

ANNUAL REPORT

# TRENT UNIVERSITY

## Library & Archives

2023-24





### A Note from the University Librarian



Reflecting on my first year as University Librarian, I’m immensely proud of what our team has achieved. This year was marked by meaningful events, exhibits and programs that brought the entire community together in the Library. A standout moment for me was listening to Jeanette Corbiere Lavell share her story of women’s rights activism under the Indian Act, an event that highlighted the Library’s role in fostering reconciliation on campus.

This year we redefined key services and introduced new tools to support teaching and research at Trent. The successful launch of our new RapidILL platform has streamlined the digital delivery of scholarly information through a global network of resource sharing partners. We also transitioned to a full-service model for our Course Readings and Reserves services, simplifying the reading list process for faculty, while ensuring our collections meet the evolving needs of Trent’s curriculum.

We continue to revitalize our outreach program to elevate the profile of Library and Archives spaces, services and collections. Our efforts have not only bolstered the Library’s role in the academic community but also reaffirmed our commitment to providing essential services and resources.

I look forward to continuing this journey of growth and transformation with all of you in the coming year.

*Emily Tufts*  
University Librarian

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Trent University respectfully acknowledges it is located on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabeg. We offer our gratitude to First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.



### Advocating for Women’s Rights in the Indian Act

In February, the Library hosted an event that brought together Jeanette Corbiere Lavell and her daughter, Dr. Dawn Memee Lavell-Harvard, to share their story of advocating against the gender-based discrimination in the Indian Act. In 1970, Jeanette Corbiere Lavell lost her legal Indigenous status after marrying a non-Indigenous man, sparking a legal battle that reached the Supreme Court of Canada. Although her initial challenge was unsuccessful, it led to significant changes to the Indian Act in 1985, which reinstated the status rights of Indigenous women. This event, which also featured a virtual tour from the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and a live poetry reading, demonstrated the library’s role in connecting the community to vital discussions about the past, present, and future of Indigenous identity, reinforcing our commitment to reconciliation.

### GIS Research Day

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Research Day, hosted by Trent Library’s Maps, Data & Government Information Centre (MaDGIC), highlighted the library’s role in encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing research through the use of GIS software. The event, held during Geography Awareness Week, showcased applications of GIS across disciplines, from environmental studies to archaeology and computer science. Through presentations by students, faculty, and industry experts, MaDGIC facilitated an important exchange of knowledge, demonstrating how the Library supports researchers in using spatial data to drive new discoveries.



# LIBRARY SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

## Events & Exhibits

- Bata Library became a hub of historical discovery as Dr. Antonio Cazorla-Sanchez unveiled his exhibit, *18th Century Spanish Cartography of Canada's West Coast*, featuring 18 maps that trace the history of Spanish exploration on Canada's western shores.
- Bata Library hosted an art exhibition featuring work by Curve Lake First Nation artist, David Beaucage Johnson. Johnson's original works were on display in the Library Atrium from October 16 to 20. Guests at the exhibit opening included Trent students, staff, faculty and community members who had the opportunity to engage with the artist during an insightful talk.



- Trent Library's annual card-making event, held from December 4 to 15, brought the campus community together to craft 130 holiday cards for residents at Fairhaven Long-Term Care Home, bringing a spirit of generosity and connection to the holiday season.
- From January 6 to February 9 both the Bata and Durham Library locations hosted *Cheers!: A Beer-Themed Exploration*, an exhibit featuring the National Library of Medicine's "From DNA To Beer" poster exhibition, alongside interactive displays on brewing geography, sustainability, and local heritage.
- In Fall 2023, the Library & Archives mounted an exhibit of highlights from the Feinberg Collection of works by Walt Whitman and Mark Twain, curated by Gina Nemati as part of her Public Texts internship placement in the Archives.

