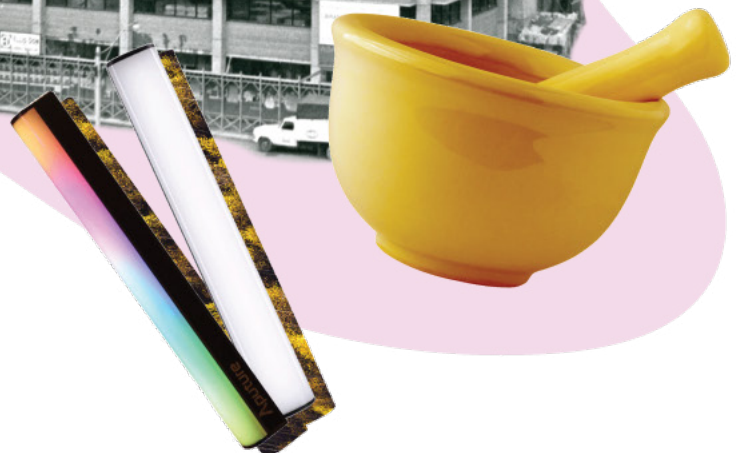
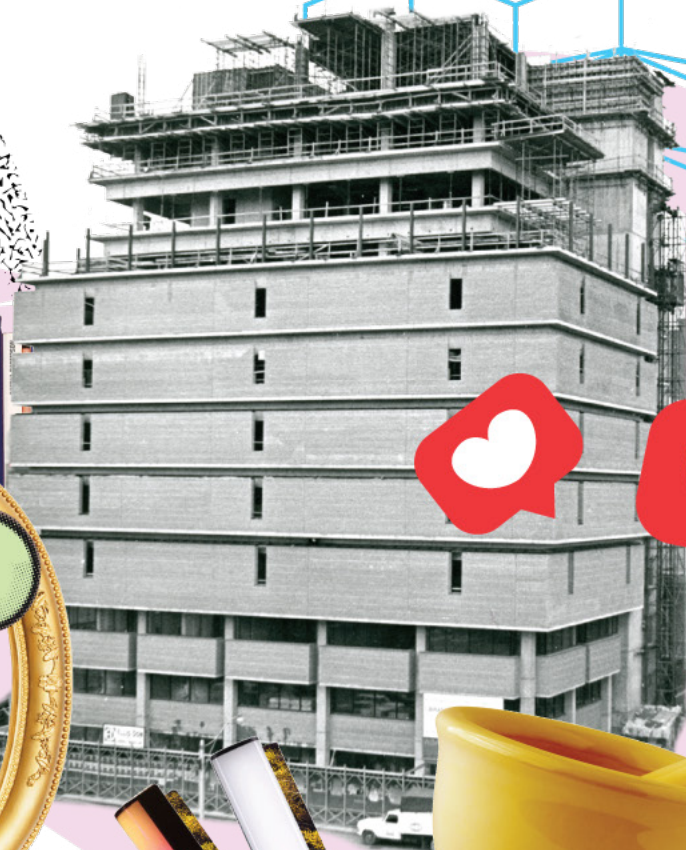
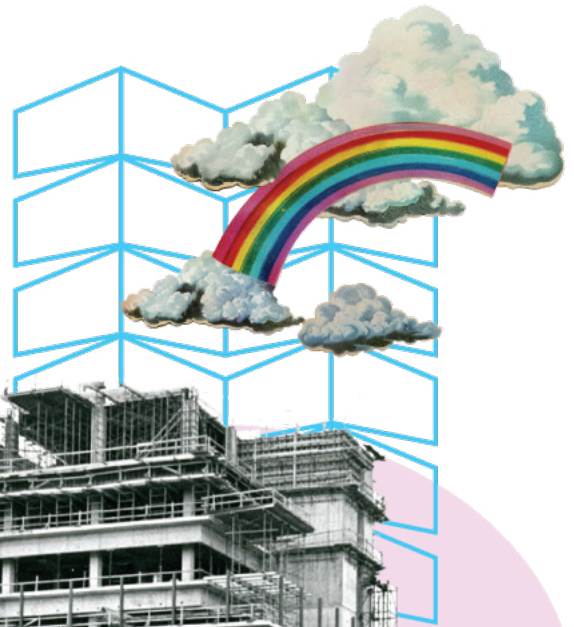


