

DALHOUSIE  
LIBRARIES

2024/  
2025



DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY

## Land Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies, and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

## Mission

Our mission is three-fold:

- To support teaching and learning through our innovative services and spaces — both physical and virtual — as well as through the dissemination of knowledge in all forms.
- To be active partners in Dalhousie's research endeavours through collaboration, dissemination, and management of information resources and to preserve 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.



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## Message from the Dean of Libraries

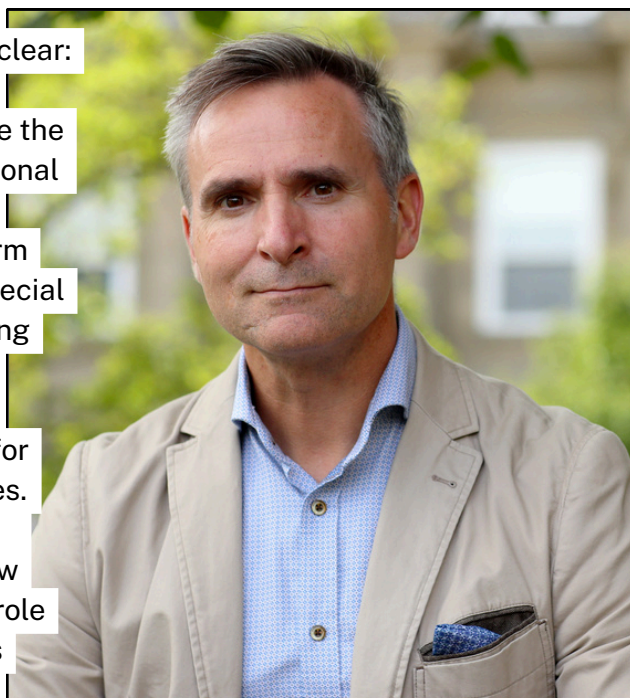
It's my pleasure to present this year's annual report, which reflects the breadth of our mission and the depth of our impact across the university. Our work continues to be guided by a clear mandate: to accelerate Dalhousie's research, teaching, and societal impact by ensuring equitable discovery, access, creation, and long-term stewardship of knowledge. As a strategic partner across the full research lifecycle, the Libraries play an essential role in enabling scholarship, supporting learners, and shaping the policy environment through which knowledge is created and shared.

These stories demonstrate how the Libraries translate mission into practice. We strengthen Dalhousie's leadership in open scholarship and preservation. DalSpace will support the forthcoming Tri-Council open access requirements while ensuring durable access to Dalhousie's scholarly record. Collaborative projects, like the development of the Bridge into Agriculture research guide and the preservation of the Anita Martinez photographic collection, reflect our commitment to inclusive knowledge creation and responsible stewardship. Through regional and national collaboration, we also work to ensure timely, reliable access to research materials beyond our collections.

Our work with students underscores the human side of librarianship. Support for international students reinforced the Libraries' role in fostering belonging and academic confidence, while programs such as Dal Reads and Blind Date with a Book enriched campus life through shared reading and discovery.

Across all of this work, the through-line is clear: Dalhousie Libraries is a mission-critical research and learning platform. We provide the front door to scholarly content, the operational engine for open access and research data management compliance, and the long-term stewardship of Dalhousie's archival and special collections. Most importantly, our staff bring expertise, dedication, and creativity to everything we do, ensuring that access to information becomes measurable impact for our students, researchers, and communities.

I invite you to explore the stories that follow and to join us in recognizing the essential role the Libraries play in advancing Dalhousie's academic mission.



