

# Simmons UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

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## FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



I am delighted to share the 2022–2023 Annual Report, highlighting the Library’s activities and accomplishments. Returning to our newly renovated space was a tremendous accomplishment that was welcomed by the entire community. This past year, we prioritized optimizing the library’s layout and offerings to better serve the community’s needs. As part of that endeavor, we conducted a study examining usage patterns throughout the space, confirming that students use the Library as a “third space” outside of home and other academic spaces. Students are comfortable using the library to do work, take classes or attend meetings online, and get help from library staff.

We collaborated with the Trustman Art Gallery and arranged for a new art installation to be placed in the Library. It includes a variety of artworks from the University’s permanent collection, including examples from the *Collecting & Connecting* series which supports Boston-based BIPOC visual artists. We invite you to take a walk through the Library to view these pieces. The space has also come alive through monthly book displays and [hands-on craft activities](#) that encourage participation. In February, we challenged you to a [blind date with a mystery book](#) wrapped in brown paper. It was one of our most popular book displays! **The University Archives** curated monthly exhibits to highlight aspects of the collections and to celebrate notable alumna Gwen Ifill and the history of commencement at Simmons.

In the fall, [our first cohort of Library Fellows](#) joined the staff and quickly became indispensable members of the team. By combining their graduate studies in Simmons’ School of Library and Information Science with full time positions in the Library, we are able to support their professional goals. They have been invited speakers at several New England area conferences, talking about the fellowship experience and have been excellent ambassadors for Simmons.

[Our mission](#) is to be an active participant in the student learning experience. We believe in fostering an institution-wide culture of academic inquiry. During this past year, Archives staff were embedded in the History Fieldwork course, guiding students through archival research for the [Simmons Memory Project](#). Their work focused on documenting and preserving the history of the Simmons residence campus. Their accomplishments, which include research papers and even a board game, will be preserved in the University Archives for future generations of scholars. Exploring censorship through a multidisciplinary lens, librarians hosted a thought-provoking faculty panel discussion, Banned Books and Challenged Ideas, examining how misinformation and disinformation infect the modern information landscape.

The success of the Library is predicated on ensuring the success of our community. We look forward to seeing you in the Library or connecting with you online at [simmons.edu/library](https://simmons.edu/library).

Every good wish,

*Vivienne B. Piroli*

Vivienne B. Piroli  
University Librarian

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**THE SIMMONS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY** is an active participant in the student learning experience, an essential component of a Simmons education, and a vital asset to the University, fostering an institution-wide culture of academic inquiry and knowledge cultivation. Here are some of the ways library staff delivered on our mission in the past year.

## SUPPORT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Conducted 120 instruction sessions in-person and via Zoom, and provided over 460 research consultations to support students and faculty • Responded to over 3,400 service requests at the Service Desk, and fielded over 2,000 inquiries via chat, email, and phone • Managed nearly 24,000 study room bookings to provide student workspaces • Created research guides and tutorials including [Simmons University Library 101](#), [Information Literacy 101](#), and a [guide for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program](#) • Added over 250 new print books to expand the collection • Digitized the full run of Simmons News for the Simmons University Digital Archives to improve access • Partnered with History 216 faculty to assist students with 20th century women’s history research papers

## INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Created book displays on topics like banned books and LGBTQ+ History Month • Produced nearly 50 archival exhibits and book displays on topics including Gwen Ifill, Commencement, Kwanzaa, and Simmons authors • Completed diversity, equity, and inclusion training through the Do Better Be Better program • Collaborated with the Trustman Art Gallery to install artworks in the library, including works from the Collecting & Connecting series which supports Boston-based BIPOC visual artists • Created a [Web Accessibility Toolkit](#) for the Fenway Library Organization to improve accessibility of resources • Assisted History 216 students with research on Latinx history at Simmons for a digital exhibit

## SUSTAINABILITY

Redesigned the library instruction program and integrated information literacy to support BOS 101 courses • Conducted staff-led assessments of collections, services, and space to ensure sustained quality and optimize workflows • Adopted a new interlibrary loan system to streamline service and reduce costs • Upgraded the library’s search interface to enhance user experience

## PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Led a panel on the Library Fellowship program at the Maine Library Association Conference • Participated in a panel at the Fenway Library Organization Board Retreat on FOLIO, the library management system • Hosted the Banned Books and Challenged Ideas discussion panel • Attended conferences including the Fenway Library Organization’s Information Literacy Conference, the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, the American Library Association Conference, and the North East chapter of the Association for Information Science and Technology’s Annual Conference • Served on the Oberlin Group of Libraries Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee • Taught as adjunct faculty in the School of Library and Information Science • Participated in the Fenway Library Organization’s AI Community of Interest