

UMW LIBRARIES 2019

Mission

The UMW Libraries constitute the knowledge center of the university -- a physical and virtual manifestation of the institution's mission of connected, integrated, and engaged teaching, learning, research, and service. The UMW Libraries are committed to creating an environment where students, faculty, and staff share in the creation and exploration of knowledge in the development of their academic and professional interests and in practicing the habits of mind necessary for life-long learning.

The following report outlines how the activities of the UMW Libraries for the past year have embodied each of the goals laid out in the University's strategic vision.

Goal 1: Promoting the values of service and community and civic engagement.

- Continued our partnership with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, including sponsoring the appearance of author Tim O'Brien as part of the annual Rappahannock Reads program.
- Worked with students in History 298 to digitize the papers of Michael Mello, noted alumnus and activist for social justice.
- Completed digitization projects with community organizations, including working with the Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge to digitize George Washington's Masonic Bible.
- Provided library instruction and access for International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement classes in area high schools.
- Collected and transcribed oral histories of UMW alumni who served in World War II, a project funded by Alumni Relations.

Goal 2: Immersing our students in applied, impactful learning experiences

- Conducted 649 in-depth research consultations with students, faculty, and community members in reference, the Digital Archiving Lab, Special Collections and University Archives, and the ThinkLab.
- Collaborated with Marjorie Och's Art History 317 class to mount an exhibit of Margaret Sutton's works in the Convergence Gallery.
- Launched Eagle Scholar, the university's institutional repository, which now contains research completed by undergraduate and graduate students from 2009 to the present.
- Provided in-depth information literacy instruction to 246 classes, including 64 First-Year Seminars classes.
- Collaborated with April Wynn and her students to publish over 2,000 University of Mary Washington Herbarium specimens in Eagle Scholar.

- Collaborated with Erin Devlin's History 441 Oral History class and Alumni Relations to begin the UMW Alumni Oral History Project. The first collection of shared narratives are the stories of our LGBTQ Alumni Affinity Group.

Goal 3: Adapting the liberal arts to an age of accelerations and a global digital environment.

- Contributed to the development of the digitally intensive portion of the revised General Education Program.
- Worked with students and faculty in Biological Sciences, Business, Computer Science, English, History and American Studies, and Theatre and Dance in the ThinkLab to complete projects using the resources of our maker space.
- Added new electronic resources to support the curriculum, including electronic book collections, streaming videos, government publications, and reference resources.
- Published a new digital collection of archived UMW Blogs and developed a collection development policy around the preservation of UMW projects on the WordPress multisite, Domain of One's Own, and more.

Goal 4: Creating a diverse and inclusive community as an essential requirement for academic excellence and academic success

- Continued our textbook initiative, through which we purchase high cost and high use textbooks to be placed on reserve.
- Worked with Open UMW to propose policy changes relating to open and affordable course materials for the University, and with the Faculty Academic Affairs Committee to bring these forward to the UFC for approval and adoption.
- Presented information on library resources to First Generation and STP students.
- Worked with ODR on making library resources accessible to students with disabilities, and added accessibility-related responsibilities to Paul Boger's position description.

Challenges and Opportunities

- We have continued to reorganize the library staff to provide optimal service to the university and to distribute the workload of our 4 frozen positions.
 - Paul Boger is now the Learning Technologies and Scholarly Communications Librarian, working with faculty to integrate library resources into their courses and to make those resources accessible, expanding outreach for Eagle Scholar and other scholarly communications initiatives, and promoting the use of open and affordable educational resources.
 - Sarah Appleby is now the Records Coordinator for UMW. She will be working with campus units on compliance with the Commonwealth's records retention schedules.
 - As we have reduced hours for the Stafford Campus Library, Library Assistant Caitlin DeMarco has assumed responsibility for some of the work previously done by Sarah Appleby. She is also assisting with staffing the Simpson Reference Desk.
 - We are beginning the process of recruitment for a Web and Discovery Services Librarian, which we have been without for over a year. The Science Librarian position, filled by Erin Wysong, will be frozen instead.

- More and more of our materials budget is now spent on electronic resources than on print books or journals, and the costs of these materials continue to rise at rates higher than overall inflation. Budget reductions have limited our ability to add new resources, but we are fortunate that VIVA continues to be able to provide critical resources for our students and faculty.
- We are completely out of space in Special Collections and University Archives. We have stored some low-demand materials in available spaces in Simpson Library, but these have neither temperature nor humidity controls. As the records management program grows, our space need will become critical.

New Initiatives

- This fall, we will roll out Leganto, a service that builds a bridge between Canvas courses and the library's resources. We are working with a small initial pilot during the fall semester, and we will expand the service to all faculty in the spring. We believe Leganto will make it easier for faculty to find library resources that support their classes, both as textbooks and as supplemental readings.
- We are offering faculty support for making library resources accessible to students with disabilities, and we are developing resources for faculty who want to make a course digitally intensive by integrating library resources and services.
- Using some of the funds we raised through Giving Day, we are purchasing new furniture and accessories for the Simpson Library group study rooms.
- Through this year, we will be working with Stafford campus stake-holders to reimagine the Stafford Library space, collections, and services.
- We will be working with key offices on campus to build the records management program, beginning with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, as he approaches retirement.