**MICHAEL VANDENBURG**

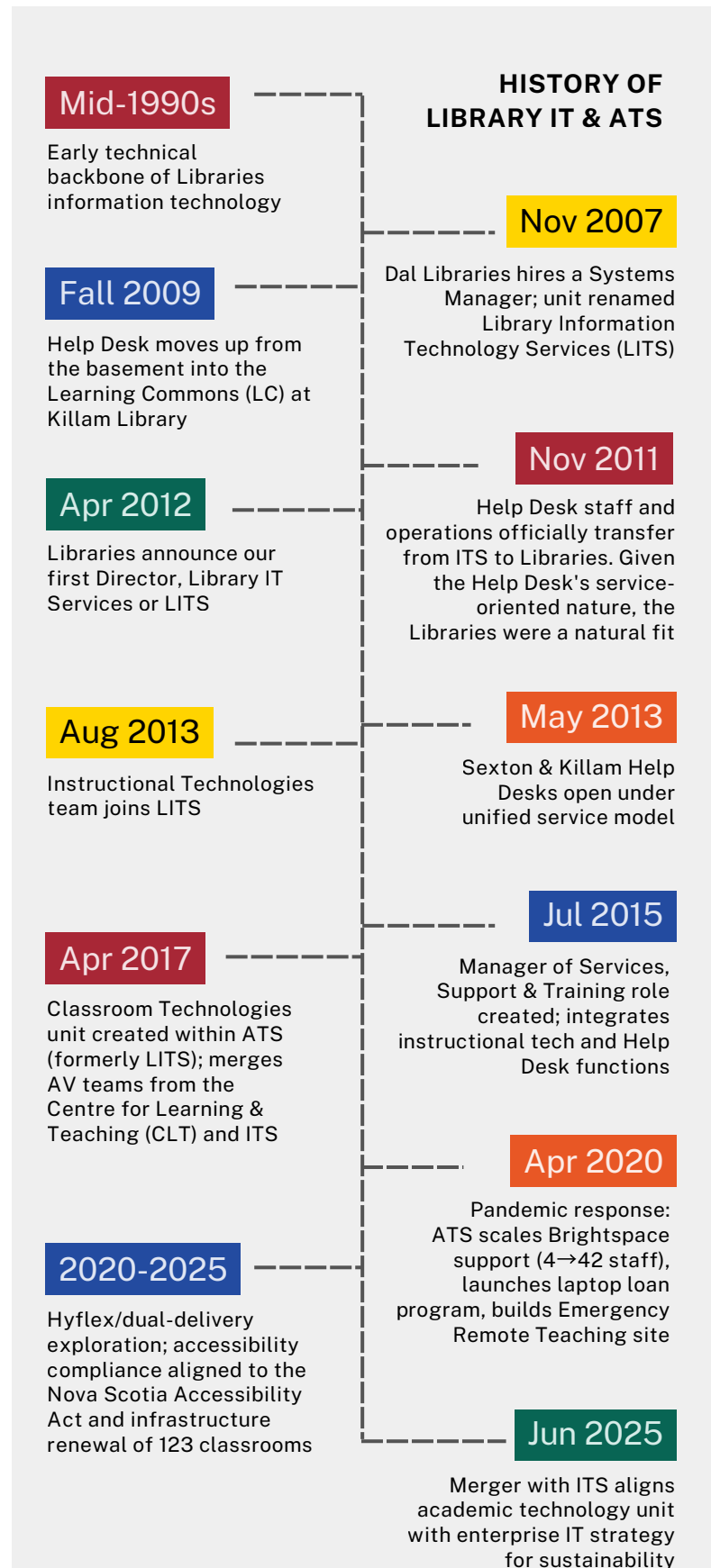
**Dean of Libraries**



This past June marked a significant milestone in the evolution of library technology services. Academic Technology Services (ATS), long a valued part of Dal Libraries, officially merged with Information Technology Services (ITS) as part of the university's broader IT transformation. This change aims to improve service delivery, streamline processes, and strengthen teaching, learning, and research support across campus.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our ATS colleagues for their years of collaboration and innovation, helping us navigate challenges from the pandemic to the rise of hybrid learning. Their contributions have transformed academic technology at Dalhousie, and while we will miss having them as part of the Libraries, we wish them continued success in their newly merged team.

Supported by ITS and our national consortia, Dal Libraries remains highly engaged in providing IT infrastructure and services that support learning and research including hosting DalSpace, the university's institutional repository, and preserving our digital collections, including the university record. We also offer a range of tools and services related to research data management. As technology continues to evolve, we look forward to future partnerships.



## Completing the Killam Retrofit: Driving Sustainability and Efficiency at Dalhousie

The Killam Memorial Library, the largest library in Atlantic Canada, has undergone an energy transformation as part of the Killam Energy Retrofit Project, a cornerstone of the university's commitment to sustainability and operational excellence.

The project, which began in May 2023 and concluded in October 2025, originated from Dalhousie's Energy and Green Buildings Plan, a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability and Facilities Management. The Killam's retrofit focused on modernizing the building's aging mechanical systems to reduce energy and water consumption, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve comfort for students, faculty, and staff.

### Impressive Results

According to MCW Custom Energy Solutions, the company leading the retrofit, the impact has been substantial. Metering and utility data from MCW's in-house measurement and verification team report that during the construction period, there were:

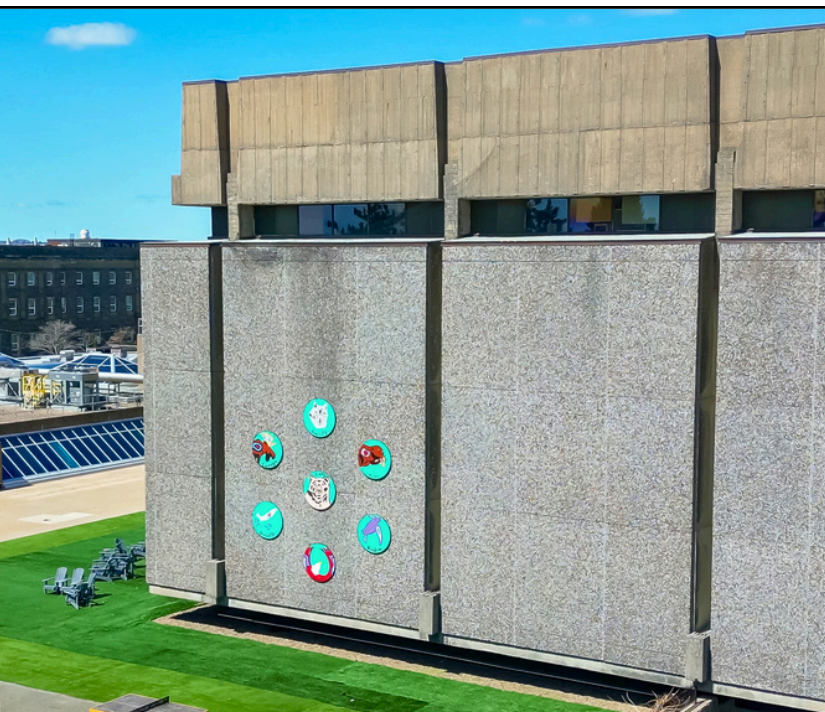
- Dollar Savings: \$571,398
- Energy Consumption Reduction: 22,226 GJ
- GHG Emissions Reduction: 1,950.80 tonnes of eCO<sub>2</sub>

