

# DREXEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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*A Year of Transformation*



# Annual Report 2018



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2018 marks the first year the Drexel Libraries fully engaged in activities guided by its refreshed 2017-22 Strategic Plan.

It has been a year of laying the groundwork to position the Libraries to continue its transformation to be an effective and relevant organization to advance the learning and research mission of the University. The Libraries is a Learning Enterprise, inspiring the life-long quest for learning, strengthening connections to scholarship, and containing the costs to do so.

This year we set in motion new strategies to strengthen the Libraries' flexibility to respond to inevitable and unknown changes. We began to evolve a reorganization to align the Libraries' organizational structure with our strategic foci, to leverage our diverse professional expertise to advance the University priorities, to inspire staff engagement to transform the Libraries' relevance, and to provide opportunities for our staff's professional growth.

Among the initiatives we successfully explored this year, several focused on innovative ways to complement the Libraries' hard-working, passionate and committed—but relatively lean—workforce.

We introduced the Library Faculty Fellows program that engaged four Drexel faculty to contribute their expertise and energies to key initiatives within our

Strategic Plan, and it resulted in a strong cohort of supportive advocates who continue to engage with us well after their fellowships formally ended.

We also tapped students to serve as Library Explorers, helping us better understand and communicate with students with diverse motivations, while extending our guidance to develop savvy, self-directed learners.

Internally, we started a tradition of Kitchen Table Talks, bringing together all Libraries staff for small group discussions with me, during which we uncovered creative and engaging ideas for transforming the Libraries, while improving awareness of what we are doing across our geographically dispersed staff.

The Libraries' terrific staff deserve the credit and appreciation for this year of transformation highlighted in this Annual Report.

As one of the Libraries' strategic leaders observed, the Libraries is modeling what we advocate our various academic communities to be—engaged and caring champions of the power of knowledge in inspiring self-directed learning and contributing to scholarship.



**Danuta A. Nitecki, PhD**  
*Dean of Libraries*



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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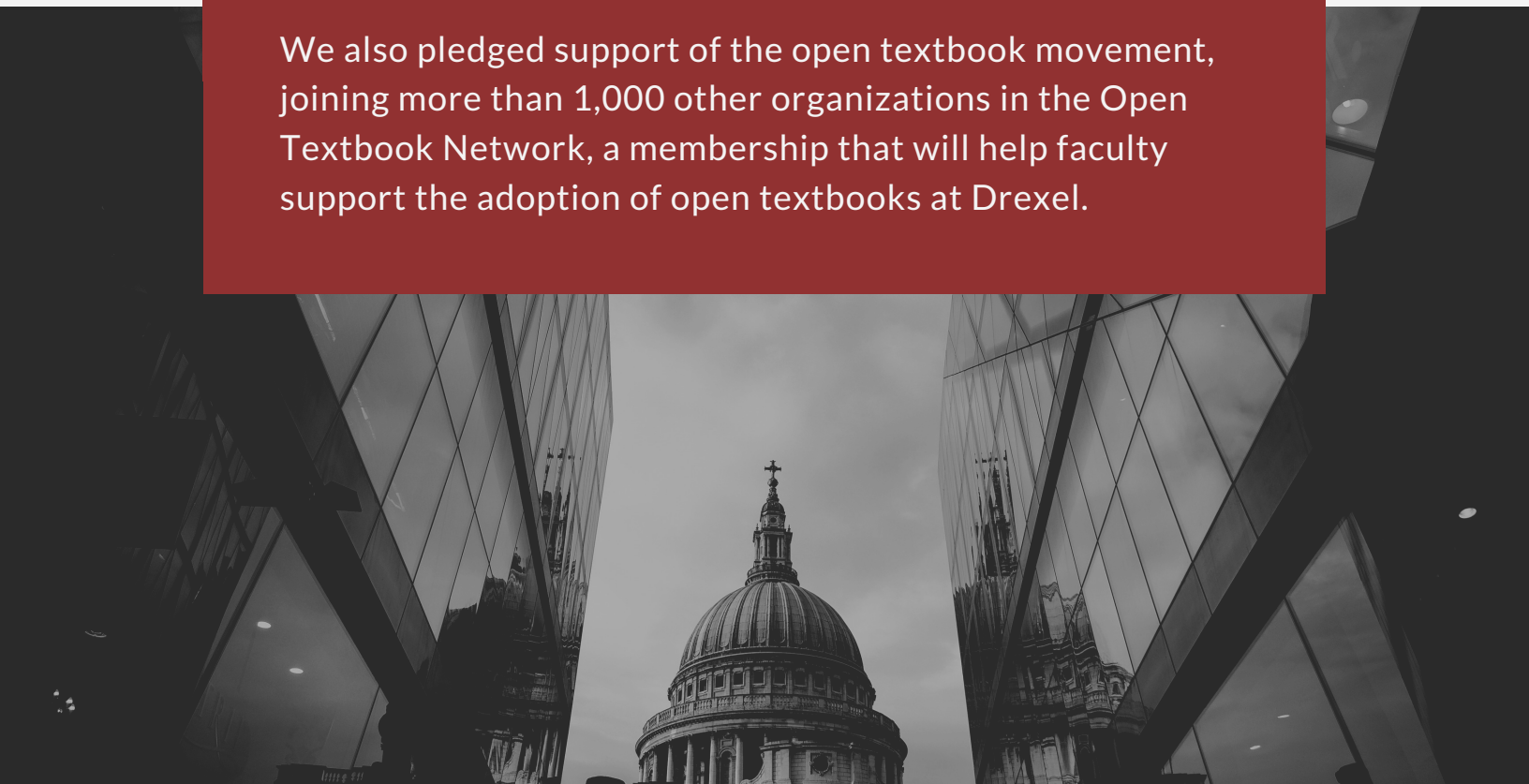


