

MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

University Libraries

IMPACT REPORT

2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



I am excited to share our University Libraries' 2025 Impact Report, highlighting the accomplishments and progress we made in 2025.

This past year has been one of thoughtful reflection and purposeful growth for Montclair State University Libraries. As we continue integrating our two campus library system, we have focused on how best to serve our expanding communities and contribute meaningfully to the University's goals: increasing student success, strengthening research impact, and deepening community engagement and public service.

I want to recognize the dedication, creativity, and expertise of our library faculty and staff. Their commitment to advancing the University's academic mission — and to supporting scholars from New Jersey and around the world — shines through every page of this report.

Some of this year's highlights include:

- Expanding digital collections and services to support hybrid and online learning
- Guiding graduate students as they write their first journal articles
- Celebrating the scholarly and creative achievements of faculty and staff
- Sharing our expertise and resources with K–12 educators and students
- Advancing access to the histories and artifacts of Montclair State University and Bloomfield College

ONE LIBRARY, TWO CAMPUSES

Whether you are on the Montclair or Bloomfield campus — or learning from anywhere online — the University Libraries are here to support your academic journey. Each campus library serves its own community with distinct strengths, and together we are building a unified, forward-looking library system that meets the needs of a growing, evolving, multicampus University.

There is so much more to discover in this year's report, and I invite you to share your thoughts with me after reading. Your engagement and support help us continue to grow, innovate, and serve every library user with excellence.

Warm regards,

Denise O'Shea

Dean of University Libraries



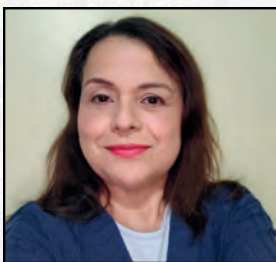
WARM WELCOMES

We welcomed several new employees on both Montclair and Bloomfield Campuses.

SPRAGUE LIBRARY

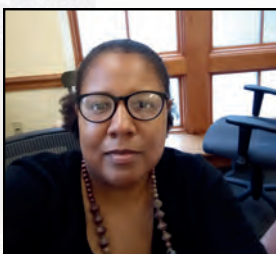


Bridget Jivanelli joined Montclair State University as Head for Collections Strategies in August 2025. Prior to Montclair, Bridget was the Medical Librarian at Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC where she oversaw the hospital library & archives. She received her MLIS from Queens College, City University of NY, a graduate certificate in Digital Asset Management from Rutgers University, and her BA in history from Loyola University Maryland.



Karen Ortega joined University Libraries as a Library Assistant in August 2025. Her previous job was Librarian Assistant for Bogota Public Library. She graduated from Kean University with a bachelors in Education with a Special Education Certification. When she is not working at the Sprague Library front desk, she can be found traveling, dancing salsa or trying new restaurants.

BLOOMFIELD CAMPUS LIBRARY



Melissa John joined Montclair State University in Reference and Instruction at Bloomfield Campus Library. She comes to Montclair with years of experience in academic librarianship, public librarianship, archives, and special collections. At Montclair she is currently focusing on outreach & implementing library instruction & information literacy initiatives at Bloomfield.

ADVANCING OUR TEAM

We are proud to celebrate three staff promotions that recognize dedication, skill, and impact across our libraries. These roles highlight the talent within our team and support the continued success of our services.



Denise O'Shea was promoted to Dean of University Libraries in October 2025. She has been a vital part of Montclair since 2011, leading with innovation and dedication through roles as Head for Access Services and Resource Sharing, Associate Dean for Collections and Discovery, and most recently, Interim Dean. She played a key role in the Bloomfield–Montclair library integration, led the migration to our current library system (WorldCat), and launched student favorites like therapy dogs, BookScan stations, and the Pop Picks lounge. With over 20 years of experience in library services and technology, Denise has worked at places like the NY Public Library, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the New York Academy of Medicine, where she helped pioneer digital tools to expand access to information.



Justin Savage was promoted to Head for Access Services and Resource Sharing in July of 2025 after serving in the role on an interim appointment for the previous year. Justin began his career at Montclair in 2019 as a part-time Reference Librarian, and prior to his promotion worked as a Research and Reference Librarian in the University Libraries' Research and Reference Services Department. Justin manages the largest unit of the Sprague Library, working to ensure students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community have continued access to library materials, services, and spaces that promote learning and wellbeing. A lifelong advocate of patron-centered service, Justin focuses on new and innovative ways the University Libraries can support the campus community.