### Annual Savings & Reductions

The building's mechanical systems are now operating as intended, and MCW continues to monitor and optimize performance. Looking ahead, the retrofit is anticipated to deliver even greater annual benefits:

- Dollar Savings: \$495,000
- Energy Consumption Reduction: 21,100 GJ
- GHG Emissions Reduction: 2,157 tonnes of eCO<sub>2</sub>

These figures represent a 53% reduction in costs, 55% reduction in energy use, and 52% reduction in emissions compared to pre-retrofit levels.



**53%**  
**COSTS**  
**REDUCTION**



**55%**  
**ENERGY**  
**REDUCTION**



**52%**  
**EMISSIONS**  
**REDUCTION**





## A Model for Sustainable Transformation

The Killam Energy Retrofit Project is a blueprint for how universities can lead in sustainability while preserving the functionality and heritage of their most important spaces. With performance monitoring and reporting, Dalhousie is ensuring that these gains are not only achieved but sustained for years to come.

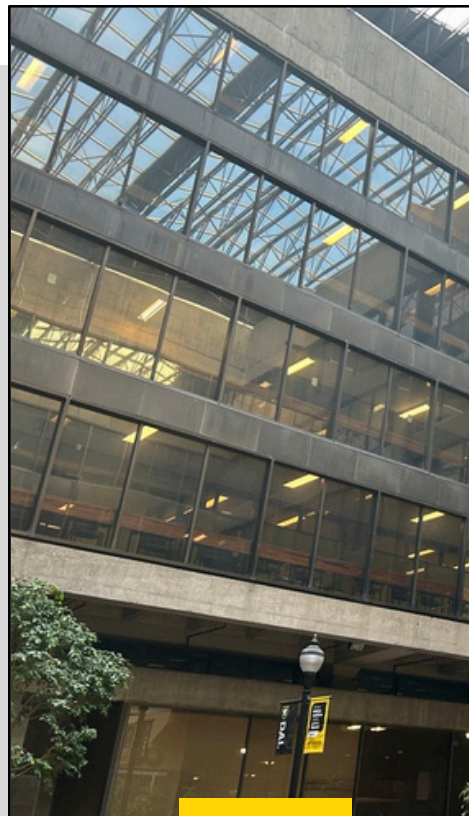
“The Killam retrofit reduces energy and water use, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, and enhances comfort for building occupants — proving that existing facilities can be transformed into efficient, sustainable, and future-ready spaces.”

— Ted Loucks, partner, MCW

As part of the retrofit, the Killam atrium got a glow up!

Last summer, MCW temporarily closed the atrium so they could install new ductwork, replace broken windows, improve lighting, and clean the windows.

Fun fact: the atrium’s windows had not been cleaned since the glass roof was added in 1996. Needless to say, the results are clear!



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## Supporting International Students Beyond the Books

In 2020–2021, Dal Libraries International Students' Librarian Allie Fulford, met five young women embarking on engineering studies at Dalhousie: Isatou and Oluwaseyi from Nigeria, Brianna from Jamaica, Nadin from Dubai, and Luiza from Brazil.

What began as a simple introduction grew into a meaningful connection that lasted throughout their academic journey and beyond. Over the years, Allie checked in regularly, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear. In 2025, all five graduated and stepped confidently into careers in engineering.

### The Broader Impact

As the librarian for English for Academic Purposes (EAP), Allie guides students who have been conditionally accepted into academic programs through essential skills development. In the EAP 1 class, a library website scavenger hunt helps to build familiarity with the library's tools and services. In the EAP 2 class, students build skills with more intensive sessions on Boolean searching, Novanet and Credo databases, and the importance of citation to avoid plagiarism.

"The connection with these students was one of the most rewarding experiences of my working life. I think they sensed my genuine interest and intention to support them both at Dalhousie and beyond."

— Allie Fulford, international students' librarian



For Allie, helping international students thrive has been grounded in connection. Her efforts ensure that international students not only succeed academically but feel welcomed and supported throughout their time at Dalhousie.

### The Impact in Their Words

The students' personal thanks speak volumes about the difference this relationship made to them:

- Brianna: *"Thank you for always checking in on us. I really appreciate it, especially having come to a new country and navigating life on our own."*
- Nadin: *"It was so great to have met such a great mentor and friend during my time at Dal."*
- Luiza: *"You truly made a difference in my experience, and I always felt welcomed and supported."*

For international students, the transition to a new country and academic environment is daunting. Allie's experience demonstrates how our libraries offer more than just resources; they can provide a sense of community, mentorship, and belonging.

