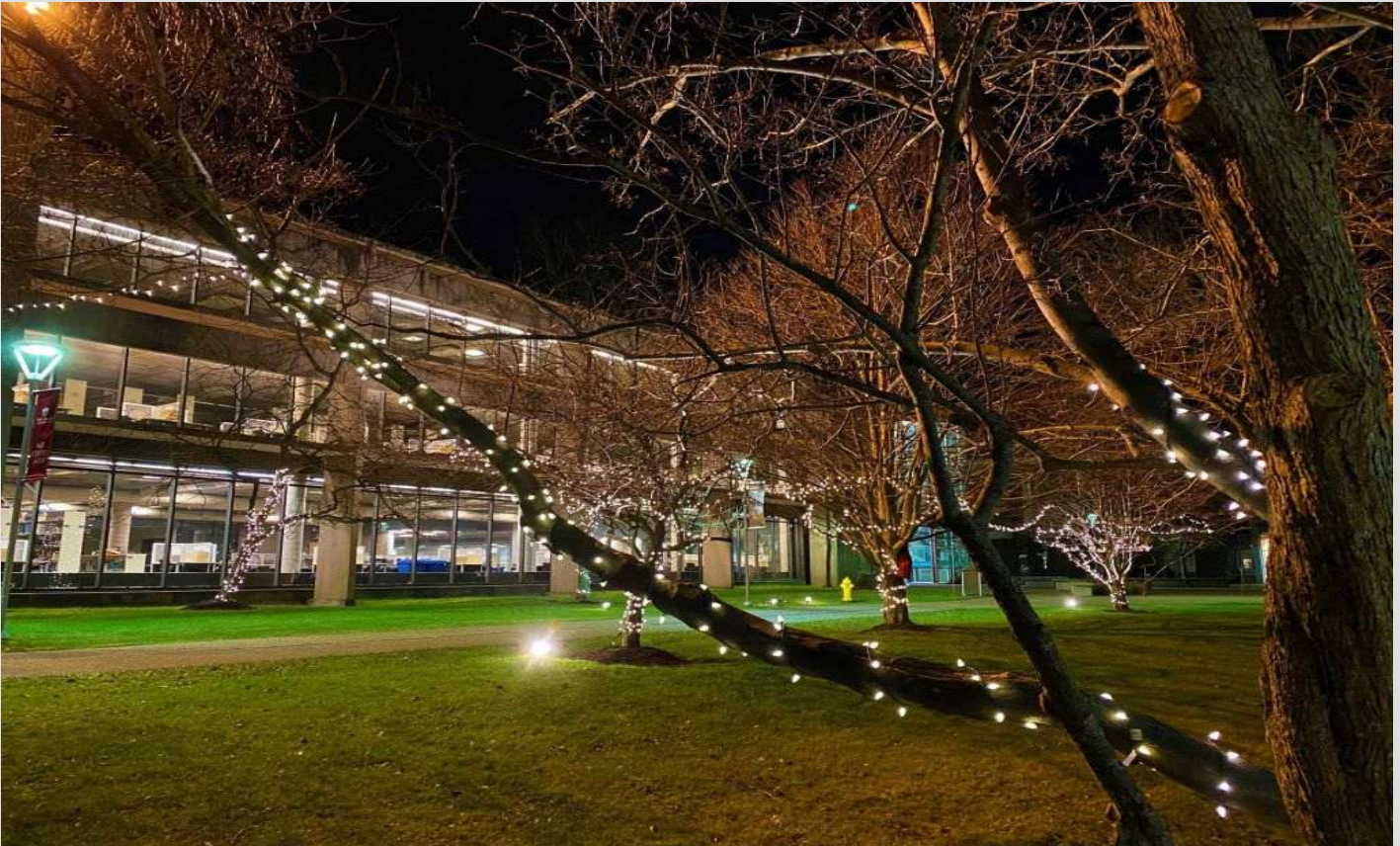


Academic Integrity and Libraries in the Age of AI

Patrick Power Library Annual Report: 2024-2025



Inside

Message from the Dean	p. 2
Land Acknowledgement	p. 3
Academic Integrity in the Age of AI	p. 4
Information Literacy & Research Tool Kit	p. 6
Copyright & Data Services	p. 7
Research Collections & Services	p. 9
Community Engagement	p. 11
Access Services	p. 15
Archives, Special Collections and Institutional Repository	p. 18
Research Help	p. 19
People	p. 20



Message from the Dean

At the Patrick Power Library, supporting students means more than providing access to books and databases – it means preparing students for the challenges of academic life and the evolving landscape of higher education.

Libraries have never been a more important source of truth! As technology and artificial intelligence (AI) evolve, libraries are working diligently to navigate the opportunities and challenges AI presents for academic integrity. The Library supports academic integrity at Saint Mary's University through educational programming for students, collaborations with faculty, and fostering a culture of academic honesty.

As you explore this year's annual report, you will discover how the Library is addressing generative AI through its Academic Integrity Foundations assignment. You will also learn about the impact of our Library services and how our outreach efforts foster community, develop partnerships, and contribute to the success of our students and university community.

All of this is made possible through a dedicated team of librarians and professional library staff who work at the Patrick Power Library. It is my privilege to work with this team of amazing colleagues!