Eliza White was promoted to Senior Library Assistant for Access Services and Resource Sharing in March 2025. She earned her B.S. in Sustainability from Arizona State University (Renewable Energy, Technology, and Materials track, with a concentration in Justice Studies) and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Sustainability Science. Eliza began her library career in 2006 at a public library in Maine and previously served as a student worker at Sprague. She has also worked at Queens University of Charlotte's Everett Library and Montclair Public Library, where she led the Sustainability Committee. She holds the American Library Association's Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies certification and has presented on the intersection of libraries and sustainability.



POWERED BY OUR STUDENTS

There are so many motivators for University Libraries to continue doing great work, but one of our greatest motivators, however, is the Montclair student community.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT EMPLOYEE AWARDS

Each year, library student employees play a vital role in supporting the day-to-day operations at University Libraries — and now is the time to celebrate their hard work. Nominees and Awardees exemplified excellence in work ethic, initiative, quality of work, disposition, and overall contribution to the library. We are pleased to recognize the following students.

Emily Cepin – Nominee

Lauren Khalil – Awardee

Renae Manahan – Nominee

Gabriel Marano – Awardee

Kaiden Mendelsohn – Nominee

Ezra Snyder – Nominee

Amiya Strother – Nominee



Lauren Khalil & Lisa Pendola



Renae Manahan, Lori Petrozzello & Gabriel Marano



Catherine Baird & Emily Cepin

GRADUATE STUDENT JOURNAL ARTICLE WRITING GROUP

The Graduate Student Journal Article Writing Group is a semester-long, cohort-based experience that promotes student success by providing accountability and structure as participants prepare an article for academic journal submission. The group was co-created with the Center for Writing Excellence to combine writing support with research and publication guidance to better prepare students for academic publishing. It runs during the spring semester for 12 weeks, with one week of break to accommodate the university's Spring Break.

All students begin with an existing draft, ensuring they have a strong foundation as they move through the weekly modules, which include short assignments and activities to advance their writing while developing graduate students as scholars. Another vital component of the group is the weekly virtual writing sessions. These Zoom meetings allow graduate students to interact with peers and group leaders to address questions and concerns. At the end of the program, members are presented with a certificate of completion to commemorate their efforts and progress toward their writing goals.



Journal Writing Group Welcome Bags

To date, we have had nearly 100 students participate in the program, with the majority receiving a certificate of completion since it was introduced in year two. Feedback from the check-in surveys indicated that students **gained confidence** in areas including using evidence to support their argument, selecting a journal to publish in, citation management, and more. Survey respondents identified that the weekly Zoom meetings, weekly tasks, and slideshows were useful throughout the writing process and helped push their work forward. Additionally, **100% of survey respondents would recommend the writing group** to others. Due to the success of the program, it has been expanded to include alumni of the graduate school, allowing former students to re-engage with the university and create engagement with current graduate students and staff.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

The weekly meetings helped me move my writing forward.

STRONGLY AGREE: 75%

AGREE: 25%

The slideshows and videos were clear and useful.

STRONGLY AGREE: 75%

AGREE: 25%



CENTRALIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

CAST

While CAST has been hosting tutoring from Sprague Library since Fall 2021, their professional staff moved in, in March 2025. In the 10 months since, CAST has welcomed and grown their collaborations to include Welcome Week experiences, partnered workshops and more. Since moving CAST has been able to provide more coordinated leadership for our student staff located in the tutoring center and has centralized the location for student inquiries. This one stop location has made it easier to connect students who have questions or are struggling academically with resources at the moment and has meant more facetime with our student employees and the students served.

Tutoring Center Visits

4100+

Multipurpose Room Visits (study hall, workshops)

2700+

Co-sponsored CAST / Library Workshops

110+

With a staff of 150+ student employees a year, across a number of different positions, this central location has also allowed the team to experience the great things their coworkers are doing and allow them to refer students more confidently to another resource that might meet their needs. This includes partnering with Librarians to refer to students to one-on-one research appointments, and providing workshops for Academic Action students.



CAST Tutoring Center



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Libraries have been growing increasingly dedicated to ideas beyond books, studying, and in the case of an academic library, research and instruction. One such idea is personal wellness which has been taking a front seat. Wellness is an important aspect of our University's vitality because, as we know, all's well that ends well—when students, faculty, and staff are supported in their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, they are better able to learn, teach, collaborate, and contribute to a thriving, resilient campus community.

SERENI-TEA

On October 7th 2025 and December 11th, 2025, University Libraries and CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) teamed up to host a 'Sereni-tea' Hour. Sudha Wadhvani, a CAPS Staff Psychologist, led students in a guided reflection and in breathing exercises. She also gave students an opportunity to discuss what serenity means to them, all while enjoying light snacks and cups of tea. Simultaneously, CAPS hosted a lobby table with self-care giveaways.