These connections help students thrive academically and personally, creating lasting bonds that extend far beyond graduation.

**Allie Fulford** has worked for Dal Libraries on the Sexton Campus since 2002. She's held several positions over the years in resources, administration, and as liaison librarian for Engineering, Architecture, and Planning. In 2018, she took on the role of international students' librarian. Aside from supporting individual students, she represents the Libraries at International Centre events and teaches library research skills to the students enrolled in the English for Academic Purposes program.





## DalSpace: Advancing Open Access for Canadian Research

Open access is a publication and distribution model that makes research literature freely available to the public online, without restrictions. It's a cornerstone of equitable knowledge sharing and a driver of innovation. Dal Libraries has long been committed to this principle, building services and expertise that make us well equipped for upcoming changes to the Tri-Council Open Access Policy in January 2026.

### DalSpace: Building a Culture of Openness

Since 2007, DalSpace has served as Dalhousie's institutional repository, providing unrestricted online access to scholarly content. Its most notable collections include graduate theses and an expanding archive of research articles authored by Dalhousie scholars.

The move to electronic theses in 2010 marked a turning point. By 2011, DalSpace became the official repository for all

graduate theses, eliminating print and ensuring that Dalhousie theses are publicly accessible online. Today, DalSpace holds 8,475 theses, representing the full spectrum of research at Dalhousie, amplifying the reach of graduate research and fostering a culture where sharing knowledge is the norm.

### National Policy & Global Impact

In 2015, Canada's Tri-Council agencies introduced the first national open access policy, affirming that publicly funded research should be publicly available. This policy recognized that institutional repositories like DalSpace are key mechanisms for achieving that goal, signalling a shift toward transparency and accessibility in Canadian research.

Starting in 2026, the Tri-Council will strengthen this commitment. All grant recipients must make their funded research articles immediately available





in a Canadian institutional repository. For Dalhousie researchers, this means that everyone who receives Tri-Council funding will be required to upload their funded research articles to DalSpace. This important policy shift will ensure that future generations of Canadians have access to federally funded research outputs through Canadian post-secondary institutions. This marks a major step away from depending on international publishers for permanent access to Canadian research.

### Supporting Dalhousie Researchers

Dal Libraries has a long history of guiding researchers in managing and preserving their scholarly outputs. We provide expertise and set best practices to ensure research remains accessible and secure in DalSpace. We are well prepared to adapt to the new policy and look forward to supporting Dalhousie's researchers to make their scholarly communication open and accessible for all.

### Why Open Access Matters

- Increases research impact
- Open access makes research more visible and widely cited, helping discoveries reach a global audience
- Supports equity and inclusion
- Free access removes barriers for students, researchers, and the public, regardless of location or financial resources
- Ensures long-term preservation
- Institutional repositories like DalSpace safeguard research outputs for future generations, reducing reliance on commercial publishers.

**Geoff Brown** is the digital scholarship librarian at Dalhousie Libraries. He manages DalSpace, oversees the Libraries' journal hosting service, and is working to support open textbook development both at Dalhousie and in the Atlantic region. His research interests include scholarly communications and author rights, access to public domain works, and the digital preservation of government information.



## Bridging Knowledge: Creating a Research Guide for African Nova Scotian Agricultural History

The Bridge into Agriculture program at Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture offers African Nova Scotians a pathway into agricultural careers while celebrating their deep-rooted connection to farming. As the program grew, participants found it challenging to find supplemental resources to further explore ideas. This gap sparked an idea: could the libraries help?

What began as a conversation between Jolene Reid and colleagues evolved into a collaborative project with Jaclyn Chambers Page, Faculty of Agriculture liaison librarian, and program leaders Jessica Fogarty (program coordinator) and Josyl Headley (co-facilitator and cultural liaison). Together, they envisioned a resource that would reflect the program's goals and the lived experiences of African Nova Scotians in agriculture.



**Jaclyn Chambers Page** has been copyright librarian and a subject liaison librarian at the Faculty of Agriculture in Truro since 2022. Jaclyn is a passionate Fair Dealing advocate, balancing users' rights with copyright holders' interests, and a strong supporter of open licensing to maximize access to information while respecting creators' rights. Jaclyn enjoys contributing across the full spectrum of Dal Libraries' services and teams, literally from A to Z: archives to Zotero instruction.



The result was the Bridge into Agriculture research guide, a curated, accessible collection of resources on agricultural practices, food systems, and African Nova Scotian history.

The guide was shaped by consultation and collaboration, drawing on the expertise of program staff and cultural liaisons to ensure it met learners' needs. As Josyl noted during the review process, "It's helpful when we can see ourselves reflected in the resources." This feedback shaped the guide into a living resource, designed to evolve with student input and new materials.

The impact has been immediate. Students now have a curated starting

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"It's helpful when we can see ourselves reflected in the resources."

