



WILLIAM & MARY
LIBRARIES

BIENNIAL REPORT **2023-2025**



#3

Best College Library

In 2025, we celebrated our ranking of #3 best college library in the United States by the Princeton Review! Rankings are determined by student surveys, and we thank our students for continuing to rate us highly.

Q&A with W&M Libraries Board Chair Karen Shepherd '00

How long have you served on the Libraries' Board of Directors?

I joined the W&M Libraries Board of Directors in 2020.



Karen Shepherd '00

Why did you choose to join the board?

Core to my values is giving back to the communities who have helped support my growth and discovery. My very first philanthropic gift was to the Morgan Library & Museum in NYC and my love of libraries and in particular rare book collections began there. When I learned of the resources and rare book collection at W&M, I was even more eager to be engaged. W&M played a key role in my career trajectory and the more I learned about the increasing role the libraries play in all student and faculty growth, the more I realized that would be an ideal place to bring my time, talent and treasure.

You are the incoming chair of the board. What does that role entail?

I had the honor of serving as Vice Chair under a wonderful leader in Gail McClenney and learned from her example. The board chair works closely with the Dean of the Libraries to ensure the board committees and members focus on initiatives that support their vision. Another key role of the board chair is to encourage members to serve as ambassadors for the Libraries across their networks, growing participation both philanthropically and through service.

Why do you support W&M Libraries?

I am proud to support the W&M Libraries as I have seen first-hand the impact across campus serving all departments and colleges. Dean Cooper is a visionary leader who inspires collaboration and exploration; faculty and students alike benefit from the programs and resources available thanks to her leadership.

What has changed at W&M since you were a student? What has stayed the same?

As a music major in the late 90's, my experience was quite different from the experience students will now have with the resources of the Arts Quarter. Late nights in the Ewell recital hall and music library pale in comparison to the resources available to students today. Taking my daughter around campus on Accepted Students Day and exploring the Arts Quarter was a highlight - and made me a bit jealous! What has stayed the same is the feeling of warmth, reverence and humbleness experienced when walking through the Wren Building and Sunken Gardens.

What do you hope to see in the future for the campus libraries?

The future of the campus libraries is bright. I am optimistic for the continued leadership on campus of initiatives like the Democracy Initiative and innovative cross-departmental collaboration.

Dear library supporters and friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements we have made. Our university libraries have continued to thrive, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff, and support from friends like you.

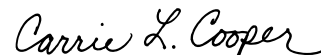
This year, we have seen significant advancements in our instruction initiatives, publishing endeavors, and community engagement efforts. We have expanded our teaching curriculum to include innovative topics that address the evolving needs of our students, and we've successfully launched William & Mary Press, a publishing platform designed to support faculty open access projects.

Moreover, our outreach programs have strengthened our ties with students, faculty and our broader community. We hosted numerous events, including author talks, open houses, and faculty workshops, all of which have contributed to a vibrant and dynamic library environment and university community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission of providing access to knowledge, fostering lifelong learning, and building a stronger, more connected community. We are excited about the future and the opportunities it holds for further growth and innovation.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact and inspire a love of learning for all who walk through our doors.

Warm regards,



Carrie L. Cooper, Ed.D. '24
Dean of University Libraries



Carrie Cooper,
Ed.D. '24



Workshop explores books as works of art

William & Mary Libraries and the Muscarelle Museum of Art continue to collaborate on their Art of the Book workshop. This intensive two-day workshop explores the history of the book and culminates in the creation of an original collective artwork.

The workshop was orchestrated by Meghan Bryant, the Libraries' Head of Special Collections Public Services and Instruction, and Steve Prince, Muscarelle's Director of Engagement.

"Our goal was to teach the participants to look at books as not just text, but rather as physical and cultural artifacts. Art and archives are intertwined in so many ways, and it was exciting to explore those overlaps with a diverse group of people," Bryant said.

Bryant drew inspiration for the event after attending Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. She took a course called "Teaching the History of the Book" and the experience encouraged her to design a similar educational opportunity for W&M and the Williamsburg community.

"I felt compelled to do a mini rare book school here, but I wanted it to be shorter than a traditional rare book school program and open to anyone," she said. "I then approached Steve with the idea of hosting a program that would approach



books as art objects and he immediately shared my enthusiasm for the concept."

As someone with a deep appreciation for books and book-making, it was a no-brainer for Prince to partner with Bryant on the Art of the Book.

It took two hours of brainstorming over coffee for Bryant and Prince to map out the curriculum. The initial day of the workshop was dedicated to taking a deep dive into the rich history within Swem Library's rare book collection, while the second day was spent in Matoaka Studios gaining hands-on experience with the process of book making.

