

Wolfgram Memorial Library

Annual Report - Executive Summary - 2021-2022



Widener University
Wolfgram Memorial Library

This executive summary gives you, at a glance, the most pertinent information and statistics about the work of the Wolfgram Memorial Library in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

We invite you to browse through our collections, collaborations, and accomplishments. The full *Wolfgram Memorial Library Annual Report 2021-2022*, is available through the University Archives.



Welcomed
88,189
patrons



2,851
study rooms
reserved for
5,000+
hours

Answered
2,692
questions



inter-library loan delivered
3,207 books & articles

Widener University Archives'
Digital Collections had

125,710
page views

Our Collection

151,831 
Books

426,802
eBooks

23,716
Journal Subscriptions

 **79,247**
Streaming Videos

 **19**
Board &
Card Games

Taking materials home is

835%

more popular than in the
previous academic year*

*previous year was impacted by COVID-19



223

one-on-one
research consultations

3 published
articles



11
presentations
delivered

112

conferences &
webinars attended



82

research classes
taught to

1,270
students

by **seven** librarians



Welcome to Wolfgram

The Wolfgram Memorial Library fully reopened to faculty, staff and students for the 2021-2022 academic year with COVID-19 precautions still in place. Due to the pandemic, visitors have not yet been permitted back into the library building however, alumni have been able to request to be hosted as a guest for a visit to the library.

New ways of accommodating library patrons and providing services that were developed during the pandemic have continued. These include library virtual assistance, virtual librarian office hours, curbside pick-up of library materials, and self-service checkout of books. While students and faculty were back on campus for classes this year, the patterns of library use and service needs have not yet returned to what they were prior to the pandemic. A series of undergraduate student focus groups, a graduate student survey, and results from the bi-annual MISO survey have provided feedback about library services that will help inform the library's setting of goals for the next academic year.

The Library continued its advocacy of Open Educational Resources (OERs) as a strategy for lowering the cost of education to our students. Faculty engagement with OERs increased this year as some open textbooks were adopted for classes and OER platforms for the creation of OERs explored. The library's role in facilitating faculty discussion about the cost of textbooks and alternative course materials has helped to advance this initiative.

The library's two-year scholarly communication plan culminated this year in the development of the 5-part email series, The Scholarly Communication Connection, sharing information about the ins and

outs of the scholarly communication processes and scholarly publishing lifecycle. During the first year of the plan the library faculty increased their knowledge of scholarly communication topics such as publishing, copyright and impact factors. During the second year of the plan the library's development of research services that support scholarly communication was shared with the Provost, academic Deans and the Faculty Council Library Committee with great interest, and outreach to library faculty about librarian support of faculty publishing was accomplished via The Scholarly Communication Connection.

And lastly, but of most importance, the faculty and staff of the Wolfgram Memorial Library have been involved in a number of activities to strengthen and put into action our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). The selection of library materials on DEI topics, that represent diverse perspectives and authors of underrepresented groups, as well as materials related to teaching and/or research in diversity, equity and inclusion, have been increased. Library faculty have engaged in a variety of DEI learning activities and sponsored outreach events. They created guides, digital exhibits and physical exhibits creating awareness of and promoting anti-racism, minority representation in literature, women in literature, disability rights, and the trans day of remembrance.

**Prepared by: Deb Morley,
Library Director
2018-2022**

User & Access Services

Teresa Edge, MLIS, MA
Head, User & Access
Services

The Wolfram Library building was open to university students, staff and faculty throughout the 2021-22 academic year, with reduced hours in summer 2021. Most students, staff and faculty returned to campus, but many courses were still offered in online or hybrid formats.

With the return of the campus population, information desk transactions increased from 480 to 2692 and the contact method shifted more toward in person and away from the telephone, in comparison to the previous year.

Circulation of study room keys and dry erase marker sets continue to be the most popular transactions.

Checkouts of items, both in the main collection and Course Reserves, rebounded to near pre-Covid levels.

A new reservation system for the study rooms was launched in Fall 2021, making the booking and management of the study rooms more efficient and easier for the students. Seven study rooms

were made available, and they were reserved for over 5200 hours during the academic year.

The number of patrons entering the library increased significantly since last year, as expected with the return of the campus community. However, the number remains lower than pre-Covid. Some contributing factors include more online/hybrid courses, along with the policy of not yet allowing non-Widener visitors into the library building.

The library employed 15 library student assistants during the year, for a total of 2700 hours. Most were Federal Work Study grant recipients.

In April 2022, the library added a new collection of 17 board and card games for users to check out. Details are located at <https://widener.libguides.com/board-games>

Teresa Edge joined the library staff as Head, User & Access Services on August 30, 2021.

Research & Instructional Services

Molly Wolf, MS, MEd
Head, Research &
Instructional Services

The 2021-2022 fiscal year began fully remote and quickly transitioned in August to fully in-person.

Virtual Assistance transactions held steady at just over 800 transactions, with chat being the most popular mode for asking questions. Office consultations decreased this year, while the number of classes taught has increased from 79 to 86 and students reached through classroom instruction increased from 1265 to 1270.

