management, Excel, data visualization, and more.



During Open Access Week, with the School of Information Management and the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, we co-sponsored a lecture by Stanford University's renowned John Willinsky. Dr. Willinsky asked us to consider the role the intellectual properties of learning played in the rise of both the university and modern copyright law. He also advised us to keep a number of principles in mind when considering today's various initiatives for pursuing universal open access to research and scholarship, now that such access is being increasingly accepted as the long-term goal for scholarly publishing. We also hosted a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon with Wikipedia expert and Dalhousie faculty member Gaëtan Landry, who's done more than 200,000 edits since 2006. Participants spent their time learning from Dr. Landry, and editing and updating Wikipedia pages and citations.

In addition to traditional in-class instruction and faculty support, we teach in other ways. On the Agricultural Campus we routinely give presentations to various school-age groups on topics such as the Seed Library and the 3D printer. These groups can be as small as ten or as large as fifty. Welcoming school-age children into our libraries is a way to instill a sense of comfort in the university environment at an early

age. Online, we also provide just-in-time instruction through over 100 short videos on a variety of topics; this past year these how-to videos were updated with closed captioning to make them more accessible.

The Dal Libraries' GIS Centre marked 100 years since the Halifax Explosion (December 6, 1917) with a recreation of historic images in 2- and 3-D. Curated by GIS Specialist & Map Curator James Boxall, the exhibit in the Dalhousie Art Gallery, *From 2D to 3D: Mapping Halifax Over Time*, allowed viewers to experience streets, buildings, and other topographic features depicting the north-end of Halifax after the explosion.

Each year we hire grad student interns from Dalhousie's School of Information Management. At the end of their time with us, these interns reflect on the experience by presenting their most engrossing projects through our annual Summer Shine event. This event is designed to highlight the accomplishments of our interns and to educate incoming MLIS students on the possibilities for their internships. Some of the projects SIM interns worked on included space assessments, Portage Research Data Management Plan assistant tutorials, and the processing and digitizing of various archival collections.

RESEARCH

Expand the opportunities for research, scholarly and artistic work

Dalhousie launched a new Institutional Research Strategy in 2018 and the Dal Libraries is embedded in the entirety of the research life cycle, supporting our world-class researchers. The Dal Libraries is now a member of the ORCID Consortium in Canada and we encourage faculty members and graduate students to register with ORCID. Registration provides them with a persistent unique identifier which makes them easily distinguishable from other researchers. Currently, over 1,000 faculty and grad students at Dal have registered. The Dal Libraries also subscribe to and manage SciVal which offers researchers a global view of research activities.

We hired a scholarly communications librarian, Melissa Rothfus, whose focus is on programming that promotes open

access publishing, bibliometrics and other methods of tracking research impact. We also continue to partner with Dalhousie Analytics to track our institutional research performance using tools like SciVal.

One of the major challenges facing researchers is data storage for the research data they generate. In March, in partnership with the Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation, we hosted the Atlantic region stakeholder consultation on research data management with the three federal research granting agencies, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). In response to the challenges researchers



are facing, we have launched an instance of the Harvard-developed open-source data repository software, Dataverse, part of a national network of Dataverse instances coordinated by the Portage Network. Researchers can deposit their datasets in Dalhousie's instance of Dataverse, which provides secure storage and the ability to share the data, for reuse by other researchers.

It was a busy year in the area of Research Data Management (RDM). We continue to develop and promote our tools, and among those activities, we co-hosted a webinar with Portage and Acadia University; members of our RDM team presented at the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL) forum on RDM; and Erin MacPherson, our research data management librarian, presented at the Dataverse North Community Meeting at Harvard University along with colleagues from the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto. In December 2017, we launched our own version of Dataverse, a place where researchers can deposit and share research data.

In May we partnered with Compute Canada/Acenet to provide a two-day workshop for faculty and graduate students on Compute Canada's cloud environment for researchers in the social sciences and humanities. The workshop was focused for those who might be considering or currently working in the digital humanities.

Dalhousie is also now among the supporting institutions of Open Library of the Humanities (OLH). OLH is an organization that receives funding from libraries across the globe and is dedicated to “publishing open access scholarship with no author-facing article processing charges (APCs).”