**Suzanne van den Hoogen,
BA'91 (SMU), MLIS (Dalhousie)
Dean, University Library and Archives**

We Are In Mi'kma'ki

The Patrick Power Library acknowledges that the university is located on the traditional land of the Mi'kmaq Nation. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact, recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship.

The Patrick Power Library strives to reflect Mi'kmaw presence, history and knowledge within our spaces and collections. We are proud to be the home of several permanent exhibits that support this vision, including a MMIWG2S+ Red Dress installation, a locally crafted dreamcatcher, and a Mi'kmaw heritage exhibit with Library resources and Mi'kmaw cultural artifacts on display from the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.



Red dresses hung in Library windows honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and S2LGBTQ+ people.



The Mi'kmaw heritage display, named "Ta'n Etl-klo'tasik koqoey" (meaning "Where the items are kept/taken care of").

African Nova Scotians

We acknowledge 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.



Image of Flag of African Nova Scotians by Wendie Wilson. https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5f/Afro-Nova_Scotian_Flag.svg/500px-Afro-Nova_Scotian_Flag.svg.png

Academic Integrity in the Age of AI

At the Patrick Power Library, supporting students means more than providing access to books and databases—it means preparing them for the challenges of academic life and the evolving landscape of higher education. Nowhere is this more critical than in the area of **academic integrity**, which has taken on renewed urgency with the rise of generative artificial intelligence. In 2024–2025, the library played a leading role in equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed responsibly.

Academic Integrity Foundations (AIF), an online library assignment in Brightspace, comprised of five learning modules, teaches students about the importance of academic integrity. AIF covers academic integrity, recognizing plagiarism, understanding how to incorporate and cite source material in assignments, and strategies for avoiding academic mistakes. This past year, over 1000 **students** were introduced to the values and practices that underlie academic work: honesty, fairness, trust, respect, and responsibility. Designed and delivered by the Library, AIF has become a cornerstone of first-year orientation spanning all three faculties.

The Library has also taken a proactive approach to the challenges posed by artificial intelligence. New sections in

AIF now address generative AI, giving students practical guidance on how to use emerging technologies ethically in their academic work. By framing AI within the larger context of academic integrity, AIF helps to ensure that students are not only prepared for today's academic environment, but also for the professional and societal responsibilities they will face beyond graduation.

What sets this initiative apart is its collaborative foundation. AIF was originally developed by the Library as a pilot project for Senate, ensuring it meets real teaching and learning needs. Today, we have regular instructors who assign AIF every year to their students. By embedding the library as a partner in student success, we strengthen relationships across campus and reinforce the message that academic integrity is everyone's responsibility.

As one of the first touchpoints for new students, AIF not only supports individual student success, but also fosters a culture of trust and accountability across the university. With over a thousand students already benefiting from the program this year alone, the Library continues to demonstrate leadership in preparing students to think critically, act ethically, and navigate the challenges of learning in the digital age.

Information Literacy

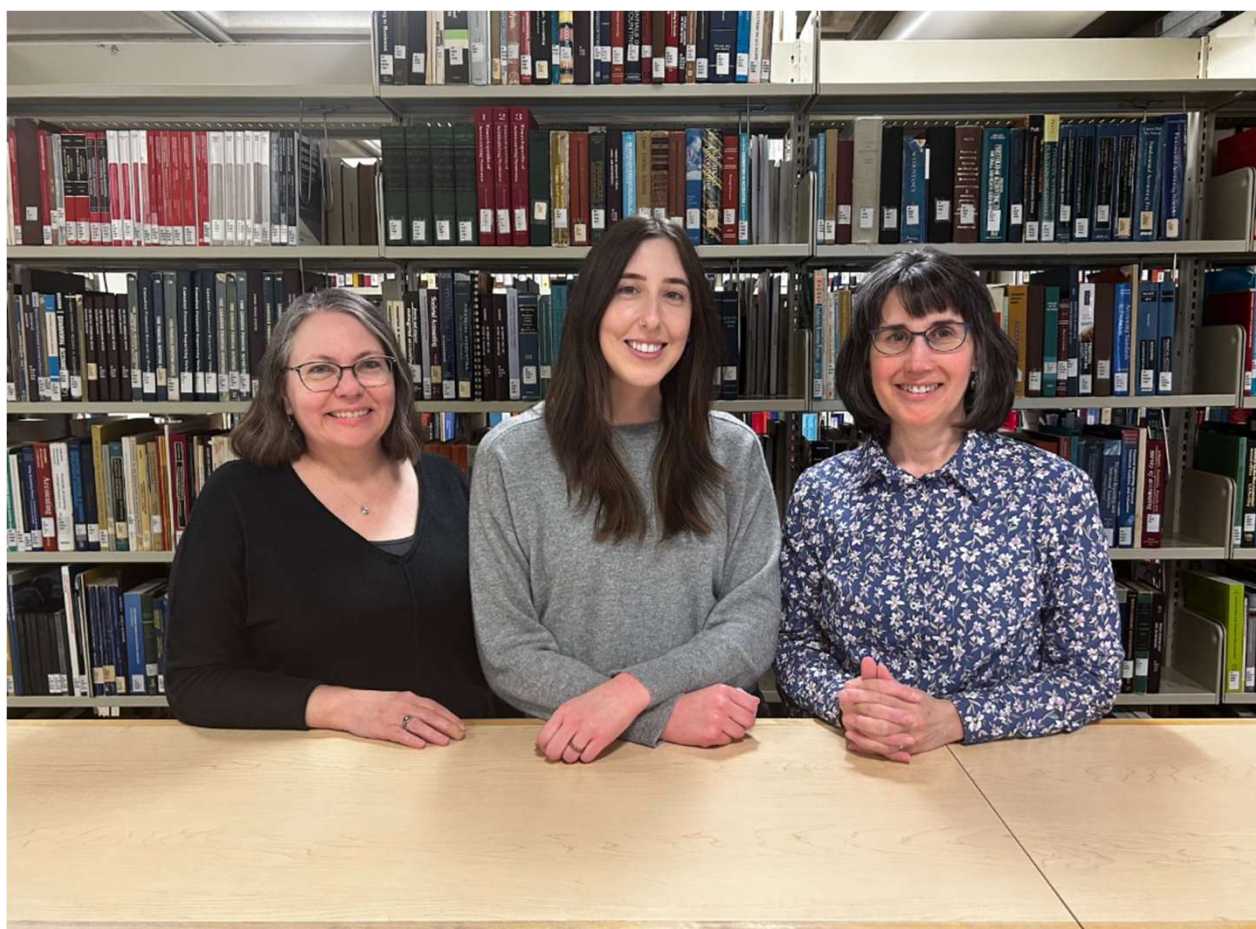
Led by Dr. Heather Sanderson and Cindy Harrigan, librarians provide virtual and in-person information literacy classes and workshops. This year, we provided sessions to **2381 students**, teaching core information literacy concepts and library research skills, including how to access, evaluate, and ethically use scholarly research materials.