# CONTAINING THE COSTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

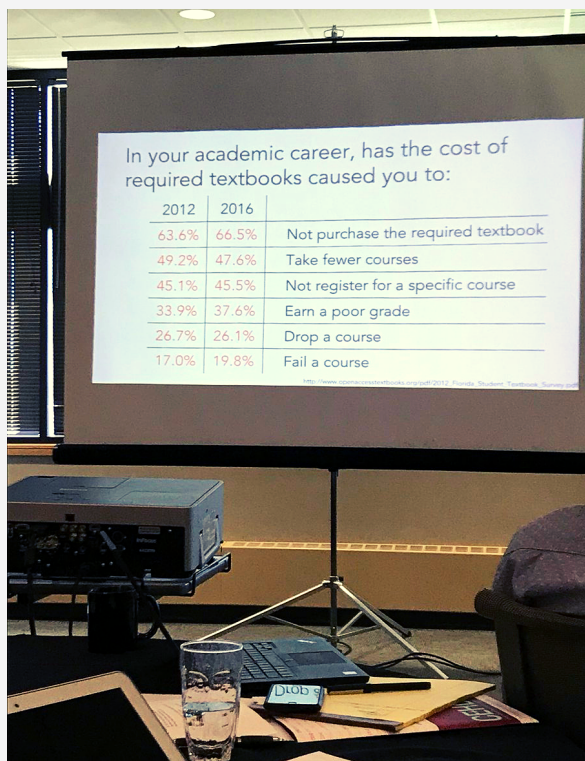
The Drexel Libraries has long supported efforts to help lower the out-of-pocket expenses students incur to access curricular readings, and we continued to focus our efforts in this area this past year.

For example, we reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring access to information over building physical collections of publications.

We also pledged support of the open textbook movement, joining more than 1,000 other organizations in the Open Textbook Network, a membership that will help faculty support the adoption of open textbooks at Drexel.







## FROM 'BUILDING COLLECTIONS' TO 'ENSURING ACCESS'

In FY2017, the Drexel Libraries reaffirmed its commitment to a model of “ensuring access” to authoritative information.

