

Executive Summary

This has been an exciting, and change-filled year for the DiMenna-Nyselius Library. Staffing changes, upgrades in technology, and curricular changes across campus have created many challenges for our staff, but also provided new opportunities to engage with students and faculty, and for our staff to expand their knowledge and experience. Across academia, the day-to-day work of librarians has been expanding beyond their traditional roles on campus. Our staff has exemplified this trend, serving in leadership roles across campus and contributing to important conversations such as the changes to the core curriculum; finding new ways to connect the University with the broader Fairfield community; and participating in our national professional discourse.

Much of our staff time this year was devoted to implementing our new integrated library system, Alma. This new tool has made it easier for our students to find the materials they are looking for, and it has increased the efficiency of our staff workflows. Moving forward it is going to allow us to collect much more robust data that we can use to make service and collection decisions.

Additionally, many librarians spent the year becoming proficient with Workday, which we have used extensively for our purchasing and recruiting requirements. We look forward to integrating Alma with Workday over the coming months.

The Library has been actively involved in discussions around the new Magis Core Curriculum. We have worked with Core Writing faculty to develop new information literacy curricula that will support the new ENW100 course. This partnership will continue as the Core further develops, and we explore ways to engage with the expanding Writing Across the Curriculum initiative.

We look forward to the year ahead as we work with our new Academic Commons partners to ensure that the Library continues to be a welcoming place for students, and the center of their intellectual life on campus.

Purpose Statement

The DiMenna-Nyselius Library is the academic hub that fuels the creative intellectual curiosity of the Fairfield University community by

- fostering intellectual potential through teaching and learning
- curating resources to expand knowledge and understanding through research and scholarship

Manage an academic portfolio consistent with University and unit-level strategic priorities

The Library adopted a new, state of the art integrated library system in order to make it easier for students to conduct research; allow Library staff to streamline and automate the input of data; to perform advanced analysis; and to ensure we are competitive with peer institutions. Departments across the Library developed workflows for the new system and trained staff accordingly.

The Library liaison program has been reconceived and is now called The Library Partnership Program. The purpose of the program is to cultivate collaboration and engagement between librarians and faculty. The program will be rolling out in Fall 2019 and a librarians' working group will meet throughout the year to create program documentation.

The Library redesigned Digital Commons, the University's institutional repository, to emphasize the content, simplify navigation, and align its aesthetic with that of the University website. The addition of 2 new faculty journals this year brings the total number of journals hosted by the Repository to 5. We migrated the content of the Digital Humanities website into the repository for increased visibility, cohesion with the rest of Fairfield's archived scholarly content, and improved analytics. We also opened the Repository to host student work.

The Library purchased Virtual Reality (VR) technology and created a dedicated space for its use. We hosted a Virtual Reality Open House to promote the service to students, faculty, and staff



where librarians assisted with the demo. The Library also collaborated with faculty who used VR in their classrooms.

The Library developed a new first year information literacy curriculum that will be integrated with the newly developed ENW 100, due to the revision of the University's Core Curriculum. Librarians met with Core Writing Faculty to build relationships and a better understanding of ENW 100 learning outcomes and coursework. Over the course of Summer 2019, information literacy learning objectives were created, a lesson plan was developed, and activities were created, in anticipation of a rollout in the Fall 2019 semester.

Future Goals:

- The Library will implement ArchivesSpace, a web-based archives information management system designed to support core functions in archives and special collections processing. This will be crucial in helping us provide online public access to our unique physical collections to serve both the Fairfield University community and outside scholars.
- We will continue to develop our Library Partnership Program so that librarians and faculty are working together on research, teaching, and collection development.
- We will investigate the possibility of integrating our new library system, Alma, with Workday in order to streamline workflows and reduce redundancies.
- Librarians will begin investigating how information literacy instruction can be integrated into the Writing Across the Curriculum element of the new Magis Core.

Allocate resources to achieve strategic goals:

The Library leveraged its materials budget to efficiently provide for the curricular needs of the students and faculty. We continued to pursue ebook service models that provide broad access to materials for minimal cost. The Library maintained consistent use of endowment funds, which enabled us to provide accurate and timely reports to the Director of Stewardship. And,



we discontinued 2 underperforming databases and added 7 new resources to meet changing curricular needs, including 4 resources that will support the new MSW degree program.

