WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY
Waterloo | Brantford | Kitchener | Toronto

BUILDING THE 21ST CENTURY
LIBRARY

Enhancing student success
Advancing research
Equalizing services
Building community
Developing our team

Annual Report, 2013-14
For much of the 20th century, the role of academic libraries was relatively static, clear and secure, but in recent years, that role has been evolving, as digital technology has transformed research and as rising student numbers have placed a premium on study and research spaces.

In the 2013-14 academic year, we continued to adapt the Laurier Library to the needs of our users in the 21st century, by building and opening a new, universally accessible front entrance, completing a master space plan to guide the transformation of the Waterloo campus Library building, and launching a bold new strategic plan designed to see our operations through the year 2020. (For a copy of the completed plan, visit library.wlu.ca/strategicplan.)

As detailed in the strategic plan, our efforts are not about keeping up with the latest trends, but enhancing the student experience, advancing research and scholarly communication, equalizing library services across campuses, engaging with our communities, and developing our staff and the functioning of our organization.

Our successes in the 2013-14 academic year laid the groundwork for our efforts to excel in each of these areas, but of course there is much still to do, as we work to make the vision of a 21st century library at Laurier a reality.

I am enormously grateful to everyone who has contributed to this success – whether you’re a staff or faculty member, student, donor or member of our broader community. Thank you so, so much, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Gohar Ashoughian,
University Librarian
“Whether it’s hosting one of my classes in the Archives, tracking down an unusual source for a graduate student, or ensuring that we have a copy of a key monograph, Laurier’s librarians provide essential support for my teaching and research.”

–Adam Crerar
Associate Professor, Department of History

IT WAS ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR OUR COLLECTIONS, STUDENT SPACES, AND MORE. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS.

October 11: The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Northwest Territories (at left), tours the Archives’ collection on Canada’s north with university officials.

October 22: The Library celebrates Open Access Week with a lively public panel discussion of the challenges and possibilities associated with the nascent Open Access publishing model.

November: the Library introduces a crack team of student Library assistants, armed with seven-inch Android tablets, to help our users wherever they need it.

September: The Library’s new website officially goes live.

October: The Laurier Archives adds a wide range of convocation materials spanning 1921 to 2013 to its Digital Collection, now available at http://images.ourontario.ca/Laurier/search.

Library celebrates a fruitful 2013

December: VP Academic Deborah MacLatchy speaks at our seasonal celebration of recent achievements: a new website, over 700 new user power outlets, a first floor renovation to increase student seating and much more.
“The Library was my quiet corner where I learned how leaders had the courage to overcome fear and failure and where I dreamed to do the same.”


Laurier community gets behind master space planning process

Winter: Our master space planning process ramps up with a series of town halls, focus groups and consultations to get at the heart of what the Laurier community needs for the Waterloo campus Library building. Working with architects Cannon Design – known for their major library projects at the University of Guelph, UC Berkeley, and many others – our goal is to come up with a plan that truly meets the needs of our users in the 21st century.

Digital Library and Learning Commons opens

January 29: The grand opening of our new Digital Library and Learning Commons in Brantford, complete with student study spaces, a service desk, computers and onsite librarians. A step in the right direction as we move towards a full-service library on the Brantford campus.

Winter 2014

HIGHLIGHT

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February-March: Scholars Commons, Laurier’s online collection of publications and documents created by members of the Laurier community, sees over 4,000 visitors in a one-month study period. The service is catching on!
“It’s full of books from its roof to its floor, on topics like King Arthur and the great world war. But that’s not it and it’s certainly not all, there are places to study and culture between these walls. So grab your bag, tie your shoes, and head to the library for more than a snooze.”

–Robert Bruce
President, WLU Graduate Students Association

June: Jessica DeWitt, the inaugural recipient of the Joan Mitchell Travel Award, visits Laurier from USask for some deep research on Canada’s parks in our internationally lauded environmental collection.

August: The Library’s new master space plan, which provides a road map for the expansion and modernization of our Waterloo campus building, is released. The plan calls for a phased approach to modernizing the building and adding new study and collaboration spaces. This is the road map to our end goal of creating a true 21st century library experience for our users.

June: Over 1,000 middle-school students are exposed to the historical wonders of the Archives as part of Laurier’s annual JUMP program of campus visits. “It makes me feel lucky to be living now!” said one young student.

Spring 2014

HIGHLIGHT
Strategic plan completed
May: The Library team, working collectively, completes and releases its new strategic plan, with goals and focus areas to take us through 2020.

HIGHLIGHT
Master space plan completed
August: The Library completes a major renovation to the front entrance of the building. The new entrance is designed to be inviting, green and highly accessible. Additional upgrades include a brand new fire safety system for the entire building.
Audrey and Donald Campbell Foundation

In March of 2014, the Library received a $25,000 donation from the Audrey and Donald Campbell Foundation.

This generous donation has been directed to a new outdoor sunken garden with seasonal study spaces, a part of the Waterloo campus Library renovation plan.

Known for its commitment to supporting projects dedicated to learning and fostering community, the foundation has supported initiatives in the area of health and education across the country.

Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association

In the 2006-7 academic year, the Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association pledged a donation of $200,000 towards the Library Information Commons on the main floor of the Waterloo campus Library.

This generous donation, given in instalments from 2008 to 2014, contributed to student space, digital technology, and service areas supporting Laurier students.

Erich Schultz Collections Endowment Fund

As Laurier’s first librarian, Erich Schultz spent more than 30 years developing our university’s collections.

After Mr. Schultz’s passing in 2010, he left a bequest to Laurier in excess of $800,000 to support the Library as well as student awards.

In 2014-15, the Library received over $90,000 from this fund.

A warm thank you to our generous donors!