



University of
Lethbridge

Library
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IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



Report from the **University Librarian**



In the Information Age, change in the way we access and use information technologies is everywhere and libraries must work hard to keep up. This past year, the University Library undertook a significant change in transitioning from a library system we had used for decades to a new one that is better suited to handle the needs of academic libraries today, particularly when it comes to electronic resources. For our staff this involves not only learning a new system, but rethinking ways we have done things.

Change is everywhere in the Library, from enabling use of new technologies like virtual reality, to understanding how school libraries are changing, to helping our students and faculty navigate the changing world of copyright and accessing resources.

At the same time, though, the traditional things we love about libraries — quiet spaces with books — remain important to what we do. The launch of the Ian Tyson Reading Area provided an opportunity to create a new space in the Library that reflected a love of books as important physical objects that reflect who we are.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the ways the Library navigated this changing world in 2025-26.

- Dr. Harold Jansen, University Librarian

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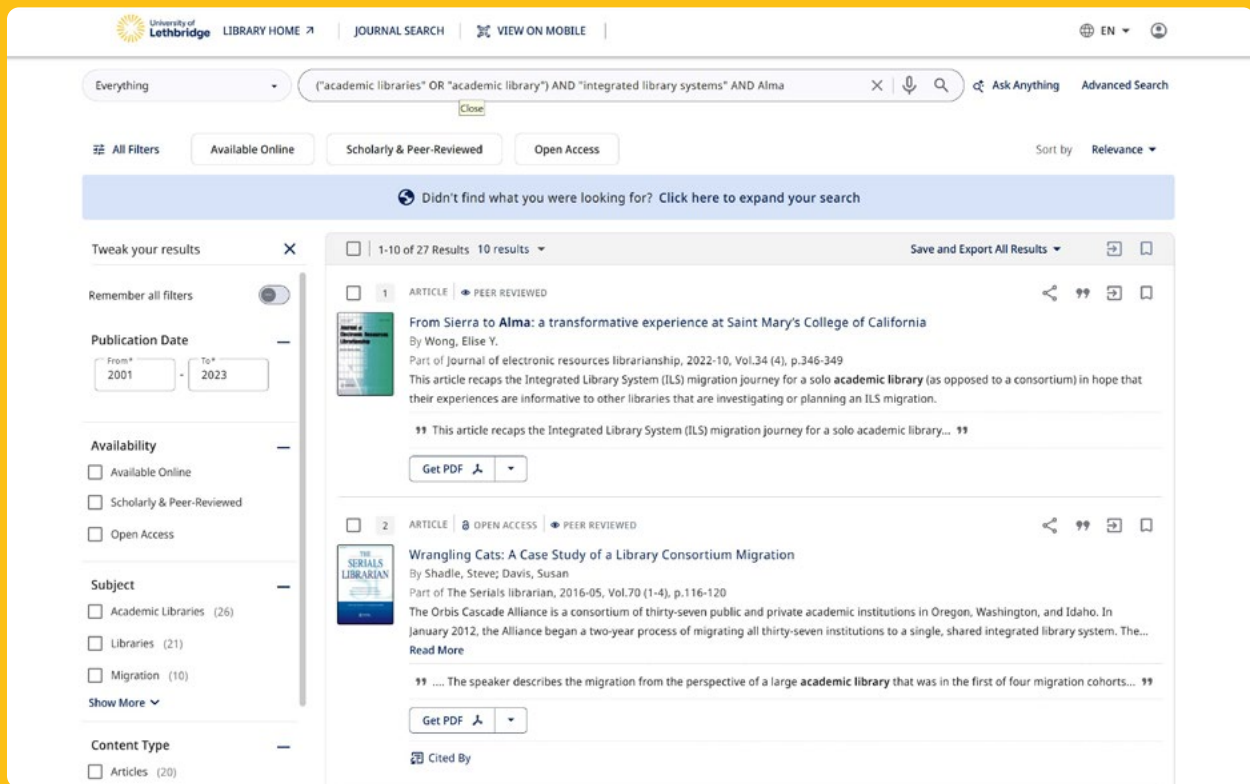
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Fresh Start: Introducing a New Library System



Screenshot of the University of Lethbridge Library's new discovery layer.

A streamlined new library system launched this April in the University Library. It makes workflows smoother on the internal side, and brings a lot of benefits to library users, such as:

- Faster, easier interlibrary loans
- Natural language search option
- Improved advanced search capabilities
- Simple, integrated request system for item pick up and delivery
- In-item display of license terms / allowed uses
- Patron accounts integrated into the search interface
- Saved search alert scheduling
- Viewable borrowing history
- All fines payable at the Cash Office
- Faster updating as the system is an all-in-one solution

This state-of-the-art system, built for today's libraries, is the same one used by most university libraries in Canada. We hope you like it as much as we do!

