

Leddy Library Annual Report to APC, 2023-2024

Introduction

The Leddy Library facilitates and transforms learning, teaching, and scholarship by providing expertise, services, physical space, and collections of resources and materials to meet the needs of students, staff, faculty, and researchers.

Area's Goals and Objectives of the Reporting Year and the University's Strategic Plan

I. Addressing Foundational Commitments:

1. Establishing and Implementing an Institutional Data Strategy

The Leddy Library continues to provide structures and lend expertise to help establish and implement an Institutional Data Strategy. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Institutional data and **research metrics** (e.g. citations, bibliometrics) are analyzed to assess the university's research activity, track performance, compare with peers, or validate external data, such as external rankings. The Leddy Library's subscription to SciVal provides institutional access to key data. Leddy librarians collaborate with the Office of Institutional Analysis to ensure the data is accurate, ensure limitations of the data are well-understood, and guide the responsible use of research metrics. In line with the university's commitment to inclusivity, the library also advocates for the collection of broad and inclusive measures and metrics (for example: knowledge translation/mobilization activities, qualitative measures, impact narratives).
- **ORCID IDs** are an important tool for maintaining precise researcher and institutional research metrics. Leddy Library funds the University of Windsor's institutional membership and actively promotes and facilitates the establishment of ORCID IDs for University of Windsor researchers. Presently, there are 1,197 ORCID IDs affiliated with the University of Windsor, reflecting an increase of roughly 250 new IDs created during the year. These efforts enhance the accuracy and integrity of our research metrics.
- The Leddy Library plays an important role in the preservation and stewardship of key university documents through its **University Archives**. Digitization of university documents of historical value has been an increasing focus of Leddy Library. Additional information on related 2023-2024 initiatives is provided in Priority #6 (*Generating Local and Global Impact through Partnership and Community Engagement*).

2. Foster Resilience & Institutional Learning through Connection, Reconnection & Collaboration

The Leddy Library strives to foster cross-campus collaborations and as well as partnerships with the Windsor-Essex community. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Leddy Library is an important **space provider** for students and faculty to come together for academic and social purposes. The library continues to increase the number of **individual study, group study, and meeting rooms available** to the campus community. Expansion and enhancement of library spaces allow employees, students, and communities to come together at the university in a welcoming and safe environment. During the current reporting year, the Leddy Library began developing a child friendly room (see priority #5 for details).
- Leddy Library is a unique unit on campus with elements of an academic unit, a support unit, a service provider, and a facility. Members of the Leddy Library staff and faculty sit on numerous campus and academic committees to help build engagement and increase partnerships. Librarians and staff participate in committees at the university and across the country and the globe.

3. Continue to Foster and Build Welcoming, Inclusive and Engaging Physical and Virtual Spaces

The Leddy Library's spaces serve as a welcoming hub for the entire campus community. The Student Research

Collaboratory and workshop rooms provide campus partners a space where they can connect and collaborate with colleagues and students. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Leddy Library is open approximately 5,325 hours a year, offering a **welcoming and safe space** for students to study, conduct research, and collaborate with peers. While many resources are increasingly accessed electronically, researchers continue to be drawn to the library's physical space to engage with students, immerse themselves in the inspiring environment, and access unique print texts, rare books, manuscripts, archives, special collections, and other valuable research materials. In 2023-2024, the library welcomed 667,743 visitors (gate count), an increase of more than 150,000 from the previous year.

Reporting Years	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Number of in-person visits	111,053	489,068	667,743
Number of website visits	217,265	637,769	723,223

- The website is the library's **virtual branch** which continues to be refined and improved in terms of usability, accessibility, and comprehensiveness, as it is a key conduit into library resources and services. During the reporting year, there were 723,223 visits to the library webpage.
- Leddy Library was grateful to welcome the new tea shop, Chatime, into the first-floor space in January 2024. The bubble tea, milk tea, and hand-shaken juices have been popular amongst students and faculty.
- Our ability to enhance the physical space is constrained by budget limitations, making **building maintenance and low or no-cost upgrades** top priorities for the library. Essential repairs have been prioritized, including waterproofing the west building, which is prone to flooding and leaks. In 2023-2024, modest furniture upgrades were made using surplus furniture available through the university. (see priority 5).

