

A note from Dean of Libraries Bryn Geffert



RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION: UVM LIBRARIES' FY 2021

With the fall semester well underway and our three campus libraries bustling with visitors, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the work accomplished by Libraries' faculty, staff, and directors over the last year. They have shown fortitude and resiliency in the face of uncertainty. At the UVM Libraries we pride ourselves on dedicated service to our patrons. I've watched our team pull together to ensure that the curricular and research needs of the campus community were met during a global pandemic, often through innovative approaches to delivering library collections and services. I hope you'll enjoy learning about some of our work.

We mailed books across the country to students weathering the pandemic from home. We undertook large-scale scanning operations, enabling us to deliver electronic copies of book chapters and articles through the ether. We created a curbside pickup service, allowing faculty and students unable to enter the libraries for health reasons to retrieve books in the open air.

The pandemic highlighted a reality we've long acknowledged, namely how challenging it is to get good academic literature to everybody who needs it. We experienced this challenge firsthand when our negotiations with Elsevier, a publisher of academic research, failed to yield a sustainable price for a major collection of academic journals. With the backing of UVM's Faculty Senate, UVM joined the State University of New York system and other universities across the country in walking away from an unsustainable product. Instead, we reinvested savings in interlibrary loan, article purchasing, and alternate subscriptions. We resolved to undertake initiatives in the years ahead that re-imagine the role of libraries in making all good scholarship accessible to those who need it.

ENSURING COLLECTIONS ACCESS

Safety via curbside services

The UVM Libraries instituted a popular curbside pickup service for physical items, such as books, DVDs, and media equipment. UVM students, faculty, staff, and guest borrowers were able to reserve materials in advance and pick them up outside the Howe and Dana libraries to minimize contact. We provided over 1700 curbside transactions (often involving multiple items) in the interests of keeping our community safe.

Delivery of library resources

As faculty and students moved to remote and hybrid learning for much of the year, our Interlibrary Loan staff continued their efforts to obtain resources that met curricular and research needs. We mailed books and other materials to at-home learners wherever they worked. Library staff provided digital book chapters, articles, films, manuscripts, photographs, and more by scanning materials for patrons who couldn't visit our buildings.

Supporting remote learners

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the Libraries removed print materials from course reserves during the 2020-2021 academic year. To ensure that we met course needs nevertheless, we purchased additional e-books and streaming media. Even as restrictions on sharing physical materials have lifted, we continue to collect online resources to support evolving models of remote and hybrid learning that took shape last year.

Ensuring discoverability

The Libraries believe it isn't enough to build strong collections in support of the UVM community's research, teaching, and learning needs; we also need to make sure these resources can be discovered. Catalogers improved records in our online discovery tool. We identified broken links in our systems, and our hands-on e-resources troubleshooting team fielded over 125 requests for assistance in FY 2021, making sure students, faculty, and staff could find and obtain what they needed.



SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Teaching librarians at work

Teaching librarians across our three buildings play critical roles in helping students develop research skills and grow as critical thinkers who can find and evaluate information.

In FY 2021, the UVM Libraries provided:

- 300 instruction sessions reaching 9,071 attendees
- Answers to 1,620 reference questions
- 1,812 in-depth research consultations with librarians

At the Howe Library, consultations increased by over 15% from the previous year, despite a smaller team of teaching librarians due to retirements and hiring freezes. At the Dana Medical Library, attendance in education sessions increased by 10%.

Systematic Reviews at Dana Medical Library

Systematic reviews address pressing issues by gathering and synthesizing the most reliable information on specific research questions. Since 2010, researchers affiliated with UVM and the UVM Medical Center have conducted at least 240 systematic reviews. UVM librarians work side by side with investigators on this research, devising and running rigorous, authenticated, and reproducible search strategies to inform new investigations. In 2020 and 2021, librarians at Dana undertook in-depth methodological training and served as co-authors for systematic reviews on a wide range of health conditions, including various cancers, seizures, heart attacks, crash-risk behaviors in youth, movement disorders, and elbow, wrist, and hand conditions.

Innovative offerings from Silver Special Collections Library

Silver Special Collections sponsors annual lectures and events on book arts, archival collections, Vermont history, and much more. The library created the digital series, "Gathering Leaves: Conversations about Book Arts," in which three guest lecturers discussed their work. In 2020, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, all UVM faculty and staff worked from home. Special Collections workers used this time to transcribe handwritten, historic diaries and letters, thereby increasing digital access to manuscript collections. In the fall of 2020, the library built on these efforts and launched a public Transcribe-a-thon event, enlisting the help of UVM students and volunteers from around the globe in a collective effort to transcribe the diaries of Mary Jane Simpson, a groundbreaking Vermont representative and dean of women at the University of Vermont, who was also the first woman bill clerk in the United States Senate.