"We provided the best of both worlds, which was the visual art and text world," Prince said. "We not only remember what we see but also how they make us feel. That is why the experiential element was a key component of our class."

To make the workshop accessible to anyone, there was no prerequisite for art or book history experience.

"I was delighted and surprised that we had a mix of ages, backgrounds and levels of art experience among our participants," Bryant said. "That diversity made the workshop more

fun because everyone had a different perspective, and yet we were able to connect through a shared project."

After witnessing the engagement from multiple generations during the workshop, Prince is excited to partner with Bryant for another Art of the Book workshop.

The evidence of the joy that they had in the experience was on their faces and body. It was something you could read.

— **Steve Prince**, Director of Engagement, Muscarelle Museum

"We had this community of people who choose to come together for a weekend and spend an extensive amount of time together," Prince said. "The evidence of the joy that they had in the experience was on their faces and body. It was something you could read." ♦

Previous Page: Sarah Wicker '23 and artist Aimee Joyaux prepare a linocut for printing.

Above from left: Closeup of a custom typeset page created by Aimee for printing. // Students in the class examine unique printed items from Special Collections' archives. // Sarah and Meghan Bryant display their finished art. // Steve Prince works with a student on their linocut.

Interested in participating in the next Art of the Book?
Contact Meghan Bryant at mhbryant@wm.edu.

Swem Library's love letters collection showcases romance throughout history

Love letters can take many forms, but the intent is always clear: Couples letting one another know exactly what their relationship means.

Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center has an extensive collection of love letters, encompassing a wide variety of couples in different stages of their relationship. More than 200 letters from 1764 through 1967 make up the collection, each either donated to the library or purchased from third parties.

"Letters provide glimpses into the personal thoughts of everyday individuals and can really show someone's personal feelings outside of their public persona," said Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections.

Below are some of the highlights:

Gertha Sykes Collins Papers (1942-1946)

Written between 1942 and 1946, Gertha Barbara Jean Sykes wrote frequently with James Dansby, a Black soldier in the U.S. Army who she was in a relationship with at the time. Throughout strenuous drills and health scares, Dansby made clear that Sykes was motivating him to persevere, both with her letters and photos of herself.

"Everytime I look at your picture (that's every day) it's so natural and cute that it just seems to tell me that you're well and still love me," he wrote.

Alexander Campbell to Hannah Acheson (1809)

Alexander Campbell, who led the Restoration Movement that resulted in the development of non-denominational

Christian churches, made time to profess his love for a woman named Hannah Acheson in December 1809.

"In vain any longer do I endeavor to conceal my love for you," Campbell writes. "My natural timidity, and bashfulness are overcome; and all my fortitude gives place to love. My thoughts by day, and my dreams by night are turned on love: and you the beloved object ever live in my imagination."

Dale to Nancy Letter (1957)

Sometimes the best letters are the most direct ones. In one such letter, a man named Dale shares a card with a kitten on the front with his "darling" Nancy. "I thought that this kitten would be appropriate for my 'little kitten'," he writes. "Hope you enjoy it."

In little less than 100 words, Dale makes sure to profess his love for Nancy no less than three times. He ends the letter with. "All my love, Dale. P.S.: I love you."

Paul Bilofsky Letters (1943)

Paul Bilofsky, a soldier stationed at Camp Peary, hears from his girlfriend Helen, who offers him consolation for his difficult work schedule.

"Sorry to hear that you are tired, but we just have to keep our chin up and make the best out of it," she writes. She signs off the letter with a kiss, the bright pink makeup still vivid as ever on the folded paper. ♦

Above: Helen adorns one of her letters to Paul Bilofsky with a kiss, joking that she hit her nose on the desk in an attempt to apply it to the letter.

Articles and photos of letters courtesy of William Oster, W&M Communications Specialist



De Buglio and Salesses sit in the corner of Swem Library where they first met. (Photo courtesy of Evan De Buglio)

Love by the books: From a late night in Swem to wedding bells

Most people go to Swem Library to find something – a book, a place to study, a rare collection. Evan De Buglio '23 and Meredith Salesses '22 found love.

In December 2024, De Buglio proposed to Salesses in Swem, the place where the couple sparked their relationship as undergraduates. The two crossed paths a few times before, but it was that one night in Swem, taking a break from studying, when the two spoke from 6 p.m. until 3 a.m.

"I literally never stay up that late most nights," Salesses said. "But that night I did."