Research & instructional Services continues to have great success with its LibGuides, creating 9 additional guides this year. These asynchronous instructional materials and guides were viewed a whopping 78,848 times, almost double the 49,106 views in the previous fiscal year. The most popular guides are the APA Style Guide (7th Ed.), Database Tutorials, and Evaluating Web Pages. Librarians have marketed these guides to faculty and students aggressively and have integrated them into Canvas and these efforts have paid off.

Research & Instructional Services continues to explore additional asynchronous instructional modalities including self-paced Canvas classes and YouTube videos. Librarians created 3 additional Canvas classes this year, 18 new YouTube videos and a whopping 47 additional videos created in Canvas Studio.

Outreach & Collaboration

During the 2021-2022 school year, Wolfram Memorial Library assembled a task force of faculty and staff to help execute our outreach activities. The task force's work included virtual, hybrid, and in-person events, displays, and social media posts. They collaborated with administrative offices, employee task forces, student clubs, and community groups to promote the library's resources and collections. Although the number of events has increased from 2020-2021, the addition of collaborators has reduced the workload burden on library employees and improved our ability to promote the library and its role at Widener University.



Technical Services

Roz Goldstein, MSLS
Head, Technical Services

The circulation weeding project has continued in FY22, 9,633 titles were withdrawn, with an additional 463 volumes withdrawn. With the increased volume of weeding in FY22 this phase of the project will be finished long before last year's estimated date of spring 2024. In the first two years of the weeding project 14,331 volumes have been discarded with fewer than 8,000 identified titles remaining from the GreenGlass project.

- The serial weeding project continues with more than 1,200 volumes discarded in FY22.
- The following new electronic resources were added to the library collection during this year: Chicago Manual of Style online; Environment Complete, an online full-text database to support environmental studies; and the Adam Matthew Sex & Sexuality collection consisting of two modules: Research Collections from The Kinsey Institute Library & Special Collections and Self-Expression, Community & Identity.
- Notable additions to the collection in FY22 include a new games collection of 19 popular games for the students to check out on 3-day reserve, and a new collection of 14 print poetry journals, to be housed in the Greene Poetry Corner on the 3rd level of the library.
- The ebook data shows that this year the title counts are lower than last fiscal year, with only 995,000 titles managed for our collection, with 426,802 being unique titles.
- This year, and going forward, the ejournal title count for this report will also use the count managed by EBSCO there are a total of 35,976 ejournals managed in our collection with 23,638 of the ejournals being unique titles.
- 2243 new book titles were added to the library collection – 1744 ebooks, and 499 print titles, this continues the trend to purchase more electronic content.
- With the removal of the ERIC microfiche collection, the data is now available online, approximately 130,000 pieces of microfiche we removed from the collection.

Collection Maintenance

Everything has a life-cycle, even libraries. When shelves are full of items that patrons are no longer using, libraries review their collections, remove unused and damaged pieces, and replace them. The old materials are sent to collections across the country where they can be restored and preserved. We call this “collection maintenance” and it has created space for new books, collections, and comfortable places to study. Compare what we’ve removed to what we’ve gained.

What we’ve removed

10,096



books

1,200



journal
volumes

130,000



pieces of
microfiche

What we’ve gained

← 4,000 →

linear feet of shelving

1,744 eBooks

3 electronic
resources



499 new
books

2 new
study
rooms

14
printed
poetry journals



Archives & Distinctive Collections

Jill Borin, MLIS
Head, Archives & Distinctive
Collections

Kayla Van Osten, MLIS
Assistant Archivist

2021-2022 was another productive year for the archives. Kayla Van Osten and I started back to in-person work in August 2021, providing us with more direct access to our physical collections. During this year we expanded our digital presence in significant ways, promoted our collections to a wider audience by adding three collections to JSTOR's new Community Collections portal, and made important contributions to the University's Bicentennial Celebration.

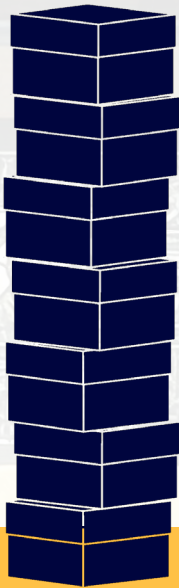
Our collections showcasing student scholarship grew substantially this year. While we launched the Widener University Digital Repository – Dissertations & Theses collection in December 2021, 2021-2022 represented the first time that we could obtain viewing statistics for a full year. Remarkably, this collection ranked as our 4th most viewed with 8,417 page views. We added 148 scholarly works to this collection during 2021-2022. We also added 75 posters, digital presentations and projects, created by graduate and undergraduate, to our Widener University Faculty and Student Scholarship Collection. This collection also ranked among our top ten most viewed.