Inquire. *Explore.* *Discover.*

TMU Libraries' Impact Report

2025



Toronto
Metropolitan
University

Libraries

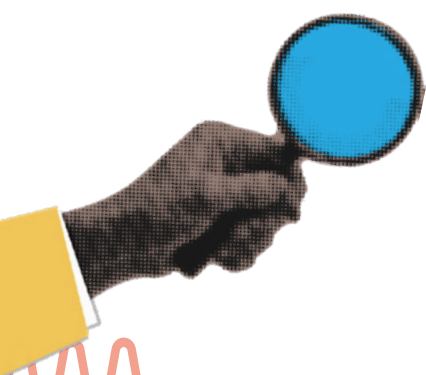
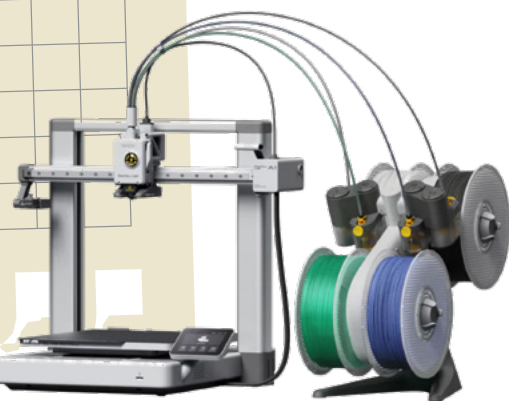


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Dean's *message*

TMU Libraries is proud to present its inaugural Impact Report. This report comes at a fitting time as we have spent the past year both reflecting on our history and looking toward the future. We celebrated the Library's 50th anniversary while also developing a new strategic plan for 2025-2030. This has been a year defined by reflection, inspiration, and excitement. The stories in this report will give you a flavour for the many ways in which the Libraries continue to empower discovery, learning, and research at TMU.

This has been a landmark year, marked by significant achievements, as we opened the new Bikram S. Dhillon & Family Medical Library in Brampton, launched Omni, a new academic search tool which expanded our access by over 25 million print books across Ontario, and celebrated the acquisition of significant special collections, such as the Jeremy Podeswa collection.

The stories in this report demonstrate the Library's role as the university's "engine of inquiry," a key metaphor in our new Strategic Plan. They highlight our active involvement in the academic life of our community and show how we continue to evolve our mission. As we move forward, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and interest.



Mark Robertson,
Dean of Libraries
Toronto Metropolitan University





Campus campaign invites TMU community to discover the Library between the books

TMU Libraries and the university marketing team joined forces to create a campus-wide campaign that challenged traditional Library tropes and invited the community to discover the Library between the books.

The TMU Library building, at the corner of Victoria and Gould has lacked a visible presence despite being situated at the heart of campus. This year, the Libraries' communications team collaborated with university marketing to broaden awareness of the Library building's location and celebrate the Library's role as a catalyst for exploration, inquiry and discovery.

Discover the Library between the books was the tagline of an eye-catching campaign that showcased the depth of library resources, services, programs and opportunities. The campaign was designed to broaden ideas of the "Library", a word that, for many, conjures images of books, and book-related research material.

The project's goal was to reshape the public's perception of libraries by pointing beyond the books highlighting the incredible breadth of resources offered by TMU Libraries. It also aimed to build on the idea of the Library as an information hub and a catalyst for research and knowledge mobilization.

For the campaign, three large format posters were installed on an exterior wall of the Library building. The images also appeared on digital screens throughout campus, and ran on social media channels. Each campaign piece communicated the richness of the Library as a creative ecosystem and its role in making discovery and knowledge creation possible for the whole TMU community.





