FOR INFORMATION   **PUBLIC**   **OPEN SESSION**

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Professor Nick Rule, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean
CONTACT INFO: vpdean.utm@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: --
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 29, 2024, for May 6, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: UTM Library, (2022-23)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.7 of its Terms of Reference, the committee receives, annually from its assessors, reports on matters within its areas of responsibility, including statements of current issues, opportunities and problems, and recommendations for changes in policies, plans or priorities that would address such issues.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTM Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 6, 2024)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report was provided to the Academic Affairs Committee on May 10, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The professional and academic expertise of librarians and the strong service ethos of library staff supported the UTM Library over 2022–23. By expanding access to physical spaces, collections, and services, the Library supported the continuity of the core teaching, learning, and research activities central to UTM's mission as the community returned to campus.

Our liaison model connects UTM's eighteen academic departments and institutes with library support directly, advancing our academic mission. In 2022-2023, UTML worked with its campus community in 396 instruction sessions reaching a total of 19,477 participants. Our student resource guides – including a new guide for ISUP 100, UTM's first-in-Canada core course for university writing – had over 265K views

online in the same year. In addition, the Library opened the Outer Circle Recording Studio and the Digital Exploration Lab to enable podcasting, digital editing, digital making and other activities that support course research projects.

Overall, Library usage metrics continue to reflect high demand for both collections and services. The data reflect the importance of the Library for both study and support and point to its continued impact on the success of UTM's mission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net implications for the campus operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: UTM Library, (2022-23)

University of Toronto Mississauga Library 2022-23 Annual Report

Introduction

The University of Toronto Mississauga Library (UTML) provides collections, services, technologies, and spaces that support teaching, learning, and research activities across the UTM campus. As part of the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL), UTML also provides access to Canada's largest academic library system, consistently ranked among the top ten research libraries in North America by the Association of Research Libraries.

I am pleased to present the UTM Library Annual Report for 2022–23. This report highlights exemplary work and provides high-level data that demonstrates the Library's core contributions to UTM's success as an essential part of a world-class institution.

Overview of Library activities

The University of Toronto Mississauga Library leads a variety of diverse programs and initiatives, and it collaborates with faculty, staff, and students to provide engaging instruction, unique and highly valued collections, and dynamic research support programming. As a place that centers its users in all that it does, the UTM Library is continually updating and adapting its spaces and services in close collaboration with its varied campus partners. Through its frontline services and support of instructional technologies, the library is also a critical partner for all who are engaged in teaching and learning activities at UTM. Importantly, the Library is also a crucial hub for interdisciplinary collaboration and the integration of digital methods into the course curriculum and faculty-led research projects. The team of librarians and staff at UTML are recognized across the university for sharing their knowledge and expertise, their strength in teaching, and their delivery of excellent service to all library users. Our staff and librarians also perform important work outside of the Library, contributing to committees, working groups, and task force teams at UTM, UTL, and across the tri-campus.

Spaces, technology, and people

Throughout 2022–23, our staff and librarians ensured ongoing access to the spaces, collections, services, and technology that are essential to the teaching, learning, and research mission of the library at UTM.

Outer Circle Recording Studio and Digital Exploration Lab

In partnership with UTM Information & Instructional Technology Services and Facilities Management & Planning, the library technologies team launched a new program in 2022-23

to offer access to a state-of-the-art self-serve recording studio that supports student and instructor needs around the completion of audio / video assignments. The Outer Circle Recording Studio provides a space for activities that advance the university's academic curriculum and research programs. It includes a recording studio, a podcast station, and a digital editing suite. The technology team has also piloted the development of a Digital Exploration Lab to support access to 3D and virtual reality technologies for teaching and learning. Through this lab, faculty and librarians can integrate these technologies into course assignments and teach students new digital making skills. As the return to campus expanded over the last year, a number of UTM departments have made use of the lab space and staff support to create new assignments and expand their course curriculum.

New staff

The Library welcomed five new full-time employees during this period. Over 2022-23, Magnus Berg assumed the position of Digital Scholarship Librarian and Dany Savard joined UTML as Associate Librarian for Collections and Research Services. Within the area of learning services, Evan Golding and Eleni Gouliaras joined as Information and Loans Technicians and Amy Widdifield took on the position of Instructional Technologies Specialist.