— Josyl Headley, student advisor

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point for research, and Extended Learning has expressed interest in developing similar guides for other programs. By bridging past and present, this initiative demonstrates how libraries can respond to community needs, foster inclusive learning, and ensure important histories are preserved and shared.





## Connecting Users to What They Need: Document Delivery at Dalhousie Libraries

Dalhousie Libraries provide an extensive range of print and digital resources to support teaching, learning, and research, but no single library can hold everything. Document delivery ensures that our users can access materials beyond our collections through interlibrary loan (ILL) and resource-sharing partnerships, maintaining fast and reliable access to information.

The systems that support this essential service are changing. Legacy ILL platforms are being retired, and new technologies do not always communicate seamlessly. These shifts have created challenges for libraries across Canada, but they also present opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Dalhousie Libraries is actively leading this work. Document Delivery Manager Joe Wickens is deeply engaged regionally and nationally to help establish a new model for resource sharing. In 2024, Joe represented Dalhousie on a national panel at the Access Conference in Montréal titled “*Cracks in the Canadian Resource*

*Sharing Landscape.*” The discussion focused on strategies to maintain strong networks and ensure uninterrupted access for users.

Building on that momentum, Dalhousie helped convene a national summit in Halifax in October 2025, bringing together library practitioners and major software vendors to explore solutions and plan for the future. This work to solve technical challenges also presents the opportunity to reimagine and re-engage the post-print paradigm to ensure that resource sharing remains robust and responsive.

As the resource-sharing landscape continues to evolve, Dal Libraries is leading through collaboration and advocacy. We are committed to keeping knowledge accessible and ensuring that user needs remain at the center of everything we do.



**9,353**

requests to  
borrow materials  
from other  
libraries



**11,298**

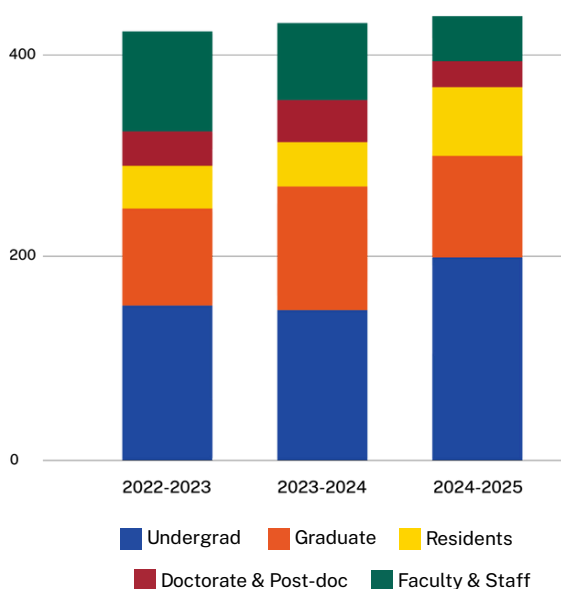
requests to  
lend Dal  
materials to  
other libraries



**Joe Wickens** has had the good fortune to have worked in libraries for 35 years, almost 25 of those years in document delivery at the Dalhousie Libraries. He has had the further pleasure of working with colleagues in Canada and around the world.

Our librarians provide essential support for knowledge synthesis research, including systematic and scoping reviews, particularly in the health sciences. They assist students and researchers in navigating complex evidence-searching and research methods, increasingly through online teaching and consultations. This work combines expertise in research methods, information management, teaching, and digital tools, helping learners apply evidence-based approaches effectively. As expectations for accessible online learning grow, librarians continue to adapt services to new technologies and evolving research standards while maintaining other core library responsibilities.

Last year, Evidence Synthesis Librarian and Faculty of Medicine Liaison Robin Parker took a special leave to complete her doctoral program and contribute to initiatives supporting evidence and knowledge synthesis research. Robin's research examined the role of librarians in the academic research environment, highlighting the often-unseen work involved in delivering online knowledge synthesis support. Her findings emphasized that effective instruction depends not only on individual expertise but also on the interaction between people, digital tools, and institutional systems. Understanding this complexity helps libraries plan services, build capacity, and align resources to strengthen research quality and student success.



Dalhousie Libraries provide literature search services, including knowledge synthesis support, which are highly valued and increasingly in demand, especially at the Health Sciences Library. Last year saw 438 engagements, with undergraduate consultations rising due to growing research in programs like UGME, Psychology, Medical Sciences, and Pharmacy.

**Robin Parker** is acting head of library academic services for the Faculties of Medicine, Health, and Dentistry, and evidence synthesis librarian at Dal Libraries. As a library liaison, she supports research and learning for undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate programs in medicine. Robin's interdisciplinary PhD at Dalhousie used sociomateriality and qualitative research approaches to study how librarians teach evidence synthesis methods in online settings.





## Preserving Community Heritage

At the Libraries, Archives, and Museums Nova Scotia (LAMNS) 2025 Conference, Clare Cheong, Archives Assistant at Dalhousie, presented *“Telling His Story Together: Preserving the Legacy of Rev. William Rufus Foote through Community Archival Collaboration.”* Her talk highlighted the rewards and challenges of community-led archival work, emphasizing inclusivity and relationship-building in heritage projects.