Celebrating 50 years of the Library building

Growth | Innovation | The Future

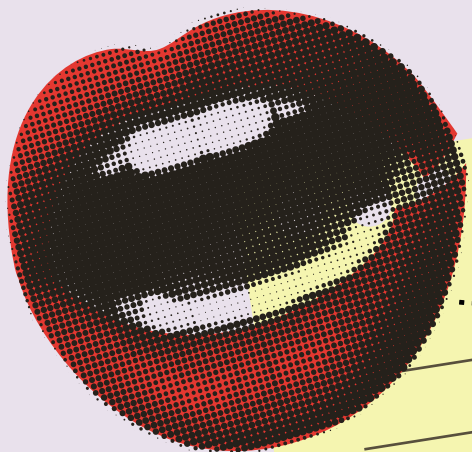
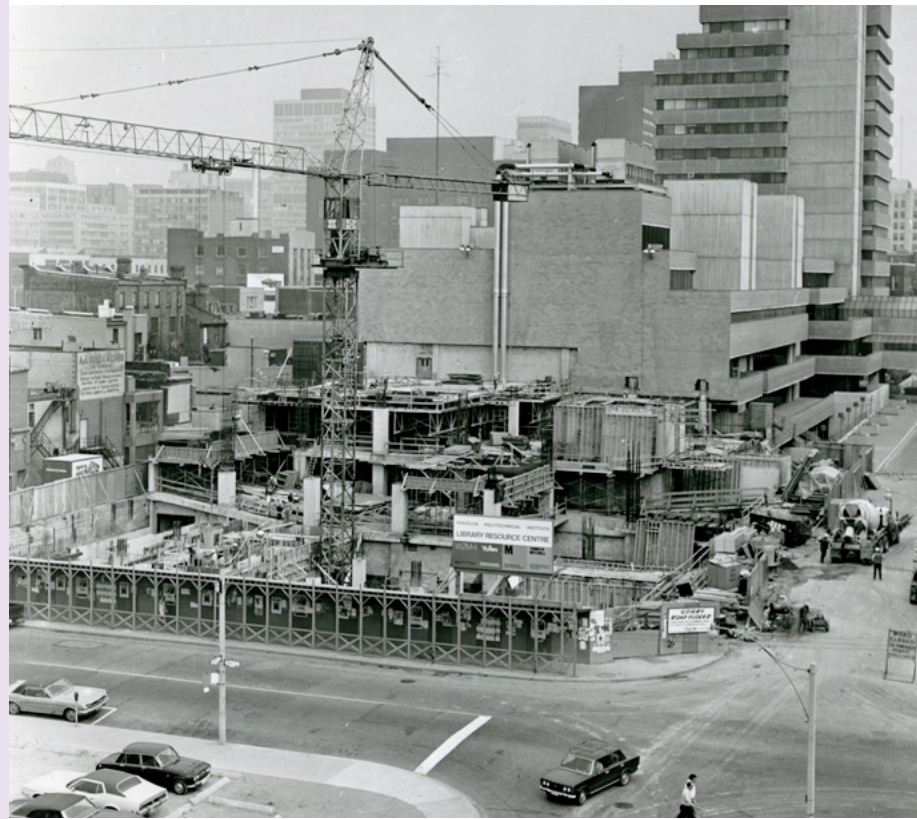
In 2024, we celebrated the [50th anniversary of the Library building](#)—a milestone and opportunity to reflect back and look ahead to the next fifty years.

In 1974, the Library building opened at the corner of Gould and Victoria, becoming a new landmark for the University. The building's brutalist architecture, embracing ideals of simplicity and functionalism, has complemented and continues to complement the library's egalitarian function as a place for accessible information. At the same time, it embodies the modern ideas and innovative thinking that are hallmarks of both the university and the library.

In our year of celebration, TMU Library presented opportunities for the community to engage and explore the history of the building and Library. These opportunities were developed in-house and highlighted the current technologies and resources available to TMU students, staff and faculty.

The Archives and Special Collections team designed and developed a website using geospatial software, [ArcGIS StoryMaps](#). The site tells the story of the Library building, and the innovative resources, services, and programs that have been introduced and offered throughout the decades.

The website was then translated into a [time travel runway application](#), created by the Libraries' Immersive Technology Specialist, Michael Carter-Arlt. The runway allows users to visually move back and forth throughout the decades and explore important milestones.