- With the launch of our Rapid Interlibrary Loan (Rapid ILL) platform this year, Trent researchers can now enjoy significantly shorter delivery times for materials from other libraries, including digital articles and book chapters. The average turnaround time for Rapid ILL deliveries to Trent users is just 12.6 hours, ensuring quick and convenient access to essential resources.
- The library now offers a streamlined process for managing course reading lists through Leganto. Faculty can simply email their syllabi, and our team will create a reading list that integrates seamlessly with Blackboard, while ensuring copyright compliance. Additionally, the system automatically considers listed items for new purchases and short-term loans. This new service model is part of our commitment to supporting affordable access to course materials for Trent students.
- Trent Durham's Library and Learning Centre launched a Data Visualization Workstation, expanding student access to advanced software and data analytics tools, thanks to the efforts of the Trent library team and support from the John Stubbs Library Innovation Fund.





Library & Archives

# BY THE NUMBERS\*

**?**  
**9,411**  
Questions  
Answered



**846,905** Omni Searches



**51,660** Research Guide Sessions



**711,914** Database Searches



**165** Research Consultations

**1,443,407** Full Text Views

**97** Workshops & Classes

**368,389** Website Page Sessions

**1,646** Workshop Participants

**58** Outreach Events



**7,226** Items Borrowed

**2,031** Event Participants

**5,271** Interlibrary Loan Lending Requests

**411,775** Library Visits

**6,586** Interlibrary Loan Borrowing Requests

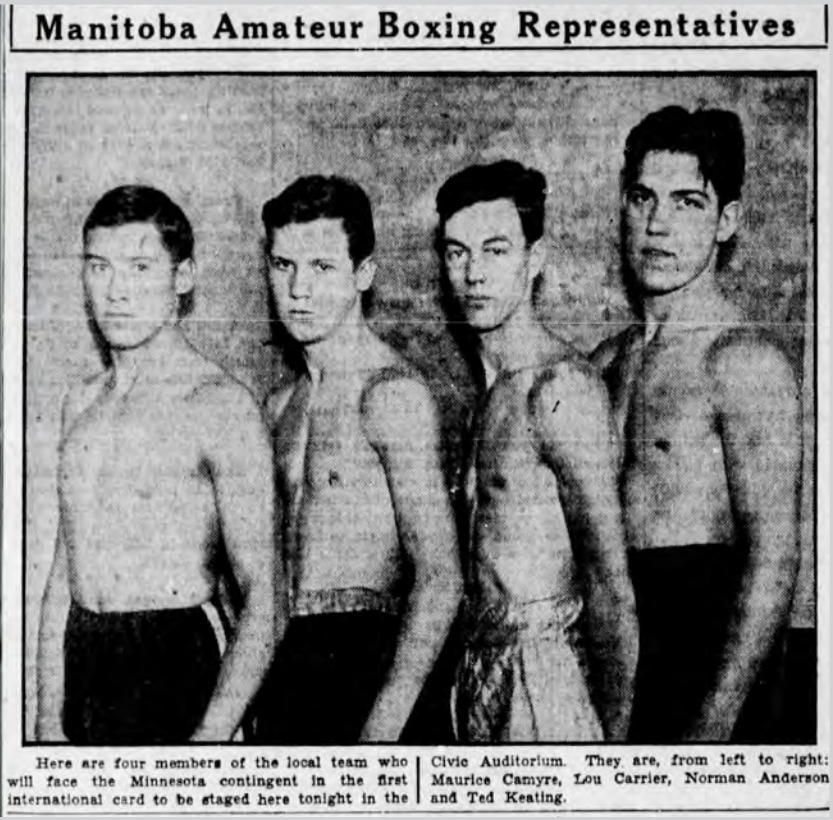
**23,849** Study Room Bookings

**399** Course Reading Lists

\* Data from 2023-24



**Featured Student Research**



Masters of History student Matthew McKeown leveraged Trent Library's Maps, Data, Government Information Centre (MaDGIC) unit to uncover the cultural history of Winnipeg's boxing community in the early 20th century. With assistance from his Learning & Liaison Librarian, James Watson, McKeown contacted the experts at MaDGIC to help him map and analyze archival data, revealing that Winnipeg boxing gyms were acting as

critical "third spaces" that brought together people from diverse backgrounds. By integrating spatial data with historical research, McKeown gained new insights into the social dynamics of Winnipeg's boxing scene. His experience shows how the Library's resources and support can transform a research project by uncovering new information that might otherwise go unnoticed.