Since 2024, the Korean Canadian Mission Heritage Committee based in Halifax and Toronto, in partnership with Nova Scotia Archives, has been leading a community-driven initiative to explore the life and legacy of Rev. William Rufus Foote (1869–1930), one of the earliest Canadian missionaries from Nova Scotia to Korea. This project aims to trace his faith journey and publish a Korean-language biography by 2028, ensuring his story reaches new audiences across cultures and generations.

This year, several public seminars hosted at the Nova Scotia Archives in Halifax focused on missionary records and engaged local congregations and youth ministries, reaffirming archives as dynamic spaces for cultural dialogue and education. As the work continues toward its 2028 goal, the impact of these efforts will resonate far beyond Nova Scotia, connecting researchers, families, and communities worldwide.

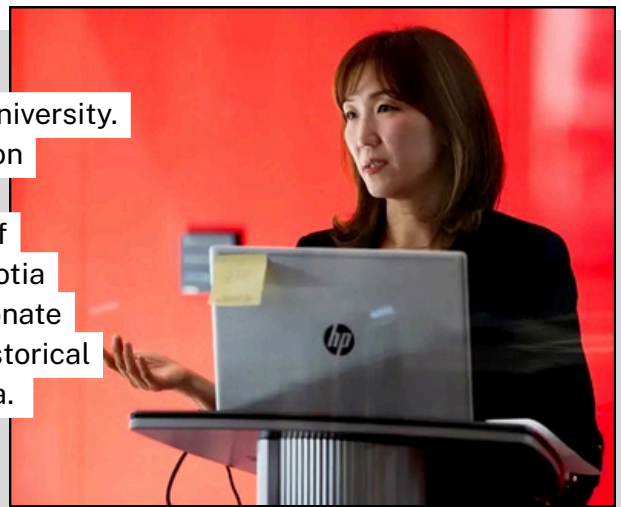


William Foote to Sorai, 1898, Elizabeth Ritcey collection, V-FI-17-4, United Church of Canada Archives, New Brunswick



Foote Family in Wonsan, Korea, ca. 1903, MG1 vol. 2297 #2, Maritime Missionaries to Korea collection, Nova Scotia Archives

**Clare Cheong** is an archives assistant at Dalhousie University. She holds a master's degree in Library and Information Studies (MLIS) and has recently completed archival certificate courses from both the Dalhousie Master of Information (MI) program and the Council of Nova Scotia Archives. Originally from South Korea, Clare is passionate about engaging local communities and promoting historical and cultural dialogue between Nova Scotia and Korea.





In early 2025, Dalhousie University Archives worked with community organizations to preserve an important collection of photographs documenting 2SLGBTQIA+ and women's rights movements in Nova Scotia. The collection was created by Halifax photographer and activist Anita Martinez, whose work spans more than four decades and includes images of early Pride events, AIDS activism, and gender-based violence awareness campaigns.

Following Martinez's passing, the Elderberries, an organization for 2SLGBTQIA+ elders in Atlantic Canada, raised funds to repair her computer and recover digital content stored on multiple external drives. Once restored, the materials were donated to the [Nova Scotia LGBT Seniors Archive](#), housed at Dalhousie.

Our archives staff are working with community partners to ensure the collection is stabilized and prepared for long-term preservation. Captioning and detailed cataloging begins in 2026.

The Martinez collection will serve as a resource for students, researchers, and community members. It provides unique insight into the evolution of human rights advocacy in Nova Scotia and reflects the resilience of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. We are grateful to our community partners for ensuring the stories captured in these photographs remain accessible for generations to come.

"We've already seen great interest in the Anita Martinez fonds and expect interest to grow as we process the material and make it available for research."

— Creighton Barrett, archivist

**Creighton Barrett** is the acquisitions and public services archivist at Dalhousie. He works with external donors and units across the university to acquire and preserve archival material in the University Archives. Creighton specializes in media collections, digital preservation, data recovery, metadata, and digitization.