...EGALITARIAN FUNCTION OF THE LIBRARY AS A PLACE TO ACCESS INFORMATION, WHILE STILL EMBODYING MODERN IDEAS AND NEW WAYS OF THINKING

A digital collage was also developed by Michael Carter-Arlt, and Immersive Technology Assistant, Ava Mozaffari, with archival images provided by the Archives and Special Collections, and current images by Library Communications. Carter-Arlt and Mozaffari repurposed and reformatted code from an earlier Library community project to create the collage.

In addition to the timelines and collage, the Library worked in collaboration with the Department of Architectural Science to construct four pillars that were on display at the Main Library. The pillars were approximately six feet in height, and each designed to invite the community to engage with different aspects, ideas, and environments within the Library. One displayed digitized histories of TMU Libraries and Library building. Another showcased unique items found in the Library. The third engaged the community with a magnetic board and cards, inviting them to reflect on the Library as a crossroad, a sanctuary, a sandbox, a coral reef, or the heart of campus. The final pillar was an interactive display, allowing patrons to highlight the types of library spaces that resonate most with them. When placed all together, the pillars formed a replica of the TMU Library building.

“... a catalyst of
knowledge sharing,
and a critical asset
as a reservoir of
intellectual capital.”

-Gordon Gill reflects on the Library





Watch Gordon Gill reflect on the TMU Library building



The celebrations concluded with a fun-filled reception where alumni, past employees, faculty, and current staff gathered for remarks, reflections, food, and lively conversation. Provost and Vice-President, Academic Roberta Iannacito-Provenzano and University of Ottawa Professor and Alumna Constance Crompton both spoke about TMU Library's role as a central hub for knowledge creation and dissemination on campus.

Remarks finished with a recorded video by architect and alumnus Gordon Gill. He reflected on the Library as a "catalyst of knowledge sharing, and a critical asset as a reservoir of intellectual capital." Gill specifically noted that the building, because of its location on campus, could be redeveloped to become an example of sustainable design for both the university and the city.



Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library welcomes first cohort of medical students

The Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library opened its door to the School of Medicine's first cohort in September, becoming the second branch of TMU Libraries

In early July, TMU announced that Bikram Dhillon, CEO of BVD Group, and his family had made a transformational gift to the School of Medicine (SoM). With this generous donation, the Medical Library was named the Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library. While post-graduate students were welcomed to the School of Medicine over the summer, the Library opened its doors to its first cohort of undergraduate medical students in September, joining the Law Library as the second branch of TMU Libraries—now a multi-campus, integrated library system. Located within the Medical School Building in Brampton, the Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library is situated at the heart of the SoM, providing a gateway for study, learning, research and collaboration.

Melissa Helwig joined TMU Libraries as head of the Medical Library in 2024. In the year leading up to the physical opening, she built a medical library team, fielded research and curriculum questions, conducted teaching sessions for clinical faculty, and acquired collections and resources.

Helwig has been forging strong connections with the SoM team including clinical faculty. She has also been working with Dr. Pamela Liao, Disability Health lead in the SoM Community, Culture, & Belonging Office and special advisor to the dean, to develop the Accessibility and Disability Inclusion in Medicine Library Guide designed to grow resources in this area.

The Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library is opening in two phases. The first floor, now open, offers students and faculty access to learning, study and teaching spaces, as well as, collections, research support and information services. The Library's teaching and learning spaces also include a circular classroom, which incorporates Indigenous design principles.

In the next phase, the second floor will offer additional study areas, a makerspace with access to a podcasting studio, 3D printers, as well as other technology that assist medical research, non-clinical practices and experiential learning opportunities.

As the new library team settles into its Brampton location, Helwig continues to manage services and library supports, while also conducting outreach to engage clinical faculty, medical learners and the community.

The Bikram S. Dhillon and Family Medical Library collection continues to expand, complemented by in-depth medical research guides. Medical students also have access to all TMU Libraries' collections including areas focused on urban health, community services, disability studies, and other specialized resources.

The team is now working with the SoM to ensure course readings are available, and students and faculty can locate required academic resources. They will also be incorporating additional teaching sessions, and research and curriculum support as the school grows.





TMU Libraries adopts new search and discovery tool, Omni

This year, TMU Libraries became the nineteenth academic library in Ontario to adopt Omni—an academic search tool designed to bring library search and service functions together to provide a seamless, one-stop search experience for users.