The two began seeing each other casually in March 2020. But two days into the relationship, De Buglio faced an emergency while preparing for a late-night barbecue. In an attempt to be helpful, his roommates turned on the gas smoker for him but never lit it. De Buglio didn't light the flame until the gas had been accumulating for about 10 minutes. "It basically blew up in my face," he said.

With his roommates gone for the night and nobody there to help, he had only one person he felt he could turn to: Salesses. And as Salesses put it, the rest is history.

Fast forward to late 2024, De Buglio felt like it was finally the right time to propose. Plan-

ning a trip to Williamsburg for late December, De Buglio chose Swem Library for its sentimentality. Realizing that the library would be closed for winter break, De Buglio quickly jumped into action, reaching out to anyone on campus who might help him make the proposal possible.

Tony Orband, Associate Director of Grounds & Gardens, was the one to answer the call. Coordinating with Dean of Libraries Carrie Cooper and her staff, Orband brought the couple through the library after hours.

The proposal went off without a hitch. Walking across campus, De Buglio made up an excuse about needing to use the bathroom and suggested the two drop by Swem since it was nearby.

"I definitely had a feeling," Salesses said. "Especially going through the back door. I was like, 'I mean, I like Swem, but I don't really need to go to Swem, today.'"

Even with her suspicions, Salesses said she was elated at the special proposal. As the couple begins to plan for their wedding, they're both thankful that William & Mary could be part of it. ♦



W&M Press produces publications for an accessible **learning** experience

William & Mary Press has published its third open access publication, which explores the Mvskoke language spoken in east-central Oklahoma by members of the Muscogee Nation. The book, "Mvskoke Language Patterns," is authored by Chancellor Professor of English and Linguistics Jack Martin. It covers the Mvskoke alphabet, an extensive list of common phrases, and, uniquely, includes audio files of native speakers' pronunciations.

"I was looking for a format where students using the materials can hear the language, so there were some real advantages to a digital publication model over traditional publishing," Martin said about his decision to publish through W&M Press.

W&M Press is the scholarly publishing division of W&M Libraries. The Press focuses on open access digital books created by W&M faculty and seeks to fill gaps in existing curricular materials. These publications are sometimes also available in print, but W&M Press leaves room to explore the possibilities of other mediums.

The Press has published three books, including "Statistical Modeling: Regression, Survival Analysis, and Time Series Analysis" by Larry M. Leemis and "Euripides' Alcestis: translation with Introduction, Notes, and Essay" by Michael R. Halleran, and three more are in process.

I was looking for a format where students using the materials can hear the language, so there were some real advantages to a digital publication model over traditional publishing.

— **Jack Martin**, Chancellor Professor of English and Linguistics

"Libraries are here to promote access to knowledge," said Mary Oberlies, Interim Publishing & Open Access Librarian. "The W&M Press helps us achieve this with free, open access materials, that are accessible and can be used and adapted by others based on their curricular needs." ♦



**WILLIAM & MARY
PRESS**



Find these books on Pressbooks and in the library catalog.



"Mvskoke Language Patterns"

By Jack B. Martin

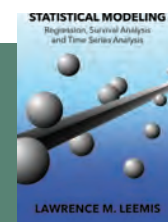
[viva.pressbooks.pub/
mvskokelanguagepatterns/](https://viva.pressbooks.pub/mvskokelanguagepatterns/)



"Euripides' Alcestis: Translation with Introduction, Notes, and Essay"

By Michael R. Halleran

viva.pressbooks.pub/alcestis/



"Statistical Modeling: Regression, Survival Analysis, and Time Series Analysis"

By Lawrence M. Leemis

[viva.pressbooks.pub/
statisticalmodelingleemis/](https://viva.pressbooks.pub/statisticalmodelingleemis/)

W&M professor Larry Leemis publishes open access textbook



In 2023, William & Mary Libraries published its first open access textbook, "Statistical Modeling: Regression, Survival Analysis, and Time Series Analysis," authored by mathematics professor Larry M. Leemis.

The textbook supports students in statistics, data science, operations research, economics, and industrial engineering. Leemis, who has taught at W&M for 30 years, wrote the book over three years through the Library Faculty Scholar Program, which provides financial support and library expertise for open access projects.

Leemis emphasizes the importance of open textbooks in reducing costs for students. His book covers three key statistical topics in one semester, making it a valuable resource for undergraduates. The book received positive feedback from several universities and is available for free on Pressbooks and W&M ScholarWorks, where it has been downloaded over 1,500 times since its publication in July 2023.

