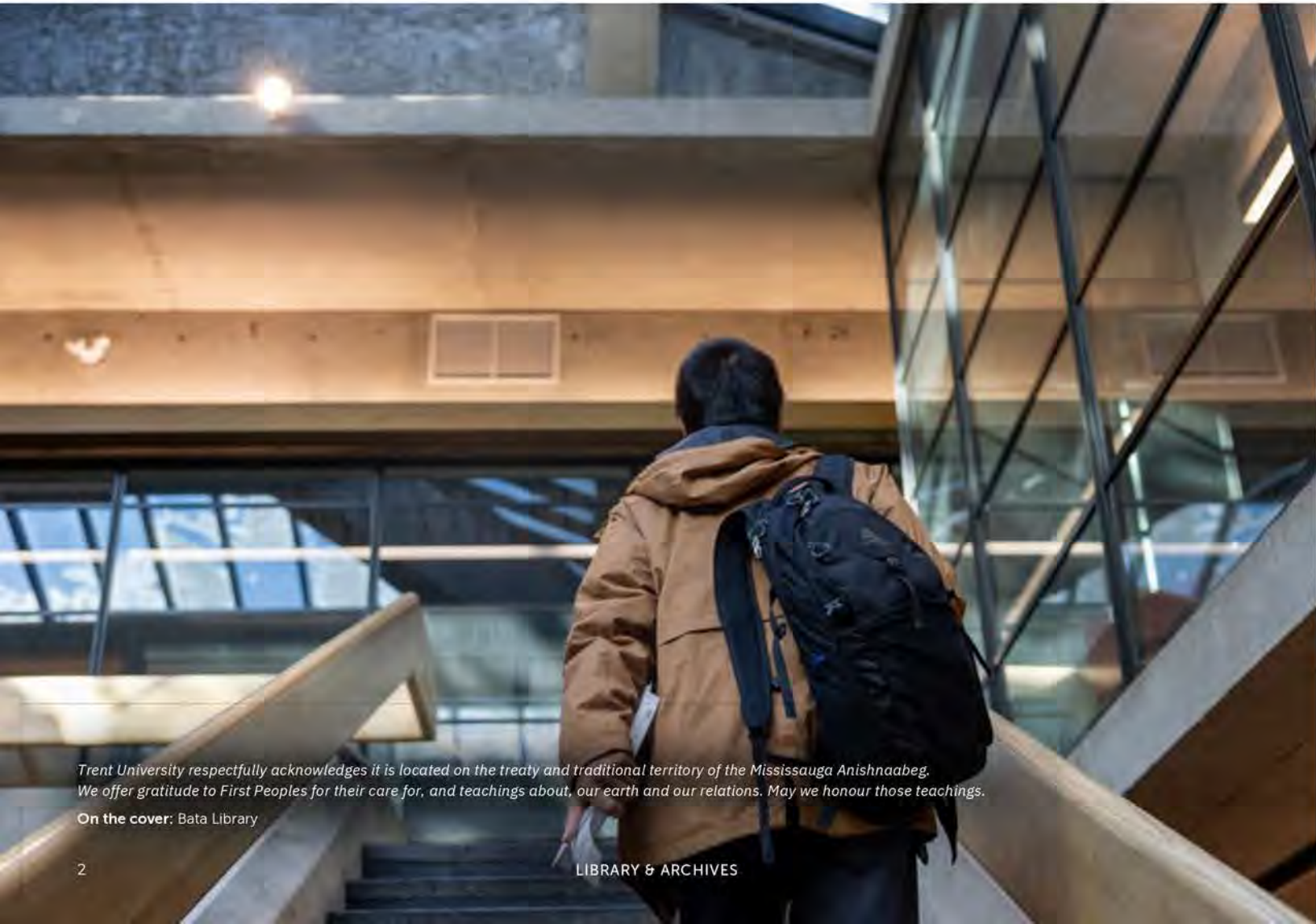


LIBRARY & ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26

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Trent University respectfully acknowledges it is located on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabeg. We offer gratitude to First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.
On the cover: Bata Library

A MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The Library is a place of belonging, where curiosity is welcomed, and where ideas take shape. As I reflect on the past year, I am proud not only of what we accomplished, but of how our team fostered connection and community for Trent students, faculty, staff, and community members.