4. Ensuring Faculty & Staff Have the Skills and Support to Maximize Impact, Growth, & Engagement

The staff and faculty are the core of Leddy Library. Their commitment to students, deep expertise, and innovative ideas continue to push the library in new and exciting directions. During the current reporting period, the following activities were prioritized:

- The faculty and staff of Leddy Library participated in a library-wide exercise to respond to the University of Windsor's **Aspire Strategic Plan**. Recognizing the strength and comprehensiveness of the university's plan, the Leddy Library chose to develop a plan that overtly aligns with and mirrors the commitments, priorities, and goals of the university's strategy. The Leddy Library was asked to consider how it could meaningfully and impactfully contribute to the university's priorities. These discussions and consultations shaped *Aspire Leddy Library: Our Response to the University of Windsor's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan*.

5. Telling Our Stories and Sharing Our Knowledge

The Leddy Library and its librarians play a pivotal role in supporting our students and scholars by providing essential research assistance across diverse academic fields. Keeping our campus engaged involves actively sharing updates on resources, services, and achievements. By employing a multifaceted approach to communication, the Leddy Library strives to foster an informed and connected campus community. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- The Leddy Library uses university platforms like the **Daily News** to share the events, initiatives, and accomplishment of our librarians and staff. During this current reporting period, the *Daily News* featured new digital collections, workshops, resources, events, as well as the newest license agreements aimed to save researchers publishing fees.
- Leddy Library maintains active **social media channels** using Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and YouTube ensuring engagement with the community. Throwback Thursday, highlighting digitized images from the Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA), is a popular

weekly feature in our feed. The Leddy Library also populates the news section on our website to also share initiatives, successes and events.

- A notable piece picked up by **external media** included CBC Windsor's coverage of the digitization of all volumes of the Windsor City Directory spanning 100 years from 1888 to 1988. Community members use the directories to research histories of their families and the city. The directories also hold rich information for urban planners, historians, and researchers. The digitization of these directories is only one of Katharine Ball's extensive digitization efforts that make up SWODA.

6. Improving Institutional Processes and Coordination of Services

Leddy Library is a large system with multiple complex and dynamic systems and services. Ensuring clarity, transparency, and efficiency. The staff, librarians, and systems of Leddy Library interact with many units and intersect with infrastructures across the university. Additionally, collaboration with and connections to academic and research libraries across the province and the country are paramount to the success of Leddy Library. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Through our **consortial memberships** in the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), Leddy Library benefits from large-scale licensing and content acquisition initiatives that are essential to its service provision. These partnerships leverage shared infrastructure, expertise, and processes. In the March 2023 Blue Ribbon Panel Report, Ontario academic libraries were lauded as leaders in the sector for their collaborative approach to purchasing and shared collections.
- Leddy Library, home to the University Archives, continues to advocate for the development of university-wide **records management processes**. Proper management of university records (administrative records documenting the university's history, organization, activities, programs, functions, and structures) is essential to ensuring their security, reliability, and authenticity. Initial discussions, including archivist Antoinette Seymour, have begun to explore how the university can adopt current professional standards and best practices for managing both print and digital records.
- Leddy Library developed its **Service Level Agreement** with the campus partners as the next step in the university's implementation of activity-based budgeting (ABB). The Service Level Agreement defines the level of service provided by the library based on the current resources and outlines metrics by which services are measured and what the expectations are for the unit.

II. Advancing Strategic Priorities:

1. Advancing Bold, Impactful Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

The librarians at Leddy Library contribute to research and scholarship, higher education teaching and learning through publishing, and a variety of resources and services. Services and resources support and enable the creation and long-term stewardship of the scholarship produced at the university. Supporting open access, sustainable scholarly communication models, and new modes of dissemination are areas of continuing importance and development for academic libraries across Canada. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Librarians assist students and faculty members in their research and scholarly endeavors by helping them navigate the complex and evolving information environment. Librarians provide reference work, research assistance, workshops, and curricular instruction across campus.
- Librarians go where their users are, in the library, on main campus, on the downtown campus, in distance education venues, remote learning environments, and virtually. For example, Sharon Munro has provided office hours at Windsor Hall for the School of Social Work since the school moved to the downtown campus. Across these venues and modalities, staff and librarians provided almost **2300 reference and research transactions** during the reporting year.