Based on usage data we shortened our reference desk hours to allow us to better allocate staff time to higher volume times and special projects.

The Library acquired two new microform scanners with optical and image-enhancing technology to ensure that students and faculty can continue to access our microform collection, thereby saving us the cost of interlibrary borrowing of those materials or purchasing costly archives.

Collectively, Library staff served on 47 committees, providing leadership on 10 of them. Library staff had 16 presentations or publications in FY19.

Future Goals:

- At the start of the Fall 2019 semester the Library will become part of an Academic Commons, which will include several non-library departments that support student success. We will be working with the Academic Commons Working Group to form relationships with these new partners and determine shared goals, workflows, and areas of congruency.
- In response to the Administration's request that restricted funds be used to supplement operating costs, we used Library endowments to support collections for academic programs such as Judaic Studies, Asian Studies, Religion and History. We also used endowments for general resources such as media purchases and our subscription to the New York Times. And, we used endowments to support the purchase of technological upgrades such as our new microform scanners and archival supplies.

Engage staff talent to achieve strategic goals:

In support of the University's diversity priority, the 3rd annual Human Library took place on November 8th. Forty students, staff, and faculty who wanted to break down barriers based on surrounding prejudices and stereotypes shared personal stories with over 400 students.



Departments from around campus joined in co-sponsoring the event. Assessment was gathered via reflection surveys for all participants and measured against learning outcomes adapted from the new Social Justice signature element of Magis Core Curriculum.

Archives & Special Collections engaged students, staff and alumni this year by creating and/or installing exhibits designed to support the University's mission and sense of community. Library staff partnered with the Black Student Union, the National Society of Black Engineers and the Center for Faith and Public Life on these exhibits.

The positions of Senior Reference Librarian & Instruction Coordinator and Reference & Instruction Librarian were filled allowing us to sustain and improve the quality of our provided public services.

Future Goals:

- A search committee has been formed to recruit and hire a new Dean of the Library this fall with an anticipated start date of January 2020.
- In an effort to institutionalize the Library's role in Digital Humanities, a Digital Scholarship Librarian position was created to align with the University's growing development of digital projects by faculty and students. This, along with another open librarian position, will be filled in FY20.

Influence student enrollment to maximize University potential:

The Library participated in a number of student onboarding programs such as orientations for undergraduate and graduate students, administering an Academic Integrity Tutorial taken by all incoming students, and a Personal Librarian Program for first year undergraduate and transfer students. Additionally, finals de-stress activities were organized and held in the library, some in partnership with other departments on campus.

The second cohort of the Student Library Advisory Board (SLAB) convened in order to facilitate communications and the exchange of ideas between the student body and the Library staff.



This board serves as a useful assessment resource and provides students a voice in Library decision making. For example, a student-donated textbook collection will be available for all students to borrow from starting in Fall 2019 based on recommendations from SLAB.

In support of student success and retention, Librarians taught 208 classes and conducted 187 research appointments with undergraduate students as well as taught 18 classes and conducted 31 research appointments for graduate students. In total, Library staff answered 3,734 research questions from faculty, students, and staff across our various services. As members of the AJCU libraries consortium, our librarians answered 92 virtual reference questions for students across the 20 participating schools and our students asked via chat 971 questions that were answered by other AJCU librarians.

The Library conducted an inventory project of our circulating stacks collection. This work ensures that the University community can easily access our resources.

Library staff updated the student worker training procedures in order to maintain standards of service and to further contribute to the mentorship of our student workers.

As part of the library's dedication to providing instruction classes, librarians are actively involved in the University's Digital Humanities projects and initiatives by co-teaching digital scholarship, consulting with students and faculty on digital scholarship, and developing digital projects. A Librarian worked closely with students to develop the database for the Vincent J. Rosivach Register of Slaves in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Future Goals:

- In an effort to streamline our public services and facilitate discovery for our students, we will move to a "one desk" model so that students can access all library services from one place.
- With the shared goal of helping students transition to campus, the Personal Librarian Program for first-year and transfer students will now be integrated into the First Year Experience Program.