A Name with Meaning — **Apani**



Elder Jerry Potts talking about Apani during Indigenous Awareness Week.

The Blackfoot Digital Library has been renamed to *Apani Blackfoot Digital Library*. This was an important change – to some it may just be a name, but it represents acceptance and a place within the Blackfoot community. In the Blackfoot language *Apani* means “those that bring us messages,” the Butterfly.

Christine Clark and Bryson Duda have updated the back end of the website and expanded the metadata.

Danielle Heavy Head has

been updating the content to conform to the more extensive data. Students have contributed to some of this work as well and there is still more to do in the coming months. All of these changes have made the site more accessible and easier to use.

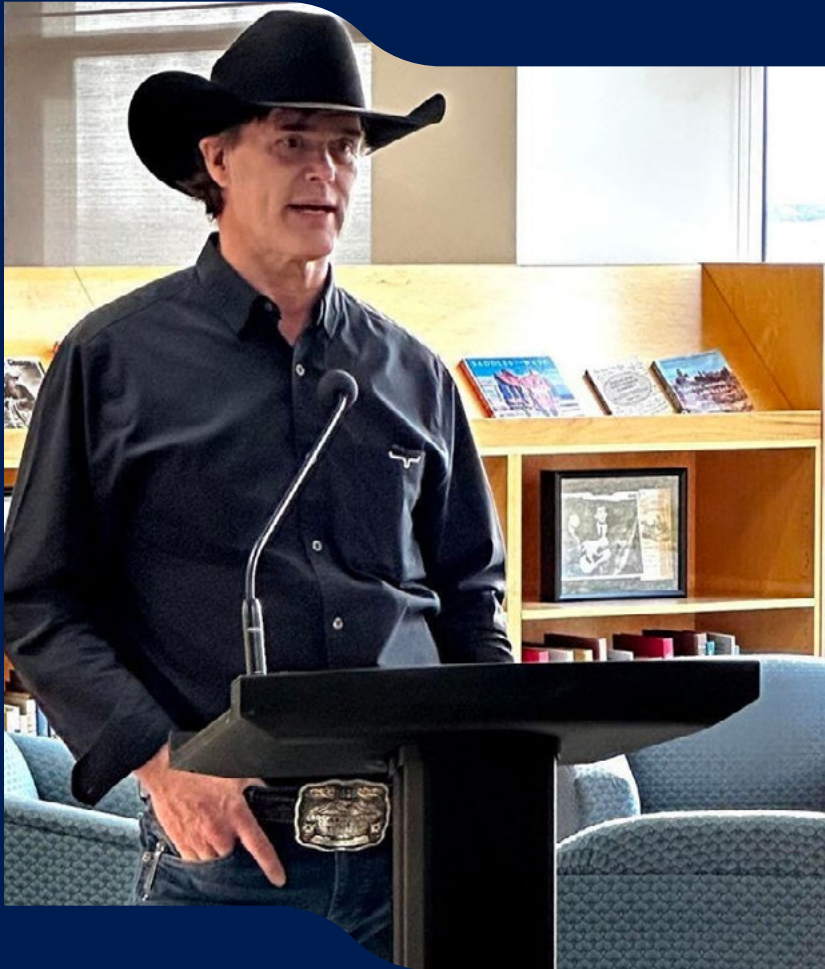
Have you tried the Library’s new Meta Quest 3 VR headset?

Explore over [80 games, experiences, and creative applications](#) from a variety of genres in virtual or mixed reality. Learn more about how to book the headset and VR Room [here](#).



Student Stephan Mbala using the Meta Quest 3.

Honouring Ian Tyson's Legacy



Corb Lund at the launch of the Ian Tyson Reading Area.

The Library was thrilled when External Relations informed us that Ian Tyson (LLD '15) had bequeathed the contents of his personal library to the University.

In addition to being a well-known folk and country singer, Tyson had a great love of ranching and southern Alberta, making the University of Lethbridge the perfect home for his materials. If you can tell something about a person by their library, Ian Tyson was truly the man he presented himself to be. Most of his books — and the papers found inside —

are exactly the type of materials you would expect him to have: western-themed art and fiction, ranching, horsemanship, cowboy poetry, folk music, and more.

There were many books sent to him by the authors, and several came with personal notes to Tyson about how he had inspired them. Most of the collection of books and ephemera are on display in the new Tyson Reading Area (Level 10 south). The rest of his books are shelved within our main collection, and about 50 are kept in our special collections, due to their rarity, fragility, or the significance of being personally signed by the authors and dedicated to Ian.