This was a year of meaningful engagement. More than 424,000 visits to our physical spaces remind us that the Library & Archives remains a vital gathering place on campus. Programs like the Edgy Women author panel and the Leadership Matters webinar series brought together voices that challenge and inspire us. Our Learning & Liaison Librarians reached more than 2,200 students through the online Library Research Skills course, building confidence and critical thinking.

The Archives welcomed more than 900 research inquiries from across Canada and around the world, supported 15 class visits, and added to collections documenting regional history and culture. The Maps, Data and Government Information Centre expanded data and research support, integrating Research Data Management into the ethics review process and deepening course partnerships with hands-on geospatial and data support. Enhancing creative possibilities in the Odette Critical Making Studio, we launched new space booking tools and expanded equipment loans. Our growing Indigenous Languages Collection reflects our commitment to access, community, and reconciliation.

None of this happens without our exceptional staff, librarians, archivists, and student employees, whose expertise, creativity and care make the Library & Archives a special place on campus. Their contributions are woven through every service, resource, and partnership described in this report.

As we look ahead, we remain grounded in the values that define great libraries: service, innovation, and meaningful human connection.

Emily Tufts
Emily Tufts
University Librarian



YEAR IN REVIEW

Expanded Equipment Collection

Throughout the year, the library significantly expanded the equipment lending collection to better support students' everyday needs and creative pursuits.

New additions, including chargers, headphones, calculators, and study supplies, proved highly popular, with some items nearing 1,000 loans each.

The collection also features specialized tools such as DSLR cameras, microphones, and drawing tablets, and continues to evolve to meet the diverse needs of the Trent University community.



GIS Day Event: Map Contest

Last October and November, MaDGIC turned its map cabinets into a gallery highlighting student and researcher submissions for a GIS Day Map Contest. Peer voting recognized top entries, including:

- Monitoring Peterborough's Turtle Population (Best Overall)
- Hidden Hazards (Most Informative)
- Historical Music Festivals & the Environment (Premiere Appearance)



Edgy Women: Bringing Stories of Resistance and Resilience to Life

On March 27, 2026, Trent University Library & Archives hosted "Edgy Women: Bringing Stories of Resistance and Resilience to Life," an International Women's Month panel featuring Patty Krawec, Meeta Kaur, Symphorosa Gabriel, and Amarpreet Kaur.

The discussion highlighted how their work engages with social, cultural, and historical constraints, followed by a reception in the Bata Library atrium that encouraged community conversation.



Leadership Matters: Connecting Knowledge & Action Webinar Series

Trent University Library & Archives hosted a free leadership-focused webinar series, bringing together scholars, experts, and practitioners.

Featuring 12 presenters, the series explored topics including artificial intelligence, healthcare leadership, leadership self-efficacy, and organizational responsibility for advancing women in leadership.

The series was hosted in partnership with Trent's Jarislowsky Chair in Trust and Political Leadership and the Leadership and Democracy Lab, along with the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies and the Department of Political Studies.



L-R: Amarpreet Kaur, Patty Krawec, Symphorosa Gabriel, Meeta Kaur

2025-26 BY THE NUMBERS

1,010,046
Omni Searches

Database Searches	848,762
Full Text Views	2,396,104
Research Guide Sessions	32,056

10,667
Items Borrowed

ILL Lending Requests	6,296
ILL Borrowing Requests	7,669
Course Reading Lists	316
*ILL = Interlibrary Loans	

424,390
Library Visits

Total Questions Answered	7,444
Research Consultations	306
Workshops & Classes	173
Workshop Participants	2,658
Study Rooms Bookings	16,246



COLLECTIONS

New Databases

This year we expanded our electronic resources with several new subscriptions supporting research and teaching across disciplines. **ProQuest Central Premium** broadens our multidisciplinary journal and database coverage. **Essentials in Labor & Employment** from Edward Elgar adds depth in labour studies and employment law.

The **Springer eBooks Nursing Collection 2026** strengthens resources for nursing education and research, and the **Media Education Foundation Premium Collection** brings a rich library of documentary and media literacy films to support critical media studies.

These additions reflect our ongoing commitment to ensuring students and researchers have access to high-quality, current resources in their fields.



Indigenous Languages Collection

The Indigenous Languages Collection, launched last year in consultation with Indigenous Studies instructors, has continued to grow. The collection now holds **202 titles** including dictionaries, bilingual texts, children's books, and multimedia language learning materials, with **34 new titles added this year**. The collection remains available as a browsable display on Bata Library's second floor, supporting Indigenous language revitalization and community access.