Moving to Omni has opened up access to over 25 million items to the TMU community, allowing users to search and access print items in the catalogues of eighteen additional academic libraries across the province.



Omni is an academic search tool developed through the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL). The tool fosters collaboration across Ontario academic libraries and enhances discovery and delivery of information resources at TMU Libraries and at Omni partner institutions.

"I am thrilled that TMU has implemented Omni. Not only has this improved the experience of discovery for TMU students and researchers, but being part of the Omni network means that we are integrated into an Ontario wide research collection," says Mark Robertson, dean of Libraries. "This radically expands our community's access to over 25 million items."

The transition to Omni means that users can borrow from, and return, to any partner library in Ontario eliminating the need to request interlibrary loans from those institutions. There are also longer loan periods and unlimited renewals on print items.

Omni is also now home to student, faculty, researchers and staff [library accounts](#).

[Learn more about Omni](#)

"This radically expands our community's access to over 25 million items."

-Mark Robertson, dean of Libraries



Introducing our new branch library leaders



Melissa Helwig

Melissa is our inaugural Head Medical Librarian at TMU's new School of Medicine (SoM) in Brampton. In preparation for the 2025 fall opening of the SoM, Melissa prepared the new branch by focusing on accessible spaces and technology, collections, and instructional and research support programming. Prior to joining TMU Libraries, Melissa spent 19 years in health sciences librarianship at Dalhousie and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Throughout her career, Melissa has been keenly focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and accessibility in library spaces, collections, research support, and instructional activities, and is excited to fully acquaint the first School of Medicine cohort with library resources to support them in their medical research journey.

"I'm excited to work with TMU Libraries and Canada's newest medical school(!) developing Library resources and services that contribute to student and faculty success."

- Melissa Helwig

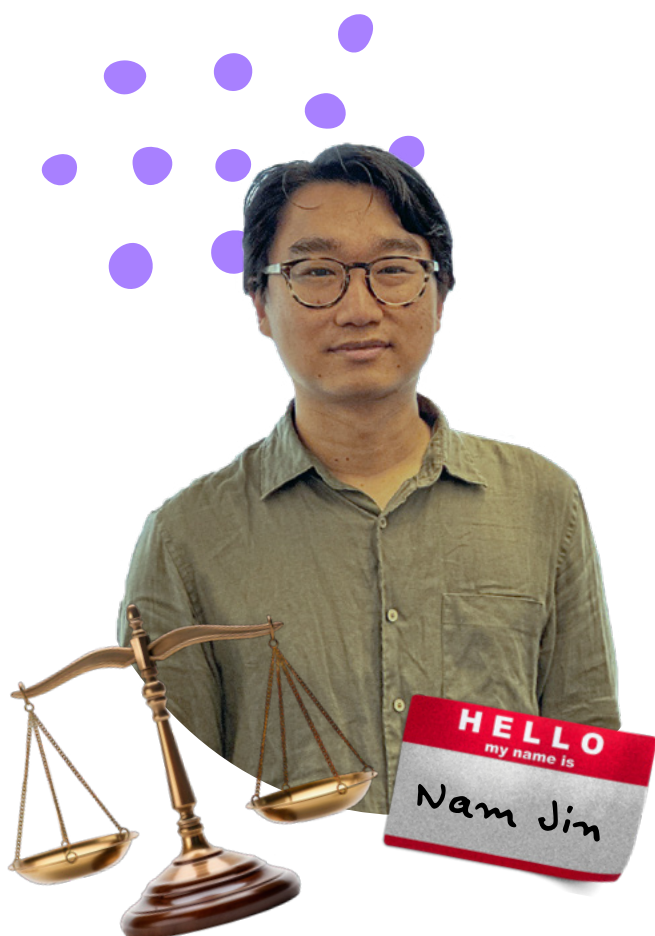


Nam Jin Yoon

Nam Jin is our new Head Law Librarian at the Law Library. Nam Jin came to the Libraries from Columbia Law School where he was Head of Public Services at the Arthur W. Diamond Law Library. While at Columbia he was also a Lecturer in Law teaching Legal Research & Writing, Advanced Legal Research Techniques, and Public Health Law courses. Nam Jin holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School (2016), a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Washington (2019), and a BA in English from Amherst College (2012). Fun fact: Nam Jin is a freelance crossword writer for the New York Times.