- Library hosts and supports 17 fully **open access scholarly journals**. Leddy Library provides web hosting for journals using the Open Journal Systems (OJS) publishing software, in collaboration with Canadian organizations. All journals hosted by the library operate under a “Diamond Open Access” model and do not charge fees to authors. Through its open publishing services, the Leddy Library is an advocate and supporter of open, sustainable, and responsible models of scholarly communication.
- Expanding the reach of University of Windsor research without financial, legal, or technical barriers is a top priority for the Leddy Library. However, researchers looking to publish open access often face high fees from commercial publishers (termed **author processing charges**). To address this, the Leddy Library has entered new license agreements with select journal publishers to cover or reduce these fees for campus authors. On January 1, 2024, new agreements, as outlined on our website, came into effect. For most journals from these publishers, the publishing fee will be fully covered, while a smaller set will offer partial discounts. From 2021 to 2023, the cost savings to researchers representing all faculties, totaled almost \$350,000 USD (table below).

Author Processing Charges (in \$US)*				
Faculty or Unit	2021	2022	2023	Total
Centre for Teaching and Learning	3000	-	-	3,000
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences	21,000	21,020	60,820	102,840
Faculty of Education	6,000	9,500	-	15,500
Faculty of Engineering	6,000	16,625	26,095	48,720
Faculty of Human Kinetics	3,000	3,250	23,190	29,440
Faculty of Law	-	3,255	15,765	19,020
Faculty of Nursing	-	-	4,590	4,590
Faculty of Science	880	17,575	79,830	98,285
Odette School of Business	-	6,750	19,940	26,690
Total (\$US)	39,880	77,975	230,230	348,085

* Please note that this table captures data as calendar year due to reporting structures.

- To help identify suitable and affordable open access journals for publication, the Leddy Library launched the [Open Access Journal Finder](#). This tool consolidates information about open access journals, including details on the library’s 12 (and counting) license agreements that offer campus authors full waivers or partial discounts on article processing charges. This year, Leddy Library also offered several workshops for researchers on navigating article processing charges and selecting suitable open access journals.
- The **Scholarship at UWindsor** repository is a service of the Leddy Library and the University of Windsor that not only provides free and open access around the world to the scholarship and research of the University of Windsor, but also satisfies the Canadian Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on publications. In 2023-2024, 2,085 new items were added to the repository. Currently, Scholarship@UWindsor houses 21,197 items, including dissertations and theses, Open Access articles, datasets, and more. In the 2023-2024 reporting year, there were 942,459 downloads from over 236 countries and territories.
- The Leddy Library is developing ways of supporting **new forms of scholarship**, dissemination, and knowledge translation activities. Supporting digital scholarship, systematic reviews, research data management, open scholarship, and knowledge translation are key areas of growth for the library. Our body of digital exhibits presenting research and scholarship continues to grow and now houses 17 digital exhibitions, including newly added exhibits: *Jack Calder at War: A Canadian Mother's WWII Scrapbook* and *North Star: A Portal for Black History in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent*.
- Leddy Library also contributes to the research mission of the University through the **scholarship**,

research, and creative activity of our members. Explore our list of scholarly publications in Appendix A.