Supporting teaching and learning

Through curriculum-integrated instruction, co-curricular workshop programs, and complementary programming and services developed in collaboration with campus partners, our librarians and staff are key contributors to teaching and learning at UTM and are proud of their impact on the student experience.

Quercus support for teaching and learning

The Library and Instructional Technologies team at UTML continued supporting students and instructors in the effective use of online tools and technologies throughout 2022–23, providing guidance, documentation, and referrals to external resources. The resources created directly by the team were critical for faculty, with over 60,000 unique page views. The team also consulted extensively with faculty, answering 1,817 reference queries for Quercus, completing 145 individual consultations, and hosting 28 group sessions for 310 faculty members.

Syllabus Service, Library Reading List, and digitization

UTML's staff invest significant time and expertise to enable immediate access to course materials, allowing students and instructors to focus on course outcomes and forming an essential support structure for the teaching and learning mission at UTM.

The Syllabus Service connects students directly with their course materials, enhancing course syllabi with permalinks to electronic resources and digitized copies of print resources while respecting the University's licensing agreements and Canadian copyright legislation.

Liaison librarian program

UTML's liaison librarians connect academic departments to the Library, creating opportunities for partnership and collaboration that directly impact teaching and learning at

UTM. This model is among the most highly developed among Ontario's university libraries and is emulated by other libraries across UTL.

Liaison librarians are deeply connected with the departments they support, providing in-person instruction in classrooms and Library labs, co-creating assignments with faculty, offering in-depth reference consultations, and developing print and digital collections to support the curriculum. They were also highly adaptable during the pivot to remote learning, offering reference and instruction services in virtual formats; they have continued to use these skills after returning to campus by offering both services in-person, virtually, and hybrid.

Synchronous instruction

Librarians were key collaborators with faculty during the pivot to online learning and continued to provide technical and pedagogical guidance and referrals in technology-enhanced instruction; they also continually revised their own instructional approaches and materials to meet changing requirements and best practices.

In 2022–23, UTML's librarians delivered 396 synchronous virtual or in-person sessions to 19,477 attendees. This instruction took place in one of three main types:

- Curriculum-embedded: Information literacy workshops tailored to specific courses, assignments, and learning outcomes in consultation with instructors; in many cases, librarians co-designed assignments with instructors.
- Co-curricular workshops: Instruction on research skills and tools such as identifying fake news, selecting and using citation management software, and designing research posters.
    - Library 101: Information Literacy Certificate Program
    - Library 501: Graduate Student Workshops
- Instructional partnerships: Workshops delivered through campus partner programs; a partial list follows.
    - LAUNCH (Centre for Student Engagement)
    - Program for Accessing Research Training (RGASC)
    - Promoting Academic Skills for Success (RGASC)
    - Professional Skills Development Program (MGT)
    - Scholars-in-Residence (JHI)
    - Instructor Support Drop-ins (TLC & I&ITS)

Asynchronous instruction

UTML's staff and librarians supplement live instruction and reference support with a wide variety of resources that meet students at the point of need, often anticipating and answering questions before one-on-one interaction is necessary.

Library research guides

Liaison librarians create and maintain hundreds of guides that provide discipline- and course-specific guidance on research resources and topics, facilitating student learning and exploration.

These expert resources see extremely heavy use that demonstrates their value: in 2022–23, UTML's 753 guides received 306,330 views, and many are among those most heavily used across the three campuses. Some representative examples include:

- [Primary Sources: Digital Collections](#)
- [ISP100: Writing for University and Beyond](#)
- [SOC353: Borders and Human Rights](#)

The impact of these guides increased significantly in 2022 as they were integrated into Quercus, allowing instructors to give students one-click access to curated resources for their course or discipline.

Instructional videos

To support multimodal learning and to supplement synchronous teaching, staff and librarians created instructional videos, hosted on UTML's YouTube channel. Some representative examples include:

- [ISP100: Brainstorming Keywords](#) and [ISP100: Locating Sources](#)
- [Submitting a MyMedia Video Assignment](#)
- [Peer Review Check with Ulrichsweb](#)
- [Research Help from Home or Anywhere](#)

In addition to new videos, previously published video content continued to have value to our users. For example, the instructional videos created to support ISP100 students nearly doubled their overall view counts, reflecting continued use in classrooms and at the point of need.

