Annual Report, 2022-2023
Grinnell College Libraries

What follows is an overview of Grinnell College Libraries' faculty and staff accomplishments for the 2022-2023 academic year.

- **Library Planning** – The initial work we've done with Brightspot has primed us for good discussions with the campus community, the trustees, and potential donors. The emerging goals for the library project appear to align extremely well with the 2023-2030 Strategic Goals for the College and could further many of those initiatives. We hope the refreshed Campus Master Plan will prioritize a major library project that is capable of advancing academic excellence, fostering belonging and wellness, furthering equity, and enhancing civic trust.

- **Staffing** – We conducted searches and hired two library faculty members: Gina Schlesselman-Tarango will be Grinnell's new Science Librarian and Elizabeth Cave will serve as Digital Humanities and Instruction Librarian during Liz Rodrigues's sabbatical.

- **Faculty/Staff Speaker Series** – In January, we launched three speaker series to highlight faculty and staff scholarship. Research Unbound, Book Talks, and Research in Progress have all been extremely well received and those series will get fully regularized this year, with weekly offerings every Tuesday afternoon. This project has benefited through our strong collaboration with the Grants Office and Susan Ferrari and her team.

- **Collections** – In 2022-2023, the Libraries again prioritized university press books (as ebooks) in our collection development strategy. Through *De Gruyter*, *JSTOR*, *Project MUSE*, *Cambridge University Press*, and *Oxford University Press*, we now have digital access to hundreds of thousands of university press books published from the 1800's to the current year. Adding the coverage we get via evidence-based acquisition arrangements with several major publishers including *Taylor & Francis*, *Sage*, and *Springer*, the number of new academic titles (as ebooks) we add each year is in excess of 20,000 books. In addition, we invested further in streaming video for both academic and recreational use by adding the *Swank Top 1000+ collection* (https://grinnell.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/grinnel369267)—1,000 of their most requested feature films from the 1930's to the 2020's. We also made a five-year commitment to *Gale Primary Sources* (https://grinnell.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=GDCS&u=grin67026), more than 100 separate collections of historical primary source materials. Used in conjunction with another subscription, *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, these tools and collections support Digital Humanities work at the College.

- **Diversifying Special Collections** – We have dedicated significant energy over the past year to diversifying the voices represented in our Special Collections and Archives. The Salisbury Collection, as wonderful as it is, made us especially conscious of the Western-European, patriarchal nature of those materials. We have made a very serious commitment to building a more inclusive collection, and we'll produce a brochure soon that will list many of the new acquisitions we've been making.

- **Courses offered by library faculty** – In addition to teaching research literacy sessions and meeting with students for research consultations, librarians have recently taught a range of credit-bearing classes. Petrouchka Moise collaborated with Fredo Rivera to team-teach a semester-

length class on Haitian Art. Liz Rodrigues regularly teaches an introductory course for the Computer Science Department, and Julia Bauder developed and taught a data science for non-programmers. Additionally, a number of librarians have supervised MAPs and taught sections of Grinnell's first-year tutorial.

- **DASIL leadership** – Julia Bauder is serving as the director of the Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab for a three-year term from the fall of 2022 through the spring of 2025. As director she oversees the lab's operations and supervises the full-time data scientist and approximately sixteen student employees per semester.

- **Digital Studio** – We have nearly completed a larger renovation in Burling Library, creating a new digital humanities lab in the space that used to house our VHS and DVD media. We hope to have a new accessible entrance and glass windows installed over the winter. This space will be jointly supported by the Libraries and DLAC (Digital Liberal Arts Collaborative) specialists and serve as a base for our expanding Vivero Program. We are slowly expanding Vivero, allowing us to increase the number of digital fellows and the number of faculty digital projects that we can support. In addition to DLAC, the Center for Humanities has been a critical partner for the Vivero Program. We see the Digital Studio as an excellent pilot project that can provide valuable insights for any future library project.

- **Digital Public Library of America** (DPLA) – Iowa has continued to be one of the few states in the country without a DPLA hub that allows Iowa libraries to contribute digital materials to the DPLA. This year, Grinnell partnered with Drake, University of Northern Iowa, and Iowa State University to reach out to the Missouri DPLA hub to see if Iowa libraries could join their network. The result is a new multi-state hub, the Heartland Hub, which now allows Iowa libraries entrance to the DPLA. To date, Grinnell College has contributed over 4000 items to DPLA.

- **Technology Upgrades** – Despite being short-staffed, we've spent the past year reviewing many of our major technology platforms in terms of usability, costs, sustainability, and interoperability. We completed a premium review of our main library catalog system (Alma/Primo) that had been delayed due to COVID, making major improvements to workflows and efficiencies. We continue to implement our new digital preservation system, Preservica, and identify critical collections (e.g., presidential communications) that will move into this repository. We've made the difficult decision to move from Islandora, an open-source platform that complemented our open access principles, to a more sustainable platform, Alma Digital, for our institutional repository. Significant upgrades to interlibrary loan and electronic reserves were also completed.

- **RFID Implementation** – In another strategic project, we've implemented RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology into Kistle Science Library in order to make our management of both of Grinnell College's libraries more efficient and also to provide us with very useful circulation information that we might utilize as we consider a future library project.

- **Renovations** to the circulation area at Burling Library include updated electrical, lighting, and three-foot walking paths to make this staff and student workspace accessible, safe, and more equitable. Another project in the planning stage is the renovation of Burling's Computing Commons. We will create a more accessible instructional space with improved electrical and USB options, as well as easier access to printers.

- **Facilities Issues** – We are still experiencing disruptive facilities issues. The elevator requires reset whenever power to the building is lost. Plumbing issues are occurring more frequently as the pipes degrade and drains malfunction. We had hoped to get all public doorknobs replaced with the more accessible levers, but the project remains incomplete.

Library faculty and staff scholarly accomplishments for the past year:

- *Haitian Digital Arts Crossroads (HADC) Project:* We were awarded a second CLIR grant for HADC and were able to convert Dr. Petrouchka Moise's postdoctoral position into a permanent faculty line. Dr. Moise and Dr. Fredo Rivera have recently been awarded a major NEH grant for HADC, and the Libraries have introduced significant new infrastructure (e.g., metadata support, Systems support) within the Libraries for the next phases of the HADC project.

- *Elizabeth Rodrigues* was awarded a Mellon New Directions Fellowship, which is supported by a grant of $220,000 to Grinnell College from the Mellon Foundation.

- *Julia Bauder* was editor-in-chief for the data literacy module in a SAGE online product called *Student Success.* (https://sk.sagepub.com/skills/student-success/data-literacy).

- *Kayla Reed* published the chapter "Erasing Invisibility: Asexual in the Media" in *LGBTQ+ Global Concerns in a Contemporary World: Politics, Prejudice, and Community* published by IGI Global.

- *Sharon R. Clayton* presented a paper entitled "Images of Purgatory: Exploring Representations of Purgatory in Images Accompanying the Office of the Dead in Books of Hours and Psalters during the Middle Ages" at the 58th International Congress of Medieval Studies.

- Library staff member *Randye Jones* released her second book, *Recorded Solo Concert Spirituals, 1916-2022*, published by McFarland and Co. in May 2023.

- To help improve the appearance and functionality of the College publication *Rootstalk*, *Mark McFate*, our Digital Library Applications Developer, worked with feedback from the students in HUM/SST 295 Digital Journal Publishing.

- And lastly, Grinnell will be one of 10 US colleges and universities taking part in the Project Information Literacy's Climate Study, which will focus on how students--and the general public--learn about climate change.