

ANNUAL REPORT



2021–22

Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

Annual Report

FOLKE BERNADOTTE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Above: Library visitors were invited to play Scrabble in our foyer.

TEACHING & LEARNING

The 2021–22 academic year included cautiously optimistic steps in a return to more typical instruction work and reference services. While many classes were conducted in hybrid or virtual modes, we also had many in-person sessions (with masks required for most of the year). We resumed face-to-face reference services, and we received most of our questions in-person (71.2 percent) versus email (17.4 percent) or chat (4.3 percent). Over the course of the year, librarians assisted with 299 research questions. These numbers are closer to pre-pandemic statistics; in 2019–2020, we answered 318 reference questions.

Library faculty members taught 124 library instruction sessions, reaching 1,534 students. (Note: This is 224 more students than last year [+ ~19 percent], with the greatest increase during the fall semester.) This return to “normal” was also reflected in the number of virtual vs. face-to-face sessions:

Last Year (2020–21)	This Year (2021–22)
Asynchronous – 1	Asynchronous – 1
Hybrid-online – 1	Hybrid-online – 1
Simultaneous hybrid - in-person – 2	Simultaneous hybrid - in-person – 1
Synchronous - in-person – 14	Synchronous - in-person – 106
Synchronous - online – 85	Synchronous - online – 15

In addition to our typical reference and instruction responsibilities, we also hosted a Career Exploration in January 2022 for April Peterson '22 (Majors: French and Ancient Greek Studies). During Spring 2022, we welcomed Vera Kemna '23 (Majors: Philosophy and Classical Languages) as a Library Intern.

This past year, the College and Lutheran Church Archives assisted 236 patrons. After many months of largely virtual services, Jeff and Adrianna were excited to have in-person classes again; they welcomed many groups into the Special Collections & Rare Books room (SCRB) and the Archives for instruction sessions.

Due to sabbatical leaves and staffing challenges, our department was only involved in a few for-credit courses:

- NDL 310, Genealogy Research – 1 credit. January term 2022, enrolling nine students. (Jenson)
- NDL 112, Themes in Science Fiction Literature – 1 credit. January term 2022, enrolling 13 students. (Nemon)
- CUR 399, Three Crowns Senior Seminar – 1 credit. Spring 2022 course by arrangement, enrolling five students. (Mollner)



Above: Students in Katie Peterson's "Museums Matter" 2022 January term course visit the Gustavus Adolphus College and Lutheran Church Archives.

Mission Statement: The library advances the teaching mission and intellectual life of the College by selecting and facilitating access to information and by instructing in its use, interpretation, and evaluation.

COLLECTIONS

We added almost 4,000 items to our collections this past year, including:

- 3,586 Books
- 126 DVDs
- 50 Streaming Videos
- 21 Other formats

This year we received 3,300 gift items and added 131 of them to the collection. Nearly 200 boxes were sent on to Better World Books.

In 2021–22, the library circulated 7,619 items from the physical library collection. After the closures and quietude during various points in the pandemic, we welcomed the increased foot traffic in the building; we averaged 6,400 visitors per month.



We often rely on interlibrary loan through our statewide network of libraries to provide materials that we do not have available in our collection. Fortunately, our fill rate for borrowing requests, even for the months impacted by COVID, remained high. Despite widespread disruptions locally and nationally, we maintained a 96 percent fill rate for borrowing materials during the 2021–22 academic year.

Left: The Spring 2022 Lindell Scholar, Allison James, created an online research guide highlighting Jewish Studies materials available in both the Library and the Religion Department. She is pictured here, standing in front of many books that will be added to our collection to aid in the study of Judaism. Next to her is Visiting Librarian Abe Nemon, who supervised the project.

SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

Successes

- Return to “normal.” Holding in-person classes. Tea Tuesdays. Hosting library interns. Books in Bloom. In both large and small ways, we saw signs of a return to normalcy and were able to successfully navigate the changes posed by masking guidelines along the way.
- DEI efforts. We believe that libraries are for everyone, and this is reflected in our DEI work this year. Our efforts included: website accessibility, collection development, diversity audits in the Children's and Browsing collections, all-staff training opportunities, social media posts with DEI focus, and establishing a process for updating subject headings in the catalog.



Above: The Staff Enhancement committee organized a half-day retreat that included an escape room activity. (The participants successfully escaped with two minutes to spare!)

Challenges

- Staff turnover. We have experienced persistent challenges in retaining NTT faculty members, and this year was no exception. We had two NTT colleagues leave for other positions prior to the end of their contracts. Fortunately, we have been granted a TT request, which will hopefully provide some much-needed stability for our department.
- Deferred maintenance. From water leaks to worn-out carpet to crumbling brickwork, our building is showing its age. With the College prioritizing other facilities and with limited forward progress in fundraising, we will do our best to keep the building functional by submitting capital requests for improvements and repairs.



Above: Over the fall break, the public computer terminals were moved to center them on the pillar outside of the e-classroom.

WITH GRATITUDE

We get by with a little help from our friends ... and we are fortunate to have an incredible Friends of the Library group, Gustavus Library Associates (GLA). Established in 1977, GLA continues to promote “learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library.” This preeminent academic library support group has an active membership of more than 300 and has built an endowment nearing \$3 million. It is led by a dedicated board of directors who plan and host an array of cultural, educational, and social events.



Above: Books in Bloom returned as an in-person event (May 6–8, 2022). We had more than 400 visitors and garnered more than \$450 in donations.