"I'm delighted to join the communities of TMU Libraries and the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, and honoured to have an opportunity to work with Law students and faculty to continue building an outstanding Law Library focused on helping researchers and students succeed."

- Nam Jin Yoon



Welcoming our new librarians supporting academic research



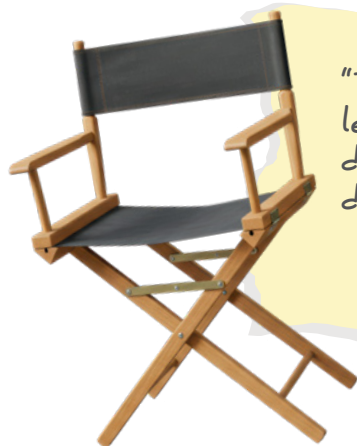
- FIONA KOVACAJ, BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIBRARIAN
- SARAH HERSH, ELECTRONIC RESOURCE AND ACQUISITIONS LIBRARIAN
- JENNIFER MO, SYSTEMS LIBRARIAN
- MAGDALEN SINSON, BUSINESS LIAISON LIBRARIAN
- TOBY MALONE, RESEARCH IMPACT AND LIAISON LIBRARIAN





Film and Television Director Jeremy Podeswa donates a rich collection of archival material to TMU Libraries

TMU Libraries' Archives and Special Collections is now home to a very rich and in-depth collection of television director Jeremy Podeswa's (Image Arts, '84) archival materials.



"There are papers in these archives that show all the steps that lead from script through to production—how a script is broken down and prepped, and all of the other work that a director does at every stage leading to the final cut"

-Jeremy Podeswa

Watch this short
video on the
Podeswa collection



Director Jeremy Podeswa has gifted an archive of materials from his career, including: scripts, storyboards, photos, concept art pieces, architectural drawings, site plans, set drawing, as well as handwritten and typed notes from shows like *Six Feet Under*, *True Blood*, *Queer as Folk*, *Carnivàle*, *Boardwalk Empire* and *Game of Thrones*.

The donation includes a wealth of varied materials across genres from drama to horror and science fiction to fantasy, providing students with access to the insights involved in the creative process from beginning to end, from script to screen

It is Podeswa's hope that the archival materials will act as a kind of roadmap for young filmmakers wanting to learn about the process. "There are papers in these archives that show all the steps that lead from script through to production—how a script is broken down and prepped, and all of the other work that a director does at every stage leading to the final cut," said Jeremy Podeswa. "Also evident here is the progression from my first and second feature films, to *Queer as Folk* to *Six Feet Under* and onward. You can see the trajectory in the materials, and I hope that can be inspiring and instructive to young filmmakers who may want to shape a similar path."

Given the breadth of his career, and as evident with this collection, it is safe to say Podeswa has helped shape the phenomenon known as prestige television. "We are deeply grateful for Jeremy Podeswa's donation of archival materials. It is so meaningful to have original work of such an illustrious alumnus represented in our Archives and Special Collections," said Mark Robertson, dean of Libraries. "This collection will be invaluable to students and researchers who want to explore and learn from Podeswa's creative processes. This donation also complements other strengths of our collections in media and the creative industries."

Once the cataloging of all materials is complete, items will be made available to students, researchers and the public by appointment at TMU's Archives and Special Collections.

[Learn more about the Podeswa collection in this short video.](#)



By the numbers

Library and TRSM Partnership
OER Grants demonstrate
strong commitment to
affordable education for
students

\$1,380,000

Cost avoidance estimate,
2022-2025

TMU Libraries provide
excellent experiential learning
opportunities for students
with new technologies

2,598

Media equipment bookings
and loans

TMU Libraries offer a
comprehensive collection of
scholarly e-resources

1,159,460

Electronic titles held in
library subscriptions (article
collections, books, journals,
databases)

Library research skills
sessions teach critical
information, media, data
literacy and more

18,340

Library workshop
participants across **443**
classes

TMU Libraries are for
everyone

46,723

Student population
supported
(2023/4 headcount)