"The Library Scholar position made writing the book possible," said Leemis. "Without the support from the library staff members and the Library Scholar position, the book would never have been written." ♦

Former W&M provost authors open access book on Greek play, *Alcestis*

William & Mary Libraries published its second open access book in 2024, "Euripides' *Alcestis*: Introduction, Translation, Notes, and Essay," authored by Dr. Michael R. Halleran, former provost and classical studies professor who specializes in Greek language and literature.

Inspired by his colleague Larry Leemis's open access textbook, Halleran decided to publish his modern translation and analysis of the play "*Alcestis*" as an open educational resource (OER).

Halleran has published several works, but this is his first open access project. Working with W&M Libraries helped him discover the opportunities that digital publishing provides including accessibility, the ability to add on in the future, and allowing for more creative and productive uses of space that hardcopy cannot permit. ♦



New textbook collections save students money

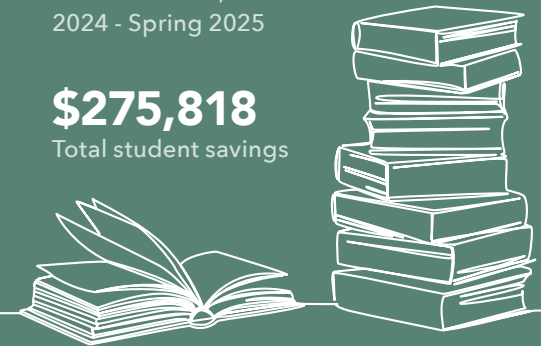
In an effort to address textbook affordability, W&M Libraries offers a collection of ebook textbooks. These ebooks, purchased via the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) Consortium and the Libraries' collection funds, are perpetual access and unlimited usage. Beginning in 2024, more than 300 titles were made available in the Libraries' collection, saving students an estimated \$275,818!

332

Titles available, Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

\$275,818

Total student savings



open education



Jennifer Putzi named W&M Libraries Faculty Scholar

Jennifer Putzi, professor of English and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at William & Mary, has been named the next William & Mary Libraries Faculty Scholar.

Putzi has taught in the English department at W&M for 22 years. Her area of specialization is American literature to 1900, women writers and 19th-century American poetry.

"This opportunity is a gift," said Putzi. "Having dedicated time to focus on my research and to work alongside librarians and archivists on a digital humanities project really excites me."

This opportunity is a gift. Having dedicated time to focus on my research and to work alongside librarians and archivists on a digital humanities project really excites me.

— Jennifer Putzi, Professor of English and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

Putzi will serve as the Libraries' faculty scholar until spring 2027. As faculty scholar, she will partner with library colleagues on several initiatives. Principal among them is the

creation of a digital repository of 19th-century African American women's diaries, which will supplement a book she is writing on the topic.

"We are grateful for the support of alumni and friends who have allowed us to support Jenny Putzi's scholarship," said Carrie Cooper, Dean of University Libraries. "We are eager to lift up the voices and lives of women whose words have been largely hidden from public view."

For the past two years, Putzi has been traveling to archives across the country to examine African American women's diaries. Most of these diaries have been stored safely away in archives, out of the spotlight, with Putzi being the first scholar to study them.

"These are diaries that have never been in print before, they've never been edited, and I'm the first person to transcribe them," Putzi said. "I think it's important that this work gets out there, so that other scholars can use it."

The purpose of the project is to illuminate the value of studying women's diaries, both in terms of the historical record and the role that materiality plays in relation to content.

While the book will focus on certain aspects of Black women's diaries, the digital project



Instruction & Research Librarian Rachel Hogan and Putzi work together transcribing a diary during a library transcribe-a-thon held February 2024.

W&M student assists in digital humanities research on African American history

Micah Hutchings '27 is a Virginia native studying Public Policy with a minor in Africana Studies and a concentration in African American History at William & Mary. She supported Jennifer Putzi as a research assistant for her digital humanities research. Micah was recommended for the position by Carrie Cooper, Dean of University Libraries. She helped Dr. Putzi with annotations and coding of Mary Virginia Montgomery's 1872 diary. Micah said she is grateful to W&M Libraries for the opportunity to learn new things about African American history through the lens of Mary Virginia's life and reflections.

Hutchings anticipates graduating early from William & Mary and moving into the 1-year Public Policy Master's Program at the university. After that, she wants to pursue higher education and eventually receive a doctoral degree (either a Ph.D. or Ed.D.) from a future university. ♦



Micah Hutchings '27, Student Assistant

will present the diaries in full, making them openly and freely accessible to researchers around the globe.

"This digital project will allow access to these manuscripts to those who can't travel to the archives," said Putzi.

