

Patrick Power Library

2022/23 ANNUAL REPORT: CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



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The Patrick Power Library is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation. We strive to reflect this reality in our space, services, and resources.

Message from the University Librarian

Suzanne van den Hoogen
BA'91 (SMU) MLIS (Dalhousie)

Community engagement takes centre stage in this year's annual report. Whether collaborating with students, faculty, and colleagues across campus to host events or bringing key services to students, we are stronger together!



There are many accomplishments to celebrate from this past year. Notable examples include an inspirational discussion with Dillon Ross/Mya Foxx, on opportunities and accessibility for 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized communities; a public talk from Denise Pictou-Maloney on the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people, and a red dress display to honour MMIWG2S+; and faculty-led cultural and academic events such as the Dia de los Muertos altar, Science Literacy Week activities and the Library's Faculty Author Series. All of this on top of the foundational services we provide to support the learning, teaching and research needs of students and faculty!

As I begin my second term as University Librarian in 2023, my vision for the Patrick Power Library is to promote a safe, inspiring, and collaborative space that enables the Saint Mary's University community to explore academic inquiry and celebrate diversity. I look forward to upholding our reputation as an essential partner in research, teaching and learning at the university, and to advocate on behalf of the professional librarians and expert staff that make all of this possible.

As you explore the 2022-23 Patrick Power Library Annual Report, you will discover a wide range of stories demonstrating how we support community, seek out partnerships, and engage with students, faculty and staff.

Section 1: Community Outreach and Engagement

Libraries are often called the “heart of the community.” We create, seek out and welcome opportunities to engage with the university community through events, book displays and other community-led initiatives. We often collaborate with partners and student groups across campus to bring these initiatives to life.



Making It Mya and Games Night with Mya Foxx

Dillon Ross (BComm '17) joined us for Making it Mya: A Drag Dialogue with Dillon Ross in June 2022, and to host a games night event for students during exams in December. Dillon Ross works as an HR professional by day, and also performs as Mya Foxx, a Halifax-based drag performer known for her high energy performances and choreography. From live performances to dance workshops to inspirational talks, Mya strives to ensure opportunities and accessibility for the 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities.



Naming and updating the Mi'kmaq cultural heritage exhibit

The Patrick Power Library hosts an exhibit of Mi'kmaq cultural items on loan from the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. This is an ongoing partnership between the Library, curator Katie Cottreau-Robins at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, the Indigenous Student Advisor, and the Indigenous Student Society. This year, the partners replaced the items in the exhibit and gave the exhibit a name: **Ta'n Etl-klo'tasik koqoey**, a Mi'kmaq phrase meaning "where the items are kept/taken care of." The exhibit acknowledges the university's place in Mi'kma'ki, and gives the Saint Mary's community an opportunity to learn about and honour this reality.



MMIWG2S+ ceremony and public talk

In partnership with the Indigenous Student Advisor and Indigenous Student Society, the Library hosted a public talk from Denise Pictou-Maloney on the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people (MMIWG2S+), and displayed red dresses in a ceremony to honour MMIW/G2S+.



Patrick Power Library hosts Service Expo

In collaboration with the Student Success Centre the Library hosted Service Expo, a week long showcase of student services and external vendors during Welcome Weeks in September. During the Expo, students can pick up their university IDs, bus pass, and connect with key campus services.

Promoting wellness during exam season

During exam season in December and April, we brought therapy dogs from Therapeutic Paws of Canada and massage therapy students from Eastern College into the Library to provide relaxation opportunities for students. These events were among our most well attended!



Campus collaborations

We proudly collaborate with partners on campus to create opportunities for learning, social connection, and leisure. This year's collaborative initiatives included:

- Annual Dia de los Muertos community altar, book display and film screening in collaboration with Dr. Erica Fischer-Dorantes
- Annual exhibit in commemoration of the Holodomor famine in collaboration with Dr. Lyubov Zhyznomirska
- An interactive Science Literacy Week activity held in the Library, and led by the Department of Mathematics and Computing Science
- A month-long showing of the Sign Languages of Canada exhibit, on loan from the Canadian Language Museum, in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Hall
- Free tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks for students during exams in December and April, in collaboration with SMUSA