CAPS table in Sprague Library with information and swag

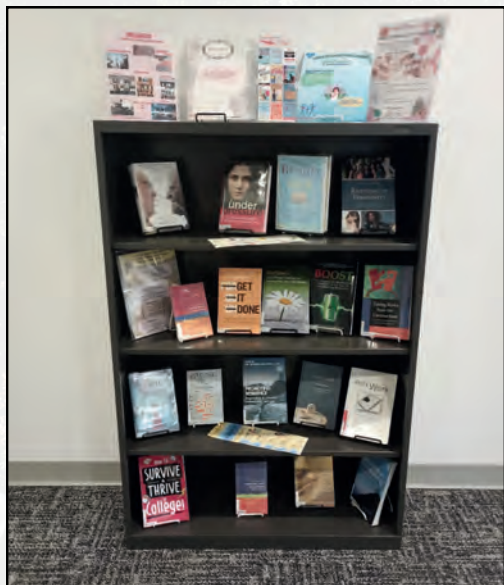


Snack and tea table at the Sereni-tea event

WELLNESS DISPLAYS

University Libraries expanded its commitment to student wellbeing through new collections and exhibits focused on health and wellness. A newly launched Health & Wellness collection—developed by Senior Library Assistant Manja Husnic in collaboration with the Acquisitions team and Wellness Committee—features recently purchased books covering a wide range of wellbeing topics and is currently on display in the Sprague Library’s Commuter Study Lounge.

At Bloomfield Campus Library, a Student Wellness Exhibit further supported this initiative by pairing curated materials with a comprehensive resource guide, including research keywords, eBooks and print books, campus services, personal narratives, and related news features.



Wellness display in the Sprague Library Commuter Lounge



Wellness exhibit in Bloomfield Campus Library

“FIND YOUR ANCHOR” BOXES

Counseling And Psychological Services (CAPS) generously provided 20 “Find Your Anchor” boxes for students to discover throughout the library. As described on the Find Your Anchor website, “Find Your Anchor (FYA) is a grassroots movement aimed at suicide prevention, awareness, and education.” Each box contains suicide prevention materials intended to inspire, uplift, and empower those who encounter them. Boxes were placed in random, everyday locations so students may come across them naturally and unexpectedly.



A “Find Your Anchor” box



SHARED EXPERIENCES

Over the course of 2025 we hosted many educational, and inspiring events and programming, emphasizing the importance of reaching out and bringing our community together to learn, grow, and enjoy their time at Montclair.

UNIVERSITY AUTHORS

In 2009, former Provost Willard Gingerich and former Dean of Library Services Judith Lin Hunt established the University Authors Recognition Program to acknowledge and celebrate the scholarly and creative achievements of Montclair’s faculty and staff. In addition to celebrating their accomplishments, the program enhances dissemination and discovery of scholarly and creative works as well as collaboration among faculty.

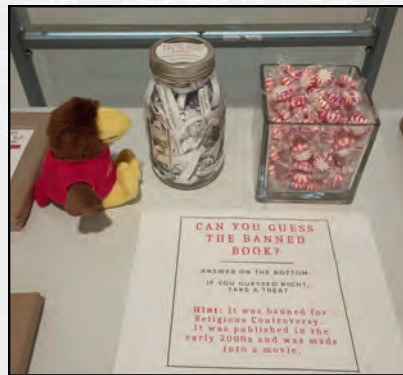


BLIND DATE WITH A BANNED BOOK

During Student Appreciation Week of 2025, coinciding with Banned Books Week, University Libraries presented Blind Date with a Banned Book – We Respect Your Right to Read, a twist on the classic Blind Date with a Book program. In the lobbies of Sprague Library and Bloomfield Campus Library, banned or challenged books with their covers blinded were presented to students in a static display. Each cover presented a description of why the books were banned or challenged. Students were encouraged to unwrap and enjoy reading books which, in other places, cannot be enjoyed. The program ultimately led to many **first-time borrowers** as well as **critical thinking** and **engaging discourse**.



Table of wrapped banned books



Guess the banned book jar

Banned Books
Enjoyed by
Library Patrons
84

HISTORIC MONTCLAIR CAMPUS TOURS

Montclair State University Archivist Paul Martinez took several groups of students, faculty, and staff on a 45-minute historic stroll through the south side of campus. Along the way, attendees uncovered the fascinating backstories behind the buildings—why and when they were built—and got to hear some quirky quips about the students who once roamed these grounds back when it was The New Jersey State Normal School at Montclair and Montclair State Teachers College.

Historic
Campus Tours **4**

Historic
Campus Tour
Attendees **32**



Binder of historical Montclair images



Archivist Paul Martinez leading a tour

“

My favorite part of the tour was seeing how the architecture has either stayed the same [over the years] or how the buildings were renovated.

