

ANNUAL REPORT



2022-23

Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library

Annual Report

FOLKE BERNADOTTE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

CONTENTS

Teaching & Learning

Collections

Successes & Challenges

With Gratitude

Looking Ahead

Appendix A: Faculty/Staff Activities



Above: We sponsored a reading challenge in March 2023.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Our instruction program grew a bit during the 2022–23 academic year. Library faculty members taught 146 library instruction sessions, reaching 1,726 students. Here is a snapshot comparing last year with this year:

Last Year (2021–22)	This Year (2022–23)
Asynchronous – 1	Asynchronous – 1
Hybrid-online – 1	Hybrid-online – 0
Simultaneous hybrid - in-person – 1	Simultaneous hybrid - in-person – 0
Synchronous - in-person – 106	Synchronous - in-person – 140
Synchronous - online – 15	Synchronous - online – 5

Statistics for reference services were similar to the previous year’s; librarians assisted with 292 research questions this year (compared with 299 questions last year). We received most of our questions in-person at the reference desk (72.2 percent) versus email (11.3 percent) or “by appointment in-person” (10.3 percent).

In addition to our typical reference and instruction responsibilities, we also hosted a Spring 2023 internship for Ruby O’Hagan ’23 (Majors: History and GWSS).

This past year, the College and Lutheran Church Archives assisted 228 patrons, close to last year’s numbers. They also welcomed many groups into the Special Collections & Rare Books room (SCRB) and the Imaginarium for instruction sessions.

Faculty in our department also taught the following for-credit courses this year:

- NDL 112, Themes in Science Fiction Literature – 1 credit. January term 2023, enrolling 14 students. (Nemon)
- NDL 310, Genealogy: Research & Exploration – 1 credit. January term 2023, enrolling two students. (Jenson)
- CUR 399, Three Crowns Senior Seminar – 1 credit. Fall 2022 course by arrangement, enrolling five students. (Mollner)



Above: Jeff Jenson (left) visited the Minnesota History Center with students enrolled in his 2023 January term course, Genealogy: Research & Exploration.

Mission Statement: The library advances the teaching mission and intellectual life of the College by offering inclusive services and programs, selecting diverse materials, and facilitating equal access to information for all. The library promotes information literacy by instructing in the ethical use, interpretation, and evaluation of resources.

COLLECTIONS

We added more than 4,600 items to our collections this past year, including:

- 3,765 Books
- 120 DVDs
- 26 Streaming Videos
- 14 Other formats

This year we received 1,663 gift items. We continue to partner with Better World Books for unneeded donations.

In 2022–23, the library circulated 8,996 items from the physical library collection. Foot traffic in the building was on par with last year's, averaging 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 is high; this year, we were able to fill 95.3 percent of requests.



Left: The Department of Art & Art History sponsored a series of talks highlighting the interpretation, display, and storage of art by Native American artists. On December 2nd, Nicole Grabow, Director of Preventive Conservation at the Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC), gave a talk in the Archives Imaginarium about professional art conservation and provided background context for the preservation of Native American items within the Gustavus Adolphus collection.

SUCSESSES & CHALLENGES

Successes

- More outreach. In part thanks to our 50th anniversary, we offered more events this year: a week’s worth of Homecoming festivities, themed Tea Tuesdays, a panel discussion featuring Africanfuturist writers, and a month-long “Reading Brings Us Together” event (complete with pizza party!).
- External review. We found the external review process to be very valuable. Our external evaluators listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions; their report highlights several areas of potential improvement.
- Successful TT search. The search process for a Digital Liberal Arts Librarian was successful; we hired Rachel Flynn in April 2023.



Above: The Staff Enhancement committee organized a half-day retreat that included a pickleball clinic.

Challenges

- Chronic stress. After years of pandemic-related challenges, we now find ourselves in conversations about restructuring and “right-sizing” in response to the enrollment crisis. Many employees are struggling with the anxiety that comes with so much uncertainty.
- 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.