We are building far fewer physical collections of publications, and instead providing access to resources—both online and in print—through a combination of licensing, purchasing and resource sharing.

In the past, accreditation requirements and reviews of professional master’s degree programs influenced

the Libraries’ collection-building. But in recent years, “impact on student success” has instead become a key driver of these decisions.

Decisions to purchase and negotiate licensed access or to utilize resource sharing options are now driven by multiple factors, such as determining the most economical access option, prioritizing convenience against expense to meet curricula and research requirements, and seeking input from the Drexel community.

## SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL TEXTBOOKS

More than 1,000 academic institutions belong to the Open Textbook Network, and Drexel is now one of them.

The Libraries joined the OTN in June 2018 on behalf of the University and is excited to facilitate the benefits of that membership on campus. The OTN maintains the Open Textbook Library (the premiere resource for peer-reviewed openly licensed academic textbooks) and helps academic institutions advance the use of open textbooks on their campuses.

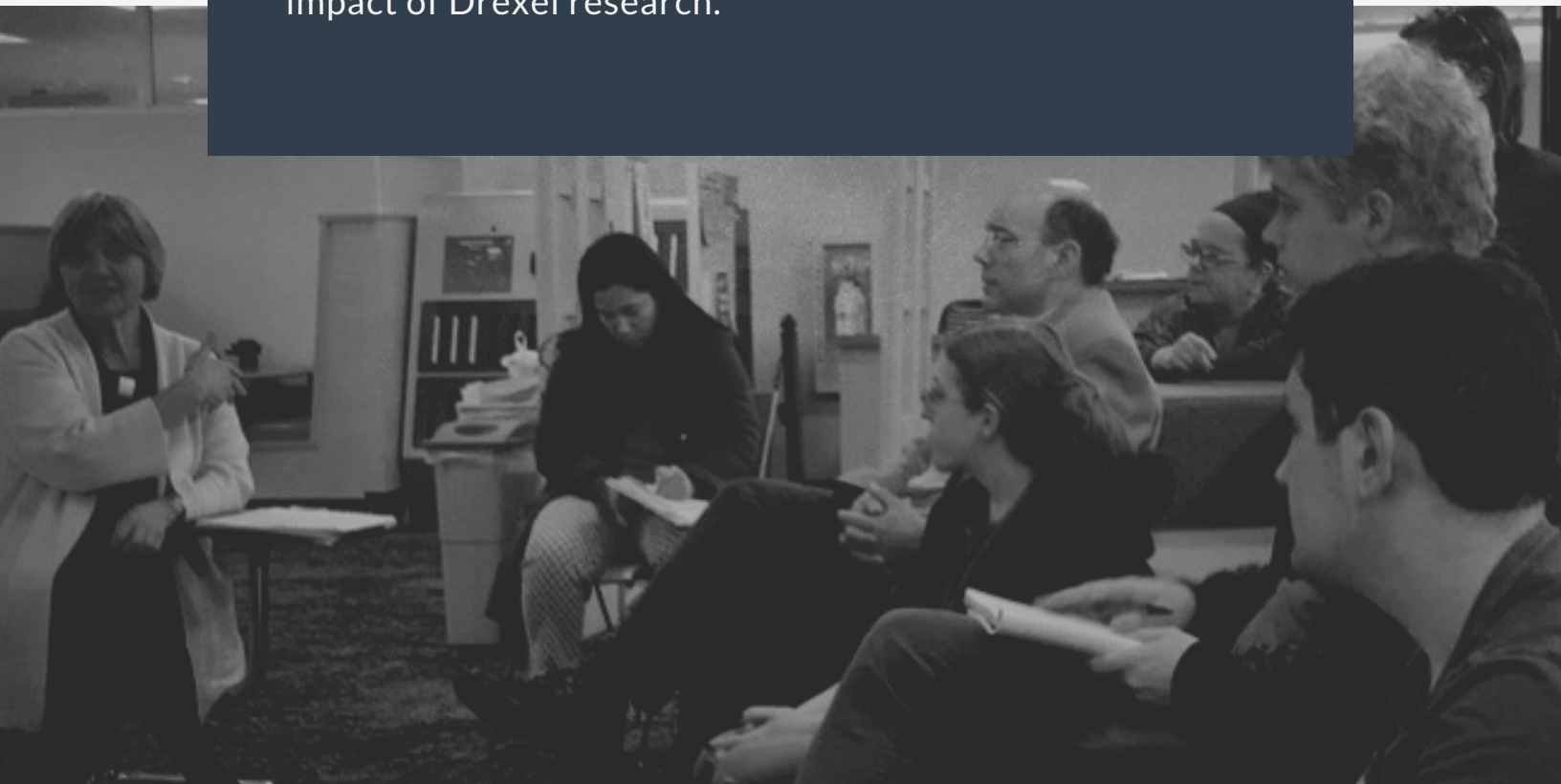
Membership in the organization includes access to a suite of tools and resources, including practice guidelines and data collection tools, faculty workshops, leadership development activities and access to publishing resources—resources our staff will use to facilitate access, awareness and adoption of open education resources on campus in the years to come.