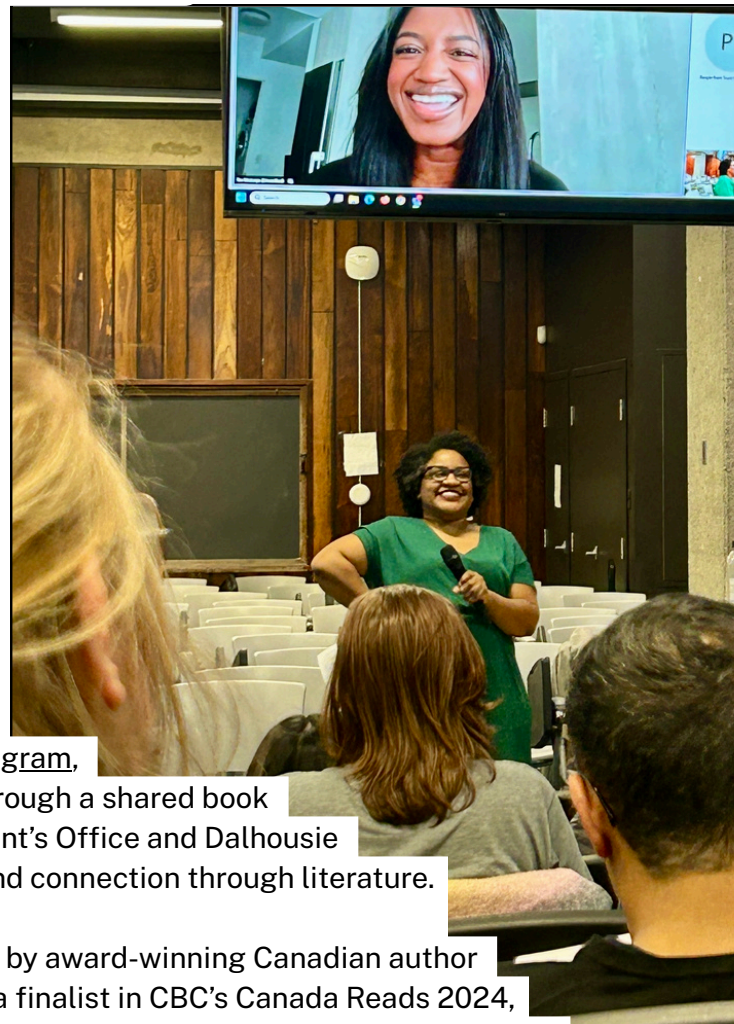




## Dal Reads 2024/2025: Building Community Through Shared Stories



Dal Reads, Dalhousie's community reading program, brings students, faculty, and staff together through a shared book each academic year. Supported by the President's Office and Dalhousie Libraries, the program encourages dialogue and connection through literature.



This year's selection was *Shut Up You're Pretty* by award-winning Canadian author Téa Mutonji. The debut short story collection, a finalist in CBC's Canada Reads 2024, explores themes of identity, belonging, and womanhood through interconnected stories following a single protagonist from childhood to adulthood. Faculty incorporated several stories into first-year English courses and creative writing assignments, and students reported that studying Mutonji's work deepened their understanding of narrative voice and strengthened their own writing practice.

A highlight of the program was the author event on February 28, held in the Killam Memorial Library's MacMechan Auditorium and streamed to the MacRae Library in Truro. Twenty-seven attendees gathered to hear Mutonji read from the opening story, "Tits for Cigs," followed by a conversation moderated by Dr. Asha Jeffers, Associate Professor of English and Gender and Women's Studies. The discussion explored themes of self-acceptance, cultural displacement, and the objectification of Black women, while offering insight into Mutonji's creative process and her portrayal of Scarborough as both setting and character. Attendees also learned about her collaboration with publisher Vivek Shraya and her approach to shaping the collection. Mutonji's candid reflections and generosity with her craft made the event an inspiring experience for all who attended.

Dal Reads continues to foster meaningful dialogue and enrich academic and social life at Dalhousie through shared reading experiences.