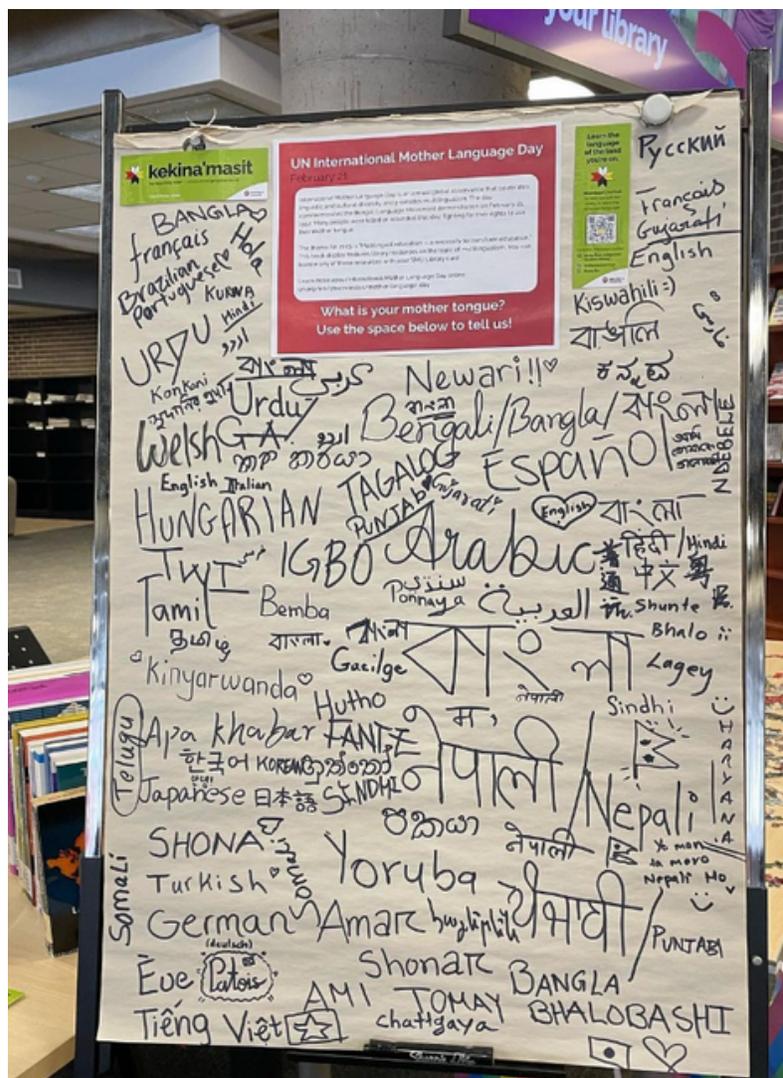
Book displays provide opportunities for learning

Throughout the year the Library selects and displays collections of books connected to faculty research, popular topics, local and global current affairs, and campus partnerships. Themed book displays this year included the 100th Anniversary of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, Black History, Pride, Wellness Week, Indigenous and Mi'kmaq History, Asian Heritage, and more.

Mother Language Day interactive book display

For UN International Mother Language Day, in February we set up an interactive book display and invited the SMU community to share their mother tongues. This observance was established in commemoration of the Bengali Language Movement demonstrations in February 1952. Many people were killed or wounded in these protests, fighting for their rights to use their native language. As a global observance, this day celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity and promotes multilingualism.

We were blown away by your participation and the many unique languages spoken within the SMU community! We are honoured to serve a diverse, global student body and celebrate the many languages spoken on campus. Thanks to Toky Tajwar, former SMUSA Director of Events, for suggesting this activity.



Section 2: Supporting Teaching, Learning and Research

We support the academic mission of the university by creating an environment that stimulates teaching, learning and research. As information experts, we provide guidance on using the Library and teach the university community skills for critical and ethical engagement with information sources and the complex digital information environment.



Instruction to prepare students for university-level research

Led by Dr. Heather Sanderson and Cindy Harrigan, the Library provides virtual and in-person information literacy classes and workshops. This year **librarians visited 103 classes**, teaching students core information literacy concepts and library research skills, including how to access, evaluate, and ethically use scholarly research materials. In May 2023, librarians and staff from Software & Application Support (SAS) collaborated to offer Research Toolkit, a series of advanced research skills workshops for research assistants, teaching assistants, and graduate students.



15% rise in ResearchBase and Academic Integrity Foundations (AIF) participation

Our asynchronous courses on Brightspace, **ResearchBase and AIF**, were assigned in 52 classes this year, representing a 15% increase in the number of students participating in these courses over last year.

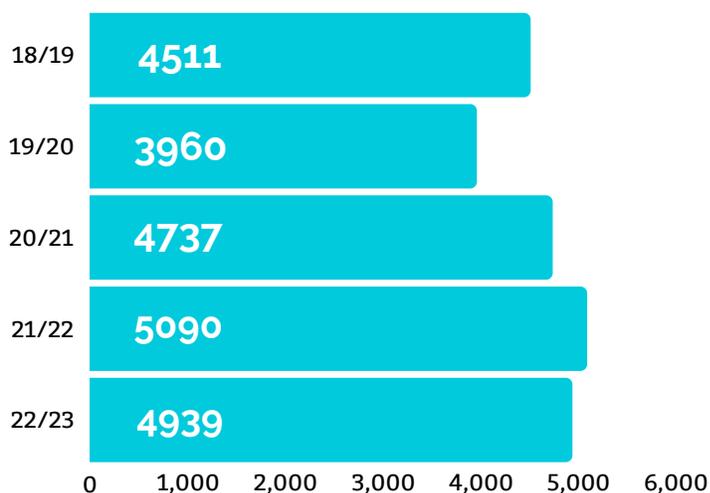
ResearchBase teaches students the skills they need to find materials for their research assignments and essays. Students learn how to define a topic, plan a search strategy, search for books and journals using the library catalogue, and locate journal articles using journal databases. **AIF** introduces students to academic integrity, citation and plagiarism.