In January of 2018, we launched the Kipling Scrapbook digital exhibit. This project involved digitizing and contextualizing the Rudyard Kipling Scrapbooks — part of the internationally renowned Kipling Collection held in our Special Collections. The digitization of the Kipling scrapbooks is part of our ongoing efforts to make our archival and special collections broadly available to the world. kipling.library.dal.ca.



SERVICE

Catalyze the intellectual, social and economic development of our communities

Service to our community is at the heart of everything we do. Students, staff and faculty rely on us to provide resources and assistance whenever and wherever they need it, making our website a key virtual point of service. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Academic Technology Services (ATS) team on staff in the Dal Libraries who specialize in the kind of IT support library users need.



We also maintain Brightspace, the learning management system of Dalhousie, as well as technology in the classrooms across campus and video conferencing services. Twice a year, we host Try Your Tech, Try Your Room days where we invite faculty to try out the technology in the classrooms where they'll be teaching so they can get a feel for the equipment with a technician on hand before classes start. This initiative has translated into fewer technology issues in the classroom.

As we continue to consider the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, we have made service to Indigenous students a top priority. To help us fulfil this commitment, we hired an Indigenous Services Librarian, Morning Star Padilla, who will liaise with Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students learning about Indigenous matters. We are honoured to host a hub of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in the Indigenous Community Centre located in the newly renovated Student Learning Commons in the MacRae Library, providing an east coast location for anyone wanting to research the legacy of residential schools.

This year we launched an assessment page on the Libraries' website (libraries.dal.ca/about/library-assessment.html) that allows us to demonstrate how the Libraries contribute to the academic and scholarly success of our community and the University's goals such as student success and retention. We believe being accountable to our users is a key factor in building relationships. Assessment helps us to focus our services because it leads to a greater understanding of

the communities we serve – their needs, expectations, and behaviours.

We continue to hear that students want late-night study hours, which we deliver twice annually in the six weeks leading up to and throughout exams, through our Night Owls program. We also participate in the Novanet initiative Food for Fines twice a year, which gives borrowers a chance to reduce their library fines with food bank donations.

Libraries across the globe are dealing with the unsustainable academic publishing model whereby journal prices are increasing at rates much faster than inflation. At Dalhousie, we spend more than \$4.3 million on scholarly journal packages each year; some of these journals are well used and highly valued by the Dalhousie community, but other titles are rarely used. Through a series of presentations at faculty council and public meetings, we consulted with the university community on this topic and asked them to participate in a survey whereby they ranked the journals most important to their teaching and research. We are now applying this information to our collections decision making.

On Valentine's Day, we held Blind Date with a Book for the second time. This is quickly becoming one of our most beloved offerings. Students choose novels and light non-fiction books wrapped in brown paper, based on cheeky descriptions written in the form of a dating profile. Through this activity, we promote both reading for pleasure and titles in our collection many students don't realize we own. Invariably, we register new users during the program, students who have been using the Dal Libraries but who have yet to sign out a book.



PARTNERSHIP AND REPUTATION

Take our place nationally and internationally

October 2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library, which we celebrated with a reception in the Library. In addition to friends, colleagues, students, and both current and retired staff, we were honoured to be joined by long-standing supporter of the Kellogg Library, Dr. Vivien Boniuk. Dr. Boniuk grew up in Cape Breton without access to books in her home and she recalls the day the library opened in her community, setting her on path for a life-long fondness of books, reading, and libraries. Dr. Boniuk credits the influence of the library in informing her career choice; she was just one of five women in her medical class of 1964. Her gift to the library allowed us to greatly enhance our collection through the purchase of 600 electronic medical books.

We were thrilled to win the Healthy Workplace Award this year, which acknowledges all the activities our staff take part in that touch on the six pillars of health: physical, mental/emotional, interpersonal/social, intellectual, spiritual, environmental, and workload management. This past year Libraries staff organized and took part in yoga classes, fitness challenges, knitting circles, fundraising for community groups, and the formation of a Training & Development working group to identify staff needs. These were just a few of the initiatives that led to this award.