NEW RESOURCES

Building Equitable Collections

In an effort to help reduce health disparities, Dana Medical Library has acquired new resources about dermatologic health issues related to skin of color. Dana added several new e-books about dermatological diseases and disorders in patients with skin of color. These titles will support education and clinical practice, particularly in primary care, dermatology and pediatrics, and supplement VisualDx, a point-of-care diagnostic system, that allows users to locate images of clinical signs in skin of color.

Librarians often create detailed research guides to help students and faculty locate trusted resources on a given topic. In 2020, we added two research guides on diversity, equity, and inclusion in response to community and campus conversations. Students from the Larner College of Medicine's Social Justice Coalition asked the Dana Medical Library to help them build a digital collection of anti-racism resources, by hosting the collection and purchasing relevant materials, resulting in the collaborative collection, *Together We Learn: Resources for Our Journeys in Justice & Inclusion*. Librarians at the Howe Library created a guide on *Racial Justice & Anti-Racism Resources*, featuring selections from the Libraries' collection, an introduction to key concepts, and ideas for promoting racial justice.

Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI)

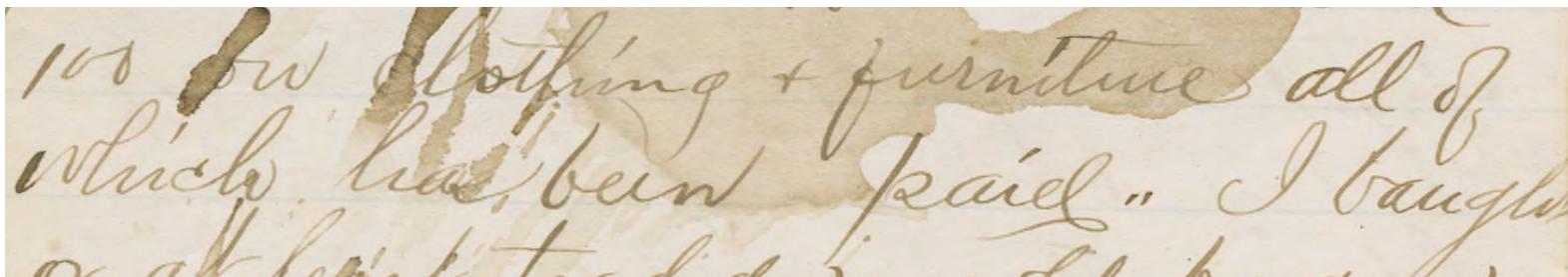
<http://cdi.uvm.edu/>

We added two new collections to the Libraries' digital repository, highlighting holdings at Silver Special Collections and other cultural heritage institutions. The *Women's Suffrage in Vermont Collection* documents Vermonters' efforts between 1870 and 1920 to obtain voting rights for women. Working with UVM's Center on Disability & Community Inclusion, the CDI launched *Absurdities and Realities of Special Education*, a collection of over 300 cartoons depicting issues and research findings about special education, schooling, and disability-related issues, created by Michael Giangreco with the assistance of artist Kevin Ruelle.

UVM ScholarWorks

<https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/>

Academic libraries around the world are contributing to the open access movement by making research available free of charge to scholars, anytime, anywhere. UVM ScholarWorks, a project of the Libraries, serves as a platform for disseminating student and faculty work; it includes peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, reports, student dissertations, and much more. Recent additions include the creation of a USDA Agricultural Research Service Center collection (part of a larger Food Systems Research Center effort), Transportation Research Center Research Reports, and James M. Jeffords Center for Policy Research publications.