WITH GRATITUDE

This year, our wonderful Friends of the Library group, Gustavus Library Associates (GLA), helped us celebrate our 50th anniversary and raised \$150,000 for the GLA Endowment Fund through A Royal Affair. 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. 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.



Above: GLA president Ava Goepfert welcomed attendees to the library’s 50th-anniversary celebration.

Right: Always a popular auction item at A Royal Affair, this year’s Library VIP room was stocked with a travel mug, t-shirt, throw blanket, office supplies, and treats. We also provided the lucky Gustie with a mini-fridge and an electric kettle to use throughout the remainder of the year.



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

LOOKING AHEAD

As the College grapples with an enrollment crisis and many uncertainties, the library faculty and staff will do our best to support student learning while engaging in the important (but difficult) work that lies ahead.

Selected 2023–24 Goals

- Support implementation of decisions made by the Faculty Task Force as well as the recommendations implemented by the President, Cabinet, and Board of Trustees from the College Task Force and explore ways for the library to further contribute to a highly innovative, radically inclusive, and student-centric experience for Gusties.
- Through a staff retreat and all-staff meetings, continue to discuss further goals resulting from the external reviewers' recommendations.
- Successfully onboard Rachel Flynn, our new tenure-track Digital Liberal Arts Librarian.
- Continue to advocate for improvements to the building (e.g., carpeting, study rooms, etc.).
- Continue a DEI focus in all acquisitions and work to make materials as accessible as possible (i.e., explore more options for purchasing eBooks and such digital formats).
- Explore ways to make our spaces more welcoming, improve signage, and foster partnerships with student groups.

Resource Priorities

Staffing priorities:

- Be thoughtful, creative, and forward-thinking with staffing and workflows in the face of enrollment challenges.

Monetary resources:

- Restructure our current acquisitions model to provide us with more flexibility within our budget.
- Seek funding for making improvements to the facility (such as replacing carpeting and building study rooms).



Above: Gustavus hosted the Spring 2023 MnObe gathering.

APPENDIX A: FACULTY/STAFF ACTIVITIES

Presentations & Publications by Library Faculty and Staff

Adrianna Darden and Jeff Jenson were interviewed for the Winter 2022 issue of the *Gustavus Quarterly*. In addition, both offered an “Archives Tour, Q&A, and Conversation” in April for the lucky winners of that auction item from *A Royal Affair*.

Julie Gilbert published a novel for middle-grade readers: *Maddy and the Monstrous Storm: An 1888 Blizzard Survival Story*. Additionally, she finished a manuscript about the Tri-State tornado of 1925, as well as a graphic novel manuscript about the Hindenburg disaster. (Both titles are forthcoming in Fall 2023 and 2024 respectively). She also made an author visit to a fourth-grade class at North Intermediate in St. Peter to talk about her work.

Julie Gilbert and Anna Hulseberg offered a Teachers Talking session on designing research prompts for information literacy.

Anna Hulseberg published an article, “Librarian As Advisor: Parallels in Standards in Librarianship and Advising,” in *College & Undergraduate Libraries*. She also co-authored an article, “Collaborative Synergy: Building an Energy Geography Resource Hub,” published in *College & Research Libraries News*.

Abe Nemon presented a session, “Leveraging a Liberal Arts College Science Fiction Collection for Instruction and Outreach” at the Spring 2023 Minnesota Oberlin Group Reference & Instruction meeting. He also presented a session at the 2023 Academic and Research Library Division (ARLD) Day: “Scaffolding a Multirole Science Fiction Webzine Project: From Skill-Making to Collaborative Creation.”



Above: In November 2022, Abe Nemon organized a panel of Africanfuturist science fiction & fantasy authors.

Additional Achievements

Adrianna Darden served on the library’s Space Committee and assisted with the 50th-anniversary celebration. She attended the Minnesota Archives Symposium in the fall and the TCART spring meeting. In addition to finishing the digitization of the Nobel Conference collection, Adrianna also contributed to an NEH preservation grant involving Indigenous materials in the Archives’ artifact collection.

