



**Saint Mary's
University**

Patrick Power Library

The Patrick Power Library:

Celebrating 50 years of Service
Excellence

A large circular graphic containing the number 50 and the word ANNIVERSARY. The number 50 is in a large, bold, black font. Below it, the word ANNIVERSARY is written in a white, sans-serif font on a dark red, wavy banner.

50
ANNIVERSARY

Annual Report
2025-2026

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Message from the Dean



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the 2025–2026 Annual Library Report, a year that holds special significance for our community as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Patrick Power Library.

For half a century, the Patrick Power Library has stood as a cornerstone of research, learning, and community engagement at Saint Mary's University. From its earliest days, it has been more than a building—it has been a living, evolving space where ideas are nurtured, knowledge is shared, and lifelong curiosity is inspired.

This milestone year has been filled with moments of reflection and celebration. We honoured the visionaries who laid the foundation for our Library, recognized the dedication of our staff and faculty, and embraced the future with renewed commitment to innovation, accessibility, and academic excellence. From the planting of a flowering almond tree in memory of a cherished colleague, to hosting community events that brought together alumni, faculty, students, and partners, we have celebrated not only our history but also the vibrant role we play in shaping the next 50 years.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to provide exceptional resources, foster inclusive spaces, and champion the pursuit of knowledge in all its forms. The Patrick Power Library's legacy is one of service, collaboration, and transformation—and together, we will continue to write its next chapter.

With heartfelt thanks to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends for being part of this remarkable journey.

Suzanne van den Hoogen, BA '91

Dean, University Library and Archives
Saint Mary's University

We are in Mi'kma'ki

Land Acknowledgement

The Patrick Power Library respectfully 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.

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

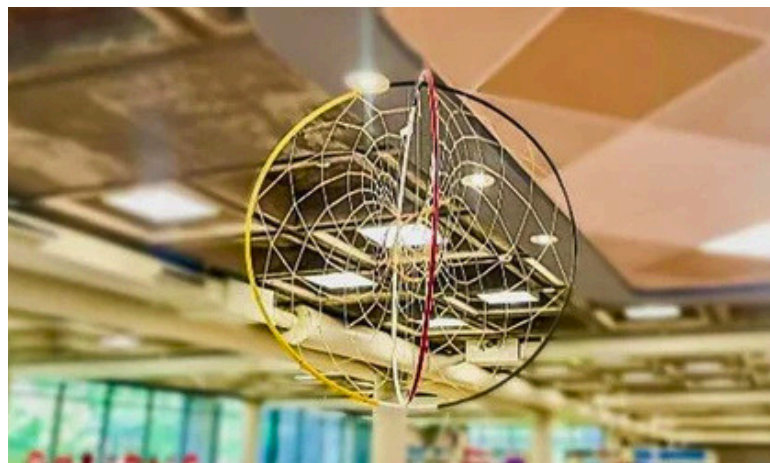


Image of Flag of African Nova Scotians by Wendie Wilson.

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 exhibits that support this vision, including 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.



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



Created by Isaiah Bernard and Chief Wilbert Marshall of the Potlotek First Nation in 2020.

50 Years of the Patrick Power Library

A Decade of Transformation

The 1960s and early 1970s were a period of unprecedented growth and transformation for the university. Saint Mary's tripled in size, growing from 834 full-time students in 1965 to 2,444 in 1975. In that same decade, the university became co-educational (1968), with women soon making up more than a third of the student body, and the Catholic Church transferred governance to a secular board (1970).

New academic programs and departments were being launched almost yearly, and the campus itself was evolving quickly. The Student Centre was constructed in 1967, the Science Building in 1968, Huskies Stadium rose to host the Canada Summer Games in 1969 and the Loyola Building opened in 1971. Amid this expansion, the need for a larger, modern library was clear.

Construction of a new facility began in 1974 and was completed in August 1975. The growing collection was transferred from the Burke Building just in time for the start of the 1975-76 academic year.



Construction of the new library completed in 1975.

The new library introduced several innovations for its time: a state-of-the-art multimedia centre, expanded shelving for its 300,000-book collection and an early computerized information retrieval system touted as "able to provide instant answers to almost any question."



Inside The Patrick Power Library when it opened.

50 Years of the Patrick Power Library

Library's Namesake

For its first year, the building was known simply as the New Library. Then, in June 1976, it was officially named the Patrick Power Library in honour of one of Saint Mary's most significant benefactors.

Patrick Power (1815-1881) was a Halifax merchant and philanthropist born in Kilmacthomas, Ireland. After immigrating to Canada as a young man, he found success in business and served as a Member of Parliament in 1867 and again in 1874. Upon his death, he left a generous bequest to support the establishment of a boys' college. In 1913, the funds from this endowment were transferred to Saint Mary's University, helping to shape the institution and the Library that would later bear his name.