Advancing Bold Impactful Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity by the Numbers , 2023-24	
Number of in-person reference transactions	2,394
Number of University of Windsor affiliated ORCID IDs	1698
Number of new ORCID IDs	267
Institutional investment (membership) of ORCID	\$5,000
Number of items in the institutional repository	21,197
Number of items added to institutional repository	2,085
Number of open access journals supported by Leddy Library	17
Number of articles published by Leddy Library faculty members (peer reviewed)	11 (5)
Number of external scholarly and research presentations by Leddy Library faculty	12

2. Advancing the Journey toward Truth and Reconciliation

The Leddy Library continues to foster reconciliation and learning about Indigenous ways of knowing and decolonization. We have worked with our Indigenous colleagues on campus to prioritize the following activities during the reporting period:

- Leddy Library continues to be a member of the **National Indigenous Knowledge and Language Alliance** (NIKLA). The mission of NIKLA is to unify and amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) to network and nurture a community of practice related to Indigenous knowledge, cultural memory, language, and Indigenous ways of knowing. Leddy Library supports the project through its financial and resource contributions.
- Working with a team from the Odette School of Business led by Maureen Sterling, Jennifer Soutter, **Indigenous Outreach Librarian**, recently completed her contributions to a project funded by the *Nandagikenim – Seek to Know Grant*. The project worked alongside local Elders and Indigenous students to identify structures and processes that could help to address barriers that Indigenous students face when accessing and completing courses and programs at the OSB. Jennifer is also a guest at the Indigenous Education Council where she assists and responds to requests for library support. In her liaisonship with the Aboriginal Education Center, she continues to build strong relationships and to make important connections within and outside the University.

3. Becoming an Increasingly Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive and Just University

Leddy Library aims to become an Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive, and Just Library through its collections, services, and spaces. The library aspires to be a place where our campus community is inspired and enabled to learn about and enact the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. During the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Leddy Library welcomed Antoinette Seymour as a new archivist and librarian in Winter 2024. Originally from Nassau, Bahamas, Seymour brings a wealth of expertise, passion for archival work, and a strong commitment to the newly established Black Studies Institute. Shortly after her arrival, she launched her blog, *ONCE UPON A TIME: Through the Lens of a Black Archivist*, where she shares her experiences as both an archivist and a proud University of Windsor alum.
- During the reporting year, University of Windsor graduate student, Willow Key **launched [North Star: A Portal for Black History in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent](#)**, a central hub for exhibits, historic landmarks, published works, archival materials, and educational resources. The *North Star* portal is hosted by Leddy Library. The project was supported by a University of Windsor SSHRC Explore grant received by Essex County Black Historical Research Society, and librarians Dr. Heidi LM Jacobs and Dr. Sarah Glassford. Ms. Key helped shape the portal's design and purpose, compiling research and

creating a detailed annotated bibliography for students, community members, and researchers exploring Black history in Southwestern Ontario. The portal highlights the diverse people, places, and resources that tell the stories of African-descended peoples in the region.

- Leddy librarian, Dr. Heidi LM Jacobs, collaborated with Irene Moore Davis and the Essex County Black Historical Research Society to launch a film project celebrating the rich Black history of Sandwich. [Across the River to Freedom](#) features three short documentaries, an interactive website, curriculum resources, and a unique Black history walking tour of Sandwich. The project aims to preserve historical narratives and educate the community about the remarkable stories and descendants of historic Sandwich.

4. Ensuring High Quality, Relevant, and Just Teaching, Learning, & Student Experience for Everyone

The Leddy Library plays a pivotal role in fostering high quality teaching and learning experience through various means. Ensuring that students have the space, technology, and support for their success is an ongoing priority for the library. Leddy Library also continues to develop as a site for experiential learning on campus, with new opportunities emerging each year. The following activities took place during the reporting period:

- The Leddy Library provides instruction to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty, on a wide array of topics related to the evolving library, information, and knowledge context, including information access and retrieval, evaluation of information sources, data literacy, digital literacy, citation, publication supports, including open access options. Librarians provide curricular and extra-curricular instruction and workshops. In the 2022-2023 academic year, librarians taught 67 instruction sessions.
- The Leddy Library offers valuable **student employment opportunities** on campus. For example, during the current reporting period, Leddy Library's Systems Department employed 14 students for nearly 3,300 hours. Leddy Library provides students with hands-on experience in archival services, digital scholarship, scholarly communications, IT support, and data and statistical services, enriching their educational experience.
- In November 2023, the first issue of the *UWill Discover Journal* features research conducted by the winners of the 2023 UWill Discover Student Research Conference and articles by special invitation. Students worked alongside librarian Pascal Calarco and Tim Brunet, coordinator of the Outstanding Scholars program, to develop a platform for sharing the award-winning presentations from the conference.
- As part of their regular workload, librarians can teach **credit courses** for faculties and departments. Scott Cowan and Adam Mulcaster taught a total of three credit courses within the Faculty of Nursing, Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
- **Printing services** continue to be in demand despite our enhanced digital environment and expanded sustainable practices such as the provision of digital course reserves, digital access to books and journals, and digital interlibrary loan requests. 739,191 pages were printed at Leddy Library in 2023-2024.
- Leddy Library continues to be a central provider for students' **computing and technology** requirements, with a growing demand for laptop loans and other technological peripherals.

Teaching, Learning & Student Experience by the Numbers, 2023-24	
Number of library instruction sessions	67
Number of pages printed	739,191
Number of laptops available for loan	27
Number of tutorial visits on website	1,392
Number of Information Technology Student Consultant questions	5,017

Number times of laptop loaned (1-day and 14-day loans)	741
Number of technology loans	13,975
Number of classes using course reserves	1,079
Number of loans of physical course reserve items	19,353
Number of access/loans of e-reserve items	95,947
Number of hours personal study rooms booked	74,603
Number of hours group study rooms booked	28,637

5. Fostering an Engaged, Healthy, Safe, and Environmentally Sustainable Campus

The staff and faculty of Leddy Library consistently demonstrate their commitment to the University of Windsor's students and faculty. They are a key reason why the library is recognized as a safe, welcoming, and supportive space. The library's values and priorities are evident in both ongoing and new initiatives. Staff work to ensure seamless access to the library's services and resources for the entire campus community. During this reporting period, the following activities have been prioritized:

- Leddy Library added a **child-friendly room** to its space options, recognizing that one in five students have at least one dependent. Many student- and faculty- parents struggle to balance academics with parenting, and this dedicated space allows them to care for their children while accessing academic spaces, services, and resources. This initiative supports the unique needs of caregivers and reflects the library's commitment to providing inclusive spaces for its diverse student population.
 - Leddy Library continues to be challenged by the limitations of our updated space and advocates for a library wide renovation. However, the library continues to evolve and **transform our spaces** as resources permit. The last few quad desks were removed and replaced with 18 wheelchair accessible tables with seating. Collaborative seating was added on our first floor of the main building. In 2023-24 the Law Library moved to their new building. Their temporary space has been transformed into a study space. Leddy Library's collection of bound theses and dissertations were brought into the space, with the hope of creating a dissertation defense space with technologies to support hybrid attendance.
 - In the current reporting year, six staff members had an approved **flexible work arrangement**. Leddy Library limits remote work to one day per week per staff member.
- ❏ Despite budget constraints, Leddy Library has continued to build a robust, curated collection of physical and digital resources to support the research, teaching, and service mission of the University of Windsor. Over the past decade, **collection development** has expanded to include digitization initiatives, consortial purchasing, and shared print collections. The shared collections model among Ontario universities has enhanced access to resources, allowing students and faculty to quickly and efficiently request materials from any Ontario university. Most books can be delivered to Leddy Library within 48 hours. This collaboration increases cost-effectiveness and resource efficiency across academic libraries. In 2023-2024, University of Windsor faculty and students borrowed 2,868 physical books and 739 digital copies from other libraries, while Leddy Library lent 4,258 physical books and 456 digital copies. Academic libraries across Ontario and Canada continue to collaborate to improve efficiency and services.

