

Patrick Power Library

Activity and Holdings

The Patrick Power Library was officially opened in June 1976. It is named in honour of the late Patrick Power, a generous benefactor of Saint Mary's in its early years as a college.

In addition to housing an extensive book and serial collection, the library provides a reference service, interlibrary loan service, library instruction, reserve reading room, archives, group study rooms, the Ferguson Library for Print-Handicapped Students, quiet areas for student study, and fax and photocopy services.



More information on library services may be found by visiting the [library @ SMU](#).

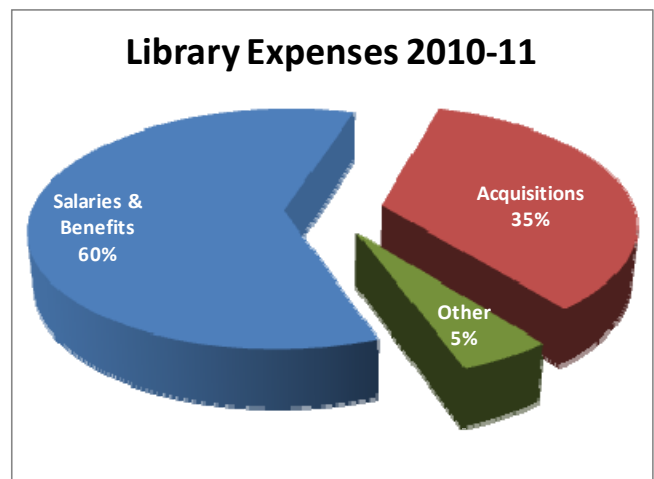
Financial

In 2010-11, library expenditures exceeded \$4.0 million. This represents an expenditure of \$650 for each full time equivalent (FTE) student.

Salaries and benefits account for 60% of the expenditures.

Acquisitions of printed and electronic media exceeded \$1.5 million in 2010-11, and represented 35% of the library budget.

For accounting purposes, library materials were valued at \$8.4 million in March 2011, with a net book value of \$3.5 million¹. However, appraisal of the collection for insurance purposes placed the



¹ Source: SMU Annual Financial Report March 2010

value of the collection at almost \$80.2 million (with library obsolescence applied).² This represents an estimated replacement cost using CURIE suggested average price for each material classification.

Collections

The library's collections are selected to support the academic programs of the University. As well as the general book and serial collections, the library maintains a number of separate collections including rare books, microforms, Canadian government documents, and the University archives.

Collections	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Number of catalogued monograph volumes*	326,863	409,061	417,855	424,767	444,685
Number of bound and complete unbound serial volumes*	119,137	121,054	122,669	122,963	124,470
Volume equivalents for documents and/or technical reports*	7,164	6,450	6,450	6,013	5,364
Volume equivalents for microfilm reels and microfiche items*	423,162	423,227	423,273	423,301	423,326
Total	876,326	959,792	970,247	977,044	997,845

*As of June 30 each year.

The library also provides access to electronic research databases, full-text services, subscription to Internet-based materials, and a number of pay-per-search information retrieval systems. Electronic resources represent approximately 50% of acquisition expenditures. Selected resources are available through the campus-wide network. Other resources require booking time on library computers. Instruction in the use of electronic reference material is provided free of charge. Usage of electronic research databases has more than doubled in the last five years.

Electronic Resources/Services	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Research Database Sessions	260,024	366,909	488,503	227,727	502,622
Interlibrary Loans: Borrowing	779	778	703	917	1,034
Lending	2,218	1,448	1,318	1,429	1,685
Novanet Express: Borrowing	2,191	5,350	7,086	6,463	5,599
Lending	3,872	6,772	7,841	6,761	5,711

Novanet

The library uses the latest technological advances to facilitate acquisition and cataloguing of material. [Novanet](#), the library's on-line catalogue, gives access to the library holdings of eight universities in Nova Scotia. In addition to the resources of the Patrick Power Library and Novanet, patrons can access the collections of libraries all over the world through inter-library borrowing.

² The Canadian Universities Reciprocal Insurance Exchange (CURIE) – September 2010 Insurable Costs Study

Patrons

The library offers a library instruction program to students through subject-specific library research sessions or through library workbook assignments. Detailed assistance for in-depth research is available through [Reference by Appointment](#).

Patronage	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Visits to the Library	583,681	470,840	395,362	442,999	542,074
Total Circulation	115,326	107,847	100,990	92,507	87,473
Questions at the Reference Desk	16,620	15,277	13,870	13,393	9,967
Students taught in Library Instruction Session	3,417	2,851	3,069	3,218	3,534

Ferguson Library for the Print Handicapped

The [Ferguson Library for the Print Handicapped](#), located on the main floor of the library, provides assistance to those who are medically certified blind or whose physical disability prevents them from reading printed material. A Kurzweil reading machine reads printed text by means of a scanner and a synthesized voice. Magnilink software is used to enlarge print up to fifty-four times. This service is available to both post-secondary students and professionals. The Ferguson Library has a permanent collection of complete titles in alternative formats including audiotape, e-text and MP3. A substantial temporary collection is composed of short articles and selections from books.

Archives

The [University Archives](#), located on the third floor of the library, collects and preserves materials reflecting the history of the University. The collection includes records of the administration, departments, institutes and project offices, societies and associations, and related members. Materials can be used either by visiting the Archives or by making a special request.