2285

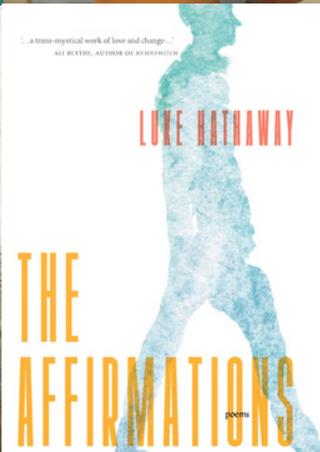
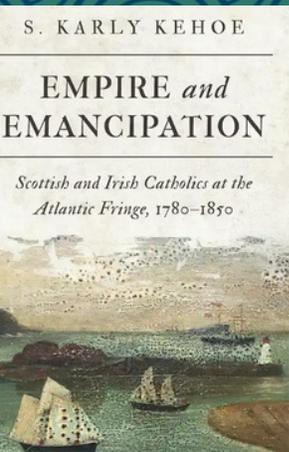
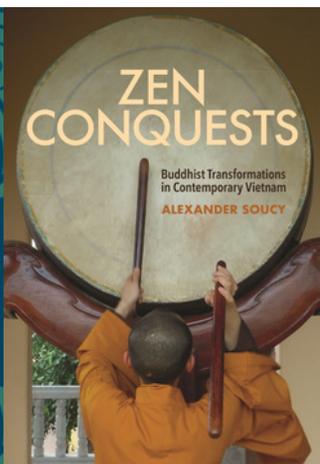
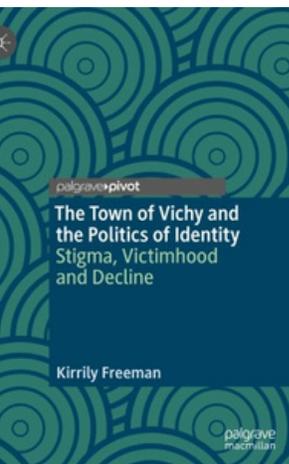
Students completed AIF & Research Base

2654

Students taught in information literacy classes



The above graph shows the combined number of students taught in information literacy classes, ResearchBase, and AIF over the past five years.



Faculty author talks foster community engagement with scholarship

The Faculty Author Series fosters interdisciplinary scholarly communication on campus, and provides the opportunity to learn about faculty research at Saint Mary's. This year, the Library hosted five author talks:

- **Dr. Kirrily Freeman**, discussing her book "The Town of Vichy and the Politics of Identity: Stigma, Victimhood and Decline"
- **Dr. Russell Perkin**, presenting "A Heap of Broken Images," T.S. Eliot's the Waste Land at 100
- **Dr. Luke Hathaway**, discussing his book "The Affirmations"
- **Dr. Alexander Soucy**, discussing his book "Zen Conquests: Buddhist Transformations in Contemporary Vietnam"
- **Dr. S. Karly Kehoe**, discussing her book "Empire and Emancipation: Scottish and Irish Catholics at the Atlantic Fringe, 1780-1850"

Research Help answers 13% more questions and enhances appointment services

Research Help services, led by librarian Nicole Carter, provide research and assignment support, helping students develop critical research skills. In 2022/23 Research Help fielded **13% more research questions** than 2021/22, including almost double the amount of questions at the in-person help desk, going from 661 to 1240.