Use of the library's collections, 2023-24			
Number of Omni searches			547,014
Number of unique item investigations on licensed electronic resources (Activity in a database without a full-text request. Abstracts viewed, image or primary source-document accessed, video/audio played)			1,582,523
Number of unique item requests on licensed electronic resources (Full-text article or book was accessed, either as a download or read on a webpage)			1,020,027
Number of searches in licensed abstract and index databases (Number of times a database was searched)			2,311,349
Number of loans of physical items			31,821
Number of physical items added to the collection			6,722
Number of physical items withdrawn from the collection			19,013
Articles and books borrowed from other libraries (Resource borrowing/Interlibrary Loans)	Physical		2,868
	Digital		739
Articles and books lent to other libraries (Resource lending/Interlibrary Loans)	Physical		4,258
	Digital		456

6. Generating Local and Global Impact through Partnership and Community Engagement

The Leddy Library supports the Windsor-Essex region by offering a welcoming and inviting space for the community to engage with the university. Leddy Library's events and initiatives capture the attention and interest of our staff and students, and the wider community. The staff and faculty of Leddy Library participate and promote issues and initiatives that reach both local and international audiences. Staff and faculty memberships of local and international professional academic associations and societies help to ensure the library at the University of Windsor remains an important voice on timely issues. In the reporting period the following activities have been prioritized:

- Since 2010, the **Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive (SWODA)**, led by Leddy Librarian Katharine Ball, has become a rich collection of digitized photos, postcards, documents, directories, yearbooks, and newspapers that capture the region's unique history. Katharine's connections with community organizations, partners, and individuals have brought together a wide range of historically significant materials, freely accessible online. In 2023-2024, five new collections were added: Alumni Times (21 volumes), Assumption College Alumni Chatter (16 volumes), The Essex Scottish Regiment War Diaries (6 volumes), Windsor Teachers College Yearbook (8 volumes), and Le Rempart. SWODA's image database holds over 3,500 historical photographs, postcards, and ephemera, making it a community and university favourite.
- During this reporting period, Leddy Library received a donation of nearly 40 years of the local **French-language newspaper, Le Rempart**, an important step in preserving the cultural and historical records of Southwestern Ontario's francophone community. Librarians, Katharine Ball and Sarah Glassford, oversaw the donation, ensuring a hard copy was placed in the library's Archives & Special Collections for long-term preservation, while digitizing issues from 1966 to 2003. The digitized collection will be available online through Leddy Library's Southwestern Ontario Digital Archive and the Internet Archive, providing easy access to researchers and the public.
- In November 2023, Drs. Heidi LM Jacobs and Sarah Glassford collaborated with community member Patricia Calder to create the digital **exhibit Jack Calder at War: A Canadian Mother's WWII Scrapbook**. The exhibit features newspaper clippings, photographs, telegrams, and letters exchanged between 1940 and 1944 while Calder served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. It also

includes Patricia Calder's fictional imaginings of her grandmother's thoughts, fears, and hopes during that time.

- The Archives and Special Collections at Leddy Library is a valuable resource for scholars, researchers, as well as for the broader community. Its fascinating collection of archival materials attracts significant interest beyond the University. For example, local and national news outlets often feature images of archival holdings that have been digitized. In November 2023, the holdings of the Archives became searchable online, revolutionizing how these records are accessed and explored.

III. Challenges:

1. The University has recently faced significant **budgetary challenges**, resulting in a 1% reduction in Leddy Library's 2023-2024 budget and an additional 1.5% cut for 2024-2025. To manage these cuts and address a structural deficit, Leddy Library must reduce operating costs, including the elimination of staff positions. This work must be done to address a budgetary shortfall exceeding \$500,000. This deficit stems from rising electronic resource costs, unfunded salary increases, and inflation. For years, the library has scaled back non-salary operational spending in areas such as computing, office supplies, staff development, and travel. While further cuts will affect library services, hours, and staffing, the library will continue to rigorously evaluate acquisition spending and seek savings by canceling duplicate resources and leveraging library consortia partnerships with the Ontario Council of University Libraries and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network. Leddy Library will slightly reduce hours in 2024-2025 to maintain staffing levels while increasing staff overlap across shifts. (Non-exam period hours will be reduced from 116 hours per week to 96 hours per week, aligning Leddy Library with other Ontario University Libraries (80-116 hours/week)). Despite these efforts, the magnitude of the budgetary challenges required the difficult decision to eliminate staff positions. The elimination of budget and in turn positions will alter the service level the Leddy Library is able to provide. The entire university faces significant budgetary realities, and Leddy Library will continue to advocate for investment while looking forward to the eventual recovery and restoration of its budget.
2. The **building infrastructure** continues to challenge the library's evolution in terms of space and services. The original library (now called the West building) opened in 1957 to serve 1,400 students and house a quarter of a million volumes. In 1972, the addition of the (main) building extended the library's capacity by aiming to accommodate 5,500 students and house half a million volumes. Today the two buildings joined by a walkway make up the Leddy Library, hold approximately 1.2 million volumes and serve 16,000 students.