52,734

Visits to Library Research & Subject Guides

2,381

Students taught in information literacy instruction sessions



Members of the Information Literacy team: Dr. Heather Sanderson, Allison Watt and Cindy Harrigan.

Research Toolkit

The Library's Research Toolkit was offered online May 6-8 and May 13-15. This annual series of workshops, now in its 7th year, focuses on advanced research skills for graduate students, Research Assistants, and Teaching Assistants. This year the program was expanded to twelve workshops. Our core workshops cover: researching the literature review; finding grey literature; scholarly journal quality & open access; stats and data discovery tools; copyright best practices; organizing data with Excel; and citation management using Zotero.

In addition, four new workshops were added to this year's schedule:

- Is There an App to Help with That? Using Generative AI in your Research

- Introduction to Knowledge Synthesis: Systematic, Scoping and the Rest of the Review Family
- Research Design and Research Data Planning: An Intro to Library Resources
- Finding and Using Primary Source Research

Sessions are delivered by librarians and reflect the many areas of expert knowledge we draw upon to support faculty and student research. The AI session was co-delivered with Julian L'Enfant, Educational Developer with the Studio for Teaching and Learning. This year's participants came from a wide range of programs and disciplines. Special thanks to Allison Watt, our Information Literacy Library Assistant, for her help with organizing and moderating sessions.



Learn advanced research skills with

Research Toolkit

May 6-8 & 13-15, 2025 | Online via Zoom

Copyright & Data Services

The [Copyright Office](#) at the Patrick Power Library actively leads efforts to ensure Copyright compliance and awareness across Saint Mary's University, and provides copyright guidance and course readings support services to faculty, instructors, staff and students. This year, the Copyright Office welcomed Dan Phillips, Copyright & Data Services Librarian, and Sarah West, Copyright Assistant to the team. Welcome to the Patrick Power Library, Dan and Sarah! In their first year, this team provided **82 consultations** to the university community regarding copyright issues.

Community Involvement & Professional Development

By collaborating on the Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries' Copyright Committee and attending the national ABC Copyright Conference, Sarah and Dan strengthened Saint Mary's voice in the broader copyright community. This year they earned certificates in Canadian Copyright Law to enhance their ability to assess licences and apply best practices, ensuring that faculty and students benefit from clear, consistent guidance on complex copyright issues.



Sarah West, Copyright Assistant (left) and Dan Phillips, Copyright & Data Services Librarian (right) pose with their Certificate in Canadian Copyright Law, earned in early 2024. Congratulations, Sarah and Dan!

Enhancing Research Capacity with Data Services

SMU researchers working in areas from gender equity to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) topics rely on the Patrick Power Library's Data Services for access to the data they need. This includes connections to national data networks, support for navigating Statistics Canada resources and subscription platforms, and access to specialized data such as DMTI and Nova Scotia Geomatics geospatial datasets. When researchers collect their own data or add value to existing data, Data Services also supports Tri-Agency grant holders with Research Data Management (RDM) compliance and provides training on accessing and using data. This year, the library **delivered nine specialized data sessions** through classrooms and the Research Toolkit series.

82

Copyright consultations

56

Courses used the Course Reading Service

Enabling Student Success and Financial Sustainability with the Course Reading Service

When faculty are pulling together course readings, Sarah West in the Copyright Office is there to help. She reviews assigned materials, sources library-licensed content, and navigates Fair Dealing and permissions so instructors can focus on teaching. This service makes course content easier to access on and off campus, creating a more equitable and flexible learning environment for all students. **56 courses** used this service throughout the fiscal year.

