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Library Year in Review 2023-2024

Saint Mary's College of California

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Year in Review 2023-2024



Library



<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/library>



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Dean's Message



As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I share the achievements of our library. Our commitment to supporting research, fostering lifelong learning, and promoting intellectual curiosity remains steadfast. This year, our library has continued to be a center of knowledge, innovation, and community engagement.

One of our standout accomplishments has been our ongoing efforts to support Open Access (OA) and Open Educational Resources (OER) at SMC. This initiative underscores our dedication to staying at the forefront of academic resources and services, ensuring we meet the evolving needs of our library users.

Work continues on our project “Open Education Resources for Social Justice.” This project is supported by a collaborative team of librarians, which included librarians from Loyola Marymount University, the University of San Francisco, and Santa Clara University, all institutions with a social justice mission, and funded with a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Open Textbook Pilot Program for a project. This highly competitive grant program required a compelling case for the need for free textbooks in private colleges and universities. This funding supports 12 faculty teams over three years in creating or modifying open textbooks and supplemental resources. You can read more about this project on page ten.

The College Archives implemented a strategic digitization plan for 2023-2024, prioritizing the most commonly requested items. To

date, the College Archives has nearly completed the digitization of the 1990-present run of The Collegian newspapers, which are now available online (<https://smc-archives.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/18>). Through a partnership with SCEL and JSTOR Shared Collections, The Collegian and other archival materials are now accessible via the JSTOR platform. This collaboration is a milestone for the College Archives, significantly broadening our reach to the scholarly community. More highlights from the College Archives can be found on page 11.

Throughout the year, we have worked diligently to strengthen campus partnerships and collaborative relationships. We introduced and revitalized several programs, including Fac Chats, Pause for Poetry, and Crafternoon, which have garnered a growing following. New programs such as Quiet Book Club, Wake Up Wednesday, and Learn with the Library have further expanded opportunities for our community to engage with library staff and stimulate intellectual curiosity.

I am thrilled to acknowledge the exceptional work of our library staff and the invaluable contributions of our patrons. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment are the driving forces behind our continued success.

As we move forward, our mission remains to provide an inclusive, dynamic, and accessible library environment. We are launching new initiatives to diversify our collections, enhance our physical spaces, and support academic excellence and lifelong learning. Throughout this Year in Review publication, you will read about how we are creating services, programs, and spaces that welcome and support all members of our community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are shaping the future of our library and advancing the pursuit of knowledge. I invite you to explore the highlights of this report and share in our accomplishments.

Lauren MacDonald
Dean of the Library and Academic Resources
Director, Museum of Art

Events and Programming

Libraries serve not just as places for books, research, and study, but as centers to enable and celebrate exploration, curiosity, and creativity. To enhance that area of our offerings, we formed a standalone Outreach Committee, made up of staff from across library departments. This committee planned and oversaw new and continuing events, increased collaboration with other areas on campus. They promoted library programs, collections, and services. They reached out to the students, reminding them that the library is a place that welcomes all.



124
Outreach events

3,184
People reached



Recurring events

- Crafternoon
- Fac Chats
- Pause for Poetry
- Quiet Book Club (new!)
- Wake Up Wednesday (new!)
- Learn with the Library workshop series (formerly Ask a Librarian series)

Special events

- Games & Puzzles Night*
- Book publication events for faculty
- Library crawl for staff
- “Laboring With Hope” documentary screening & discussion
- High School Libraries Workshop

***Thanks to the Designing The Quest Board Game in Jan Term 24 for its generous donations!**

Campus participation

- HP 50th Anniversary Celebration
- “Mini SMUG”: Saint Mary’s User Group
- Employee Resource Fair
- Summer Academy for high school students
- International Women’s Day fair