# SHAPING FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP

At Drexel, the Libraries plays a key role in strengthening the University's contributions to scholarship.

Our efforts to shape future scholarship by making Drexel research easily discoverable take many forms, from promoting the importance and benefits of open access to providing research data management support.

This year, we focused our efforts on improving our online systems to meet the current and future information needs of the Drexel Community and to maximize the exposure and impact of Drexel research.





# SHAPING DISCOVERY OF RESEARCH

In September 2017, the Drexel Libraries successfully migrated its website to a new Content Management System (CMS) called Sitecore, the web-accessed CMS used for almost all other Drexel University academic and administrative websites. Libraries staff used this as an opportunity to reorganize the website's top navigation drop-down menus to ensure an optimal user experience.

A few months later, the Libraries took another big step towards improving its online presence when we completed an agreement with Ex Libris, a ProQuest Company, to subscribe to its Alma Library Services Platform.

For Drexel students, faculty and staff, this new system will streamline both finding and accessing scholarly resources they need for their learning, teaching and research. Additional tools under development will also enable members of the Drexel community to link into the latest practices for managing research data.

The Alma implementation process started in January 2018 and will be completed in August 2018.

## SHAPING A NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

For any global research university, capturing and disseminating research outputs are essential, albeit challenging. This year, the Libraries continued its work to ensure maximum exposure and impact of Drexel research and to improve the University's capacity to influence future scholarship.

In April 2017, the Libraries, along with the Graduate College and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences & Professional Studies, implemented an online-only submission process for all Drexel graduate theses and dissertations. This commitment to digital submissions reflects the Libraries' move away from print and the importance it places on iDEA, the University's multipurpose institutional repository.

The Libraries also joined other research institutions in the Ex Libris Esploro™ Early Adopter Program in late June. As a participant in the program, Drexel will be closely involved in providing product feedback and shaping the development of Esploro to meet the needs of research universities.

This new research services platform will enable the Libraries to strengthen the University's connections to scholarship, while broadening the impact of Drexel's research output and maximizing the efficiency of managing research data and publications for global discovery and access. The first Esploro release will be available to early adopters for field testing in 2019.

# INSPIRING A LIFE-LONG QUEST FOR LEARNING

In informal learning environments such as libraries, learners are expected to take ownership of the paths they take to develop new skills or increase knowledge. The Libraries continually looks for innovative ways to inspire this life-long quest for learning among Drexel students, faculty and staff.

As in years past, we put much of our energy into building knowledge communities through events like our ScholarSip and ScholarSnack event series.

Transforming our physical environments into spaces that inspire students to learn, explore and discover new ideas with their peers was also a key priority this year, and we were thrilled with the renovations to what is now called the Dragons' Learning Den (formerly the Bookmark Café).







