

Simmons UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2023–2024

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



Welcome and welcome back to the Simmons University Library as this new academic year builds upon the accomplishments of the previous one. As the University begins its 125th year, I invite you to view [Celebrating 125 Years of Simmons](#). This video, prepared by the University Archives, is a narrated presentation on the history of the University and references photographs and memorabilia which capture the unique story of Simmons. In that spirit of reflecting on the past while building for the future, I am pleased to share the 2023–2024 Annual Report from the Library. It stands as a testament to our continued commitment to supporting teaching and learning, inclusivity and accessibility, sustainability, and professional engagement.

This past year the Library was the proud recipient of the 2024 INSIGHT Into Diversity Library Excellence in Access and Diversity (LEAD) Award which recognized our efforts in providing high-quality services, spaces, and resources that prioritize inclusivity, accessibility, and diversity for our community. Receiving this award underscores our mission to be an active participant in the student learning experience while fostering an institution-wide culture of academic inquiry.

We welcomed two new Library Fellows, Hannah Gershone and Olivia McGovern, and our new Deputy Director, Lena Serpa Kilburn, to the staff. They have been active partners in supporting student research and access to collections and services. Last year our librarians met with over 1,800 students for library instruction sessions and research appointments and answered over 2,500 of your research questions. Our research guides continued to provide meaningful content and were accessed over 215,000 times! The library space is well utilized, and the group study rooms had almost 24,000 individual bookings.

Our role in partnering with community members is a priority. We hosted the Fenway Library Organization Annual meeting in November 2023 where we gathered with library colleagues to discuss open source library systems, creating better accessibility practices, and ways to best meet the needs of our users. Working with the Fenway Community Development Corporation, we secured an Impact grant from the Little Free Library Organization to establish a free library near the Southwest Corridor Park. We will supply books and programming for children beginning this fall.

We look forward to working with you throughout the year and encourage you to visit us in the library or online via our website, simmons.edu/library.

Every good wish,

Vivienne B. Piroli

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University Librarian

The Simmons University Library is an active participant in the student learning experience, an essential component of a Simmons education, and a vital asset to the University, fostering an institution-wide culture of academic inquiry and knowledge cultivation. Here are some of the ways library staff delivered on our mission in the past year.

SUPPORT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Conducted 101 instruction sessions in-person and via Zoom • Provided 813 research consultations to support students and faculty • Fielded 2,562 service inquiries via chat, email, and phone • Managed 23,183 student study room bookings to provide workspace for students • Added 175 books to the print collection • Delivered [Celebrating 125 Years of Simmons](#), a presentation on the history of Simmons in celebration of the University's 125th anniversary • Created research guides and YouTube tutorials, including a [Youtube playlist](#) on using Zotero, a video tutorial on [Systematic Reviews](#), and research guides on [Public Health](#) and [Pathophysiology](#)

INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Received the [Insight Into Diversity LEAD \(Library Excellence in Access and Diversity\) award](#) • Created physical and digital archives exhibits on topics including the history of International Students at Simmons, Pride Month, Asian-American Heritage Month, and Women's History Month • Expanded archival collections of Black women's history and political organizing • Received a Little Free Library organization Impact grant to provide a free book box for locations considered 'book deserts' • Contributed to the creation of a [hiring toolkit](#) for the Fenway Library Organization (FLO) which features guidelines and best practices from the perspective of diversity, equity, and inclusion

SUSTAINABILITY

Welcomed new Library Fellows, fostering future library professionals for a sustainable workforce • Supervised three LIS 438 graduate students through their 60-hour archival field experience • Conducted print collection audits, ensuring better utilization of shelf space and more relevant, up-to-date materials • Implemented cost saving measures to improve streaming media access • Adopted ComCat, a state-wide library catalog, enhancing access to shared resources • Continued implementation of ReShare, an open-source library software, promoting cost-effective and sustainable resource sharing

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Library staff attended a variety of professional conferences, including the ACRL New England Chapter Conference, the Massachusetts Library Conference, the NEASIS&T Annual Conference, the Open Library Foundation's WOLFcon Annual Conference, and GAIL Generative AI in Libraries Virtual Conference • Hosted Allen Smith Visiting Scholar Heidi Julien who delivered a session on digital literacy to library staff • Served on the Oberlin Group of Libraries Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee • Presented to the PFLAG student group on banned books • Taught as adjunct faculty in the Simmons School of Library and Information Science • Attended webinars, including ChatGPT & Libraries, Unlocking Insights with Generative AI, and Research Integrity and AI