- Montclair Student

THE NEW AMERICAN

The New American was performed by the Living Voices theater group. This event presented a dramatic interpretation of one aspect of the immigration experience in the United States. Bloomfield Campus Library developed this event, in support of the Diversity and Intercultural Awareness SEEDS value and International Education Week.



A moment from *The New American* performance



The *New American* flyer



A moment from *The New American* performance



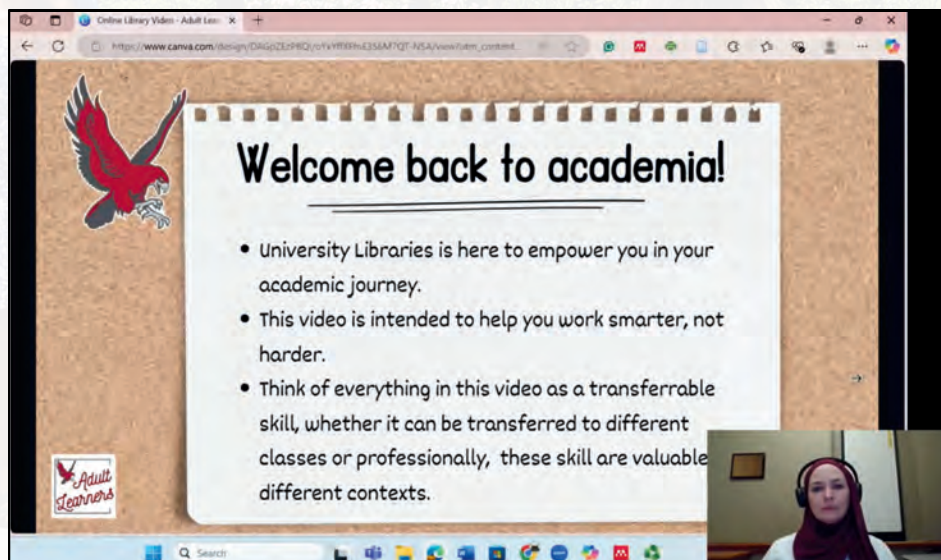
RESEARCH ACTIVITY & CAMPUS COLLABS

Library faculty and staff engage in research and professional contributions that reflect curiosity, collaboration, and a commitment to learning. Their work strengthens library services and builds meaningful connections across campus and beyond.

RESEARCH FOR ADULT LEARNERS

To instill a sense of academic confidence and belonging for those adult learners returning to school after a long gap, we have created a series of videos welcoming them back to higher ed. The instructional videos guide the adult learner through online library search, source evaluation, database search strategies, and research topic development.

When adult learners feel capable and included, they are more academically resilient and complete their programs at higher rates. In addition, meeting the needs of adult learners promotes stronger engagement and a sense of belonging, improves academic outcomes across programs, helps close equity gaps, and fosters a culture of lifelong learning



A screenshot from an adult learner library research video

THE GAME HUB @ THE COMMONS

Located in The ADP Center Commons (UNIV 1140), The Game Hub is a shared initiative between University Libraries and the ADP Center, designed to create an inclusive space where students can connect, recharge, and engage through play. As part of this collaboration, University Libraries donated a collection of board games, complementing the Center's virtual reality (VR) offerings and expanding opportunities for in-person engagement that supports student well-being and community building.

To further extend access beyond the Commons, University Libraries also maintains a small circulating collection of board games available for checkout at Sprague or Bloomfield Campus Library front desk for use elsewhere on campus.



A Virtual Reality headset



A shelf of board games

“

A photograph of three students in a library. A young man in a black leather jacket is pointing at a book on a shelf. A young woman with a blonde ponytail is looking at a book. Another student is partially visible in the background. The shelves are filled with books, including titles like 'The Complete Poems of Marianne Moore' and 'The World Is Not Fair'.

BEYOND OUR STACKS

Community outreach extends University Library’s mission beyond our stacks, connecting library expertise with the people and organizations we serve. Through partnerships, programs, and shared initiatives, we strengthen relationships that enrich learning, support well-being, and foster a sense of belonging.

NEWARK ACADEMY STUDENTS RESEARCH WITH UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS

As part of its commitment to community engagement, Montclair State University Libraries once again opened its doors to students from Newark Academy both participating in the The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB), a globally recognized and academically rigorous curriculum for high school students, as well as some who joined purely for the academic experience. From May 28 to June 2, 2025, approximately 100 students from Newark Academy visited Sprague Library across three full-day sessions to advance work on their Extended Essays—a core element of the IB program.

The Extended Essay challenges students to pursue independent research and produce an academic paper on a topic of their choosing. Throughout their time in the library, students explored collections, navigated scholarly databases, and consulted with professional librarians as they refined their research questions and sourced credible evidence.