## INSPIRING ACTIVE LEARNING THROUGH EFFECTIVE DESIGN

After (finally!) removing the last remnants of the old Taco Bell from the Bookmark Café in April, we were excited to continue the transformation of this 24/7 space within the W. W. Hagerty Library with new furniture, new technology and a new name: The Dragons' Learning Den.

Sunlight now streams into the space, thanks to the removal of the retail eatery, and high-top tables and chairs line the front windows. An enclosed workspace offers students some privacy for group work, and the new "Practice Zone" with 80" ThinkHub monitor was designed as an environment where groups can brainstorm, collaborate, visualize, problem solve and practice presentations together on screen.

## INSPIRING NEW KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES

The Drexel Libraries continued its tradition of hosting its ScholarSip and ScholarSnack events during the fall, winter and spring terms, with 159 faculty, professional staff and students from a variety of disciplines attending the six events.

This year, the ScholarSip faculty series covered the theme Research Matters: Connecting Drexel to Global Scholarship. Each term, Drexel researchers addressed this theme by reflecting on how the dissemination of research through publication is critical to the development of knowledge in their areas of research. "Food for thought" speakers included Yury Gogotsi, PhD, College of Engineering; Ana V. Diez Roux, MD, Dornsife School of Public Health; and Gordon Richards, PhD, College of Arts & Sciences.

ScholarSnack took a different focus from years past, when events typically featured formal student presentations on some aspect of research or academic inquiry. Instead, this year's events focused on stimulating open and honest conversations about the Libraries' programs and learning environments. In fact, conversations from the December 2017 and March 2018 events influenced the renaming of the Bookmark Café to the Dragons' Learning Den and the "Two Truths & One Lie" competition held in May!

# DREXEL LIBRARIES BY THE NUMBERS



## ACCESS

	FY17	FY18
<b>Collections</b>		
Print Collections:	422,592	418,549
Electronic Collections:	384,096	460,840
Other:	22,818	23,593
Linear Feet of Archive Collections:	2,806	2,838
<b>Interlibrary Loan Transactions</b>		
Obtained for Drexel:	17,467	14,405
Provided to Other Libraries:	14,748	14,214
<b>Items Loaned &amp; Accessed</b>		
Online Searchers:	3,990,481	3,811,686
Downloads:	2,280,686	2,285,803
General Circulation:	28,424	27,576
Equipment Loaned:	21,405	17,831
Reserves:	103,173	92,939

## CONNECTIONS

	FY17	FY18
<b>Reference Transactions &amp; Consultations:</b>	6,929	7,263
<b>Presentation Attendees:</b>	9,945	10,553
<b>Presentations &amp; Events:</b>	289	295

## ENVIRONMENTS

<b>Visitors at Physical Sites:</b>	830,653	911,436
<b>Online Website Visits:</b>	629,062	605,769
<b>Weekly Service Hours:</b>	113	113

## ORGANIZATION

<b>Full-time staff:</b>	59	56
<b>Staff Presentations, Publications &amp; Awards:</b>	39	18
<b>Budget Spent on Collections:</b>	51%	48%



# STAFF AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

## Presentations

**Bhatt, J.**, Christe, D., Farnam, Y., and Sales, C. (June 2018). *Empowering Underrepresented Groups to Excel in STEM Through Research Sprints*. Presented at 2018 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Salt Lake City, UT.

**Childs, G.**, Clements, P., Holt, K., and Swartzwelder, K. (May 2018). *Virtual Incivility: Challenges for Online Faculty*. Presented at U.S. Distance Learning Conference 2018, Indianapolis, IN

**Nitecki, D. A.** and Plutack, S. (July 2017). *Big Data Integrated Planning: Meeting Requirements for Managing Research Output*. Presented at Society for College and University Planners Annual conference, Washington D. C.