Reference and research support

UTML's librarians and reference specialists met our community's needs through a variety of synchronous and asynchronous modes while continuing to demonstrate flexibility in supporting remote learners. The UTM Library Reference & Research Services staff and librarians support students, faculty, and community members in locating library materials and develop research and evaluation skills. Reference service is provided in-person at the Reference and Research Desk, online via chat service, and is available through phone and email. Librarians, reference specialists, and graduate student reference assistants (GSRAs) deliver reference services. Throughout 2022 and 2023, library staff continued to build relationships with students and faculty returning to campus.

During this period, we answered 42,925 questions across all modes.

Supporting research

Collections

New and updated electronic collections

Each year, UTML contributes to the acquisition and licensing of electronic resources for the entire U of T community through a distributed tri-campus model. However, we also purchase collections of unique importance to UTM researchers.

In response to feedback from our community and their new ways of working and learning, we continued to focus on expanding our ebook and unique electronic resource collections.

Significant UTML acquisitions included:

- Adam Matthew Digital complete primary documents collections
- Perpetual access purchases of primary source documents and journal publications via the Africa Commons and North American City Reports platforms from Coherent Digital along with eBook, reference, and grey literature collections from Sage Publications

UTML also contributed to the acquisition of many significant digital collections for 2022–23, including:

- Edward Elgar ebook collections
- Canadian, American, and UK University Presses' complete ebook collections
- Significant investment in ebook collections focused on the area of sustainability through ProQuest.

New and updated special collections

UTML acquired several rare and unique collections and archives this year, including:

- Professor Bob Jefferies' papers of biodiversity notebooks
- Professor JoAnna Dutka's papers of medieval poetry, drama, and music
- A final delivery of the Alibhai Aziz Abualy Collection materials
- The EP Media Archive

The EP Media Archive (c.1997-2016) includes approximately 10,000 audiovisual records (XDCAM, Betacam SP, HDCAM, DVC Pro 50, miniDV, and other media tape and disc formats) containing all the episodes of Electric Playground, Reviews on the Run, and other spinoff shows and documentaries; the raw audiovisual footage of the shows, interviews, and game recordings; promotional audiovisual materials sent to EP Media from game industry studios and publishers; and other textual and audiovisual records related to EP MEDIA LTD. Along with the recent acquisition of the extensive Syd Bolton Collection of video games, this collection represents a critical building block for the campus' plan to establish itself as a centre for the study of games in Canada.

Behind the scenes, our staff continued to accession our growing holdings of archival and special collection materials, including the extensive the Alibhai Aziz Abualy Collection of 20th century South Asian print material. The Abualy Alibhai Aziz Collection consists of more than 12,000 items including audiovisual material, documents, ephemera, lithographs, manuscripts, periodicals, and printed books in, among other languages, Arabic, Gujarati, Persian, Urdu, and English. The holdings represent an unparalleled collection of literary and devotional texts and of Islamicate learning from the Indian subcontinent, with strengths in Shi'ism and especially Ismaili history and intellectual traditions. The Collection supports curriculum in our South Asian Studies program with primary source material for historical and religious studies courses.

Research services and digital scholarship

In addition to in-depth reference support, UTML's expert staff and librarians support students and faculty throughout the research process via a wide range of programs and services, including support for research data management and data visualization; geographic information systems; copyright and author rights; and open access funding requirements, including deposit into the institutional research repository TSpace.

We also support digital scholarship projects, consulting with researchers about theories, methods, and tools and providing spaces, equipment, technology, and expertise when partnering on projects. We also continued our long-term project of digitizing the Department of Biology's Herbarium Collection, making the massive 95,000 sample publicly available through international biodiversity databases such as Canadensys and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Conclusion and looking ahead

UTML's staff and librarians play essential roles in the success of UTM's mission, leading and innovating impactful services that enable student academic achievement, strengthen teaching and learning, and support faculty research. We look forward to building on our successes and expanding our support of the UTM community as a new academic year begins.

Dany Savard
Interim Chief Librarian
UTM Library
April 2024