NEW RESOURCES

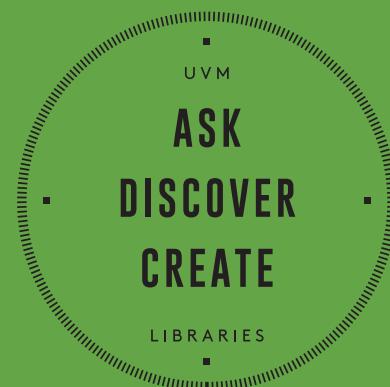
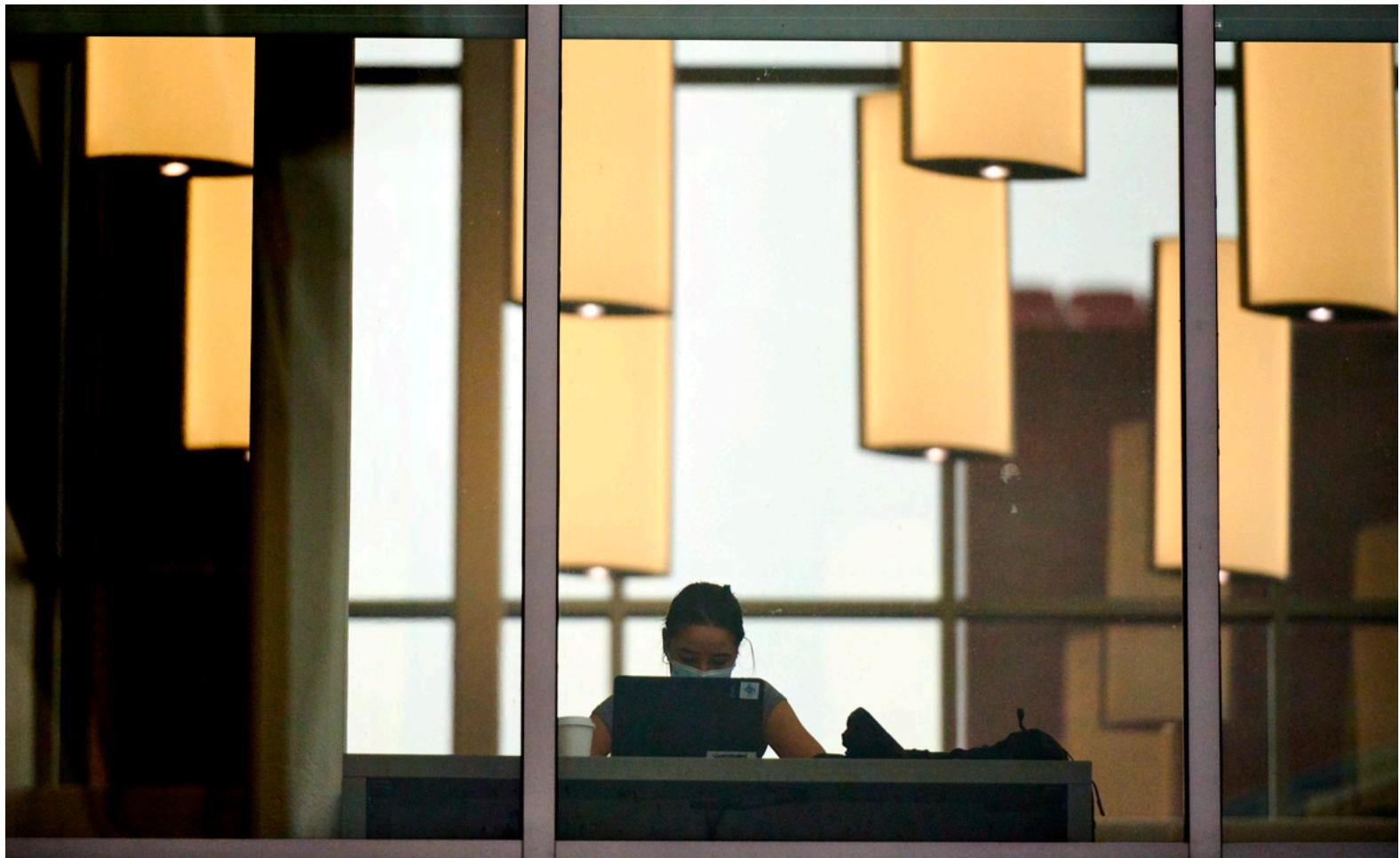
Easier Access to News Sources

The UVM Libraries have long served as an important point of access to historic and current newspaper sources. Beginning in July of 2020, we were able to offer UVM students, staff, and faculty subscriptions to *The New York Times* online. Since the nineteenth century, the Libraries and *The Burlington Free Press* have collaborated to preserve and provide access to the Vermont paper. In 2020, we made available an online archive of the newspaper, dating from its first issue in 1848 to 2007, via the ProQuest Historical Newspapers Vermont Collection.

New and Rare Materials

Each year, with the generous support of annual donors and endowments, Silver Special Collections adds to its collection of one-of-a-kind research materials for the study of Vermont, the history of UVM, and the history of the book as a form of humanistic expression. We acquired several notable collections in FY 21. After Marlboro College closed its Vermont campus to merge with Boston's Emerson College, the College's archives and Rudyard Kipling Collection came to UVM, with grant support from the Delmas Foundation. The archives of Vermont-based architect Marcel Beaudin document his prolific work of approximately 1,000 projects, including Vermont landmarks such as the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, the Trinity College Chapel, and the Vermont Veterans Memorial Chapel. The Burlington International Airport archives include a rich visual history of early Vermont aviation and travel. Endowment funding allowed the library to purchase a 15th-century manuscript with several classical texts—an important contribution to our collection of medieval and illuminated manuscripts.





538 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05405
802-656-2020
library.uvm.edu