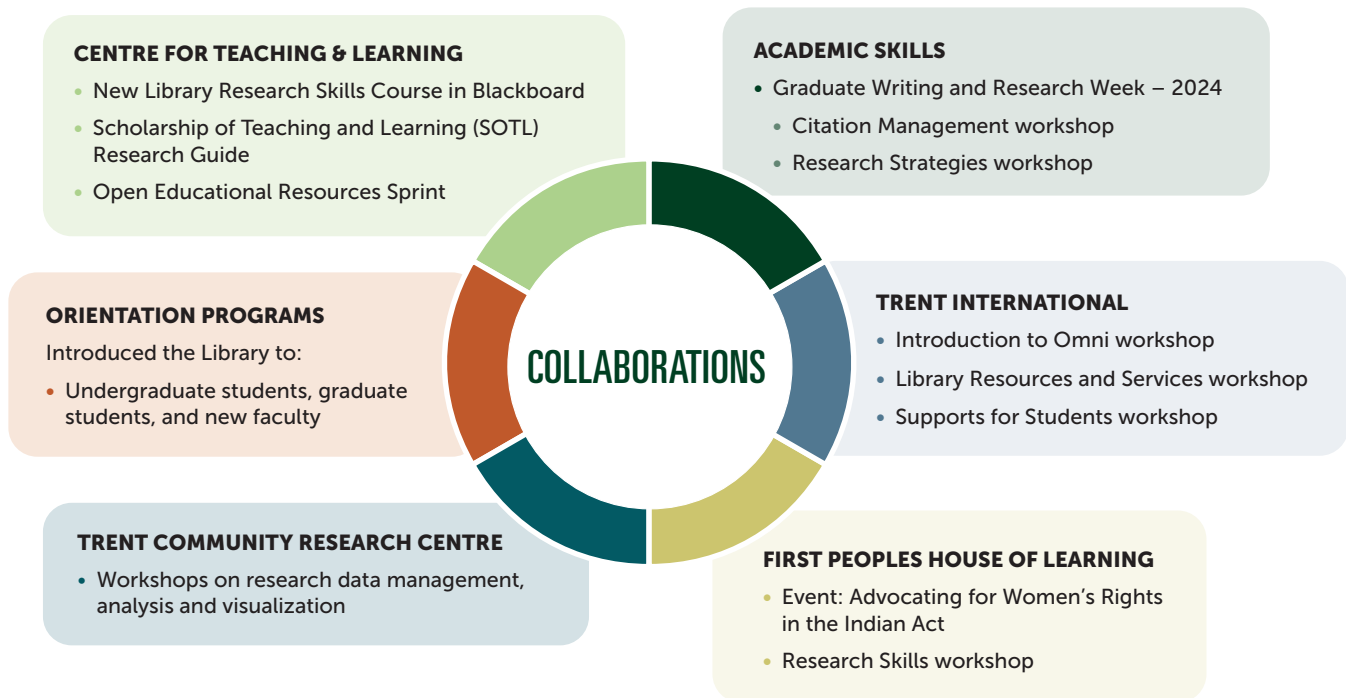


## Archival Research Support

Numerous researchers visited the Trent University Archives to access primary source research for their published works. For example, Kristen Den Hartog drew on WWI nurse Helen Fowlds' diaries for *The Roosting Box: Rebuilding the Body after the First World War*, while

Ed Arnold explored the Marlow Banks collection of Peterborough Petes material for his book on the World Junior Hockey Championship. It's thanks to researchers like them that millions engage with archives every day, through books, magazines, documentaries, and more.

## Library Collaborations with Trent Partners





# COLLECTIONS

Over the past year, Trent Library & Archives' collections have seen significant growth and diversification thanks in part to a \$200,000 permanent investment in acquisitions to support ongoing collection development across the disciplines. We acquired key resources such as Ovid Diversity, Equity & Inclusion eBooks & Journals collection, Canadian Indigenous Peoples eBook collection, and Communications & Mass Media Complete, along with enhanced data tools like Statista's Consumer Insights & eCommerce Insights. New journal subscriptions, including Event Management and Sociology of Sport, broadened our coverage, and

investing in journal backfiles, notably acquiring the Nature Archives (1950-1986) and University of Toronto Press Journal Backfiles, allowed us to provide greater online access to these journal articles. In our ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, we enriched our collections with a variety of new materials, including 18 new archival collections that reflect underrepresented voices; for instance, a collection documenting the history of Indigenous performance art, and another on Peterborough labour activism. These efforts ensure our collections remain robust, relevant, and inclusive for the Trent community.