Collections

Print Books	201,294
eBooks	1,346,594
Print Journals	6,344
Online Journals	163,242
DVDs	1,447
Streaming Videos	57,903

STUDENT EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

TWSP Work Study Students	22
TSWEP Summer Student Employees	7
Trent Co-op & Placement Students	2
Co-op & Placement students hosted from other institutions	2
Total students	33

7497 HOURS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROVIDED

The Library & Archives provides hands-on learning opportunities across its areas of work:

- Library Service Desk
- Data Services
- Archives
- Collections
- Communications

Students contribute to outreach, collections work, exhibitions, and research.

The program welcomes students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. Bata Library hosted a placement student from the Mohawk Library and Information Technician program. In addition, a co-op student completed a research project with the Digital Scholarship Librarian.

Learning & Liaison Librarians hosted a Teacher Education placement student who supported outreach and user experience projects.



“Working in the Library is more than what meets the eye; there is a lot of communication and collaboration between various people for library operations to run smoothly”
Ashlee Carter, Library Services Student Assistant

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Dee Vaz

For nearly two years, Dee Vaz, Collections Assistant, has supported the Library’s collections in the stacks and behind the scenes. This summer, she streamlined donation intake and staff training, created a four-part microform video series, and contributed to a Curriculum Collection video. She is also developing research guides to improve access to Indigenous Languages and Newspaper Collections.



Brooklyn Cars

Brooklyn Cars supported the Data Services team while completing her MSc, contributing to geospatial and archival projects. As GIS, Data and Special Projects Assistant, she created maps, managed metadata, georeferenced aerial imagery, and conducted cartographic research. She applied these skills to her own research, extracting land cover variables to support models predicting white-tailed deer antler size in Ontario.



Angela Bell

Before starting, Angela Bell imagined archives as “old books and letters.” Instead, she worked hands-on with VHS tapes, reels, microfilm, slides, CDs, maps, and more, learning that preserving history involves many formats. One of her projects included processing the Marrie Mumford collection, documenting Mumford’s impact on Indigenous arts, language revitalization, and the Trent community.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Collections

This year's acquisitions strengthened holdings related to Trent University history, local authors, and labour history.

Highlights include:

- **John Ball fonds:** Documents a former Canadian General Electric worker and advocate for occupational health and safety, strengthening the Archives' labour history holdings.
- **Peter Gzowski fonds:** A new donation from his family expands the archives of the noted broadcaster, with materials related to his personal life, CBC career, and public legacy.

Class Visits & Instruction

The Archives welcomed 15 classes from Trent University and Fleming College, introducing students to archival theory, primary source research, and the use of archival collections.

Sessions supported learning across disciplines, including environmental history, Indigenous research methods, and literary studies.

Special Events & Outreach

Students and community partners were engaged through tours, events, and collaborative outreach activities.

- A record 60 students attended the September Orientation tour, introducing new Trent students to archival research and collections.
- Staff shared the Archives' camp collections at the Ontario Camps Association conference, connecting with community members about preserving and accessing camp records.
- The Archives welcomed the Peterborough Field Naturalists for a special visit, including an exhibit tour and the celebration of a donated historic album of wild orchid photographs.

Research

The archives supported **more than 900 research inquiries** from students, faculty, alumni, and researchers from around the world.

Researchers engaged with the collections on topics ranging from environmental history and food security to Indigenous research methods

and the history of education and community initiatives at Trent.

Nearly half of all inquiries came from outside the university, reflecting the Archives' role in supporting local, national, and international research.

Researcher Spotlight

Sarah Forrest's master's research drew on materials from the Trent University Archives to explore land, history, and learning at Windy Pine.

Working with records from the Northway and Windy Pine fonds, she used primary sources to better understand the site's history and its significance within Trent's academic community.

She says, "I'd settle into the Reading Room for hours, and Karen Suurtamm, the University Archivist, always seemed to know exactly which additional materials might help, pulling files that opened new pathways in my research."



Volunteers & Interns

Student, alumni, faculty, and community volunteers contributed more than **590 hours** supporting preservation and access to the Archives' collections.

Volunteer Niki Blais-Pennock supported preservation work by rehousing fragile and uniquely sized materials, ensuring they are protected and accessible for future researchers.