1857

Research questions

1240

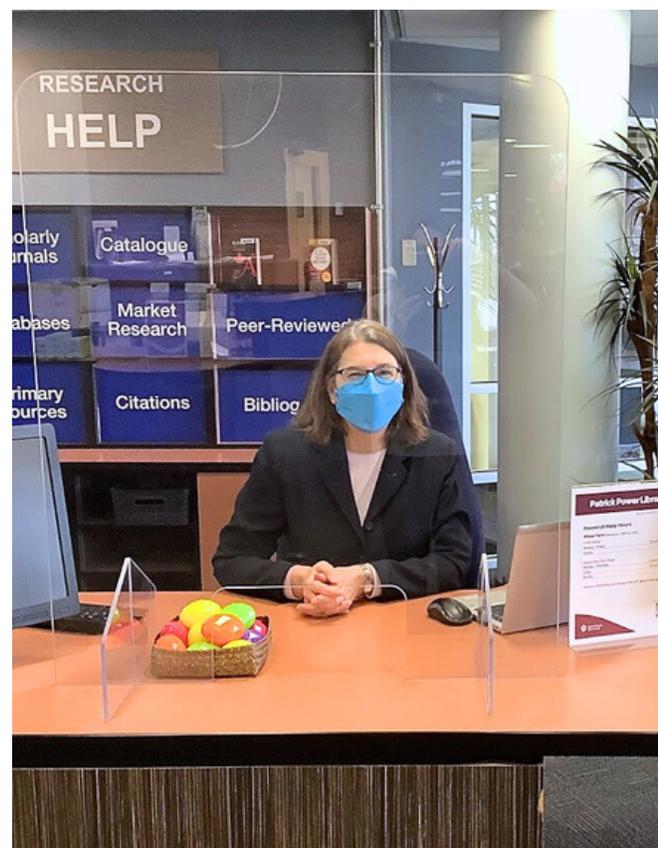
In-person questions

92

Research Help appointments

94

Copyright research questions



As part of developing one-on-one appointment services, Research Help improved the appointment booking process this year. Patrons can now schedule Research Help sessions via the Bookings app, for general research assistance or for more in-depth, specialized help from skilled librarians.

One-on-one appointments are available both online and in person and can be booked up to 3 months ahead, making Research Help services more accessible than ever. The team managed to secure 92 appointments in the first year of implementing these changes.



Additional highlights from Research Help include the collaborative **development of new library tours** for students. Tours on offer in 2022/23 included in-person Library tours, Library website tours, and RefWorks citation manager tours. Tours support student access to Library services, and can be booked online in advance.

In addition, **modifications made to the in-person Research Help service desk** this year have maximized the use of that space and improved the working space area for Research Help team members.

This year, Nicole Carter **developed a student opportunity through the university's broader Co-Curricular Record (CCR) program**, designed for students interested in learning more deeply about library research and wanting to develop closer relationships with the library team. Nicole worked closely with one student during this initial CCR pilot.





Library collections

Our collection of print and digital research materials is vital to teaching, learning and research at Saint Mary's. In 2022/23, we purchased 1.12 books per student and spent **83% of the library's acquisitions budget** on **digital resources**, such as scholarly journals, ebooks, and streaming media. Our collection of online research materials is available 24/7 to students, faculty and staff.

This year the Library also **transitioned to a new library management system** called Alma. The Alma system improves our ability to generate accurate and comprehensive reports of the extent and composition of our collections. Increased reporting capacity helps us maintain a robust and relevant collection of research materials.

\$1.98M

Library acquisitions
budget

1.49M

Items in the
collection

61, 973

Streaming media
titles in the collection

791, 936

Ebooks in the
collection

Document Delivery expands access to research materials

Document Delivery provides access to research materials beyond Saint Mary's, an important service for researchers. The Saint Mary's community can request access to materials from other libraries in the Novanet consortium, across Canada, and around the world simply by filling out an online form. Items can be received in as little as three business days or less, often via email.

This year, Document Delivery:

- **Borrowed 814** books and articles from other Novanet libraries, and **1574 items** from libraries beyond Novanet
- **Provided 1888** items to other Novanet libraries, and **1238 items** to libraries beyond Novanet
- Borrowed materials from libraries in every province of Canada, and 126 items from outside Canada, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Australia, Jamaica, and Singapore.



Study Hall

Study Hall is a collaborative initiative between the Library, Student Success Centre and Writing Centre that started in Fall 2022. With a representative from each office present at every session, Study Hall provides a dedicated space for students to get work done and access academic support services. Study Hall is held every Thursday afternoon in the Library Classroom during the academic year.

Scholarly activity and service to the profession

Librarians at Saint Mary's University are active members of the professional librarianship community and advance knowledge within the profession by presenting at conferences, publishing their writing, serving on numerous committees, and many other activities. Publications from Patrick Power Library librarians and staff (**named in bold**) include:

- McNiff, L., & **Carter, N.** (2022). Contract Academic Librarians in Canada: Stories From a Nation-Wide Survey. *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 8, 1–31. <https://doi.org/10.33137/cjal-rcbu.v8.38451>
- **Hansel Cook** and **Suzanne van den Hoogen** were invited by Dr. Cheryl MacDonald to co-supervise an Experiential Learning opportunity for a student in the Health, Wellness & Sport in Society course.
- Chiang, B., Delaurier-Lyle, K., and **McKie, B.** (2023, February 3). Relationality and Reconciliation: The Experience of Students, Mentors and Colleagues at Xwi7xwa Library. [Conference session]. Ontario Library Association Conference 2023, Toronto ON.
- **Peter Webster** and **Anna Labrador** contributed to the Discovery and Metadata Expert Group of the Digital Research Alliance of Canada's Report on Canadian Research Data Repositories and the Re3data Repository Registry (January 2023).
- **van den Hoogen, S.** (2022, November 18). Pathways to post-secondary education for Indigenous students: Exploring creative opportunities. [Keynote address]. Indigenous Coordinators Luncheon, Saint Mary's University Recruitment, Halifax, NS.
- **van den Hoogen, S.** (2023, February 10). The Future of Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) [Panel session]. Information Without Borders Conference, Dalhousie School of Information Management, Halifax, NS.
- **van den Hoogen, S.** (2023, March 28). Keynote address, Student Leadership Awards Ceremony, Saint Mary's University Student Services, Halifax, NS.
- **Webster, P.** (2022, November 8). More open data for scholarly article analysis: Changing the scholarly research landscape [Presentation]. EBSCO International Open Perspectives Forum, Online.

Section 3: University Archives, Institutional Repository and Special Collections

The University Archives is the institutional memory of Saint Mary's. Each year, records from the Archives are digitized and added to the digital Institutional Repository, providing access to records and primary sources from anywhere in the world.



Living Archives

On April 19, 2023, the Library co-sponsored an event with the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and Halifax Public Libraries. Dr. Lynn Jones gave a public lecture entitled, "Top of the Table Living Archives: Interrupting the Erasure of Black Being" in which she unpacked the unorthodox beginning and the significance of the Lynn Jones African-Canadian and Diaspora Collection, which is now housed in the University Archives.



Salzines Antiphonal attracts scholars from around the world

In May 2022, delegates from the international Music Encoding Conference attended a presentation and viewing of the Salzines Antiphonal, the unique 16th century rare book that is the highlight of the Library's Special Collections. In this photo, curator Judy Dietz, an expert on the Antiphonal, discusses aspects of the illuminated manuscript.



Sharing history at Research Expo 2023

Librarians Hansel Cook and Bronwen McKie, along with graduate student assistants Madeleine McGregor and Kory Melnick, attended the Saint Mary's Research Expo in March 2023. They presented on the ongoing collaboration with the Truro Public Library to make the Lynn Jones African Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection held in the University Archives more accessible to the Truro community.



Institutional Repository grows

The Institutional Repository, which provides online access to records, archival material and primary sources, saw a **34% increase in visits** in 22/23. The team digitized and **added 641 items**, and **115 SMU theses** to the repository this year.

Celebrating SMU History: The Timeline Project

In the summer of 2022, the University Archives launched a detailed timeline of Saint Mary's history, from the founding in 1802 to the current day. It highlights important events, the university's growth and move to new campuses, and much more.

641

Items added to the Institutional Repository

148, 239

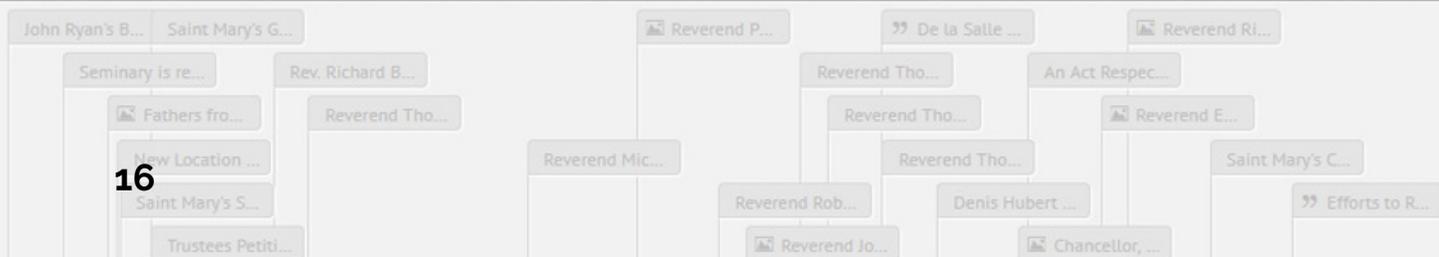
Visits to the Institutional Repository website

115

SMU theses added to the Institutional Repository

220 YEARS OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Saint Mary's University Archives



Section 4: Highlights from Access Services and Circulation

The Library is a hub for accessing research materials, and a community space where people come to learn, pass time and connect with others. The Access Services team helps ensure resources and spaces stay accessible to the community.



A space for all, with study room bookings up by 123%

Library capacity restrictions due to Covid-19 finally lifted in 2022/23. And as students returned to campus seeking collaborative work spaces, **group study room bookings increased by 123%**.