Checked Out: **Challenges and Opportunities in Canadian School Libraries and Learning Commons**



Emma Scott and Marnie Rogstad delivering their presentation.

In January 2026, Marnie Rogstad and Emma Scott presented at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference in Toronto. Their session invited participants working in or researching school libraries or concerned with information challenges for students to discuss issues, share current initiatives and formulate solutions.

With Marnie bringing her years of experience in school libraries and Emma providing data on staffing in Alberta school libraries, they led around fifty participants through an exploration of common challenges facing school libraries across Canada. Stories of over-work, under-pay, and the loss of qualified positions were common, along with a desire for school administrators to recognize the unique and effective work of school librarians.

Censorship, AI, misinformation, and strong politicization of information are all challenges that students face daily. School librarians are uniquely positioned to set children up for success with key information literacy skills, but what happens when these professionals are being replaced with untrained workers and volunteers, or are hand-tied by detrimental administrative policies?

Alberta's school libraries face many challenges, making this an invaluable opportunity to bring library workers together to share, advise, and connect.

Copyright Office: Clearing the Way

The [University Copyright Advisor office's team](#) supports teaching and learning at the University of Lethbridge in several ways, including securing permissions for course materials, and customized class presentations.

When faculty [submit](#) course syllabi for permissions clearance, the copyright staff assess each item and, as needed, purchase licenses or multi-user accessible ebooks, provide links to available online Library content, and/or obtain [scans](#) for items not available in the Library's content. Library staff can also [format scans](#) for enhanced readability and searchability.



The Copyright Advisor office's team.

In one recent case, after assessing the syllabus for a 1000-level Social Sciences course, the Library purchased four of five required texts as multi-user ebooks. Other readings were provided as downloadable PDFs, and as links to Library content or those freely available online. As a result, students only needed to purchase one book for the course.

Instructors request [presentations](#) for their students to learn about copyright and how to use protected works lawfully for assignments or projects. For example, pre-engineering instructor Helen Connolly had this to say about the presentation: "It was dynamic and engaging, and many students asked questions. It is clear that copyright is an important topic for many of my students, and it's great to know that they now have some foundational knowledge about it."

The Copyright office's efforts inside and outside the classroom provide convenience and savings for faculty and students.

Taking the Pulse: 2026 Library User Experience Assessment

In February and March 2026, the University Library conducted its "Taking the Pulse" survey to evaluate how effectively its collections, spaces, and services meet the evolving needs of the campus community. Administered by the Library Assessment Working Group via Qualtrics, the survey garnered 912 responses. The participant pool — 74% undergraduate students, 11% graduate students, and 12% academic staff — reflects a comprehensive cross-section of the University of Lethbridge population.

The data indicate high levels of engagement and satisfaction across primary service areas:

- **Collections & Digital Access:** 96% of respondents reported that the Library's physical and electronic collections meet their needs "very" or "somewhat well." Furthermore, 91% of users successfully located required resources via the Library website.
- **Research Support:** Nearly half of all respondents (49%) utilized the Library's research assistance. Satisfaction in this area is nearly universal; 98% of help-seekers reported high levels of satisfaction with support received through in-person consultations, email, and research appointments.
- **Space & Accessibility:** The Library remains a vital hub for campus life. 95% of patrons expressed satisfaction with staffed hours, while 73% utilized the 24-hour study space.

These insights, drawn from a diverse population of students and academic staff, provide an evidence base for future strategic improvements. The University Library will utilize these metrics and respondents' comments to ensure our resources and facilities continue to support the research and teaching mission of the institution.



Interested in more statistics about the Library? **Check out our new dashboard!**

Supporting the Strategic Plan



Challenge Boundaries and Inspire Curiosity

- Access to key online & physical collections via discovery tools
 - Research assistance & technology support at time of need
 - Access to locally-digitized digital collections (e.g., Lethbridge Herald archive)
-



Be a Place Where People Aspire to Learn, Work, and Contribute

- Provision of a variety of Library spaces including quiet zones, individual desks, group work rooms & 24-hour study
 - Library-themed events & social networks that cultivate student engagement
 - Collaborations with faculty to support teaching & research
-



Shape the Future

- Learning assistance & technology support
 - Formal & informal classroom instruction & technology support
 - Dissemination of research outputs using Library-supported platforms (e.g., OPUS research repository & Borealis data archive)
-



Engage Communities

- Partnerships with local & regional cultural organizations
- Community engagement initiatives (Blackfoot language signage, Our Stories Indigenous collection)
- Preservation & access to community resources relevant to Southern Albertans (Archives, Special Collections; Shared Print Archive Network project)



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