Her research into Black women's diaries has already yielded many interesting discoveries. One particular diary stands out in her mind: the 1868 diary of Francis Rollin, which is housed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Rollin was an African American woman born

in Charleston, South Carolina, who taught in the freedmen schools after the war. In 1868, Rollin was in Boston writing a biography of the African American intellectual, activist, and Union major Martin Delany.

"I ended up contacting Rollin's great-granddaughter and learned that the diary had belonged to her before she donated it to the Smithsonian, so I was able to talk to her about her great-grandmother. It was a truly meaningful experience to collaborate with her on the edition of Rollin's diary that will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2025."

Putzi hopes that her project will encourage others to view diaries as an important part of the historical record, and possibly begin keeping a diary of their own.

"I think about all of the people who keep diaries and what those are going to mean for the future. The ones people are writing today, someone may study those 100 years from now," she said. ♦

faculty engagement

Senior student spotlights

We celebrate some of our graduating student employees who help the Libraries achieve its goals each year through their dedication and enthusiasm.

We invest \$300,000+ on student employment each year, providing valuable career experience.

– Laura Morales, Associate Dean of Collections & Content Services



Alex Arkoette '25

History

What do you do in the library?

As a digitization assistant I scan documents for storage in the online archives or for library patrons.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I enjoy going through the old school documents and photos since they often highlight how much the school has changed.

What is your favorite book?

"The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien

What are your career aspirations?

I am hoping to go into Library Sciences after taking some time before going into graduate school.



Shradha Dinesh '24

Double Major in Data Science and Political Journalism

What do you do at the library?

I'm a graphic designer and student assistant at Special Collections.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love being able to explore graphic design as a form of storytelling to highlight items from Special Collections and craft a narrative with them to make exhibits a new and fulfilling learning experience.

What is your favorite book?

One of my favorites is "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde.

What are your career aspirations?

I am interested in a career in investigative journalism.



Jenna Massey '24

Double major in English and Film & Media Studies

What do you do at the library?

I am the Student Assistant to External Relations. I do a little bit of everything for the department, from managing library social media accounts to writing thank-you notes to our donors.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I'm always excited to photograph the Homecoming Author Breakfast. As an aspiring writer, it's great to learn about the accomplishments of our author alumni, and I love seeing the community come together to celebrate their talents!

What is your favorite book?

It's hard to choose! "The Idiot" by Elif Batuman, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien and "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt are a few of my favorites.

What are your career aspirations?

I am interested in creative writing and publishing, and will be pursuing an MFA at VCU.



Nikhil Rao '24

Double Major in Economics & Government

What do you do at the library?

I'm a Public Services Assistant at the Circulation Department.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Ensuring everyone has access to Swem's plentiful resources.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is "The Catcher in the Rye" by J. D. Salinger.

What are your career aspirations?

I plan to pursue my J.D. at Columbia Law School.



Ash Warfield '24

Digital & Creative Production

What do you do at the library?

I work at the Media Center!

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love hearing about what students do with our equipment. The creative possibilities are endless.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is "The Secret History" by Donna Tartt.

What are your career aspirations?

I am interested in working in video production.



Ethiana Hacsh '25

Government with a Data Science Minor

What do you do in the library?

Library Assistant at the McLeod Business Library

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love getting to interact with students at the business school and how interpersonal the job can be.

What is your favorite book?

"The Brothers Karamazov" by Fyodor Dostoevsky

What are your career aspirations?

After completing my Masters in Business Analytics, I look forward to working in private sector business consulting.



Bella Strong '25

History

What do you do at the library?

I am a student assistant in Cataloging and Metadata. A majority of my role has related to the inventory project where I've run shelf reports to get a better understanding of the library's collection and to identify issues.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I love working with books in general, especially at Swem with many unique and old materials. My favorite part is getting to see what we have in our collection and getting the satisfaction of fixing problems with books because I know it'll help someone in the future.

What is your favorite book?

"A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khalid Hosseini

What are your career aspirations?

I've wanted to be a librarian for a long time. Since coming to William & Mary, I've become interested in academic librarianship, but I'm still unsure whether I want to work in a public or academic library. I love libraries for their books, their online materials, their community spaces, and their events.

student spotlights



New in Special Collections

The following collections have recently found their home at Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center. Pictured clockwise from top left:

Jamestown Island Civil War Map: a hand-drawn map of Jamestown Island in pencil and blue ink with annotations, circa 1860-1870.

Thomasina E. Jordan Collection: the papers of Native American activist Thomasina Jordan, circa 1978-2007, who worked for federal recognition and tribal sovereignty for Virginia Indians.