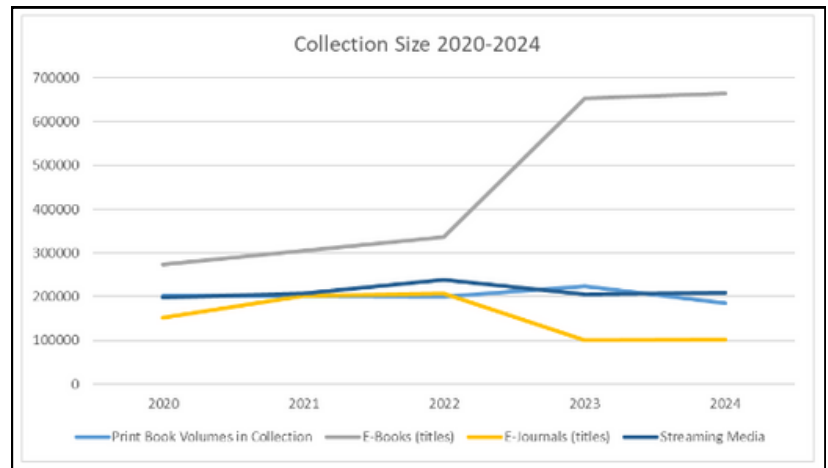
Orientation participation

- New student orientations
- SDS PREP
- International students orientation
- School- and program-specific orientations for graduate and professional students
- New faculty orientation

In response to student feedback, the Silent Study Zone is now the Quiet Lounge with more comfortable furniture and, coming soon, the Wildenrad, with its amazing AC, will be opened for drop-in use.

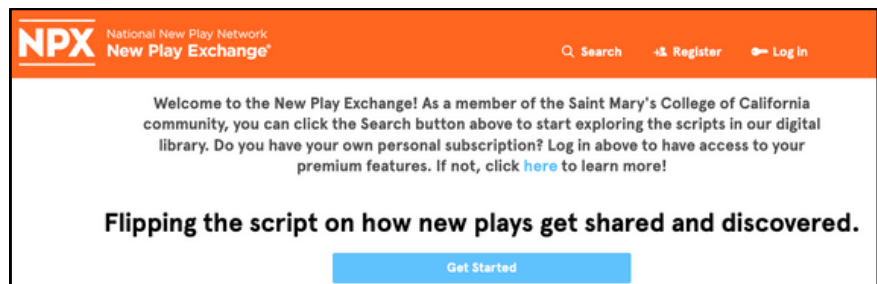
Collection Highlights

In 2023-2024, our collection continued to grow thanks to our subject selectors' expertise. We also increased our e-resources to record holdings. In all, 4,058 ebooks were activated.



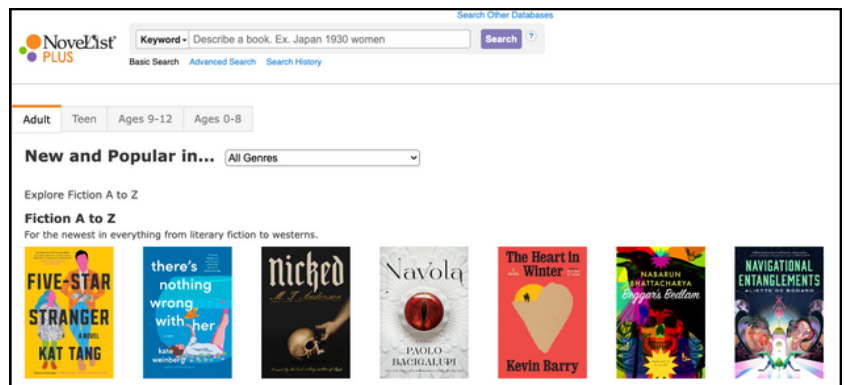
New Play Exchange

The New Play Exchange (NPX) is the world's largest digital library of scripts by living writers



NoveList Plus

Help readers of all ages match books, fiction and nonfiction, perfectly to their preferences. Search or browse by moods, themes, genres and Lexile reading levels.



ProQuest Black Studies

Primary and secondary sources, leading historical Black newspapers, archival documents, government materials, video, writings by major American Black intellectuals and leaders.



Collection Highlights



Brother Camillus Chavez Collection

This collection, an initiative by the Institute for Latino and Latin American Studies (ILaLS), with additional support from SMC Mission and Ministry and the Department of Psychology, is named in honor of Brother Camillus, who was a key presence on the campus and shaped and influenced the lives of many generations of students at SMC. Br. Camillus led meditation sessions, taught courses in Psychology, and advocated for students of color. The collection consists of Spanish-language materials including popular novels, children's books, books by undocumented populations and non-fiction that is emblematic of the diverse experience of Latin American and U.S. Latino communities.