**205,324**  
Print Books

**6,660**  
Print Journals

**1,429**  
DVDs

**9.5 km**  
Archival Material

**1,410,557**  
eBooks

**144,039**  
Online Journals

**31,139**  
Streaming Videos



# STAFF NEWS

## Staffing Changes in 2023-2024

The Trent University Library saw significant staffing changes in the past year including the appointment of Emily Tufts as the new University Librarian. Emily brings a wealth of experience in library administration, data management, and strategic leadership from her previous roles at Ontario Tech University and in the Ontario Colleges sector. Her leadership will guide the library's continued evolution, with a focus on Indigenization, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Under Emily's leadership, we will continue to strengthen relationships across campus, positioning the Library and Archives team as key partners in teaching, learning and research at Trent.

Tracy Sallaway assumed the role of Research Data Services Librarian, leading the Maps, Data & Government Information Centre (MaDGIC) to expand support for research data management and GIS service. We were able to enhance support for teaching and research at the Durham campus, welcoming Abdullah Yossofzai, Learning & Liaison Librarian. Clay Pearn joined as the Library Communications and Engagement Associate, adding to the library's outreach and communication efforts, and the library secured additional funding for student employees, allowing us to provide meaningful experiential learning opportunities for Trent students in the Library and Archives.

## Staff Achievements

In January 2024, we successfully launched a full-service Course Reading support model, simplifying the process to save time for instructors and enhancing access to affordable course materials for students.

In June 2023, the introduction of Rapid ILL, a digital resource sharing platform, dramatically reduced delivery times for material on interlibrary loan. Researchers now have digital access to material outside of Trent's collection in a matter of hours instead of waiting days or weeks.

These initiatives demonstrate our team's ongoing commitment to improving services that support teaching, learning and research.

## Library Student Employees

 **1** Co-op Student

 **2** International Students

 **31** Work Study Students

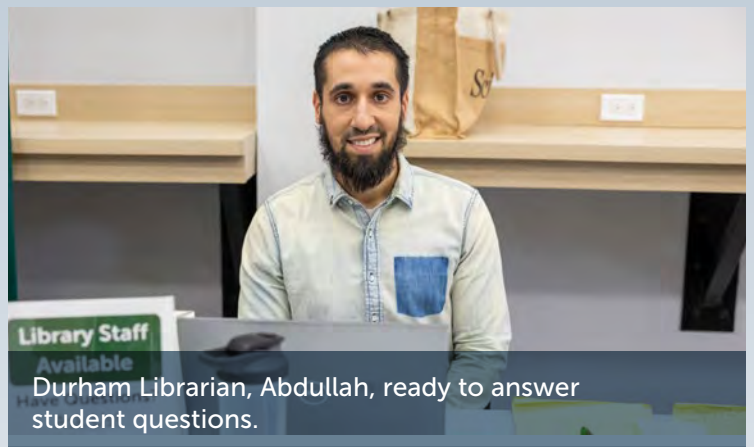
 **7,607** Hours of experiential learning provided



Students participating in a board game night at Bata Library.



Library staff watching the eclipse.



Durham Librarian, Abdullah, ready to answer student questions.



Students at the opening of the Peterborough Public Library kiosk at Bata Library.



Staff ready to canoe on the Otonabee River.

# LOOKING AHEAD



## Focus on the Future



Building on this year's achievements, including our ongoing commitment to reconciliation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and expanding collections, we will continue to prioritize inclusivity and support for research and learning in the year ahead. The launch of our new website marks a significant step in making our services more user-friendly and accessible, and we are committed to its ongoing improvement. We are focused on enhancing our instructional supports to


foster students' digital and data literacy, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to engage critically with complex information ecosystems in their studies and beyond graduation. We will continue to explore new technologies, platforms and service models to meet the needs of students and faculty today and we will be ready to anticipate and adapt to the needs of the future.



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LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

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