Clandestinas Ghost Posters: this collection of posters—designed for a series of Cuban film projects that have largely remained unmade—seeks to counter the underrepresentation of Cuba's women directors and visual artists.

Jon Gilbert Fox '72 Collection: photos, essays, posters and other materials relating to the AIDS crisis, LGBTQ+ history, and political activism from 1968-2007.



A collection five decades in the making

Terry Meyers, Chancellor Professor Emeritus of English, has been an important member of the William & Mary community since 1970. Recently, Meyers made another major contribution to the university in the form of a gift to W&M Libraries. In the fall, he donated his vast collection of works by Algernon Charles Swinburne, an English poet, playwright, novelist, and critic. His collection showcases his passion for a famous and infamous 19th-century writer who is often overlooked in common English courses.



Meyers' fascination with Swinburne and collecting began more than 50 years ago, during his time as a graduate student at the University of Chicago. In the fall of 1968, he was required to take a 19th-century English poetry course, a period he had left unexplored for most of his time as a student.

"I'd read enough Tennyson, two or three poems, in high school and was determined to avoid any further exposure to it," Meyers said.

Nonetheless, what he found in that class was not only a new poet to discover, but a complete change of heart, as his professional career that followed showed his new-found enthusiasm for Victorian poetry.

Swinburne's reputation as a rebellious writer, who wrote about topics deemed taboo, initially drew Meyers' interest. But it was his command of language that captured Meyers' heart.

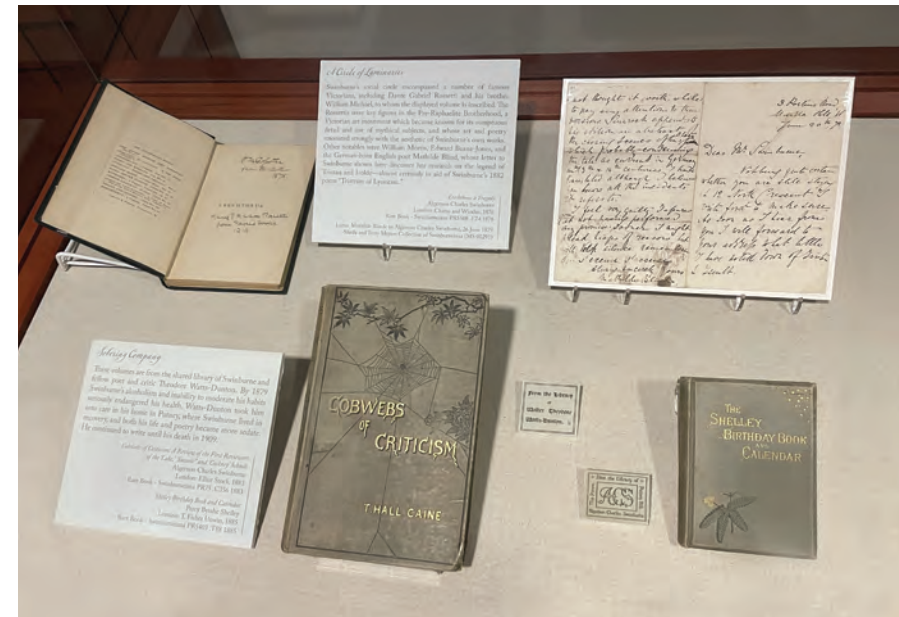
"It was so lyrical and rhythmic that I simply fell in love with the texts," said Meyers.

When Meyers stumbled upon a Swinburne first edition, "Mary Stuart: A Tragedy," for \$5, he couldn't resist, and so a collection was born. Today, the collection contains approximately 600 books written by and about Swinburne.

"We are honored to accept Dr. Terry Meyers' collection," said Jay Gaidmore, Director of Special Collections. "Because of his donation, students and visitors to Special Collections will have the chance to discover one of Victorian England's most rebellious poets and novelists." ♦



From the collection:
 Erechtheus: a Tragedy;
 Algernon Charles Swinburne;
 London: Chatto and Windus,
 1876. // Letter from Mathilde
 Blinde to Algernon Charles
 Swinburne, June 26, 1879.
 // Cobwebs of Criticism: A
 Review of the First Reviewers
 of the 'Lake,' 'Satanic'
 and 'Cockney' Schools;
 Algernon Charles Swinburne;
 London: Elliot Stock, 1883.
 // From Swinburne's library,
 The Shelley Birthday
 Book and Calendar;
 Percy Bysshe Shelley.