Opening reception for The Patrick Power Library



Patrick Power (1815-1881)

Fifty years later, the Patrick Power Library remains a vibrant hub for research, study and community engagement. Its collections now include more than 150 research databases, over one million books (both print and electronic) and online access to thousands of journals and periodicals.

Together with instructional programs and research services, these resources continue to support the research, teaching and learning needs of today's students and faculty.

50 Years of the Patrick Power Library

Celebrating 50 Years

To honour that enduring legacy, over the last year, we have celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Patrick Power Library with a number of events recognizing our history and community.

It all began with a quiet and touching ceremony on June 9, 2025, where we planted a flowering almond tree in memory of former University Librarian Marie DeYoung.

We owe a special thanks to Dr. David Richardson, Dean Emeritus, for his thoughtful assistance in selecting and planting the tree.

Visible from the Library's first floor, the Dean, University Library and Archives office on the second floor, and the quad, it will bloom with pink flowers each mid-spring, giving Library staff a beautiful reminder of Marie's legacy as a compassionate leader and good friend.



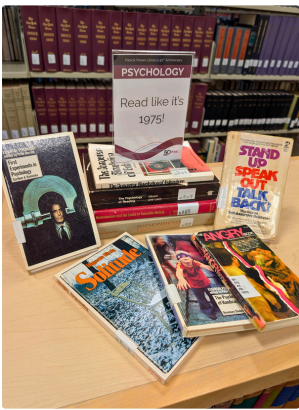
Library staff planted a tree in memory of Marie DeYoung in June 2025

50 Years of the Patrick Power Library



Celebrating 50 Years

We followed this up with a special faculty author event during Homecoming 2025, when we invited alumni back to the Library for a fascinating talk by Dr. Cathy Conrad on her upcoming publication. Next, in December, former Library staff were asked to join us for a special holiday celebration and lunch, where we shared memories of our times at the Library.



In 2026, we created special book displays showing the top titles of 1975, the year when construction of the Library was completed. The 50th anniversary and the legacy of the Library's role at the university was further promoted at a variety of other Library events and talks.



We concluded the year-long celebration with a gathering of our current Library staff on April 30, 2026, where among other things we competed head-to-head at a trivia game testing our knowledge of both the Patrick Power Library and other libraries around the world. Congratulations to our winner Allison MacPhee!



In the words of Suzanne van den Hoogen, Dean, University Library and Archives, "For many of our students, the Library, over these past 50 years, represents more than bricks and mortar. It has been and continues to be a safe space where students learn from one another, collaborate with their peers, and develop the skills to become lifelong learners. To all our Students, Faculty, and Alumni, thank you for being a part of our past, present and future!"

Story by Hansel Cook

Associate Dean, Library Strategy, Planning and Assessment

Outreach & Engagement

The Outreach & Engagement Team continues to cultivate strong ties between the Library and the broader campus community through initiatives designed around wellness, academic success, and cultural enrichment. By partnering with student societies and collaborating with academic departments—from exam-period wellness events to highlighting faculty scholarship—our programming ensures the Library remains an active, supportive hub for the whole university.



LR: Natalie Liza Barte, Sarah West

Enrolment Open House

Held several times a year for new and prospective students. We hosted an information table to connect with attendees and their families, highlighting how the Library supports the academic journey at Saint Mary's.

Welcome Weeks

We helped orient new students to campus resources through a booth at the Service EXPO, a graduate information session, and a library-themed escape room event.



Carolyn Gillis at Service EXPO



Escape the Library winning team

Study Hall

In partnership with the Writing Centre and the Student Success Centre, the Library offers a weekly study hall for students. Snacks are provided and students are able to access these academic services in a relaxed, welcoming environment.



Study Hall, Natalie Liza Barte, Graduate Student Assistant



Outreach & Engagement

Faculty Author Series

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.

Dr. Cathy Conrad

In October, Dr. Conrad presented her research on migration. As a migration researcher, and the mother, wife, and daughter of migrants, her autoethnographic narrative blends academic insight with deep, personal stories stretching from The Gambia to Germany. Challenging the oversimplified migration narratives often seen in the media, Dr. Conrad offered attendees a human portrait of mobility, desire, and the search for a fulfilled life.



Reflections on intersections and complexities of transnational and intergenerational mobilities: an autoethnography of migrations
-or-
German Roots and Gambian Branches

Dr. Cathy Conrad
Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, NS, Canada
cconrad@smu.ca

Dr. Yigit Aydede and Professor Mutlu Yuksel

In March, the Library hosted a celebration for the launch of Dr. Yigit Aydede and Professor Mutlu Yuksel's new book, *Causal Inference and Machine Learning*. The authors detailed their research and discussed the practical benefits of their book for both researchers and faculty members. The presentation was followed by a highly engaged audience Q&A session.

Faculty Author Series at the Patrick Power Library

Causal Inference and Machine Learning
In Economics, Social, and Health Sciences

An author talk with
Dr. Yigit Aydede and
Professor Mutlu Yuksel

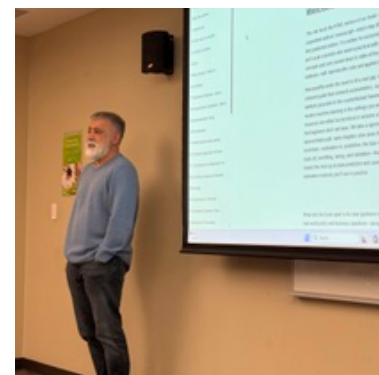
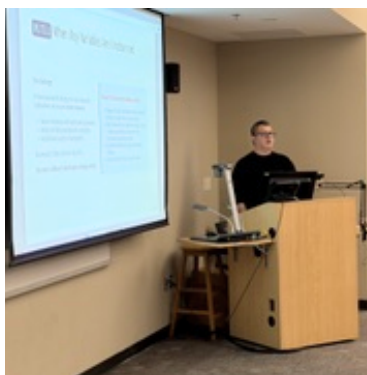
Thursday March 5, 2026
Noon-1 p.m.
Patrick Power Library, Classroom #LI135

Mutlu Yuksel and Yigit Aydede

A Chapman & Hall Book

CRC Press

50th Anniversary

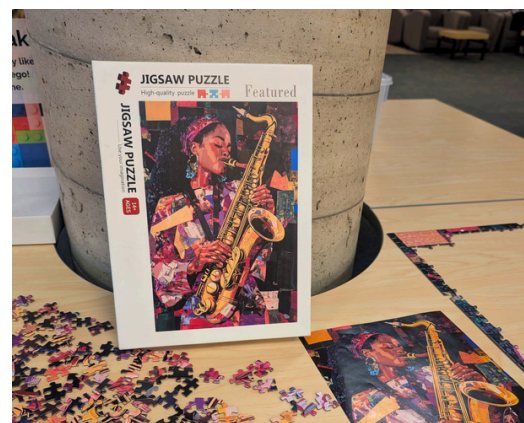


Professor Mutlu Yuksel and Dr. Yigit Aydede

Outreach & Engagement

African Heritage Month

To celebrate African Heritage Month a curated book display was created. The Library Activity table also had themed puzzles and make-and-take bracelets. Additionally, in partnership with the Black Student Advisor and our students, two original art pieces were created and displayed in the Library.



Natalie Liza Barte, Carolyn Gillis, Danae Conrad (Black Student Ambassador), Alison Manley, Ebun Oladele (Black Student Advisor), Eva Mae MacKenna

Outreach & Engagement

Black Threads of the Canadian Tapestry

In March, as part of the 50th Anniversary, the Patrick Power Library hosted Black Threads of the Canadian Tapestry, a new exhibition by artist Donna Paris and photographer David Zapparoli.

Highlighting the diverse lived experiences of Black Canadians, the first-floor exhibit featured a central banner and compelling portraits. Visitors engaged with the art in a meaningful way by scanning QR codes to listen to personal oral-history interviews recorded by the artists.

This exhibition was supported by the Patrick Power Library and Saint Mary's University, with contributions from the Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Wellness and the Black Student Advisor.

Additional funding was provided by the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.



Portraits with QR Codes to listen to interviews



Central Banner



David Zapparoli and Donna Paris

Outreach & Engagement

Black Threads Launch Event

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Library hosted a launch event bringing together students, faculty, staff, and community members for an afternoon of reflection and celebration. Emceed by Associate Dean Hansel Cook, the program included remarks from Dean Suzanne van den Hoogen and Provost Dr. Shannon Dea.

The event featured a moving libation ceremony by Ayo Aladejebi and Robert Meek, a powerful spoken-word performance by Second-Year Arts student Anecia Shephard, and insights into the artistic process from Paris and Zapparoli.

Truro Artist Talk

We collaborated with the Truro branch of the Colchester-East Hants Public Library for an off-campus artist talk with Paris and Zapparoli. Twenty participants joined for a lively discussion about the project's stories and the experience of being Black in Truro.



Associate Dean, Hansel Cook



Robert Meek and Ayo Aladejebi



David Zapparoli and Donna Paris

Outreach & Engagement



TL: Robert Meek, Ayo Aladejebi, Sign Language Interpreter Student. ML: David Zapparoli TR: Dr. Lynn Jones, David Zapparoli , Donna Paris, Deborah Brothers-Scott BL: Anecia Shepard, Sign Language Interpreter. BM: Standing ovation for Anecia Shephard. BR: Debbie Miller Brown

Outreach & Engagement



TL: David Zapparoli, Donna Paris TR: David Zapparoli, Dr. Michael Khan, Donna Paris, Dr. Lynn Jones.

B: Hansel Cook, Sylvia Paris, Sarah West, Dr. Shannon Dea, Suzanne van den Hoogen, David Zapparoli, Donna Paris, Anecia Shepard, Deborah Brothers-Scott, Ebun Oladede, Danae Conrad, Dr. Michael Khan, Andrew Paris

Information Literacy

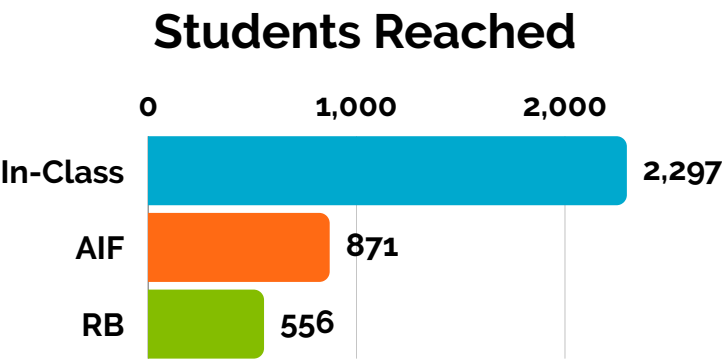
The Patrick Power Library is committed to teaching students how to find and use information effectively. The Library offers instruction to both groups and individuals through its program of classroom and lab instruction, online learning modules and the annual Research Toolkit online instruction series.

Instruction

The Library partners with faculty to deliver customized, course-related research instruction. Designed to meet the specific requirements and assignments of each class.

AI literacy has become a growing area in our information literacy instruction, with multiple sessions to various groups requested and delivered in the past year, including within our Research Toolkit annual series.

This year, librarians visited **95** classes, teaching **2297** students essential information literacy concepts and library research skills, including how to access, evaluate, and ethically use scholarly research materials.



ResearchBase (RB)

This asynchronous online assignment builds introductory research skills. Its modules and quizzes cover formulating a research topic, developing search strategies, navigating the catalogue, selecting databases, and choosing appropriate scholarly articles. This year, **556** students completed ResearchBase as part of their coursework.

Academic Integrity Foundations (AIF)

AIF is an asynchronous online assignment that teaches students about academic integrity and helps prevent common issues like plagiarism. The modules have recently been expanded to address integrity concerns related to generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT. Used by faculty, and Academic Integrity Officers as an educational resource during disciplinary processes. This year, **871** students completed the AIF modules.

Information Literacy

High School Student Visits

For many years, Librarians have provided Library orientations and research instruction to visiting groups of International Baccalaureate (IB) high school students. This year we expanded this service to include Advanced Placement (AP) high school students.

Research Toolkit

The Library's Research Toolkit was hosted online from May 5 to May 8. Now in its 8th year, this annual series of workshops is specifically designed to help students develop sophisticated, practical research skills for advanced academic work.

Sessions are delivered by Librarians and reflect the diverse areas of expertise we draw upon to support faculty and student research.

Research Help

Research Help is a team of professional librarians and library assistants dedicated to helping the SMU community find accurate, scholarly information and academic resources.

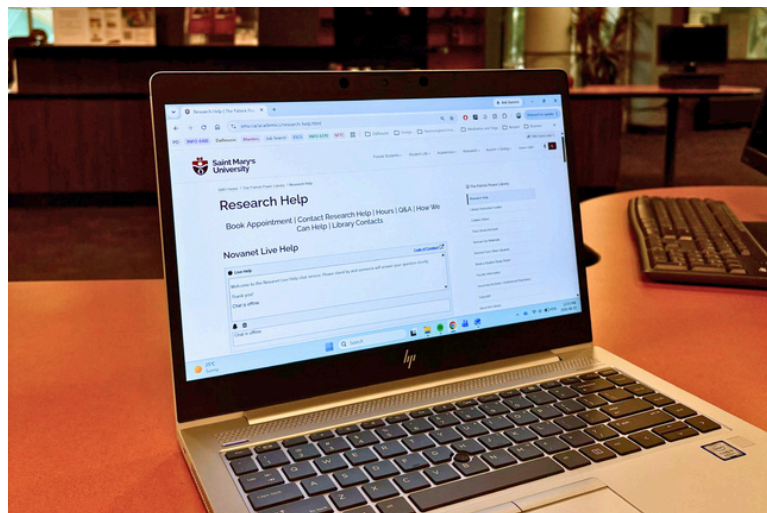


Anna Labrador, Research and Reference Librarian

Novanet Live Help

Novanet Live Help is an online, chat-based reference service staffed by librarians from universities and colleges across Nova Scotia. Designed to help students with brief questions about catalogue navigation, finding articles, and accessing online resources.

This year, Saint Mary's Research Help staff did 4 hours of Live Help shifts a week and answered **67** questions. **105** SMU students were helped through the Live Help service.



1,459

Total Research Help interactions

Research Collections & Services

Collections

The Library equips the Saint Mary's community with essential academic resources to support all formats of teaching, learning, and research. The Acquisition budget funds critical collections, including databases, scholarly journals, eBooks, and streaming media.

Library Bound

This year, the Patrick Power Library began working with a Canadian vendor, Library Bound, Inc., to purchase all our print books. We are pleased to support a Canadian business and appreciate the opportunity to work with a vendor that aligns with our values while meeting the needs of our library users.

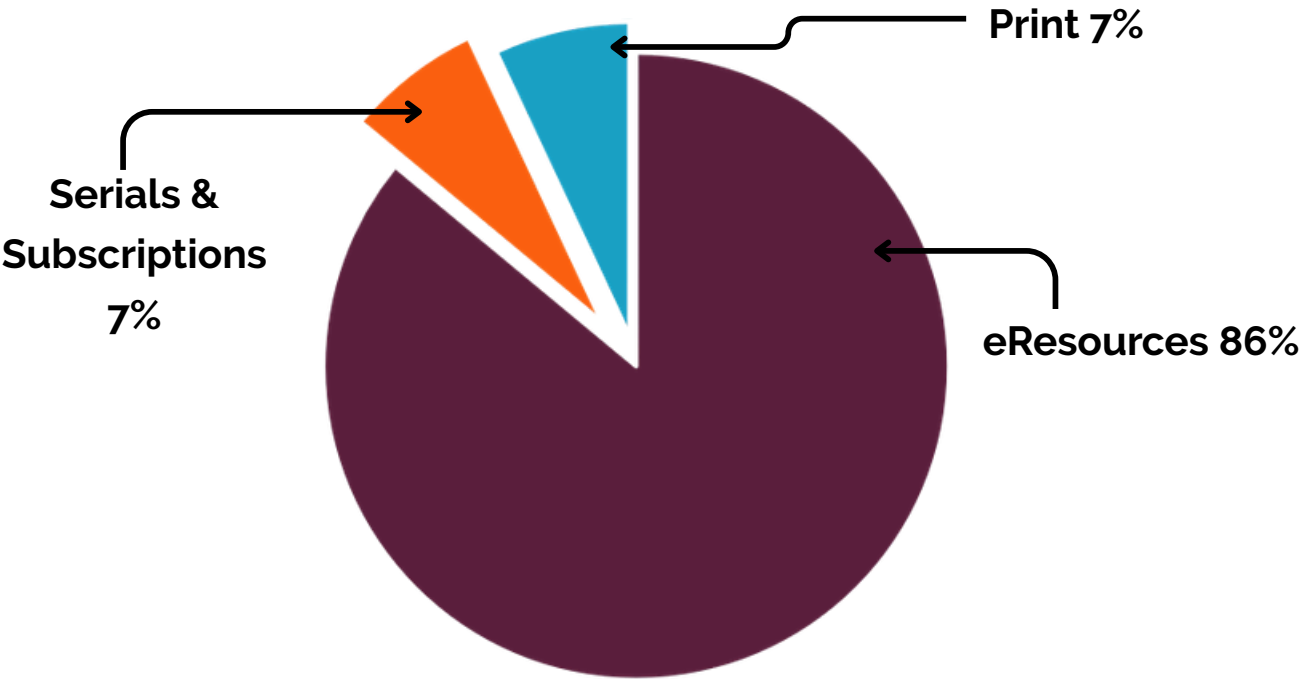


Journal articles downloaded



Total print and eBook circulation

Library Acquisitions Expenditures: 2025-2026



Research Collections & Services

Document Delivery & InterLibrary Loan

The Document Delivery & InterLibrary Loan department obtains books, articles, book chapters, and other library materials that are unavailable at Saint Mary's University. We facilitate resource sharing between Novanet libraries, libraries across Canada, and internationally. This service is offered to current students, faculty, staff, and affiliates.

1,238

SMU Library items loaned to other libraries worldwide

1,574

Items borrowed from other libraries worldwide for the SMU community

814

Items borrowed from other Novanet libraries for the SMU community

1,888

SMU Library items loaned to other Novanet Libraries

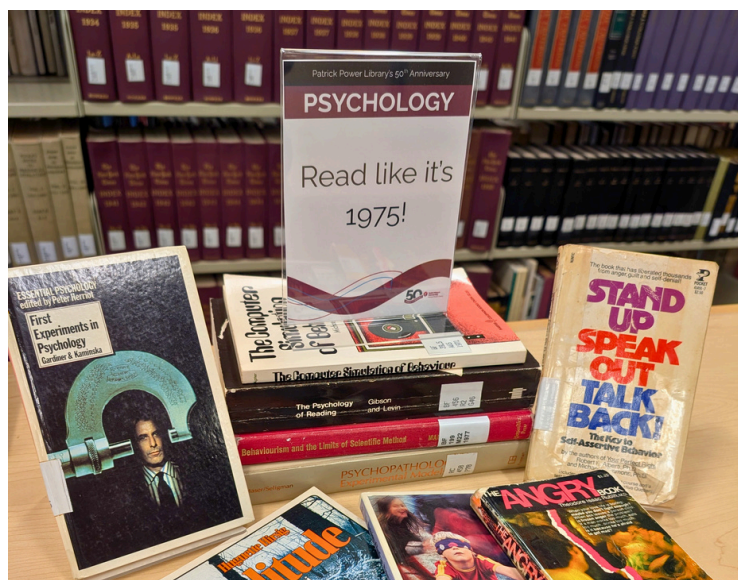


LR: Sue Ubhi, Kate Stewart, Peter Webster and Trish Grelot

Research Collections & Services

Book Displays

Throughout the year, we curate library collections connected to faculty research, popular topics, local and global current affairs, and campus partnerships.



Program Reviews and New Course Proposals

Librarians play a critical role in ensuring that up-to-date and relevant library materials are available to support all courses and programs offered at the university. Over the past year, librarians participated in **17** university program reviews and **69** new course proposals by assessing the strength and scope of our existing collection. One notable program review included the assessment of the Library collection for the newly developed Bachelor of Engineering.



University Program Reviews



New course proposals



Copyright Services

The Copyright Office

The Copyright Office leads efforts to ensure Copyright Act compliance and awareness across campus while providing support services to faculty, instructors, staff, and students.

Sarah West, Copyright Assistant, Copyright & Data Services Librarian Dan Philips, and University Copyright Officer Suzanne van den Hoogen answered **82** copyright research questions from the SMU community.

A key service provided by the Copyright Office is the Course Readings Service(CRS). **49** Faculty members submitted requests to CRS, which supported **75** courses. This provided **1730** students with access to easily accessible versions of course materials.



Students
supported
through CRS



Faculty
using CRS

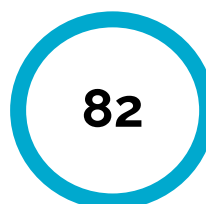


Course
syllabi
reviewed

Monster Fest & Copyright

Sarah West and Dan Phillips also presented at the Saint Mary's University Monster Fest conference in October as part of a panel on Monstrous Methodologies. They shared a series of case studies demonstrating how failures to protect copyrighted works have unexpectedly shaped the horror genre.

From Nosferatu to Night of the Living Dead, they explored how copyright oversights, lapses, and public domain status influenced some of horror's most enduring films, demonstrating how the Library's copyright literacy can reach new audiences by connecting copyright concepts to familiar cultural works.



Copyright Research
Questions

Data Services

Data Services

Data Services at the Patrick Power Library focus on three main areas.

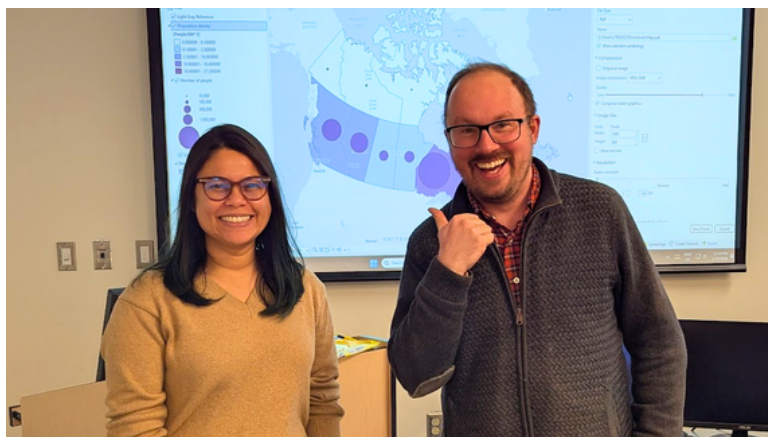
First, we facilitate access to data, whether through the Data Liberation Initiative (DLI) with other universities and Statistics Canada, navigating research data repositories, or utilizing the Library's subscription resources.

Second, we champion Data Literacy - helping users understand where data comes from, how it can be communicated, and how it can be responsibly represented to others.

Finally, we provide research data management support to help researchers navigate data governance practices, from collection to storage, retention and deletion, metadata development, anonymization, licensing, and the many nuances that come with working with research data.

From Databases to Mapping

In February, Patricia Matsumoto (Wicked Problems Lab, Professor in Geography & Environmental Studies) and Dan Phillips (Data Services & Copyright Librarian, Patrick Power Library) offered a workshop series on mapping census data. Participants learned how to take data from the Census of Population and apply it to geospatial software, creating visualizations that help illustrate Canada's population. Students and researchers explored how census data has been visualized in the past using atlases from the Library's collection, and were challenged to trace the data back to its original sources. This exercise highlighted how map design decisions can shape a reader's interpretation of data. The following week, participants put these skills into practice by downloading Census datasets and actively mapping them in ArcGIS Pro.

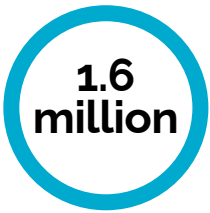


Patricia Matsumoto, and Dan Phillips

Archives, Special Collections & Institutional Repository

The Saint Mary's University Archives serves as the official memory of the university and the 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, ensuring these resources remain accessible online 24/7.



Visits to the Institutional Repository



SMU theses added to the Institutional Repository



New items added to the Institutional Repository



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, managing everything from social gathering areas to silent study zones. With two upper floors dedicated to silent study and the ground floor tailored for student group work needs, with comfortable seating, and collaborative workspaces, the Library is a popular campus destination for meetings and academic pursuits alike.

Bookable study rooms continue to be one of the Patrick Power Library's most frequently used student services. The Library's ten group study rooms can be reserved for up to two hours at a time. During the 2025–2026 reporting period, booking activity increased by **6%** over the previous year, demonstrating a growing demand.



Inquires received from SMU
community members



Student Study Room Bookings



Laptops Loaned



University ID Cards Processed

The Patrick Power Library Team

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!



LR: Emma Sewell, Greg Hillard, Dan Phillips, Cindy Harrigan, MacLean Dryden, Shannon Higgins, Allison MacPhee, Joshuwa Amero, Simon Bonnell, Sarah West, Lindsay MacKay, Claudia Sayers, Heather Sanderson, Lisa Billard, Suzanne van den Hoogen, Hanka Hudak, Carolyn Gillis, Katie McCaskill, Hansel Cook, Anna Labrador, Lyn Carlson, Alison Manley

The Patrick Power Library Team

Title Change: Recognizing the Library as an Academic Unit



Suzanne van den Hoogen, and Hansel Cook

In October, Saint Mary's University announced that the position of University Librarian was retitled to Dean, University Library and Archives.

This change acknowledges the essential function of the Patrick Power Library and its leadership, recognizing that libraries are integral to the academic mission of universities and must be recognized as academic units. The role itself is both administrative and academic, comparable to that of a faculty dean, and contributes meaningfully to research, teaching and learning, and public engagement.

Suzanne van den Hoogen, who has served in this leadership role since 2018, continues as Dean, University Library and Archives. With over 25 years of experience in academic libraries, she also serves as Chair of the Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries. Her leadership in academic integrity, copyright, and Indigenous matters continues to significantly enrich the university.

Additionally, the position of Associate University Librarian, Strategy, Planning and Assessment was retitled to Associate Dean, Library Strategy, Planning and Assessment. Hansel Cook continues in this newly retitled role, where his ongoing work in digital preservation and community engagement elevates Saint Mary's scholarly impact.



The Patrick Power Library Team

Scholarly, & Professional Activities

Publications

- Phinney, J., & **Manley, A.** (2026). Instructing practicing physicians in their continuing professional development: A survey of Canadian health sciences librarians. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 21(1), 75–97.
<https://doi.org/10.18438/eblip30830>

Presentations, Panels, and Workshops

- **Cook, H.**, & Brann, L. (2026, January 29). Public libraries and university archives partnering to promote the Lynn Jones African-Canadian Collection [Conference presentation]. Ontario Library Association SuperConference, Toronto, ON.
- **McKie, B., Hak-Kovacs, E., Gillis, C., & MacPhee, A.** (2025, June). Game on! Using game-based learning to break barriers in an academic Library [Conference presentation]. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference.

- Marcaccio, A., Summerhays, A., & **Phillips, D.** (Facilitator). (2026, April). Session 3: Open Education Resources (OER) [Panel session]. Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries Artificial Intelligence Dialogue Exchange Series (AiDiEx).
- **Phillips, D., & West, S.** (2025, October). The unholy trinity: Vampires, zombies and copyright law (or how copyright protection failures allow the horror genre to succeed) [Conference presentation]. Monster Fest Conference, Saint Mary's University.
- **Phillips, D.** (Facilitator), & Couch, S. (Scribe). (2025, June). Choose your own adventure session: Artificial intelligence and reference [Roundtable]. Novanet Day.
- Phinney, J., & **Manley, A.** (2025). Librarians' instruction to practicing physicians: Results from a Canadian survey [Paper presentation]. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference, Halifax, NS (Virtual).
- Phinney, J., & **Manley, A.** (2025). Librarians' instruction to practicing physicians: Results from a Canadian survey [Poster presentation]. International Congress on Academic Medicine, Halifax, NS.

The Patrick Power Library Team

Presentations, Panels, and Workshops Cont'd

- **van den Hoogen, S.**, Higgins, S., & Webb, J. (2025, June). Our journey towards achieving a barrier-free Library with Access by Design 2030 [Conference presentation]. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference.
- **Webster, P.** (2026, March 2). Remarkable transformative changes for academic libraries: 1993 to today - From the dawn of the World Wide Web, to the rise of Artificial Intelligence [Conference presentation]. Information Without Borders Dalhousie Information Management Student Conference.
- **Webster, P.** (2025, June 12). What is preventing open comprehensive and unified scholarly search? [Conference presentation]. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference.
- **Webster, P.** (Moderator). (2025, October 20). Systems discussion roundtable [Roundtable]. Novanet CAAL-CBPA/Novanet Future of Resource Sharing Summit.

- **Webster, P.**, Gillis, L., Heightan, C., & Vail, M. (2025, June 11). Research Data Management (RDM) practices in Atlantic academic institutions [Panel discussion]. Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Conference.

Team Updates

Appointments and Internal Transitions

- **Hansel Cook** was appointed as Associate University Librarian in August 2025 (subsequently retitled to Associate Dean, Library Strategy, Planning and Assessment).
- **Nicole Carter** transitioned from Reference and Research Librarian to a Limited Term Appointment as Collections Librarian.
- **Sarah West** transitioned from her role as Copyright Library Assistant to take on the position of Outreach & Engagement Librarian in January.
- **Anna Labrador** transitioned from Research Data Management Services & Research Services Library Assistant to a Limited Term Appointment as the Reference and Research Librarian in February.

The Patrick Power Library Team

Welcomes

We were thrilled to welcome new faces to the Library team this year:

- Neil MacDonald, Library Clerk, Access Services
- Natalie Liza Barte, incoming Graduate Student Assistant, a current Dalhousie MI student was hired to start in May 2025.

Farewells

We extended our gratitude and best wishes to several departing colleagues who have contributed so much to the Library:

- Emma Hak-Kovacs, Graduate Student Assistant, completed her work term and graduated from Dalhousie's Master of Information program in May 2025. Congratulations, Emma!
- Bronwen McKie, Outreach & Engagement Librarian
- Janine Mills, Library Clerk, Access Services
- Heather Saunders, Library Clerk, Acquisitions Services
- Peter Webster, Information Systems Librarian

Milestones & Employee Recognition

- Kate Stewart was recognized for an incredible 25 years of service to the university.

Heather Saunders: Retirement after 47 years

After 47 years of dedicated service to the Patrick Power Library, Heather Saunders retired at the end of December 2025.

Heather was a deeply valued member of the team and made an important contribution to the day-to-day operations of the Library, particularly in tracking expenditures and carefully reviewing invoices for accuracy. Her knowledge, reliability, and long-standing commitment to the Library will be sincerely missed, and we extend our thanks for her many years of service.



LR: Trish Grelot, Megan McCarthy, Heather Saunders, Greg Hilliard, Terri Winchcombe

The Patrick Power Library Team

Peter Webster: Saint Mary's First Librarian Emeritus



After 32 years of dedicated service as a professional librarian, Peter Webster has retired from Saint Mary's University. On May 26, Peter will be named Librarian Emeritus at the Spring Convocation ceremony, becoming the first librarian at the university to receive this prestigious status.

Peter's research and professional work spanned many areas, with a primary focus on Library systems and technology. He is a recognized expert in Library catalogues, scholarly information networks, access to specialized resources, and, most recently,

the impact of Artificial Intelligence on information management. It is an understatement to say that his 32-year career coincided with a period of massive transformation in how Library and information services are provided, and throughout that entire time, Peter remained at the forefront of that change.

Representing Saint Mary's University, Peter served in management and project leadership roles within Novanet (the Nova Scotia academic Library consortium), the Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL-CBPA), the National Library of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative, and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Merit Award. With 35 published journal articles, book chapters, and other works, Peter's impact has reached professionals, students, and academics around the world.

An experienced educator, Peter taught thousands of Saint Mary's students during his career. These sessions ranged from basic Library research and critical thinking classes

The Patrick Power Library Team

for new students to highly advanced research methods for graduate cohorts utilizing the latest tools and databases. He also worked closely with faculty to support their research and data needs. For many years, Peter was the campus's primary expert on statistical and data resources, developing close working relationships with faculty who knew he was the definitive contact for specialized advice.

Administratively, Peter served as Acting University Librarian in 2007–2008 and again in 2018, providing crucial institutional continuity and operational

knowledge during times of transition. He also served as Associate University Librarian from 2010 to 2024, assisting the University Librarian (later Dean, University Library and Archives) and the Library management team.

Given his immense contributions to the Patrick Power Library, the University, the broader Canadian Library community, and the academic field of information management, please join us in congratulating Peter on this well-deserved recognition of his life's work.



Jason Grek-Martin presenting Librarian Emeritus to Peter Webster



LR: Nicole Carter, Hansel Cook, Alison Manley, Suzanne van den Hoogen, Peter Webster, Cindy Harrigan, Dan Phillips, Sarah West and Heather Sanderson.



**Saint Mary's
University**

Patrick Power Library

Thank you for reading our annual report. Your support is important to us.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Library 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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