9

Specialized data literacy sessions

1,386

Students benefited from resources provided by the Course Reading Service

Research Collections & Services

Collections

The Patrick Power Library provides the Saint Mary's University community with access to an extensive collection of academic and scholarly resources to support teaching, learning and research. The Library's Acquisition budget was used to support online resources including databases, scholarly journals, eBooks, and streaming media. This collection is central to the delivery of online, hybrid and in-person instruction.

49,979

Total print and eBook circulation

Book displays and exhibits

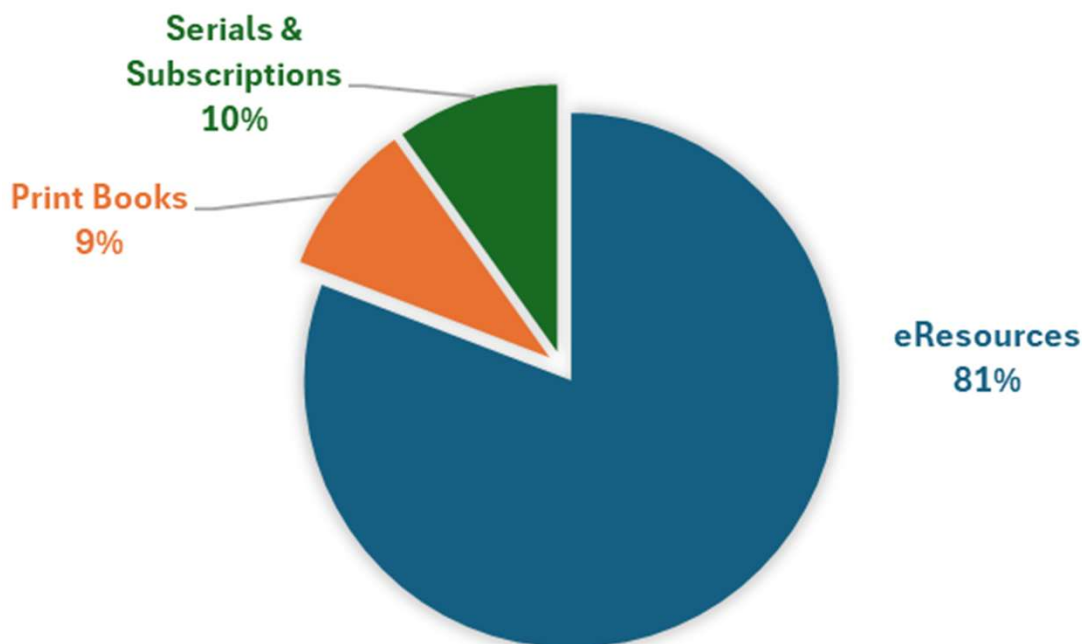
Throughout the year we curate library collections connected to faculty research, popular topics, local and global current affairs, and campus partnerships. Themed book displays this year included:

- Sexual Violence Prevention Week
- Black History Month
- Pride
- Wellness Week
- Indigenous History Month
- Mi'kmaq History Month
- Asian Heritage Month
- Freedom to Read
- Holodomor Memorial

256,583

Journal articles downloaded

LIBRARY ACQUISITION EXPENDITURES: 2024-2025



Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

1,700

Items borrowed from other libraries worldwide, for the SMU community

1,330

Items borrowed from other Novanet libraries, for the SMU community

1,544

SMU Library items loaned to other libraries worldwide

1,573

SMU Library items loaned to other Novanet libraries



Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery Team Members: Sue Ubhi, Kate Stewart, Peter Webster and Trish Grelot

Community Engagement

The Patrick Power Library creates, seeks out and welcomes opportunities to engage with the university community through events, programs and other community-led initiatives.

Engaging students with game-based learning

Murder in the Archives was a live-action murder mystery game designed and hosted by the Library Outreach & Engagement Team to engage students with library and research skills through game-based learning. Set in the library after-hours, the event invited students to solve a fictional crime using clues embedded in library and archival resources and research tools. Developed over six months, the project emphasized learning objectives while

ensuring the experience was immersive and entertaining. Student feedback was encouragingly positive, highlighting both the event's originality and educational value: Many students who participated reported a fun, entertaining experience that also helped them feel more confident in using the library. The initiative served as a professional development opportunity for library employees, as the team expanded their knowledge of innovative instructional methodologies, and presented their process and outcomes at a conference, sparking interest and discussion among peers. This pilot project has laid the groundwork for future interactive programming at the Patrick Power Library and demonstrated the potential of games to foster meaningful engagement with library instruction.



Students pose with clues from Murder in the Archives (left), and work to solve the mystery with library resources (right).

Library Assignments: ResearchBase and Academic Integrity Foundations

The Information Literacy department offers two online assignments that are relied upon by many instructors for teaching their students essential research and information skills. In most cases these assignments are completed by students for a portion of their course grade.