Finally, I am most proud of our contributions to the University's Bicentennial Celebration. Not only did we launch the School of Nursing: 1971 – 2021 exhibit before Founders' Day, but the University's

Celebrating 200 Years (1821-2021) website featured links to this and 9 other exhibits from our Digital Collections. Founders' Day also witnessed the launch of our exciting Interactive Digital Display of our timelines in Alumni Auditorium. This achievement represented the culmination of over a year-long project. We created new content, including 30 images and captions, for each line representing events occurring in 2015-2021, selected a vendor and had all the content, from 1821 – 2021, added to the digital display. What resulted was a dynamic, interactive exhibit that allows users to view events and captions covering the 200 years of Widener's history and view events occurring in Chester, PA and the United States during the same period. Our digital display enables our timelines to expand as we continue to celebrate milestones in the history of Widener, Chester and the United States.

University Archives

Top 10 Most-Viewed Digital Collections



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Yearbooks - Widener College & Widener University -- 1973-2010 | 6 Widener University Faculty & Student Scholarship |
| 2 Alumni - Distinguished | 7 Alumni Directories -- 1856-1991 |
| 3 Yearbooks - Pennsylvania Military College & PMC Colleges -- 1900-1972 | 8 Widener Engineering Senior Projects |
| 4 Widener University Digital Repository | 9 Chester -- George Raymond Papers |
| 5 Brandywine College | 10 Buildings |

1,951
total linear ft.
of artifacts

300+
new digital
objects

67
questions
answered

Sexuality Archives

This was a busy year for the Sexuality Archives. Having been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sexuality Archives re-opened its doors to visitors. 7 individuals came to the Sexuality Archives a total of 62 times, the most visits the Sexuality Archives has seen to date.

Dr. Tushabe wa Tushabe made 32 visits to the archives to learn the collection so as to be able to inform the faculty of the Center for Human Sexuality Studies about the collections and how they may be able to use the materials in their teaching. Two students, Cloe Di Fumeri and Jattu Fahnbulleh visited the Sexuality Archives 26 times while working on the Humanities in the Public Good grant with Sexuality Archivist Molly Wolf and English faculty member Annalisa Castaldo.

The Sexuality Archives received over 1200 items from 11 different donors in the 2021-22 year. Most excitingly, this was the year that we began to add digital objects to the Sexuality Archives database. 76 digital pamphlet files were added to the public facing database with the plan to add many more in the next year. Data from Google Analytics shows that information from these pamphlets showed up in Google searches and led people to the Sexuality archive website.

received
1,278
donations

acquired
617
new items

uploaded
76
pamphlet
files



Social Media

Library

@WolfgramLibrary
389 Followers 

@AskWolfgram
120 Followers
890 Tweets 

Wolfgram Memorial
Library
528 Followers 

@WolfgramLibrary
116 Subscribers
164,800 views 

University Archives

@WidenerArchives
899 Followers 

@WidenerArchives
282 Followers
1,018 Tweets 

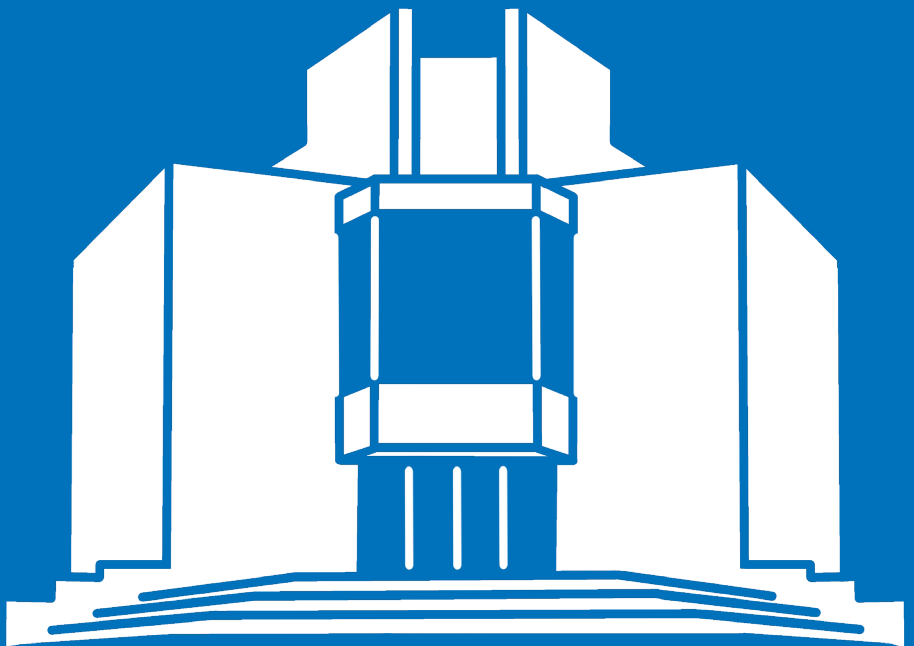
Widener University
Archives
174 Followers 

Sexuality Archives

@SexualArchives
1,966 Followers 

Widener University
Sexuality Archives
534 Followers 

Get Research Support Anywhere



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