One major focus for the Libraries this year was student success and affordability. In support of this initiative, we expanded our Libraries Student Scholarships program, awarding a total of $18,000 to eight of our outstanding student assistants. We also launched, in collaboration with the College of Education, the Transformational Scholars Program, providing $40,000 in scholarships to incoming students from eastern North Carolina who are willing to return to the region to teach after graduating from NC State. Our ongoing fundraising efforts will continue to support these growing initiatives.

To bolster NC State’s world-class research, we enhanced our collaboration with the Data Science Academy, fostering data science across the disciplines. Together, we developed a shared model for Data Science Consulting that will expand in the coming year and will employ three Graduate Extension Assistants.

With the return to on-campus activities following the COVID-19 pandemic, use of the Libraries’ physical facilities sharply increased this year, fully activating the Hill Library renovation, and significant use of both the physical and online collections and services underscored again the Libraries’ importance to NC State’s success.

Student scholarship awardee Laura Alvarez speaks at an event in February.

The Libraries: by the numbers in FY2021–2022

- 10,125 attendees at 87 public programs
- 75,896 technology items lent
- 15,029,569 overall uses of the collection
- 5,797,108 database searches
- 1,598,133 user visits, a 537% increase from the previous year.
- 1,495,022 e-book uses
- 504,300 tutorial video views
- 36,921 consultations & reference transactions
- 8,320 uses of the Makerspace
Supporting the University’s Strategic Plan

GOAL 1: EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS AND IMPACT.

• The Libraries continued to prepare new and returning students with research and digital literacy skills through a robust slate of classes and workshops, digital learning objects, and individual consultations.

• We collaborated with the University Honors Program to teach the hybrid Critical Disinformation course for undergraduate students. We also expanded support in the engineering disciplines, including instruction and orientation for underrepresented undergraduate student communities such as the Women and Minority Engineering Programs.

GOAL 2: ENSURE PREEMINENCE IN RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION.

• The Libraries launched the Research Facilitation Service (RFS), a partnership with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Office of Research Innovation (ORI), providing a single point of contact for researchers’ computing and data needs.

• We negotiated Open Access Agreements for NC State publications with eight large publishers, saving the university a total of $348,378 and enhancing the impact of NC State scholarship through worldwide access.

GOAL 3. EXPAND AND ADVANCE OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH AND SERVICE TO NORTH CAROLINA AND BEYOND, DEFINING THE STANDARD FOR A 21ST-CENTURY LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY.

• Libraries instructional and reference support for Extension staff and faculty expanded with the use of virtual environments and an enhanced website. Site visits are planned for the coming year.

• We delivered the second iteration of the Library Technology Career Jumpstart Program, a free, week-long virtual experience for library school students.
GOAL 4: CHAMPION A CULTURE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, BELONGING AND WELL-BEING IN ALL WE DO.

- We began fulfilling the Libraries’ “Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Anti-Racism (EDIAR) Implementation Plan,” including more inclusive recruitment practices.

- Employee engagement continued to be a focus throughout the organization, with numerous activities, resources, and training opportunities.

- We acted on the Libraries Salary Equity Task Force recommendations to address identified wage gaps and compression issues, based on a rigorous statistical methodology.

GOAL 5. IMPROVE UNIVERSITY EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, CUTTING-EDGE PROCESSES AND ACTIONABLE DATA.

- Updated the Libraries’ collections delivery and resource-sharing services to provide faster delivery to faculty and students, leveraging content licensing data to automate decision-making.

GOAL 6. LEAD IN DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS, ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKING AND APPLIED PROBLEM-SOLVING.

- Collaborated on the Wicked Problems Wolfpack Solutions multidisciplinary experience for all incoming students and created an open version of the presentations for reuse by faculty, K-12 educators, alumni, prospective students, families, and lifelong learners.

- Partnered with the Open Education Network and Roger Williams University to develop and pilot an IMLS-funded Certificate in Open Educational Practices.

- Completed negotiations to renew the Libraries’ three largest journal subscription packages (Elsevier, Wiley, and Springer), achieving the lowest-ever inflation rates with these publishers.

- The Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) made reparative archival description (RAD) an essential part of its work, addressing the historical harm that archives, archival collecting, and descriptive language have caused to marginalized and underrepresented communities.
GOAL 7. ELEVATE THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL REPUTATION AND VISIBILITY OF NC STATE.

Will Cross, Director, Open Knowledge Center & Head of Information Policy, was awarded a 2022-23 Fulbright Schuman award to study copyright literacy in European Union open knowledge communities of practice.

Susan Ivey, Director, Research Facilitation Service, was invited to become a member of EDUCAUSE’s Research Computing and Data Community Group Steering Committee.

Honors and Advancement

Honors

Jill Sexton, Associate Director for Digital and Organizational Strategy, was named an Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership Fellow for 2021-22.

Advancement

The Libraries recorded $2.38 million in gifts and new commitments for this fiscal year. Our campaign total for the Think & Do the Extraordinary Campaign was $25.8 million, exceeding our campaign goal of $22 million by more than 17 percent, nearly doubling the Libraries endowment corpus as a result. Additionally, the Libraries built its first unrestricted strategic priority endowment—the Susan K. Nutter Innovative Leadership Endowment—to seven figures in FY22. We secured four new endowments in FY22, including one to support Transgender Collections. Collections endowments help us consistently address the research needs of the campus community. Thanks to private philanthropy, the Libraries also launched the Transformational Scholars Program in partnership with the College of Education, which provides scholarships totaling $40,000 over four years to promising high school students from Eastern North Carolina who will return to the region to teach after graduating from NC State’s College of Education. In addition, the Libraries continued to expand its own scholarship program, awarding 8 Libraries student assistant scholarships to seven deserving students, totalling $18,000. In March, we carried out another very successful Day of Giving, with $1.457 million raised from 264 unique donors, finishing #6 in the university-wide school and unit commitment totals. The day included marked increases in student, parent, and faculty/staff donors.

Neal Hairston, University Library Technician, was one of 12 University Award for Excellence winners. His work helped the Libraries support academic continuity during COVID-19.

User Experience Librarian Robin Davis was recognized as a 2022 “Mover & Shaker” by Library Journal for her advocacy of accessibility and user-focused services. She is the thirteenth staff member to receive this award since its inception in 2002—more than any other academic library.

NC STATE University Libraries