From The Archives

The 2023-2024 academic year marked a significant period of growth for the College Archives, characterized by an intensified focus on digitization, outreach, instruction, and the demonstration of the essential research services we provide to the Saint Mary's community and beyond.

Digitization of *The Collegian*

The College Archives has nearly completed the digitization of the 1990-present run of *The Collegian* newspapers, which are now available online (<https://smc-archives.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/18>).

The *Collegian* newspaper provides a comprehensive account of events at Saint Mary's from the unique perspective of the student body. These newspapers are among the most frequently requested materials by both students and alumni.



Through a partnership with SCELIC and JSTOR Shared Collections, *The Collegian* and other archival materials are now accessible via the JSTOR platform. This collaboration is a milestone for the College Archives, significantly broadening our reach to the scholarly community outside of the SMC community and into the world.

From The Archives

Outreach and Instruction



The College Archives is integral to Professor Elena Songster's History Methods class, introducing students to academic archives and potential career paths. The class includes a tour of the Archives.

Additionally, during the 2023 Homecoming Weekend, an "Escape from the Archives" escape room was hosted, where participants solved clues related to SMC history to find Slip Madigan's 1932 flask.

Hold it Lightly Collaboration



The past academic year featured a collaboration with the SMC Museum of Art on Lisa Congdon's Hold it Lightly exhibition. The exhibition showcased Congdon's personal items, including photographs and scrapbooks, creating a gallery space with interactive elements for sharing memories.

Artifacts displayed included her thesis, scrapbooks, and student IDs. Materials were digitized post-exhibition, now available for in-library use only.

OER Grant Update

Last year, the SMC Library began work with three other private Catholic California Colleges on the OER for Social Justice grant awarded by the Department of Education to incentivize faculty to create and use Open Educational Resources (OER) that focus on social justice. The SMC teams have been hard at work this year planning the structure and content of their OERs, as well as the plan for piloting the texts in Spring 2025.

ORB 301

SEBA faculty Caroline Burns and Grant Rozeboom and librarian Sarah Vital are writing a textbook for Business Ethics and Social Responsibility.

PSYCH 200

KSOE /Counseling faculty Stephanie D'Costa, Rebecca Anguiano, Mireille "Mimi" Ukeye, and SOS/Psychology faculty Makenzie O'Neil are working on a textbook for Psychological Methods and Analysis I and II.

WRIT 100+

SOLA/Writing Studies faculty Sunayani Bhattacharya, Meghan Sweeney, Yin Yuan, and librarian Gina Kessler Lee are writing a textbook for the first-year composition courses.

Faculty Profiles

For the past several year, librarians have had a large hand in updating and maintaining the Faculty’s online scholarship profiles. This past year, we had to undergo a large migration project, as the profile system we had been using was being discontinued.

The alternative platform we’ve moved to is an improvement.

Data migration was completed in March 2024, and during the summer, subject librarians reviewed the nearly 400 profiles and began to work with faculty to polish their profiles.

Scholarship profiles not only help faculty promote their scholarship and creative works but also showcase the faculty expertise of the College.