Across the stacks: News from our campus libraries



W&M students compete at the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge Regional Competition at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville

McLeod Business Library

W&M business students excel at Competitive Excel

At the heart of William & Mary's Raymond A. Mason School of Business, the McLeod Business Library is doing more than lending books—it's shaping future business leaders through data literacy. In collaboration with the Boehly Center for Excellence in Finance, the Library launched the Competitive Excel program this academic year, offering students hands-on experience with one of the most in-demand tools in the business world: Microsoft Excel.

Through weekly work, students tackled practice cases from the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge (MECC), gaining confidence and agility in a platform central to financial modeling, data visualization, and analytics.

In addition to the weekly case workshops, students participated throughout the year in monthly MECC challenges and Excel eSports battles—timed, competitive Excel events where participants raced to solve complex problems in a live, game-style format. These challenges tested students' mastery of formulas, logic, visualization, and speed, while providing a fun and fast-paced way to reinforce their skills.

"The Competitive Excel program gives students a space to deepen their Excel skills beyond the classroom," said Business Librarian William Judd, the team's coach and a driving force behind the initiative. "It's exciting to see their growth—from the first case they

struggle through to the confidence they bring into competition."

In April, Judd led a team of three William & Mary students to the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge Regional Competition at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. There, the team went head-to-head with competitors from top regional universities, including upper-class undergraduates and graduate students from across the Southeast. Incredibly, the William & Mary team was made up entirely of freshmen—making their performance all the more impressive.

Despite their newcomer status and relative inexperience, the William & Mary team placed fourth overall—outperforming many older and more seasoned competitors. For the students and their coach, the experience was a powerful affirmation of their hard work and the value of the Competitive Excel program.

"Our students were thrilled with the experience," said Judd. "They proved that with focus and support, even first-year students can compete at a high level—and win respect while doing it." ♦

Let Freedom Read

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) in W&M's School of Education hosted a Let Freedom Read! event during International Education Week in November 2024. LRC Director and Librarian Rebecca Beasley selected 50 picture and young adult books from the LRC's collection that have been challenged or banned in the United States and listed the reasons each book was challenged on library circulation cards temporarily affixed to the back of each book. Attendees were encouraged to explore and read the books displayed and then to turn the book over to learn the specific reasons each book was challenged or banned.

"We had a sizable turnout, and it was great to have so many conversations with students and faculty about the bans and challenges that are happening nation-wide, and it was really interesting to watch people interact with these challenged titles and reflect on the reasons these stories are deemed by some to be inappropriate or controversial," said Beasley.

Beasley gave out stickers, bookmarks, and a handout detailing the ways that different educators can prevent and combat book challenges and bans.

"It was also an excellent opportunity for me to reiterate the importance of having materials like these available at a university library, not just for current and future educators, but for anyone in our campus community who would like to access a banned or challenged title and form their own conclusions about the worth and perspectives of these books," she said. ♦

Telling a more complete and inclusive history for the William & Mary Law School

Article courtesy of the Wolf Law Library's 2024 Annual Report, available at law.wm.edu/library/about/annualreports

In 2022-23, the Law Library inaugurated its first round of oral histories. Led by the Digital Collections and Archives Librarian, Kathryn Downing, the project gathered the oral histories of individuals of diverse backgrounds who helped shape the law school into what it is today. The project emphasizes people who have been historically marginalized and overlooked, but who made a significant impact to the William and Mary Law School.



Seven individuals were interviewed during the first cycle of oral histories: Dean Emeritus Timothy J. Sullivan, Judge Eileen Olds, Toni M. Massaro, W.C. Jefferson, Alemante Gebre-Selassie, Judith M. Conti, and Jayne W. Barnard.

The second cycle of interviewing took place in 2023-24, and includes J.R. Zepkin, former W&M President W. Taylor Reveley, Ingrid and Michael Hillinger, James Heller, Mark Earley, Davison Douglas, Stephanie and Michael Chu, and Elizabeth Andrews.