IV. Future Actions/Initiatives

1. **REORGANIZATION:** Many academic libraries in North America are shifting from the traditional liaison model—where a single librarian serves as a point of contact for an academic department—toward a more flexible approach, where specialized expertise in areas like bibliometrics, digital literacies, scholarly publishing, and research data management is accessible to the entire campus. This shift aims to provide deeper expertise, greater continuity, and less disruption in services. As technology has transformed the roles and services of academic libraries over the past two decades, Leddy Library's structure has remained largely unchanged, limiting its ability to fully support the university community. In response, Leddy Library is exploring new organizational models to align with the University's Aspire Strategic Plan (2023-2028) and better meet institutional goals.
2. **SPACE TRANSFORMATION:** In 2023, Leddy Library received a \$1.2 million donation from the University of Windsor Graduate Student Society (GSS) to transform the main floor of the West Building. The GSS and campus partners are collaborating to create a versatile space that meets various student needs. The entrance, featuring bookshelves and flexible furniture, opens into a study area with tables, chairs, and study pods equipped with tech hookups for small groups. A reading room with long tables and a cozy "fire pit" will

provide a comfortable space for conversations and presentations. It is anticipated that the new space will be completed in the Winter 2025 semester. The GSS chose Leddy Library for this donation to support a project aligned with its core pillars: academics, student life, and graduation preparation. Leddy Library, a welcoming space for all students, is grateful for this recognition and looks forward to continuing its partnership with the GSS.

3. **EFFICIENCIES and INVESTMENTS:** As budgetary challenges continue to escalate; Leddy Library will ensure responsible spending and maximum efficiencies. Leddy Library will continue to evaluate resources and services. To maximize efficiencies, Leddy Library will migrate our institutional repository infrastructure to Scholaris, a national shared repository service. Scholaris is being developed by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL), regional consortia, academic libraries, repository practitioners and communities of experts.
4. **RECORDS MANAGEMENT:** Leddy Library and its Archives will continue to contribute to the collaborative work of developing and implementing a university-wide records management process. Effective records management—covering the creation, access, retention, and disposal of records—is essential for meeting legal and ethical obligations and fulfilling stakeholder expectations. Ensuring the security, reliability, and authenticity of records is critical. A university-wide policy would include retention schedules to preserve historically valuable records in the Archives, while disposing of others when no longer needed. This process will be guided by current professional standards and best practices, particularly addressing the management of digitally born records.
5. **TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY:** With student affordability a priority at our institution, addressing textbook costs is essential. New transparency legislation further supports campus-wide efforts. Leddy Library seeks collaboration with campus partners like the Centre for Teaching and Learning, the Office of Open Learning, Ancillary Services, and the Registrar to connect students with affordable textbooks. Key initiatives include expanding Leddy Library’s course resource system (which provides licensed articles, eBooks, streaming videos, print books, and OERs), enhancing Copyright Clearance Services, and supporting the search for Open Educational Resources (OERs). OOL’s support for the development of Open Education Resources to support University of Windsor programming will provide faculty with additional options. However, due to restrictive academic publishing models, licensing digital textbooks are often unaffordable or unavailable for libraries. Moreover, faculty may face challenges in replacing traditional textbooks with OERs or licensed resources. Thus, collaboration with Ancillary Services to offer affordable bookstore options and with the Registrar for transparency in costs will be crucial.

V. Recommendations for Senate consideration (if any)