Julie Gilbert served as co-chair of the library's tenure track search for a digital liberal arts librarian. She was the site supervisor for Ruby O'Hagan, our Spring 2023 intern. Julie also served on the library's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee and the college's First Term Seminar Advisory Board.

Anna Hulseberg served on the library's Outreach & Promotion Committee, on the Faculty Development Committee, as the Library Assessment Liaison, and as Historian for the Gustavus Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. She also presented at the Kendall Center's New Faculty Retreat.

Jeff Jenson co-chaired the library's tenure-track search for a digital liberal arts librarian. He served as Liberal Arts Search Representative (LASR) on the Nursing Department's tenure-track search. Jeff continued serving on the faculty Grade Appeals Board and as a member of the campus Student Conduct Board. He offered a January Term course, Genealogy: Research & Exploration. Jeff supervised a large archives-area inventory project for Ruby O'Hagan's spring internship and taught her the process of collection processing and description. Jeff served on the department's Staff Enhancement Committee.

Dan Mollner taught the Three Crowns Senior Seminar (by arrangement) for five students, served as Faculty Ombudsperson, was a member of the campus Institutional Review Board, and served as Liberal Arts Search Representative on a tenure-track search for BIO/EGE. In the Library, Dan was a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, the Space Committee, and served on the tenure-track search committee for the digital liberal arts librarian.

Abe Nemon created a brand-new Guide to English, a Guide to Speculative Fiction at Gustavus Library, and a Guide to East Asian Cinema. He taught ND112 Themes in Science Fiction Literature for the second time and helped organize the 2023 Spring Meeting of the Minnesota Oberlin Group of Libraries' Reference and Instruction Division.

James Nickras participated on the Gustavus Voter Engagement Team and maintained the GODORT 2020 Voting & Election Toolkit for Iowa along with managing the Iowa State Agency Database. He also completed a master of science degree in Geographic Information Science from Northwest Missouri State University.

Melissa Perron implemented a new feature into the library catalog that hides sensitive language in our subject headings. She also participated in an OCLC data labeling project created to help clean up duplicate records and improve the quality of WorldCat. She helped plan a successful 50th-anniversary party for the library. She also earned the certificate for participating in all the INVERSITY Reflection events.

Jeannie Peterson served on the library's internal Staff Enhancement Committee. She also participated in Modules 1–5 of INVERSITY solutions. Outside the library, Jeannie provided leadership for the Academic Administrative Assistants group, assisted in planning and facilitating sessions for Human Resources' Gustavus Professional Development Days, served on the Safety and

Health Committee, was a member of the Internal Budget Committee, and represented staff members on the College Task Force.

Kate Sonstebly served on the library's DEI Committee, assisted Space with 50th-anniversary events for Homecoming 2022, and wrote a community-building grant for Outreach & Promotion for "Reading Brings Us Together," a program with weekly challenges culminating in a reading party in March 2023. Elsewhere in the campus community, Kate was involved with the Events Committee (co-chairing the employee holiday party), Accessibility Team (leading surveys of public spaces for accessibility standards), Onboarding Buddies, Engagement Champions, and Gustavus Young Professionals.

Sonja Timmerman collaborated with library, campus, & FOTL-GLA colleagues to execute the library's 50th-anniversary celebration during Homecoming week 2022; completed an American Sign Language course offered by the American Library Association; worked with library Space and DEI committees on accessibility of the library's building and online presence; organized the library's contribution to the A Royal Affair auction and provided volunteer hours for event preparation; and collaborated with library and campus colleagues to reimagine services for emeriti faculty as GTS changes to legacy accounts were instituted.

Leah Zacate served on two internal committees, Wireheads and Staff Enhancement, and one community committee, the Community Education Advisory Committee (New Ulm). She also completed 12 graduate-level credits toward an MLIS degree (completion expected August 2023).



Left: A staff photo taken in December 2022 for the yearbook. Not pictured: Dan Mollner.