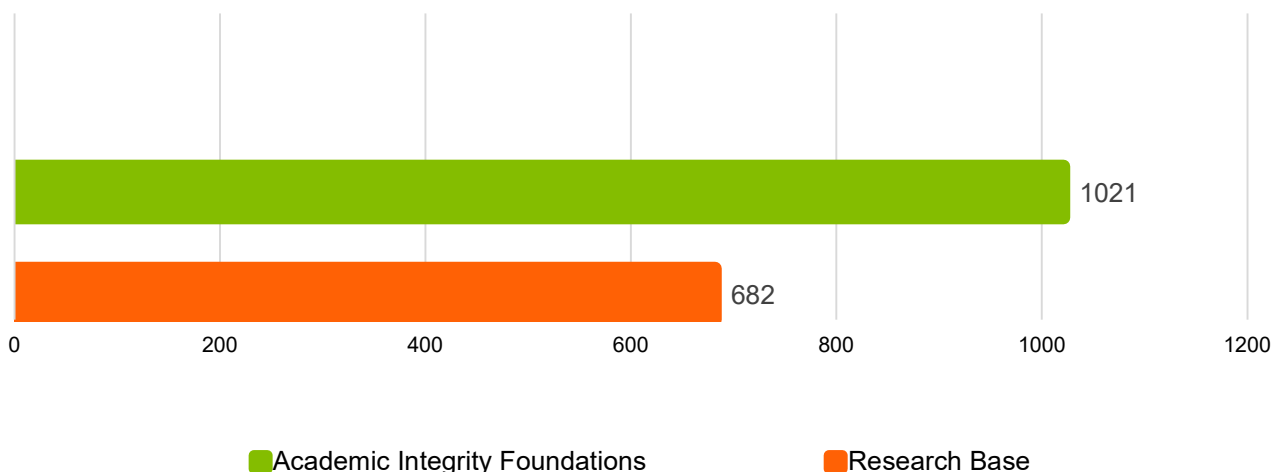
ResearchBase was launched as an online assignment for introductory research skills in 2010 and has been revised and updated each year since. The various modules and quizzes cover topics like formulating a topic and search strategies, searching the catalogue, choosing a database, and selecting appropriate scholarly articles.

Over the years thousands of students have benefitted from the skills they learn in ResearchBase.

During the 2024-25 Academic year, 682 students completed ResearchBase in their courses.

Academic Integrity Foundations (AIF) was created and launched during the pandemic (2020-2021) to teach students about academic integrity and educate them on how to avoid behaviours and mistakes in their work that can lead to problems like plagiarism. The modules have since been expanded to include discussion of integrity issues raised by the use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT. This assignment continues to be in demand from faculty who want their students to understand academic integrity and be successful in their academic work. AIF is also used by Academic Integrity Officers as an educational piece in the disciplinary process. In the last year, 1021 students completed AIF modules and the final test.

**Number of students who completed AIF and Research Base Courses
April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025**



Engagement beyond the stacks

The Outreach & Engagement Team continues to foster meaningful connections between the Library and the student community through a variety of wellness- and academic-focused, and culturally enriching initiatives. From hosting therapy dog visits during exam periods to partnering with student societies for collaborative events, Library programming supports both academic success and student well-being.

A key initiative is **Study Hall**, a partnership between the Library, Writing Centre, and Student Success Centre that offers a supported workspace where students can access academic services in a relaxed, welcoming environment. This year, **181 students attended** Study Hall.

As part of **Welcome Weeks**, we helped orient new students to campus resources through a booth at the Service Expo, an information session, and a library-themed escape room event.

We also hosted the annual **Día de los Muertos** community altar, in partnership with Dr. Erica Fischer-Dorantes, which this year included a face painting event and drew participation from across campus.

This programming creates a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere that encourages students to see the Library as more than just a place for study. Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to holistic student support and meaningful engagement.



Students demonstrate traditional Mexican face painting at a Día de los Muertos event (right). Student employees from the Student Success Centre assisting with an end-of-year Study Hall event, handing out resources and snacks (left).

Faculty Author talks

The Faculty Author Series fosters community engagement with scholarship, and provides the university community with the opportunity to learn about faculty research at Saint Mary's. This year, the Library hosted two Faculty Author Series talks, each highlighting the breadth and impact of academic work across disciplines.