**Nitecki, D. A.** and Davis, M.E. (August 2017). *Changing Landscapes: New Roles for Academic Librarians*. Presented at the IFLA Library Theory and Research Open Session, Wroclaw, Poland.

**Nitecki, D. A.** and Davis, M E. (August 2017) *Expanding Librarians' Roles in the Research Life Cycle*. Presented at the IFLA Data Curator's Roles and Responsibilities: International & Interdisciplinary Perspectives Meeting, Warsaw, Poland.

**Nitecki, D. A.** (September 2017). *Understanding the Academic Library as an Information Literacy Workplace*. Presented at the European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL), Saint Malo, France.

**Robinson, S.** (February 2018). Information Competences for Students in Design Disciplines: Revisions & Critical Updates. Presented at the Art Libraries Society N.A. Conference, New York, NY.

## Publications

**Robinson, S.** and Beene, S. (2017). When research doesn't start with a question: teaching with the framework + visual literacy standards within art + architecture librarianship. *Art Documentation*, 36(2), 254-280.

**Robinson, S.** (2017). Socratic questioning: a teaching philosophy for the student research consultation. *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, November 2017.

**Robinson, S.** (2018). Art, architecture, and design information competencies. *Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Annual Conference Report*, June 2018.

## Staff Service

**Elise Ferer** assumed the role of Director-at-Large for the Association of College & Research Libraries' Delaware Valley Chapter.

**Larry Milliken** served on the Peer Review Panel for the Library Collective Conference.

**Danuta A. Nitecki** served as President of the PALCI Executive Board.

**Danuta A. Nitecki** served on the Proquest North America Academic Advisory Board.

**Danuta A. Nitecki** served on the College of Communication & Information (CCI) Board of Visitors, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**John Wiggins** served as Vice Chair for the Library Leadership & Management Association's (LLAMA) Assessment Community of Practice.

# 2018 LIBRARY CELEBRATION AWARDS

This year, the Drexel Libraries hosted its 9th annual Library Celebration Awards ceremony and reception. Established in 2010, the Library Celebration Awards recognize Libraries staff for their exceptional achievements and for their support of Drexel University's mission of teaching, research and community engagement.

A student award – the Jane Bryan Student Worker Award – is also presented each year to a student employee(s) for his or her outstanding service to the Libraries. This award honors Jane Bryan, Director of Drexel University Libraries from 2005 to 2008.

Over 35 people attended this year's event, held on April 24, 2018 in the W. W. Hagerty Library. For more information about the 2018 event and the award criteria, visit the [www.library.drexel.edu](http://www.library.drexel.edu).

Dean of Libraries, Danuta A. Nitecki, PhD, presented the 2018 awards to students and staff members.



**Javier Arroyo** received the 2018 Exceptional Service Award.



**Janice Masud-Paul** received the 2018 Libraries Champion Award.



**Pooja Rajesh Shah and Gina George** received the 2018 Jane Bryan Student Worker Award for outstanding service to the Libraries. (pictured at bottom [L to R]) Thomas Bryan, Poojah Rajesh Shah, James Bryan and Danuta A. Nitecki)

*Not pictured: Gina George, 2nd recipient of the 2018 Jane Bryan Student Worker Award.*



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Special thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of the Drexel University Libraries this year.

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## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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This annual report covers the Drexel University 2018 Fiscal Year, which spans July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Front cover images:

*Top row:* Students use the ThinkHub; students study in the W. W. Hagerty Library; students use a Macintosh computer (courtesy Drexel University Archives)

*Middle:* W. W. Hagerty Library (1975 - courtesy Drexel University Archives); W. W. Hagerty Library (2015); Women study in the library (1942 - courtesy Drexel University Archives); Hahnemann Library (2012)

*Bottom:* The stacks; students and librarians work in the Library Learning Terrace (2011); the laptop kiosk; students work in the Bookmark Cafe (2012)

Back cover image: 34 of 56 members of the Drexel Libraries staff present on April 24, 2018.