MAPS, DATA & GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CENTRE

Enhancing Research & Data Support

MaDGIC expanded research support services for the Trent community, including integrating Research Data Management into the ethics review process and piloting new tools for qualitative research. The team also launched a REDCap pilot for storing sensitive research

data and provided onboarding for national advanced research computing infrastructure.

Flexible learning options were expanded through new research guides, a SharePoint workshop repository, and self-guided online modules.

Collection Spotlight: Trent Lands Database

The Trent Lands Database is a centralized platform that brings together maps, research, and land stewardship data to support teaching, research, and decision-making across the university. What began as a tool to support operational needs has grown into a shared resource that connects academic research with land management and planning.

Recent enhancements include improved data structure, expanded field data collection tools, and interactive dashboards that make ecological information easier to analyze and communicate. By integrating diverse data sources, the database supports collaboration and more informed decision-making across campus.

Course Integrations

MaDGIC continued to support teaching and learning through hands-on course partnerships that connect students with data, mapping, and visualization tools.

Highlights included:

- 3D modelling of artifacts
- GIS-based crime analysis projects
- Field data collection using mobile mapping tools

ODETTE CRITICAL MAKING STUDIO

Expanded Access

The Odette Critical Making Studio has expanded access to creative technologies while strengthening flexible, user-driven services.

A key milestone was the introduction of self-serve bookings through LibCal, enabling independent access to equipment and space. In its first year, the system supported strong engagement, with **194 total bookings** including:

- **55** PFAFF sewing machine bookings
- **47** button maker bookings
- **38** Cricut & EasyPress bookings
- **30** iMac bookings
- **26** general studio use bookings

Personalized support remains central to the studio's approach. Over the past year, staff supported **39 individual project consultations** helping users develop skills and ideas.



Jack Mania, Student Assistant, Odette Critical Making Studio



Bookbinding workshop at the Odette Critical Making Studio, October 2025

3D printing continues to grow as a core service area:

- **124** 3D print jobs completed
- **818+** hours of printer use
- **5,387.66** cm³ of material used

Service delivery was further enhanced through the addition of a **student assistant role**, improving day-to-day support, facilitating access to equipment, and helping users navigate the new booking system.



LEARNING & LIAISON

Learning & Liaison Librarians supported student success through teaching, research support, and outreach across disciplines.

This year marked the first full year of the **Knowledge Syntheses Support service**, which provided **47 consultations** to students, faculty, and staff. The service saw particularly strong engagement from Nursing and the Social Sciences.

Librarians also deepened partnerships across campus by collaborating on workshops, co-curricular programming, and scholarly communication initiatives. This included work with Academic Skills, the Office of Research and Innovation, and the Trent Teaching Commons. Programming addressed topics such as activist zine-making, citation justice, copyright, efficient and ethical use of Generative AI, Open Education Resources adoption, open access publishing, ORCID researcher identification, and research metrics.

The Library Research Skills Course continued to expand its impact, engaging **over 2,298 students** and strengthening confidence in academic research, source evaluation, and effective use of library tools.

“ I really appreciated the resources and guidance provided by the Learning & Liaison Librarians throughout this course. The sessions were clear, practical, and helped me understand how to evaluate sources more effectively. I feel more confident in doing academic research now. Thank you for your support!

Library Research Skills Course Participant, Course Feedback Survey

LOOKING AHEAD

The year ahead brings both opportunities and challenges. Like many colleagues across campus, we are navigating a period of real constraint. Our focus will be on sustaining the service excellence our community depends on and directing our energy toward initiatives with the greatest impact.

We are excited to migrate Trent's open access institutional repository to Scholaris, a national infrastructure platform supported by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. This will increase the visibility of Trent's research outputs and ensure that the scholarship produced here reaches the widest possible audience.

We will explore opportunities to scale our digital, data, and information literacy support through self-directed online learning tools developed in partnership with the Teaching Commons. This approach will allow us to reach more learners with high-quality, trusted support, enabling users to connect with our services wherever and whenever they need.

We will continue to grow partnerships across campus and in the broader community that make the Library & Archives more than a service point. We see ourselves as a hub of knowledge creation and sharing, and that vision depends on the relationships we cultivate and the trust we earn year after year.

Looking to collaborate, connect, or learn more about our services? Contact the Library & Archives at library@trentu.ca.

We look forward to continuing to learn and grow with you!



LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

trentu.ca/library



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