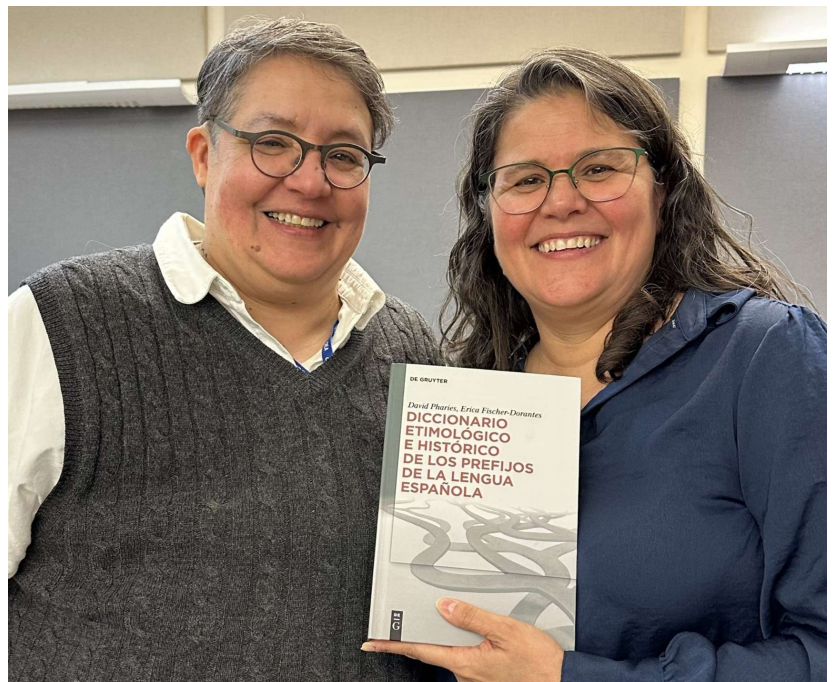
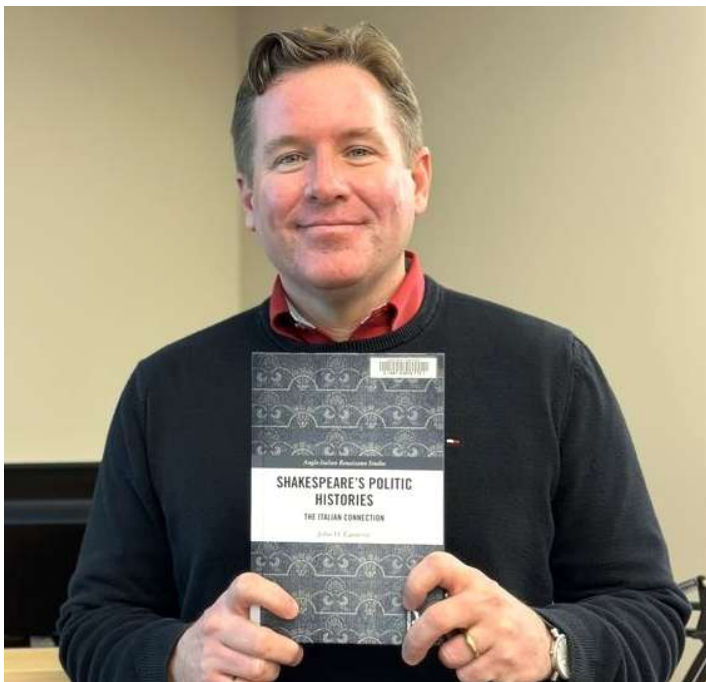
In October 2024, we welcomed Dr. John Cameron, from the Department of English Language and Literature presenting his book *"Shakespeare's Politic Histories: The Italian Connection"* (Routledge, 2024).

To close out the academic year, in April 2025 we welcomed Dr. Erica Fischer-Dorantes, from the Department of Languages and Cultures. Dr. Fischer-Dorantes presented her co-authored

book *"Historical and Etymological Dictionary of Spanish Prefixes"* (De Gruyter, 2024), with a special introduction from colleague Dr. Maria Gomez.

These events offer a platform for faculty to share their scholarship in an accessible format, promote interdisciplinary dialogue, and celebrate academic achievement. The intimate event series draws faculty and staff from across the university who value the opportunity for thoughtful discussion and cross-disciplinary exchange.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Dr. Cameron and Dr. Fischer-Dorantes on the publication of their recent books!



From left to right: Dr. John Cameron holding his book *Shakespeare's Politic Histories*. Dr. Maria Gomez with Dr. Erica Fischer-Dorantes, holding her book *The Historical and Etymological Dictionary of Spanish Prefixes*.

Access Services

The Library is a hub for student activity, and a vibrant community space where individuals come together to learn, research, and engage with peers. The Access Services team plays a crucial role in ensuring resources and spaces stay accessible, from social gathering areas to dedicated silent study zones. With a ground floor tailored for student needs, and featuring 10 private group study rooms, comfortable seating, and collaborative workspaces, the Library is a popular campus destination for meetings and academic pursuits alike. This year, the Library welcomed over **458,000 visits** and **16,498 study room bookings**!

In addition to collections and spaces, the Patrick Power Library provides technology to support student engagement in digital learning, such as laptops and calculators. Laptop borrowing numbers continued to rise, with students checking out laptops **465 times** – That's a 19.23% **increase over last year**. Laptops are available for borrowing, with the option of 3-hour or 1-month loan periods.

1,858

University ID cards
processed

458,043

Visits to the Patrick Power
Library

705

Inquiries received from SMU
community members

16,498

Student Study Room
bookings

117,795

Visits to the Library website

465

Laptops loaned

Accessible Study Room

A project, years in the making, came to fruition this year! A Study Room on the first floor of the Library was renovated and now includes accessibility features such as an automatic door, accessible power outlets and light switches, moveable furniture, adjustable lighting, two 5-wheeled desk chairs with arms, two 4-wheeled desk chairs without arms, access to a white noise machine and fidget/sensory items.