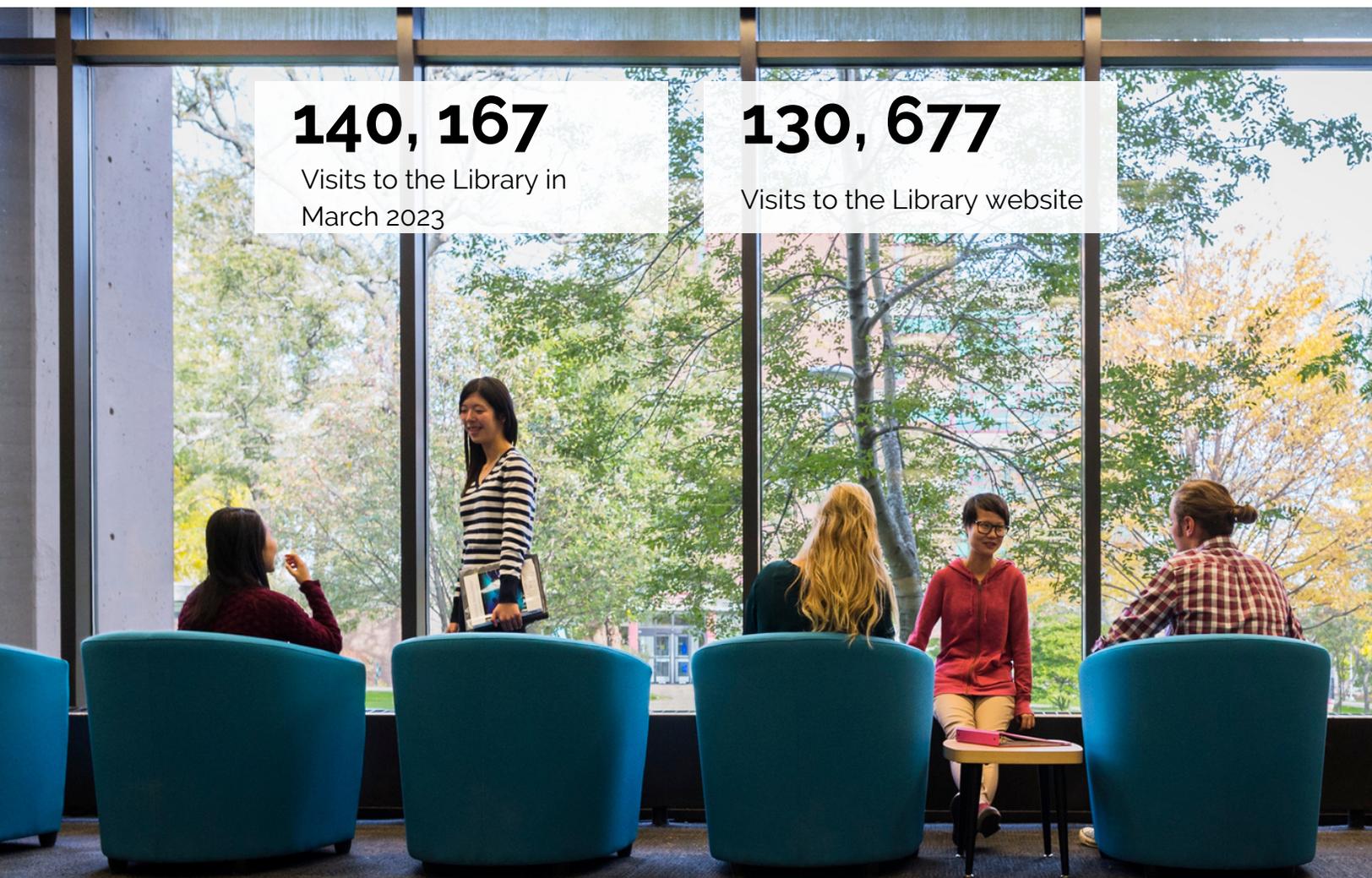
14, 623

Study room bookings

Thousands of people came to the Library every month to study, work, pass time, access services, and discover research materials. Leading up to exams, **in March 2023 over 140, 000 people visited the Library!**

As other Covid-19 policies changed throughout the year, the Access Services team played a key role in supporting these policies and ensuring the Library remained accessible. Through the year we provided free masks and Covid-19 tests, helping the community maintain access to campus.

Our three floors of social and silent study space, individual study carrels, group study rooms, worktables, and a reading lounge provide numerous options for collaboration, individual study, and leisure.



140, 167

Visits to the Library in
March 2023

130, 677

Visits to the Library website

Addressing the demand for digital: Ebook circulation increases over 10%

This year's circulation numbers highlight several ways we support participation in digital learning. Patrons borrowed over 115,000 ebooks this year, representing an **increase of 11%** for ebook circulation. Online **journal article downloads** remained relatively consistent, at just over 352,000.