Throughout the year we supported and took part in the university's year-long Dal 200 celebrations. The Archives staff provided countless photos and content for the Dal Originals series, the Dal 200th timeline, and the book *Dalhousie University: A 200th Anniversary Portrait*. We took part in community events like Doors Open Halifax; during that event we were thrilled that our exhibit was based in City Hall, the original location of Dalhousie College. Our display was viewed by 1,500 visitors and contained historical documents, hundreds of photographs from Dal's history, as well as materials from some of our other collections such as items relating to Neptune Theatre, the Olands, the Bluenose, and the Nova Scotia Tattoo.

We offer a number of author readings every year, some organized through the Dal Libraries Literary Events Committee and some through Dal Reads, the unity (or community) reading program of

Dalhousie. During the 2017–18 academic year, we hosted a joint reading by retired Dalhousie librarian Ian Colford and new author Karen Smythe and two lectures by Dr. Daniel Paul, the author of our Dal Reads selection *We Were Not the Savages*. We also increased our readings offered through partnerships, working with the Dalhousie Art Gallery to present Alison Watt reading from her book set during the Halifax Explosion, surrounded by an exhibit of paintings created in the wake of the explosion. In a newly forged partnership with the Halifax Central Library, we presented award-winning author Donna Morrissey to a packed house.

For Right to Know Day, we partnered with Library & Archives Canada and Dalhousie's School of Information Management on a symposium called Balancing Access & Privacy. Our keynote speaker was Catherine Tulley, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia. Sessions throughout the day covered topics such as artificial intelligence, open government, and managing privacy.

In January, we became a member of SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition), a global coalition committed to making "open" the default for research and education. We know that publishing models that restrict access to knowledge for the sake of profit limit everyone's potential, and as a research institution, Dalhousie has a responsibility to participate in this global movement.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT

Build our institutional capacities

At the end of the summer, the long-awaited Student Learning Commons opened on the third floor of the MacRae Library. The student-focused space is unlike any other on the Agricultural Campus, featuring a living wall and a mural of the Mi'kma'ki territory by Mi'kmaw artist and Dalhousie employee Art Stevens. The space offers a number of services, some new to the Agricultural Campus, such as a quiet meditation/prayer room with a nearby ablution station, a multicultural room where the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Hub is located, a self-serve café, a bookable student meeting room (with video conferencing), a gender neutral washroom, library services, bookable program rooms for student groups, and the Dalhousie Agricultural Students' Association offices. The MacRae Library also created over 50 individual work spaces and group study rooms on the lower level of the library. As part of a sustainability project for the Agricultural Campus, the Office of Sustainability installed 800 LED T8 bulbs throughout the MacRae Library.

This year we took another step forward in our stewardship of the University's records management program with the hiring of a Records Manager, Courtney Bayne. The Records Manager reports to the Associate University Librarian for

Archives, Special Collections and Records Management, and works closely with all administrative and academic units across the university, advising them on the development of policies and procedures that support the implementation of the University's Records Management Policy.

In early 2018 we issued an RFP in search of assistance configuring and maintaining a digital preservation system. Artefactual Systems will be assisting us to build a system using Archivematica, an open-source application based on international standards for digital preservation. Artefactual Systems is also maintaining our Archives Catalogue. Over time, it will let us provide digital preservation services to electronic University records, digital collections, archival collections, theses and dissertations, Dataverse submissions, etc.

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DISTRIBUTED

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PRINTED IN 3D

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AT THE SERVICE DESKS

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JOURNALS:** NATURE, SCIENCE,
NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE
(NEJM), JAMA (THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION),
PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

258 COPYRIGHT
QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

717 LARGE FORMAT
POSTERS PRINTED



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**deceased*



DAL READS

Dal Reads, the unity reading program at Dalhousie, continues to grow each year.

In 2017/18, we distributed 3,000 copies of the landmark book, *We Were Not the Savages*, written by Mi'kmaw elder and historian Dr. Daniel Paul.

We hosted lectures with Dr. Paul in Halifax and Truro, and co-hosted the launch of his biography which was released in 2017.




Office of the President
 @DalPres Following

Great to have @DalLibraries hosting @jontattrie on campus tomorrow for the launch of his new Dan Paul bio: dal.ca/news/events/2017-18 ... #DalReads

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, NB
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

VIRTUAL LIBRARY

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

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., Sexton Campus
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, and Medicine, and health professionals throughout the Maritime provinces.

Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building
5850 College St., Carleton Campus
902.494.2479

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