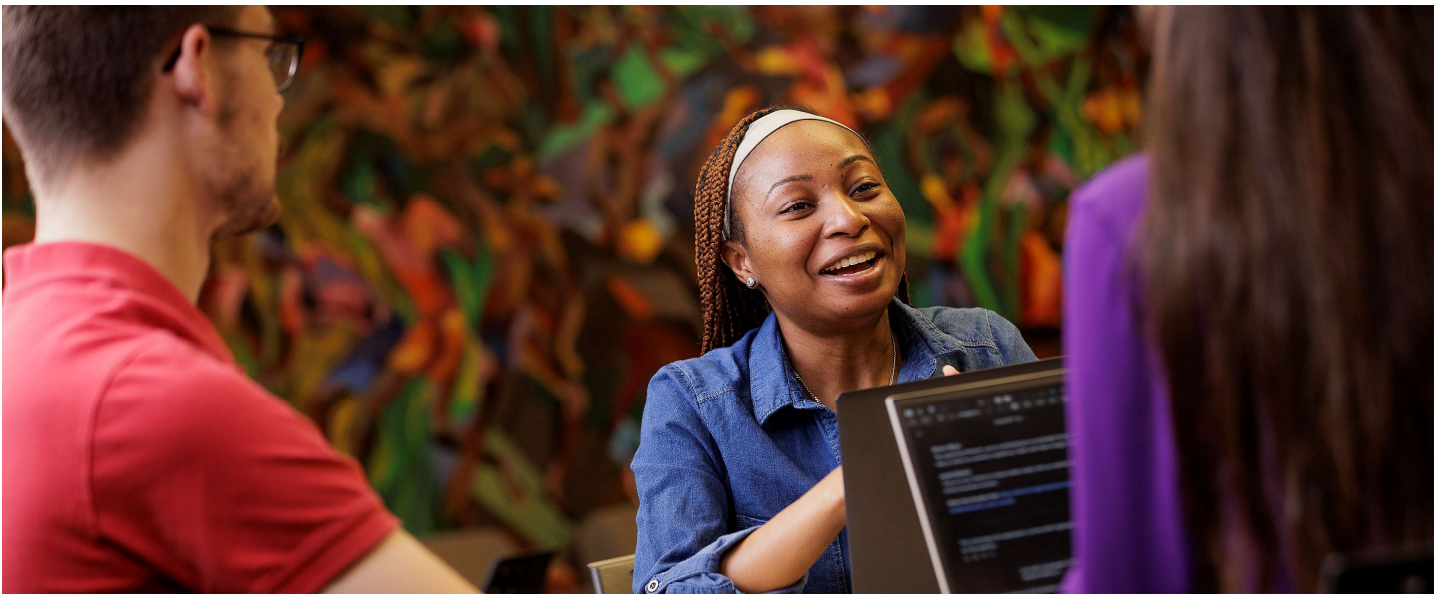
Priority booking is offered to individuals who will benefit from the features of this room by emailing Access Services with at least 48 hours' notice. All students can book this room up to 24 hours in advance.

The Library extends thanks to the individuals and units across campus whose efforts have made this renovation possible, including the Fred Smithers Centre for Accessibility,

Facilities Management, the University Accessibility Lead, Access Services, Library Outreach and Engagement, and the Studio for Teaching and Learning.

Menstrual products available in all public washrooms

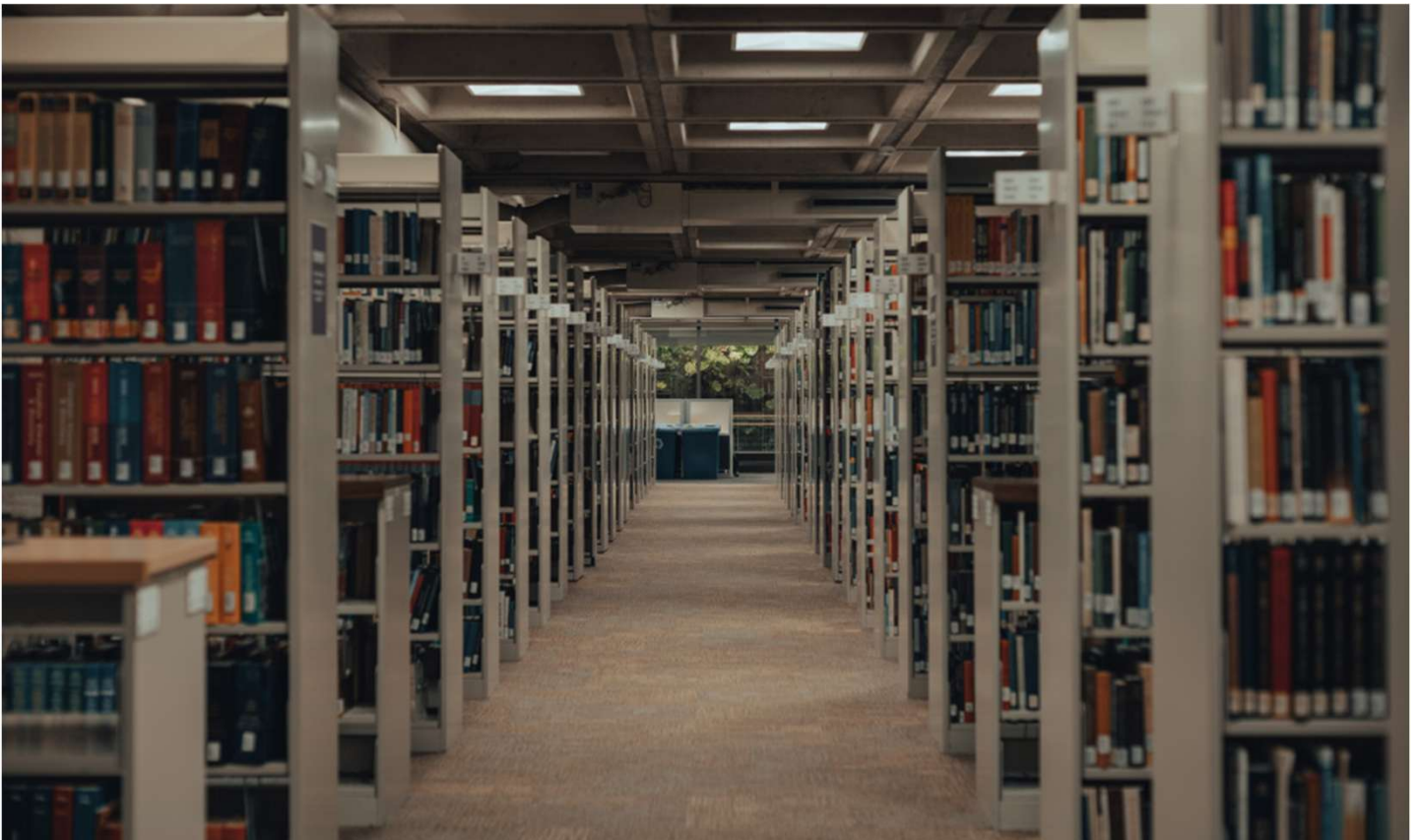
In partnership with the SMU Food Room and the SMU Pride Society, the Library offered free menstrual products in all public washrooms. The initiative was very popular and saw high usage throughout the duration of the program. The project was able to stock washrooms with menstrual products from July 2024 to March 2025.