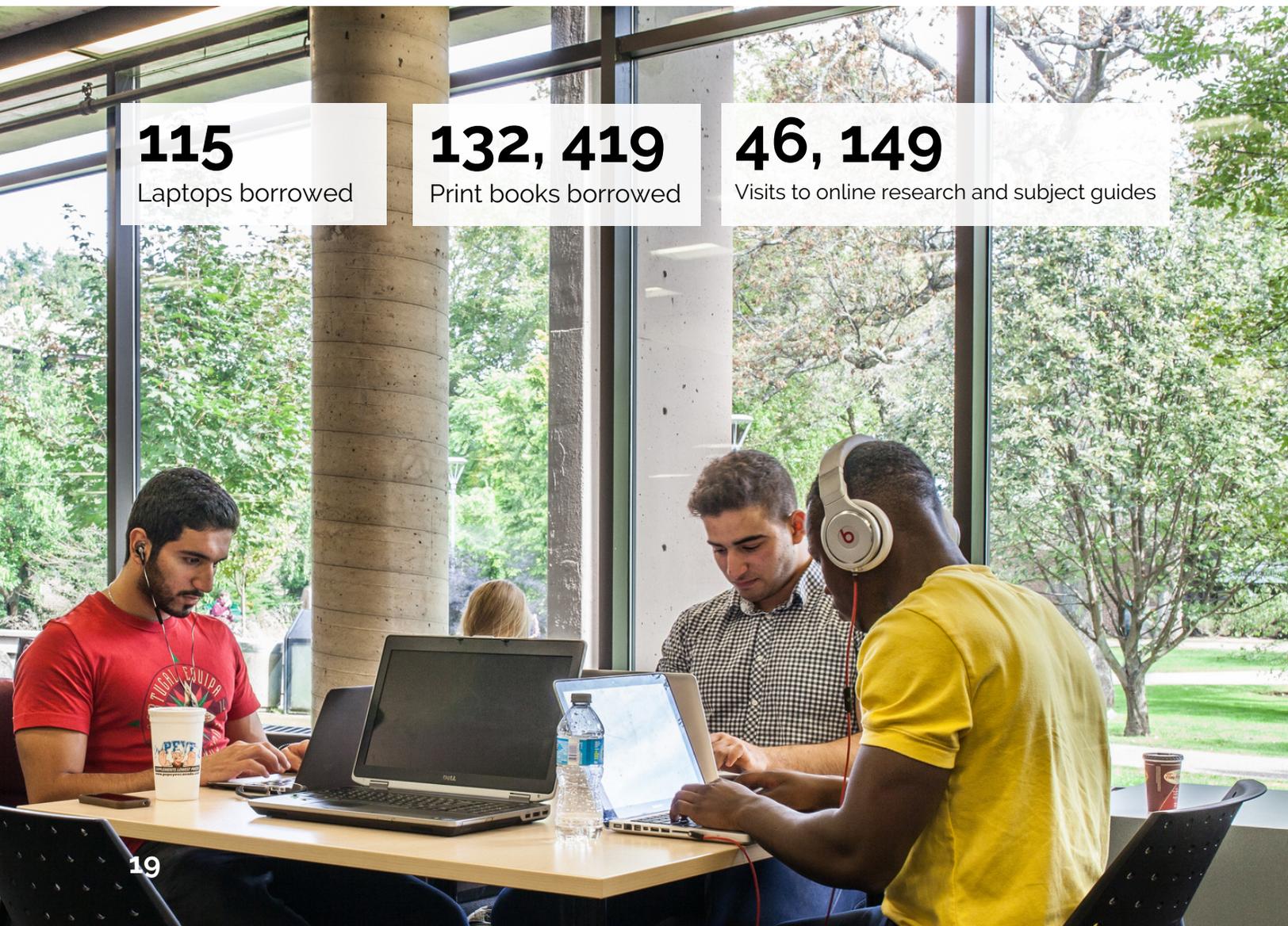
The number of **laptops borrowed soared by 229%** this year. Any student can borrow laptops from the Library, with the option of a 3 hour or 1 month loan period.

115, 688

Ebook downloads

352, 333

Journal article downloads



115

Laptops borrowed

132, 419

Print books borrowed

46, 149

Visits to online research and subject guides

Providing student employment

Did you know: The Patrick Power Library has provided **jobs for 108 Saint Mary's students** over the past 10 years! Student Assistants work on the Access Services team and gain valuable work experience during their terms at the Library. Student Assistants help to keep our doors open and keep us connected to the student body. In 2022/23, 22 students from 12 different countries worked at the Library. Library employment is a popular and competitive choice: Out of 84 applications in September 2022, we hired eight new students.