TMU Libraries' ORCID
Affiliation Program,
launched January 2025, has
significantly increased fully-
affiliated TMU faculty records

24% → 83%

TMU faculty fully affiliated
ORCID researcher IDs

Library learning environments
offer desirable and well
utilized student study space
on campus

42,298

Group study room occupants,
fall & winter terms

Library expertise connects
students with the most
relevant scholarly resources
to meet their needs, and
teaches them to navigate
resources effectively

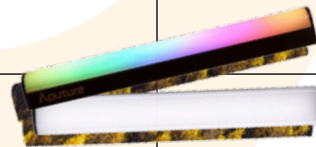
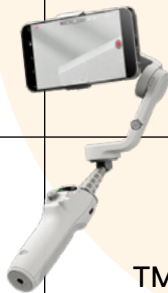
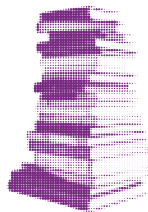
6,901+

Tailored appointments and
other one:one help

TMU researcher publications
included in the Libraries'
repository, RShare, have
grown significantly and are
getting noticed

3,818,276

RShare TMU publication
views



The impact of student work experiences at TMU Libraries



Zahra Entezami

This year, Zahra Entezami graduated from TMU with a Master of Professional Communication. In her last year of study, the Library Collaboratory provided Entezami with the opportunity to enhance her academic teaching skills with access to expertise, support and the space to offer a peer-to-peer workshop she designed on text mining tools. At the Collaboratory, the Library team supported Entezami's teaching ambitions, gave her a chance to build experience as a researcher, educator, and analyst, as well as help in promoting her workshop.

"Thanks to the resources and welcoming environment at the Library Collaboratory, I've grown in ways I never anticipated. I've had the opportunity to share my knowledge with the community I love, expand my academic toolkit, and make complex technologies more accessible to others"

- Zahra Entezami

Madison Hall

Madison Hall completed her first year as a graduate student in TMU's Photography Preservation and Collections Management program. She spent the summer putting her studies to practice researching and handling photographic collections at the Libraries' Archives and Special Collections—important work for Hall who has "a keen interest in how primary sources, especially photographic materials, can help shape or change our understanding of history," she says.

Having previously worked in history museums and municipal archives, Hall, who aspires to one day be an archivist or collections manager, wanted to broaden her experience working with older materials. At the Libraries' Archives and Special Collections she's now learned "how library-based collections operate differently from other cultural/heritage institutions—especially in terms of descriptive standards, and the emphasis on serving academic as well as public audiences," she says.