“

“I really enjoyed working at the library for research. It was a wonderful experience that gave me insights as to what college would be like and the environment was a great environment to do work in. I developed several research and study strategies from this, so I really enjoyed this experience.

- Newark Academy Student

EXPANDED COMMUNITY BORROWING

Further expanding our relationships with external colleagues and patrons, University Libraries joined two new borrowing programs in 2025. First, the Sprague Library joined Bloomfield Campus Library as a full member of the Essex County Reciprocal Borrowing and Lending (ReBL) program. The ReBL program provides reciprocal borrowing and lending privileges for physical items across 24 public and academic libraries in New Jersey for the campus community.

We also became a participant in the PALCI On-Site Reciprocal Borrowing program, extending free library use to Montclair students and researchers at 80+ libraries in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware. Each program not only benefits members of the campus community by increasing access to libraries and materials from across the tristate area, but also extends the reach of the University Libraries by making our collections more readily available to non-University patrons.

COLLABORATION WITH DR. MELISSA BENBOW FLOWERS



Dr. Melissa Benbow Flowers is a scholar of late nineteenth-century literature and culture. She joins the Montclair State University community to complete her ACE-Mellon Fellowship, titled **The Lives of Domestic Workers at Glenmont**, Thomas and Mina Edison's home, during which she will research the lives of the six generations of predominantly female domestic workers in the Edison household and place their experiences into broader social contexts. In collaboration with the University Libraries, she is actively working to develop educational and interpretive products to share this research with the public.

The Libraries' goals in bringing Dr. Flowers to Montclair State University include creating opportunities for students to engage with archival research and local history, and building connections that bring scholars to Glenmont and other local house museums and help them understand the University Libraries Archives and Special Collections, and the Thomas Edison National Historical Park as spaces where humanities and social science scholarship is possible.

LACORDAIRE ACADEMY LIBRARY RESEARCH

In 2025, plans to welcome nearly 20 students from Lacordaire Academy for a two-day series of lectures and research came to fruition, to occur in January of 2026. During their time on campus, students learned how to develop a research topic, explore databases, and craft annotated bibliographies. While accessing scholarly databases, students worked with a librarian to sharpen their research questions and find credible sources for their Senior Thesis Assignment.

The visit provided an opportunity for these rising scholars to build research skills and experience a college-level academic environment. This collaboration reflects the University Libraries' ongoing commitment to supporting local students on their academic journeys.



ACCESS IN ACTION

Access Services and Resource Sharing power the daily operations that make the library accessible to all. Together, these services connect our community to millions of physical and digital resources within and beyond our walls, promoting academic excellence. The following metrics capture our reach, collections, and impact across the academic year.

Item Checkouts

19,300+

Course Reserves
Checkouts

3,200+

Items on Course
Reserve (Sprague)

785

Items on Course
Reserve (Bloomfield)

41

Museum Pass
Checkouts

86

Questions Answered
at the Front Desk

17,000+

Top 5 Course Reserves (number of checkouts)

1. **Engaged Criminology: An Introduction** - 113
2. **Learning About Dance: Dance as an Art Form & Entertainment** - 93
3. **Media Essentials: A Brief Introduction** - 61
4. **Picturing Texts** - 59
5. **International Justice: A Critical and Comprehensive Introduction** - 55

NEWEST SERVICES

Several new engaging services were added at the front desk, enhancing the experience for users at our libraries.

WIRELESS SHEET MUSIC PAGE TURNERS

Bluetooth foot controllers that allow musicians the hands free ability to turn pages, read music, scroll lyrics/tabs, trigger backing tracks and effects, send MIDI commands and custom DAW keys, cue audio and lighting, and more. Compatible with many apps and bluetooth-capable devices. The excitement about this latest edition was palpable by music students on social media.



Foot pedal and wire for page turner



Student writing a postcard

POSTCARD WRITING

Sometimes, students may want to share their experiences away from home with their friends and family, in a less tech-driven way. Situated in the lounge next to the front desk of each library features a table with postcards, along with instructions on how to engage in this lost art form.

A stamp, provided by the front desk, can be requested by the student to complete their piece and send it on its way.

RESOURCE SHARING

Items Lent to Other Libraries

4300+

Items Borrowed From other Libraries

3500+

Documents Scanned and Delivered

800+



Thanks for all the help recently. Y'all are AMAZING. #gratefulresearcher

- *Library Patron*



YOUR NEST AWAY FROM HOME

At Montclair, we believe that the spaces we offer to our students are meant to feel as comforting as if you are sitting in your own home. University Libraries has proven to be a place where people want to spent their time either studying, relaxing, or have a nice chat.