Above: On April 4th, the College moved to Masking Level 0; the tea cart came back the next day!

GLA was able to host in-person events this year, including the Festival of St. Lucia luncheon and Books in Bloom. The fundraising done by GLA provides approximately 25 percent of the library’s acquisitions budget. We could not support faculty teaching or student learning without their generous efforts.

"Friends of the Library - Gustavus Library Associates (GLA) promotes learning, literature, and the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus Adolphus College."

LOOKING AHEAD

The Library faculty and staff have much to look forward to next year, including a tenure-track search, the 50th anniversary of the building, and an external review.

Selected 2022–23 Goals

Library Goals:

- Prepare for 2022–23 external review and Fall 2022 *A Royal Affair*, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the FBML2 building.
- Successfully hire a Digital Liberal Arts Librarian (tenure track), with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2023.
- Continue to advocate for improvements to the building (e.g., carpeting, study rooms, etc.).
- Per our instruction program assessment plan for 2022–23, we will holistically review what our assessments tell us about our students' grasp of our four Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).
- Continue to advance our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts by ensuring a DEI focus in all acquisitions, including DEI 10 sessions at all-staff meetings, and by conducting a sign audit (in collaboration with the Space committee).
- Pursue outreach and promotion activities that draw patrons and visitors back into the building.

Archives Goals:

- Continue moving Archives storage from locations in Norelius to another location in Norelius and Beck.
- Archives will work with art history professor Colleen Stockmann on an audit of our artifact collection.
- Archives will work with GTS to create a workflow for digital records management.

Resource Priorities

Staffing priorities:

- Maintain current levels of staffing in the face of enrollment challenges.

Monetary resources:

- Increased budgetary support for electronic resources (e-journals and databases).
- Funding for improvements to the facility (e.g., replace carpeting, build study rooms).



Above: A rearranged GLA Reading Room.

APPENDIX A: FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES

Presentations & Publications by Library Faculty and Staff

Barbara Fister (Library emerita) authored an essay in Project Information Literacy's "Provocation Series." Her essay "Principled Uncertainty: Why Learning to Ask Good Questions Matters More than Finding Answers" discusses how current methods of introducing college students to research "fail to encourage the ethical practice of open-ended curiosity."

Julie Gilbert continues to write historical novels for middle-grade readers, including one about the Schoolhouse Blizzard of 1888 and a graphic novel set during the 1918 influenza pandemic in Philadelphia. (Both titles are forthcoming in 2023). She also made two author visits in Spring 2022: St. Mary's Catholic School in Sleepy Eye (grades 3–5) and the fifth graders at St. Peter Middle School. The talks focused on writing and revisions, as well as her own books.

Anna Hulseberg, Michelle Twait, and Leah Zacate co-presented a session, "The Plot Thickens: Writing the Next Chapter for Access Services," at the virtual Brick and Click Conference, November 5, 2021.

Right: In January 2022, we upgraded the projector and speakers in the Library's e-classroom. We also added a movable podium.



Additional Achievements

Julie Gilbert served as the site supervisor for our library intern, Vera Kemna, during Spring 2022. She was a member of the library's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, helping to shape a policy on dealing with harmful language in the library catalog. She also focused on faculty development for WRITL instructors, including preparing online materials for WRITL faculty.

Dan Mollner taught Senior Seminar (course by arrangement), served on the Institutional Review Board, and was the Liberal Arts Search Representative (LASR) for a continuing faculty search in Chemistry.

James Nickras virtually attended several regional and national conferences covering electronic resources, government documents, and WMS. Using new software and methods, he was able to add and update large collections of electronic resources to our collection. Working on the Space

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committee, he assisted in planning for the library building's 50th anniversary next year and with prioritizing future updates to space.

Melissa Perron enhanced more than 2,700 records in the library catalog this year by highlighting award-winning titles with a searchable note. This ongoing project will allow for more than 125 award-winning categories to be featured in our LibGuides.

Jeannie Peterson attended numerous workshops and participated in several webinars, including a six-week American Sign Language course offered by MELSA. Internally, Jeannie serves on the Library's Staff Enhancement committee. Jeannie also continued to contribute to external campus committees, such as the Internal Budget Committee, the Safety & Health Committee, and for the third consecutive year aided the Administrative Assistant group by coordinating/providing snacks at all monthly meetings.

Kate Sonstebj completed a six-week online course through the American Library Association entitled "Fundamentals of Acquisitions" to acclimate to her new role as acquisitions manager. Throughout the year, she served on two campus-wide committees, HR Accelerator (led by Kathi Tunheim) and Accessibility Team (led by Doug Thompson), and was selected to be an Onboarding Buddy for other new hires at Gustavus. Thanks to MELSA and a grant that made this training available to library staff in greater Minnesota, she took a free beginner's course in American Sign Language for Library Staff via Zoom in the spring.

Sonja Timmerman served on the Friends of the Library - Gustavus Library Associates 2022 Books in Bloom event committee; served on DEI and Space internal library committees and worked with a special ad hoc group to begin planning the library's 50th-anniversary celebration in Fall 2022.

Leah Zacate offered her library expertise on two area boards, the MLC Licensure Advisory Council (New Ulm) and the Community Education Advisory Committee (New Ulm). She also completed 12 credits of graduate-level coursework this year.



Left: A staff photo taken in December 2021 for the yearbook. Missing from the picture are two visiting library faculty members, Dylan Mohr and Abe Nemon; also not pictured is Dan Mollner (sabbatical leave).