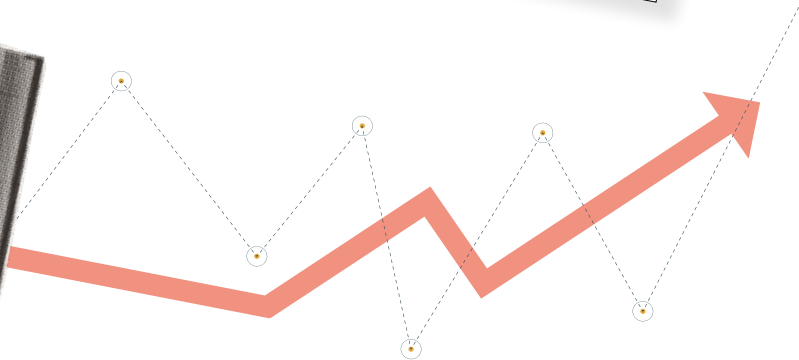
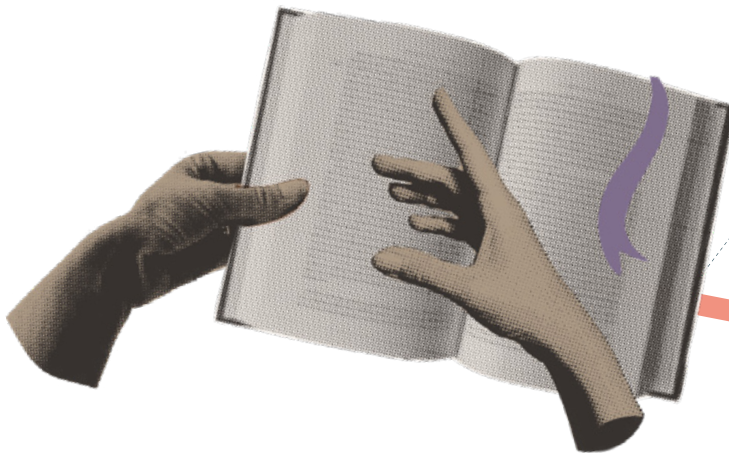
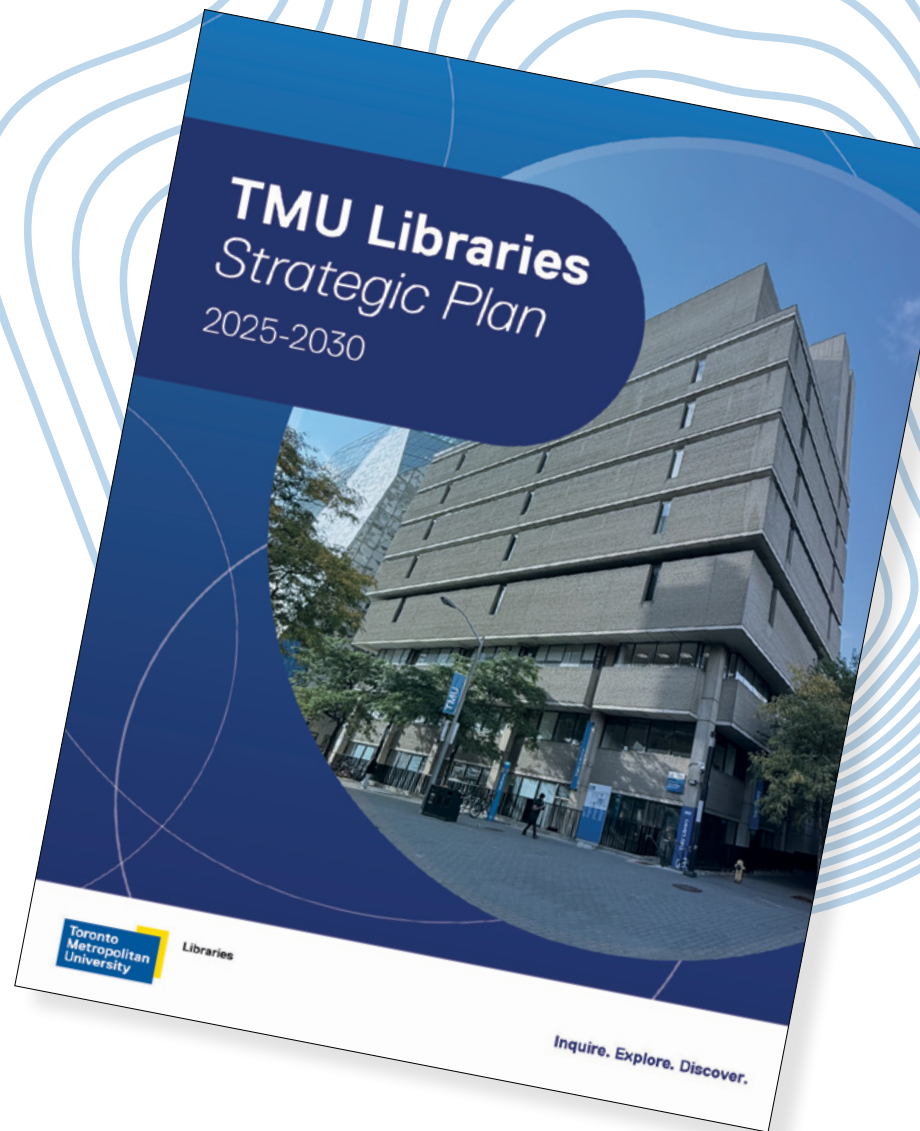
TMU Libraries Strategic Plan

TMU Libraries is an engine of inquiry, empowering discovery, learning, and research at TMU.

The TMU Libraries Strategic Plan was developed through broad engagement over the course of the fall and winter 2024-25, and developed in response to the University's new Academic Plan.

To learn more visit:

library.torontomu.ca/info/strategic/



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