# A Year in the Life of the Ko'jua Okuom

Wikipedia Edit-a-thon for Mi'kmaw  
History Month & Open Access Week



Apuknajit Mid-Winter Feast

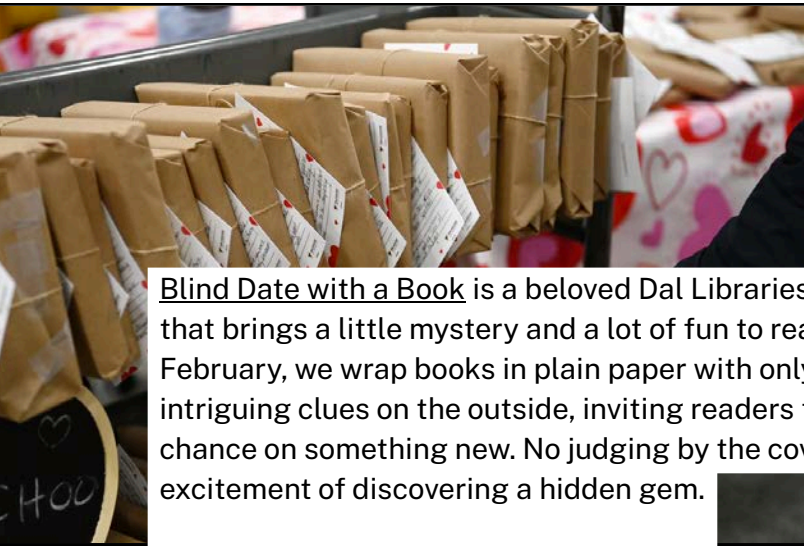


Make a Red Dress Day  
Pin beading workshop



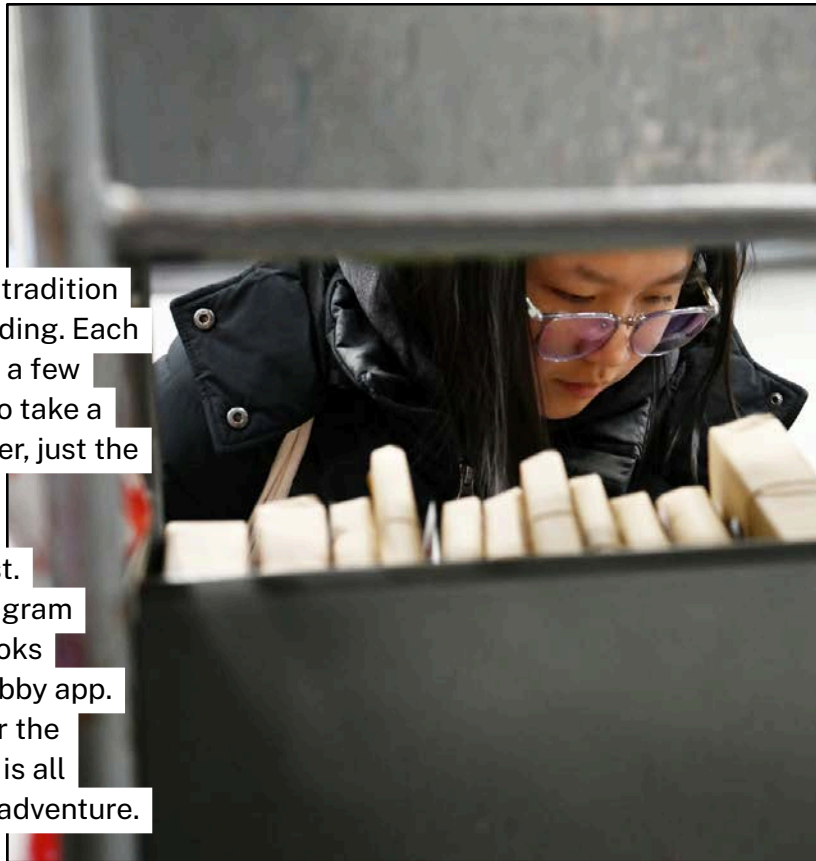


## Find Love in the Libraries with Blind Date with a Book



Blind Date with a Book is a beloved Dal Libraries tradition that brings a little mystery and a lot of fun to reading. Each February, we wrap books in plain paper with only a few intriguing clues on the outside, inviting readers to take a chance on something new. No judging by the cover, just the excitement of discovering a hidden gem.

This year, on February 12, we added a digital twist. Alongside the in-person event, we ran a fun Instagram campaign encouraging readers to check out ebooks through our catalogue and on OverDrive or the Libby app. Whether you prefer the feel of a wrapped book or the convenience of an ebook, Blind Date with a Book is all about sparking curiosity and making reading an adventure.





The following people changed roles or took on new ones over the past year:

- Danielle Hoar - Library Services Supervisor
- Allie Fulford - Librarian, Engineering, Architecture & Planning, and International Student's & EAP Program
- Dominic Silvio - Acting Head of Science, Management, Arts & Social Sciences (SMASS), formerly known as head of Killam

From June 2024-July 2025, we said farewell to a few colleagues:

- Samantha Adema
- Ratna Dhaliwal
- Melissa Helwig
- Elizabeth Johnson
- Nicole Marcoux

## Retirements

- Kathy Eisan
- Christine Hatton
- Jim Kennedy
- David Michels





## Our Year in Numbers



**34,104**  
service point  
interactions



**2,593,334**  
journal articles  
accessed



**475,281**  
library research  
guide views



**746,517**  
in-person visits to  
libraries & learning  
commons



**401**  
copyright  
questions  
answered



**11,298**  
requests to lend  
Dal materials to  
other libraries



**320**  
instruction  
sessions for  
7,718 students



**482**  
Live Help  
sessions to the  
Dal community



**1,466,939**  
catalogue and  
database  
searches



**45**  
new accessions  
added to the  
Archives



**863**  
items added to  
DalSpace  
repository



**411,690**  
open education  
resource page  
views



**35,840**  
individual digital  
objects created  
and preserved



**15,942**  
IT help desk  
problems solved



**1,330**  
laptop loans



**4,236**  
users assisted  
with Brightspace

Virginia Beaton

John Blackwell & Laurie  
Stanley-Blackwell

Vivien Boniuk & Arthur Cobin

Richard Brown

John Crowley & Marian Binkley

Kenneth Cudmore & Eva Cudmore

W. Dale Dauphinee

James Doyle

Sylvia Duffus

Judith Fingard

Sylvia Fullerton

Aniko Hill

Margaret Hodulik

Anne Hodulik

Raymond Klein

John Lambert

Sheena Lesniewski

Patricia Lutley

Rod & Robin MacLennan

John MacLeod & Karen Smith

James MacSwain

Julie Marcoux

Marion McIntosh

Mary McLaren

Wilf Meston

Judith Pratt

Douglas Rasmusson

Patrick Rivest

Estate of Alex Ross

Estate of O. E. Smith

Aretha Smith

Marilyn Read Stark & Gerald Stark

Sarah Stevenson

J. Elizabeth Sutherland

Jonathan Tyson & Donna Bourne-Tyson

Michael Vandenburg

Mary Vingoe

William Webster & Anne Godden-Webster

W. Wheelock

Kenneth Whynot

Hugh Williamson & Shirley Lee

Doctors Nova Scotia

*And 8 anonymous donors*



# ANNUAL REPORT



DALHOUSIE  
LIBRARIES

2024/  
2025



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY