Values are defined as “principles or standards of behaviour; one’s judgement of what is important in life.” In 2019-20, the University of Manitoba Libraries (UML) staff and librarians worked to create a vision statement, define our values, and renew our strategic directions. As we came together from across our various work units to articulate what is important to us in our work, we learned more about each other, the work we do, how we perceive ourselves and how we want to be seen within the University and beyond.
Like many, we ended the year with an unexpected shift to working from home, and our vision and values were key to decision-making for online and virtual services. The librarians and staff, some working in far less than ideal conditions, made the shift over a period of three days. I am very proud of everyone and the work accomplished to ensure students and faculty finished Winter term 2020 with the resources they needed.

This annual report showcases the values that we identified for ourselves and the ways in which librarians and staff are living those values in the work that they are doing. As we continue to work remotely but start to think about what a return to campus will look like for the Libraries, we expect to continue to turn to our defined values in our decision-making and to support the University in the post-pandemic world.

Lisa O’Hara
Vice-Provost (Libraries) & University Librarian

Indigenous Peoples Lands Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Contents

1. Empower

3. Respond

4. Respect

5. Collaborate

6. Publications & Presentations
Learn at the Libraries

Learn at the Libraries is a self-directed learning tool for new, undergraduate students who have had no experience with using an academic library and are feeling a little lost in how to find the information they need to get started on papers and assignments.

“The guide helps participants learn about university level writing, how to search the library, finding appropriate books and articles, and the correct way to use references. As always, it encourages them to seek the help of librarians who can talk to them about their assignments and teach them how find what they need at the library.”

– Kyle Feenstra
Coordinator,
Learning & Instruction Support

In addition, modules from the guide are available for integration into UM Learn, the University of Manitoba’s Learning Management System. Instructors can add Learn at the Libraries modules directly from Knowledge Nuggets into a UM Learn course developed by The Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.
Librarian-Researcher Collaboration

The Libraries supported researchers engaged in knowledge synthesis (KS) in the forms of systematic, scoping, realist, and other types of reviews. Researchers benefitted from the involvement of librarians at different levels of KS projects, including the development of protocols, contribution of expert literature searching skills and knowledge of KS methodologies. KS is a rapidly growing form of research that attempts to locate, contextualize, and summarize all studies on a specific topic in order to make recommendations, identify gaps, and understand inconsistencies in primary research.

The UML three-tiered KS service for the health sciences provides flexible options to meet the needs of researchers and students. Liaison librarians in disciplines outside of the health sciences, including psychology, kinesiology, education, and social work, also provided support to KS projects.

Instruction sessions and workshops were delivered on principles and practices of knowledge synthesis and best practices for the rigorous and comprehensive literature searching needed for effective reviews. Librarians met with individuals and knowledge synthesis teams to consult on aspects of specific review projects including question development, database selection, search development, and record keeping.

As one health librarian noted, “Knowledge synthesis research is one of the most satisfying, and challenging parts of my work. We operate as full members of research teams when providing Tier 3 service, and spend months, if not years, in close collaboration with our groups. The final product is considered one of the highest levels of evidence in health care research, and knowing that we as librarians contributed to the project is extremely rewarding.”

Innovate

Improved Service Support

The UML has been steadily moving to provide greater support for user-initiated and self-service opportunities. Thanks to self-service trends in finance, transportation and food services industries, libraries are working to provide these same familiar experiences for our users, resulting in greater flexibility in their learning and in their interaction with information and library services.

Document Delivery

- 25,047 items loaned and borrowed
- Installed 3 new hold lockers for material pickup

Self-Checkout

A new edition of the Meescan self-service checkout technology for library materials was rolled out to all library locations, with a unique promotional push to help encourage library users to adopt the technology for faster, checkout.

The new Self-Checkout kiosk requires the user to perform only three simple steps. The tedious desensitizing elements are no longer required in most units, so students and faculty appreciate the ease of use and new features. Data showed an increase of 1739% for all the library units combined over the same week of the previous year in which an earlier generation of the technology was in use.
Archivematica

Archivematica is an internationally recognized system that is used to preserve digital assets over the long-term. Initially developed for archival purposes, Archivematica is now also being used by institutions to preserve research data. Archivematica is best described as a suite of tools and services that prepare, manage and preserve digital assets (archival and research data) in a way that goes beyond basic digital storage.

“Digital technology has become the main tool to create information, but digital files are vulnerable to a number of risks which can shorten their lifespan. Over time, files can become corrupted, lost, and inaccessible if the proprietary software used to create the files are obsolete. It is important to implement digital preservation standards to gather and preserve information for long-term access.”  

- Seon Min  
Library Assistant

For digital assets to be readable or usable in the near future, the UML needed to address dedicated and ongoing management. After thorough testing, the Libraries upgraded to a new version of both a development instance and a production instance of Archivematica.

Throughout the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Libraries’ Archivematica instance moved from development to production and was upgraded from version 1.9 to 1.11. The software underwent thorough testing to evaluate potential limitations, bugs, and performance issues, which further involved processing approximately 30,000 files and testing integrations between Archivematica, MSpace, and Dataverse. The Libraries also assessed its storage needs and secured 120 TB of storage space for files processed through Archivematica.

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Respond

Connection with our Community

Librarians are ever challenged to connect with students and faculty in a meaningful way, to provide research support, and increase their chance of success -- particularly in the online world with a proliferation of available digital resources and distance learning options.

Cody Fullerton provides liaison librarian support for the Faculty of Education, which no longer has a library collection in-house. Along with regular office hours in the Education Building, he began recording short videos answering reference questions rather than writing extensive email responses to enquiries. He records his screen with voiceover, explaining and showing the students how to find articles, cite sources, or whatever they may ask for help with. He hosts the videos on Microsoft Streams, making them private, and shares them with students. He has also used the same practice for data requests.

“Creating short videos for students and faculty has greatly improved my reference workflow and saved me time. Patrons also seem to be enjoying visually following along as opposed to textual explanations.”

- Cody Fullerton
Liaison Librarian

Connection with our Community...

The Faculty of Social Work is a large UM faculty with students on multiple campuses -- Fort Garry Campus, Inner City Campus, Northern Campus, and Distance Delivery. Victoria Ho, liaison librarian to the Faculty of Social Work, reaches out to her community by sending a bi-monthly e-mail newsletter to inform them of our library services, workshops, and the assistance that she can provide for their students. She noticed that from these newsletters, more and more faculty and instructors became aware of the services she can provide and would regularly refer their students to see her for research help. In particular, many grad students began booking appointments with her.

“I enjoy working with grad students because their topics are often very interesting and they appreciate the time I spend with them.”

- Victoria Ho
Liaison Librarian

In connecting with our community, UML staff:

- Answered 3,537 questions via the AskUs chat service
- Taught 413 sessions
- Held 2,282 student consultations
- Increased Researcher Workshop participation 4X over the previous year
**Federated Research Data Repository (FRDR)**

The UML now has Dataverse and MSpace repositories being harvested by the Federal Research Data Repository (FRDR). Data and publications deposited in the UML repositories are now discoverable in Canada national platform.

FRDR was been developed to “address a longstanding gap in Canada’s research infrastructure by providing a single platform from which research data can be ingested, curated, preserved, discovered, cited and shared.”

In addition to FRDR, the UML has made MSpace content (research publications, theses, and dissertations) discoverable in OpenAIRE, an international open science platform.

“We continue to develop our repositories so that UM faculty and students get the most out of the research data and publications they deposit with us.”

- Jordan Bass
  Coordinator,
  Research Services & Digital Strategies

**Research Support & Digital Strategies Librarians:**

- Presented 42 workshops on open access & data management planning
- Held 112 individual consultations
- Provided 16 consultations held on research metrics
- Gave 10 presentations
Accessibility

Accessibility is very important to the Libraries and the UML’s team has fostered significant improvements to our services to those with disabilities. Accessibility services at the Libraries requires individuals to be registered with the institution’s Student Accessibility Services (SAS). The UML’s Alternate Format Support Team wished to improve the confirmation process with SAS in order to improve the responsiveness to users.

“Prior to receiving weekly updates from SAS, we received a monthly list and had to check in with them for every request from someone not on that list. Because they add students throughout the term, it was a slower and more tedious process for all involved.”

- Ellen Tisdale
  Member, Alternate Format Support Team

Staff members on the Alternate Format Team and the Document Delivery Team completed a module of privacy training, which included directions on how Personal Health Information must be handled. This then allowed the SAS office to provide regular information regarding eligibility to ensure that our Team has accurate information when handling requests from students. Our team can now process requests more quickly, creating a better experience for students who need library materials in an accessible format.

In addition, working with the UM Copyright Office and Access & Privacy Office, the Alternate Format Support Team developed a Print Disability Declaration Form. This form is intended for library users who are not students to be able to register for this service.

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Accessibility...

The provision of accessible documents by libraries is a relatively new opportunity, becoming increasingly more common as more countries sign and ratify the Marrakesh Treaty. For publishers less willing to provide accessible copies of their materials, our team actively advocates for them to consider changing their policies to support our efforts to provide inclusive access to library materials.

Our facilities provided:

- Study space for 2,498 students at any one time in the libraries
- Access to 275 public computers
- 23,539 group study rooms bookings
The Archives & Special Collections held for many years an enormous wooden map cabinet with 356 watercolor wall charts, commercial wall charts, and posters, many of which dealt with mushrooms and parts of plants -- materials from Professor A.H. Reginald Buller.

Archives honoured Reginald Buller’s role in bringing modern science to Manitoba as the first professor to teach botany and geology, by hosting a display ‘He was the Very Model of a Modern Research Scientist’: Reginald Buller and the Founding of the University of Manitoba.

As part of the exhibition, his office was reconstructed and everyone who visited the Archives was welcome to enter his office or peek into his laboratory to get a sense of what it was like to enter his world.

Buller was one of the first six professors hired by the University in 1904 to teach “modern science.”

Archives & Special Collections currently holds:

- **1,054** fonds (collections from individuals or institutions)
- **30,230** rare books
A.H. Reginald Buller...

This original collection had been preserved by the Faculty of Science for many years and was donated to the Archives to ensure its preservation and value to the University. Soon, other items of furniture lovingly cared for by other dedicated staff members followed, including Buller’s wooden herbarium and card catalogue, a bookcase, a lantern slide viewer, and another oversized wooden map cabinet stored previously at Delta Marsh.

This furniture was joined over the years by nearly 5 metres of textual records, including photographs and correspondence, an astounding 2 metres of lantern slides, 16 scientific and photographic artifacts, 11 maps, pins, luggage tags, a massive library, one plaque, and -- the pièce de résistance -- one box of Buller’s cremated remains. The specimens Buller catalogued are still held by the department of biological sciences at UM, and many of his mycological and other specimens, some collected over 100 years ago, can be found at UM Vascular Plant Herbarium. On campus, the Buller building is named in his honor, and his ashes now reside in the cairn outside the building.

“...Perhaps most significant was his role in changing fundamentally his University. The University of Manitoba traces its origins to 1877, but in truth, the institution as it exists today was founded in 1904, when several independent-minded, research-oriented professors dragged it by sheer power of will.”

- Gordon Goldsborough

Historian & Professor, Biological Sciences

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Beaded Quilt

In January 2020, Ongomiizwin – Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing – hosted the unveiling of the Bead-In Commemorative Quilt at the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library. The quilt squares, created to honour missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, were created by women, men, and children during an eight-hour community bead-in held at Neechi Commons in March 2014.

The 50 beaded pieces were then joined into a quilt that was lovingly made by Bette Morriseau, a Cree woman, mom, granny, auntie, and sister. Bette made her journey into the spirit world in January 2017. When Neechi Common closed its doors in 2018, the quilt was returned to the family who then donated it to the University of Manitoba. The intent is to keep the beautifully beaded quilt in the province and city where it was inspired and, more importantly, to never forget the unfinished stories from the Indigenous women and girls who are no longer with us.

Bette Morriseau’s daughter, Deborah Young, offered the donation of the quilt to the University and spoke at the event. The Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library is honoured to have been selected by Ongomiizwin to display this meaningful reflection on the lives stolen and the losses suffered by families and communities.

Dr. Brian Postl, Dean of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, said, “Displaying this on our campus will reinforce with our students, faculty, staff and community the importance of continuing to acknowledge the harms and the shame of Canada’s past.”

The quilt serves as a reminder to people who pass it every day of our responsibility to acknowledge the harms of the present and work towards change for a more equitable future for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls.

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Publications & Presentations

Publications


Publications...


Publications...


Publications...


Our collection comprises:
- **1.5 million** monograph titles in print
- **900,000** ebooks and another 2.5 million leased or public domain titles
- **30,000** electronic journals and another 400,000+ leased or in public domain titles
- **36,464** print journal titles - 877 active subscriptions - comprising 560,000+ volumes
Presentations


Presentations...


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