THE SENSORY SPACE

The Sensory Space is a unique space on campus designed specifically to be welcoming to neurodivergent individuals. Located in Room 030 on the lower level of Sprague Library in the Multimedia area, The Sensory Space is designed to create a safe, comfortable environment for individuals with particular sensory needs.



Privacy study chairs



Noise cancelling headphones



Fidget toys

Study Room Bookings
(Sprague)

16,600+

Students Booking
Study Spaces
(Sprague)

3,700+

Study Room Bookings
(Bloomfield)

1,500+

Students Booking
Study Spaces
(Bloomfield)

340+

Sensory Space
Bookings

1,900+

Students Booking
the Sensory Space

750+

Patrons Entering
Sprague Library

320,000+



LATEST EDITIONS

We have acquired several new and useful electronic resources, available to all students, faculty, and staff, and expanded our popular picks collection—strengthening academic excellence by broadening access to high-quality, up-to-date research materials that support rigorous teaching, learning, and scholarship.

NEW YORK TIMES ONLINE

The New York Times Digital Edition provides access to the digitized version of the News package of the New York Times from 1851 to the present. This includes the Times sections that are part of the News package, such as U.S., World, Opinion, Business, Science, Arts, Fashion & Style, Health, etc.

MCNAUGHTON

We launched a new initiative that would allow us to provide **up-to-date** and **popular** reading material in print for our users by renting the books with an option to buy. After some configuration work by the Cataloging Metadata & Archive Services (CMAS) department, we arranged for these books to arrive shelf-ready.

Now the books are available for borrowing at both Sprague Library and Bloomfield Campus Library! Congratulations to everyone involved in the project, especially Steve Shapiro and Michelle Echols.

OVERDRIVE & LIBBY

The OverDrive Shared Library (for VALE) provides access to a joint collection of over 1,900 shared titles including ebooks and audiobooks that will continue to grow larger over time.

Libby is a mobile app, **one you may be familiar with**, for accessing the OverDrive shared library. We integrated VALE e-books and audiobooks into our main catalog so users can find them alongside our other e-books in one place. Thank you to Michelle Echols for her work on this integration!



Bookshelf of McNaughton Pop Picks

DATABASES ACQUIRED IN 2025

Advanced Practice Nursing - “A textbook-multimedia (audio files) package that supports both the practice and specialty-based areas of the curriculum for nurses working on either their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).” It includes medical textbooks, streaming audio, and case studies.

African-American Newspapers - Includes over 350 African-American newspapers (from 35+ states) covering the period from 1827-1998.

APA PsycTests - Consists of over 78,000 records describing psychological tests, measures, scales, surveys, and other assessments, as well as descriptive information about each test and its development and administration.

Black Drama - “Contains the full text of more than 1,700 plays written from the mid-1800s to the present by more than 200 playwrights from North America, English-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, and other African diaspora countries.”

CABI Global Health - Provides access to millions of records including full-text articles, reviews, news, and book chapters related to public health with an emphasis on “international medical and health research”.

CABI Nutrition & Food Science Collection - Full text, abstracts and research summaries covering human nutrition, food science and technology, as well as education around nutrition and food economics.

DSM Library - Includes various full-text titles related to DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) such as DSM-5-TR, DSM-5, DSM-5-TR Clinical Cases, DSM-5-TR Handbook of Differential Diagnosis, DSM-5 Handbook on the Cultural Formulation Interview, and Guía de consulta de los criterios diagnósticos del DSM-5.

Early English Books Online/EEBO (ProQuest) - The Digitized collection of over 146,600 early printed titles includes almost every work printed in the British Isles and North America, as well as works in English printed elsewhere from 1470-1700.

Social Explorer - Provides tools for mapping, visualizing, and analyzing data. It contains over 500,000 data indicators and over 220 years of data for the United States from present to 1790, including all Decennial Censuses, American Community Surveys and many other datasets.

Databases

271

Databases Views

44,900+

Top 5 Databases (number of views)

1. **Academic Search Complete** - 4502
2. **ProQuest Central** - 3533
3. **Google Scholar** - 3396
4. **PsycINFO** - 3365
5. **JSTOR** - 2720



ASK A LIBRARIAN

University Libraries offers on-demand and scheduled, one-on-one and self-paced support that empowers users to move forward with their research and coursework. By meeting students, faculty, staff, and the local community where they are—online or in-person—the service makes expert help approachable, timely, and easy to access.