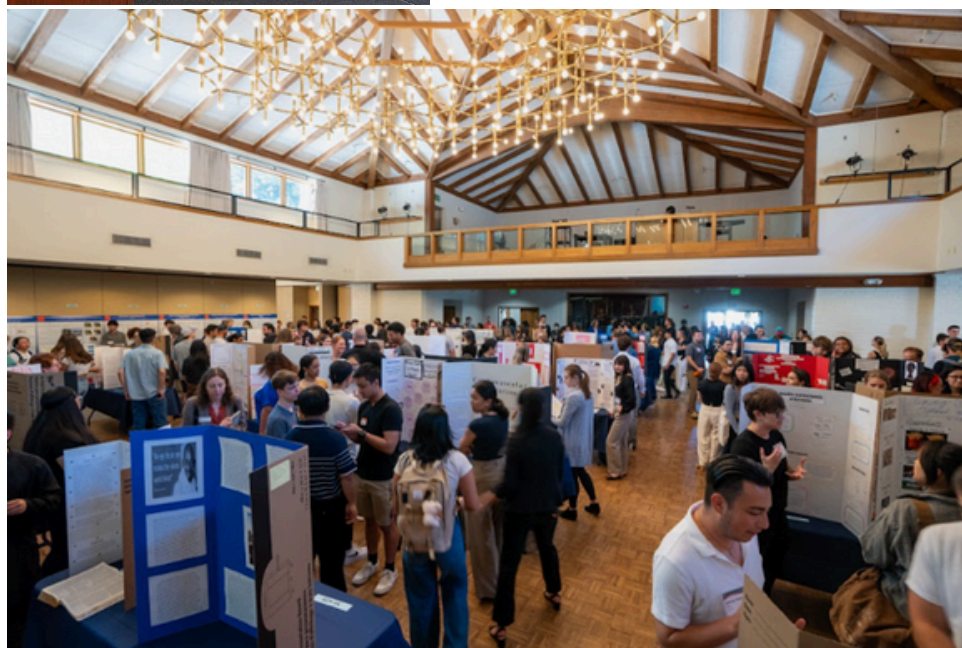
Visit the new profiles at scholars.stmarys-ca.edu



Student Awards



For this year's Library Research Awards at the SMC Student Research Conference, a team of librarian judges selected winning posters based on scope, relevance, authority, number and variety of sources, integration of references, citations, and use of library resources.



6

Library Research
Award winners

66

projects considered

\$1,500

awarded to student
researchers

2024 Library Research Award Winners:

Emma Cardinale for *Extreme Exercise Intensity Increases Risk of Cardiovascular Dysfunction*

Gabrielle Ly for *Museums: Collections or Community*

Melody Ng for *Edward Said: The Perpetuation of Imperialism*

Isabella Ruiz for *Crash and Burn: Violence and Stimulant Use in Japan*

Jessalyn Torres for *MHC Diversity & the Power of Personalized Healthcare*

LaReina Torres for *The historical factors affecting the rise and fall of maternal mortality rates in the United States*

Staff News

Monica Axelrode expanded her position as Executive Assistant to the Dean to officially include Budget Analyst. With many different budget lines in the library covering various operations and resource costs, Monica now plays a huge role in working with the Business Office to keep everything balanced.



Ayanna Boben, who was previously a Service Desk Supervisor, joined the “backroom” as the Electronic Resources Manager. Among her many accomplishments in just her first few months, she oversaw the transition to the new off-campus authentication system (OpenAthens).



Mikaylla Cortez-Badua joined the library in May as a Service Desk Supervisor and Access Services Coordinator. She is already transforming our social media presence with her expertise. Fun fact: Mikaylla started her library career as a student assistant in the Holy Names University’s Cushing Library.



Margot Hanson was promoted from Associate Librarian to Librarian. Margot is the librarian for the School of Science and the forthcoming School of Nursing. She co-organizes Crafternoons and serves on the Core Curriculum Committee and the OA/OER (Open Access and Open Educational Resources) Committee.



A word about our student assistants...

Our student assistants are truly the heartbeat of our daily operations. We couldn’t run the library without them. Whether it is shelving new books or checking out whiteboards and headphones or finding course materials for their peers or working the 1 AM shift during finals, our SAs greet each day, and each patron, with a welcoming smile and a mission to help.

By the Numbers



2,820

Questions asked at the
reference desk or by
appointment with a librarian

7,082

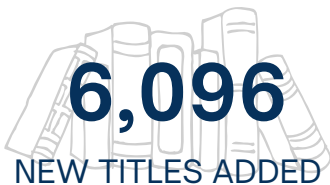
Room reservations
made by students

23,164

Items checked out

2,698

Interlibrary loan
requests filled



6,096

NEW TITLES ADDED

254

Librarian-led
research sessions

3,750

Students met in
sessions

335

TOTAL BUILDING
OPEN HOURS

139,043

Annual visits



679

chargers checkouts
559% increase
from 22-23



392

laptops checkouts
80% increase
from 22-23



859

laptops chargers
checkouts
28% increase
from 22-23