In addition to employing Saint Mary's students, we provided jobs to three graduate students from Dalhousie's School of Information Management.

Thank you to all of our Student Assistants!



A year of change and adaptation

The Patrick Power Library was one of several academic libraries across Atlantic Canada that transitioned to a new Library Management System (LMS), called Alma. Alma provides better reporting capabilities, and streamlines work processes for library staff. The transition to Alma required significant changes to staff workflows in all areas of Access Services, including circulation, holds, course reserves, student ID creation, stacks management and interlibrary loans. The team took part in extensive testing, training and troubleshooting while preparing to implement Alma. While they faced obstacles during the process, the team persevered and successfully launched the new LMS. Congratulations!

Section 5: Library Staff Updates

The work we do at the Patrick Power Library is not possible without the contributions of professional librarians, knowledgeable library staff and student assistants dedicated to providing superior services. 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 staff updates

This year we welcomed:

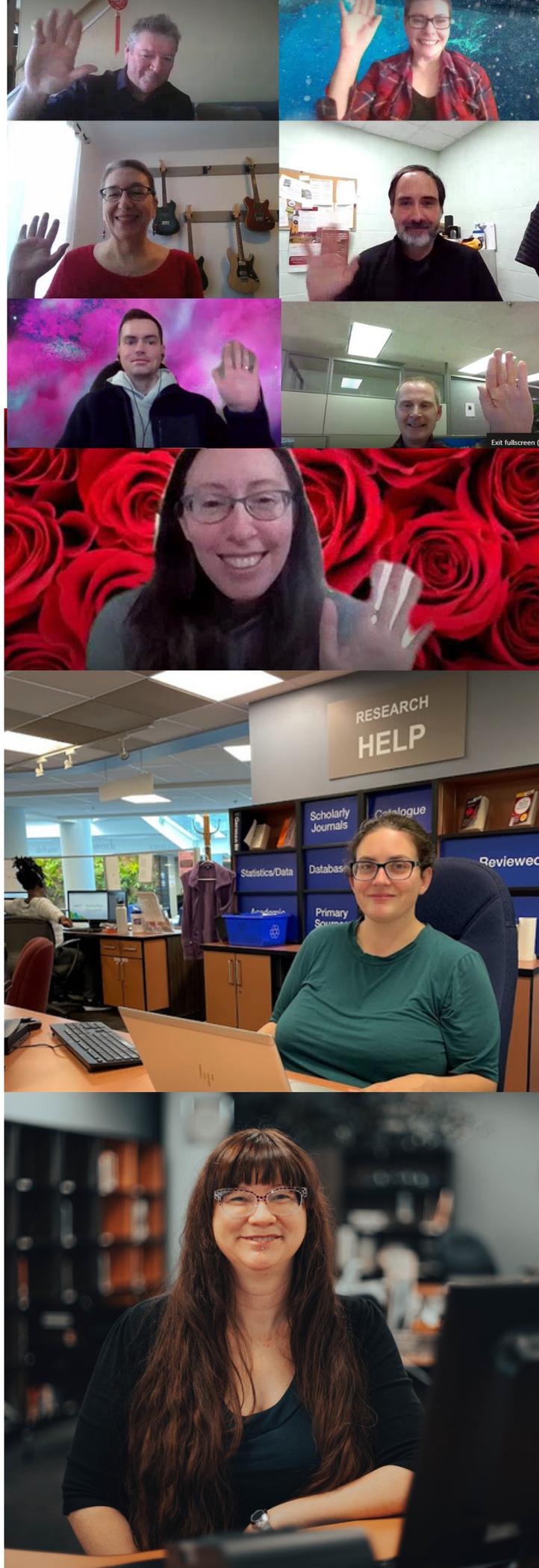
- **Olivia Fraser** into the Novanet Express/Access Services role
- **Claudia Sayers** as Stacks Supervisor
- **Allison Watt** as Library Assistant, Information Literacy and Research Help
- **Deborah George**, Assistant Manager of Access Services
- **Patrick O'Neil**, as Library Assistant in Metadata and Cataloguing

And said farewell to:

- **Sue Cannon**, who retired after many years as Access Services Manager
- **Chris Walter**, Evening Supervisor in Access Services
- **Bronwen McKie**, Outreach & Engagement Librarian
- **Amy Lorencz**, Metadata and Cataloguing Librarian

Some staff within the Library also transitioned to new roles:

- **Joshuwa Amero** moved from Holds and Searches to Weekend Supervisor
- **Shannon Higgins** moved from Assistant Manager to Manager of Access Services
- **Janine Mills** moved from Stacks Supervisor to Holds and Searches



Thanks for reading. Your support is important to the Patrick Power Library. We look forward to welcoming you in the year ahead!

Special thanks to donors and Trustees of the Patrick Power Estate for their generous support.

Get in touch with us

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