In-person Research
Appointments

100+

Online Research
Appointments

260+

Office Hours Sessions

100+

Live Chat Sessions

2200+

Frequently Asked
Questions

176

Help Tickets

790+

Library Instruction
Sessions

290+

Students Taught in
Library Instruction

8600+

Workshops

240+

Research Guides

189

Research Guide Views

128,000+

Top 5 Research Guides (number of views)

1. **Library 101** - 9172
2. **Introduction to Research** - 8509
3. **AI Tools for Research and Writing** - 5449
4. **Psychology** - 5288
5. **Business Case Studies** - 5070



ENHANCING OUR TECH

We are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve technology within our libraries. Here's how recent technology enhancements are improving services for the Montclair community.

LAPTOP LENDING COMES TO BLOOMFIELD

Beginning in Spring '25, Bloomfield Campus Library introduced laptop lending for Bloomfield Campus students, allowing four-hour loans to support coursework. This service became available to all students with a valid Montclair State University ID. Laptops come equipped with virtual services and essential software to meet the academic needs of students, ensuring a seamless experience for those requiring a temporary device.



Laptop lending checkout area

NEW ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

In 2025, JAWS (Job Access With Speech) for Windows and ZoomText screen magnification software were installed on two computers located in the Bloomfield Campus Library computer lab. JAWS is screen reading software, designed for computer users with blindness or low vision.

Laptops Borrowed (total)	Battery Charging Stations Borrowed
5100+	420+



A computer with accessibility software



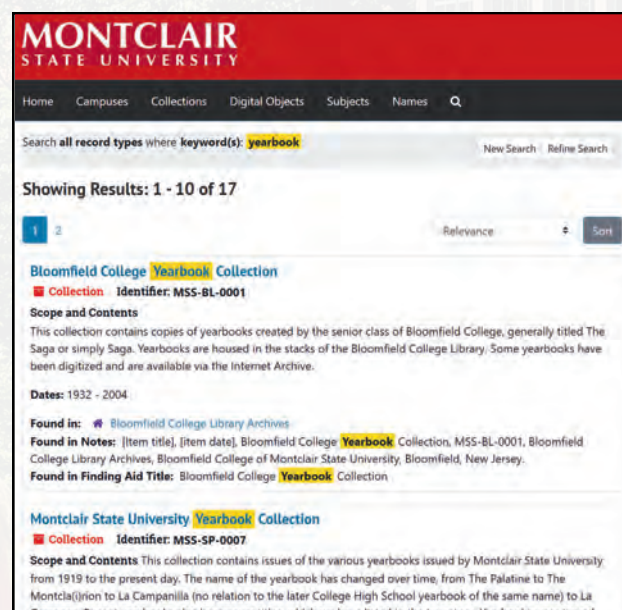
PRESERVING OUR PAST

Our Special Collections & Archives safeguards the stories and artifacts that define our history. From rare books to archival records, these materials invite students and researchers to explore the past in meaningful, hands-on ways.

ARCHIVES SPACE

The University Libraries launched a new archival discovery platform, expanding access to both physical and digital collections from the Sprague Library and Bloomfield Campus Library. The platform now provides centralized access to yearbooks, newspapers, and historic materials documenting Montclair State University's past, with additional collections to be added as development continues. (<https://archives.montclair.edu>)

This initiative was made possible through the generous support of Dr. Lise Greene and the efforts of the Cataloging, Metadata, and Archives department, whose work laid the foundation for broader discovery and long-term preservation of the university's history.



Archives Space search results page

BLOOMFIELD ARCHIVES

The Bloomfield Campus Archives have found a permanent home on the lower level of the Bloomfield College Library. Librarians and staff have already begun the process of organizing the collections and gathering additional historical material from various Bloomfield departments. These collections will be added to our archives platform, ArchivesSpace.

This spring will bring new projects for the Bloomfield Archives. The University Libraries will be adding new collections to the platform, and digitizing some new materials, including The Saga (the Bloomfield College yearbook). We will continue to organize the physical space in the archives area to allow for better findability and preservation. The Libraries will also work on collaborating on an exhibit on Bloomfield College history in Digital Commons.



EXHIBITS SPOTLIGHT

Library exhibits bring curated themes and collections to life in our public spaces, encouraging visitors to engage with scholarship, culture, and community narratives. Here is a sampling of displays of scholarly and topical exhibits, including collaborations with campus partners, extending research and learning from 2025.