The completed oral histories are available to view on the law school's digital scholarship repository at scholarship.law.wm.edu/oralhist_all. ♦

Investment & Impact



Visits
869,310
Visits to university libraries

695,798
Swem Library

12,618
McLeod Business Library

10,636
Hargis Library, Virginia
Institute of Marine Science

144,315
Wolf Law Library

5,943
Learning Resources Center,
School of Education



Instruction

7,294
Students reached through
library instruction
(Swem and Business)



Consultations

617
Individual consultations with
Swem librarians



Resources

27,260
Items checked out



1,115,513
E-books and journal
articles downloaded



1,024,459
Files downloaded
from the W&M institutional
repository, ScholarWorks



1,399,576
libraries.wm.edu
website visits



12,108
Equipment checked out
from Reeder Media Center

Spaces



51,649
Hours Swem Library group study rooms used



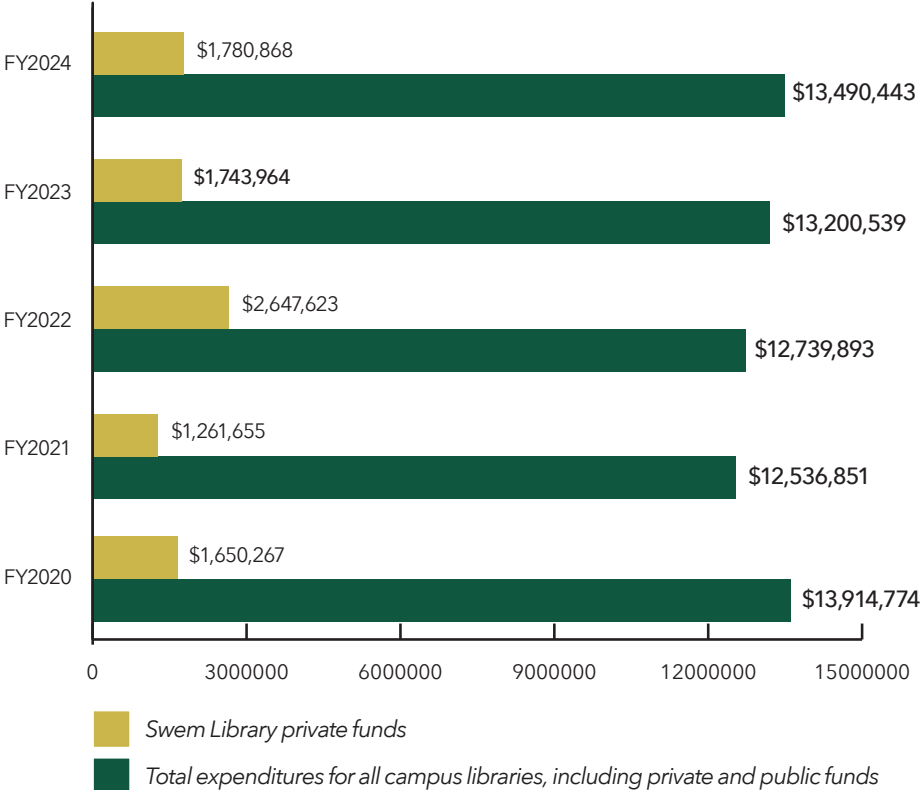
13,979
Hours Reeder Media Center studios and
workstations used



University Investment in Libraries

Investment in libraries happens in many ways across the university. The majority of funding for university libraries comes through Swem Library’s budget, with additional funding for affiliate libraries through their respective professional schools. The Wolf Law Library is structurally and budgetarily a part of the William & Mary Law School, with its funding being set by the Dean of William & Mary Law School.

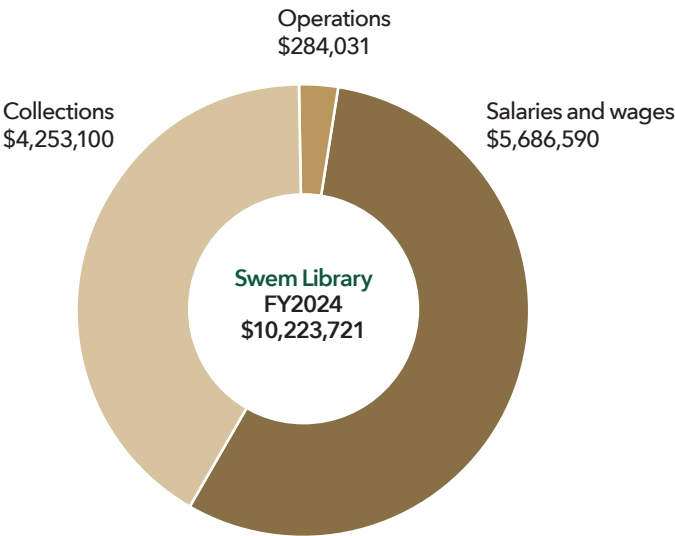
Total Annual Budget



Swem Library

Expenditures by category

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Includes both public and private funds. Note that Swem Library’s collections budget includes collections for both McLeod Business Library and the Learning Resource Center.





WILLIAM & MARY LIBRARIES

Earl Gregg Swem Library
William & Mary
PO Box 8794
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8794

libraries.wm.edu