Collection inventory project

In May 2024, the team began an ongoing collection inventory project. This project facilitates access to materials by ensuring that the Library collection and catalogue are relevant and correct. This is achieved by:

- Ensuring books are in the correct order on the shelf
- Identifying and removing duplicate copies
- Identifying uncatalogued materials
- Identifying discrepancies between what is on our shelf list and call number labels
- Identifying books in need of repair, replacement or relabeling



Second Floor Stacks: Patrick Power Library

Archives, Special Collections and Institutional Repository

The Saint Mary's University Archives is the official memory of the university and keeper of its records. The archival collections include manuscripts, printed material, photographs, artifacts, and other ephemera. In addition, the Archives houses the Library's Special Collections and processes student theses. Notable special collections include the Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection and the Salzinnes Antiphonal. Digitized items from the University Archives and Special Collections are continuously being added to the online Institutional Repository, which is available online and accessible 24/7.

57,000

Visits to the Institutional Repository website

175

Digital items added to the Institutional Repository

125

SMU theses added to the Institutional Repository



Undergraduate Arts student Theresa Jabbour, who studies criminal justice history, examines records from the University Archives.

Research Help

As one of our cornerstone services, Research Help provides the SMU community with comprehensive, personalized assistance with research, assignments, and using the Library. Assistance is available in person, by appointment, or through email, phone and Novanet Live Help chat.

The Research Help team is staffed by professional librarians and library assistants, who maintain their knowledge by participating in extensive

professional development. Research Help is available to all students, faculty and staff at the university, and includes community members.

Have questions?

Get in touch with us – we'd love to hear from you!

1,259

Questions at the Research Help desk

One Desk: Pilot Project

In January 2025, Research Help and Access Services began a highly anticipated pilot project which will test the feasibility of having both services located next to each other at one desk. Research Help will be located at the lower station of the front desk, directly across from their previous location. Although the services each department offer will not change, we anticipate this merger will allow higher visibility for Research Help, more effective accessible services, and allow for better collaboration between departments.



Shannon Higgins, Manager of Access Services and Nicole Carter, Research Services Librarian, leading the One Desk Pilot, pose for a photo.

People

The work we do at the Patrick Power Library is made possible through the contributions of a dedicated team of professional librarians, library staff and student assistants. The Library team continues to go above and beyond to serve the Saint Mary's University community. Join us in celebrating the team and their hard work!



Library employees pictured in this photo are: Suzanne van den Hoogen, Cindy Harrigan, Heather Sanderson, Heidi White, Lyndsay MacKay, Neil MacDonald, Cheryl Newman, Claudia Savers, Hanka Hudak, Anna Labrador, Natalie Barte, Joshuwa Amero, Hansel Cook, Sarah West, Megan McCarthy, Trish Grelot, Terri Winchcombe, Allison Watt, Heather Saunders, Lisa Billard, Carolyn Gillis, Kate Stewart, Shannon Higgins, Peter Webster, Bronwen McKie and Dan Phillips.

**Thanks for reading. Your support is important to us.
We look forward to welcoming you in the year ahead!**

**The Patrick Power Library extends sincerest thanks to our donors for
their generosity, and to the Trustees of the
Patrick Power Estate for their support.**

[Make a gift to the Library](#)

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