ROOTS AND WINGS OF BLACK EMPOWERMENT

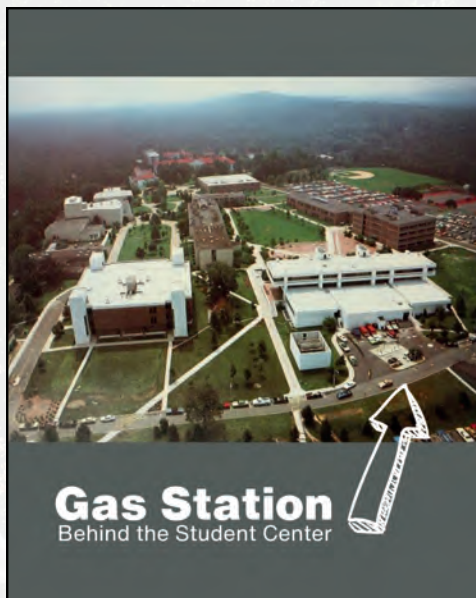
In collaboration with several campus partners, including African American Studies, the University Libraries hosted the *Roots and Wings of Black Empowerment Exhibit*. This exhibit featured artifacts on loan from Dr. Sandra Collins, professor of Psychology, as well as various titles by black authors.



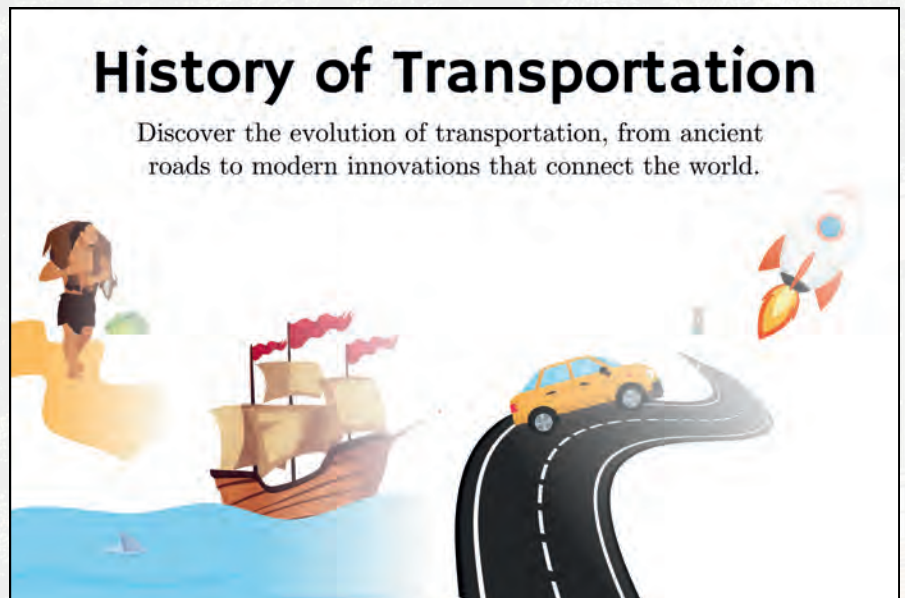
Roots and Wings of Black Empowerment exhibit in Sprague Library

HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUTING TO MONTCLAIR

In collaboration with Commuter Life, University Libraries' composed an educational exhibit featuring information about how transportation transformed throughout history starting from walking on bare feet, to space travel and electric vehicles. Commuter Life and the University Archives painted a metaphorical picture of how commuting to Montclair changed over time including imagery of the infamous gas station on campus as well as maps and stories about the various ways students travelled to Montclair.



Historic campus gas station image featured in the exhibit.



Title poster of the exhibit

JUNETEENTH

The Juneteenth Exhibit, created and presented at Bloomfield Campus Library, showcased databases, books, articles, images, government documents, audio recording, videos, documentaries, poetry, music, literature, primary sources and secondary sources related to this significant holiday.



Various books on display



INTO THE FUTURE

We are always looking for innovative and thoughtful ways to improve the user experience within our libraries. Here are just a couple of initiatives either currently in action or planned for the future!

SENSORY MAPPING

To make our facilities more accessible and inclusive for all of our users, we are developing sensory maps of Sprague Library, which should be available on the University Libraries website later in 2026. These maps will help users identify areas within the building that are most suitable for their own personal comfort and wellbeing. Approximate light, noise, and temperature levels will be displayed on these maps, indicating which areas might best align with a user's sensory needs and preferences. Following the opening of the Sensory Space in 2024, this project is the latest effort in our ongoing commitment to promoting neuroinclusion at Sprague Library.

VIRTUAL LIBRARY TOURS

To improve wayfinding within the Sprague and Bloomfield Campus Libraries, and help ease the anxiety new students may feel when entering an unfamiliar space, we have begun a 3D virtual tour experience. This tool will allow users to explore our buildings and become more familiar with what to expect before visiting in person. The tour will be available on our website for convenient access from home.



MEDITATION SPACE

Sprague Library is currently planning the creation of a dedicated meditation space to support the diverse spiritual and personal needs of our campus community. This space is intended to provide a quiet, respectful environment for silent meditation, prayer, and moments of personal reflection. The planned space reflects our ongoing commitment to creating an environment that nurtures belonging, respect, and holistic student experience.