

**SONOMA
STATE**
UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY



Library Impact Report

2024-25

Introduction



Introduction

The University Library advances student success by facilitating equitable access to information, tools for knowledge creation, and connection to a scholarly community. Students are at the center of what we do.

Equity and opportunity are built into the library's DNA. We support students in achieving their dreams by helping them develop academic and research skills and lowering the cost of education. We partner with faculty to advance teaching and research. And we engage with our broader community to preserve the history and culture of the North Bay. We find new ways to highlight faculty research, help the University to innovate, and provide broad access to a rich array of trusted information.

We are more committed than ever to ensuring ALL students feel welcome in the library. We continue to find ways to help students feel connected and to see themselves as members of the scholarly community at Sonoma State University.

**148,086
visitors**

**8,839 room
bookings**

**9,929 items
loaned**



Instruction and Research Help

1,714 students taught

In 2024-25, librarians taught over 1,700 students in course-integrated workshops. We partnered with 39 instructors across 22 departments, including Business Administration, Chemistry, Communications and Media Studies, English, History, Music, Political Science, and Education.

482 questions answered

Course-integrated workshops focus on teaching students research skills and use of library resources. We know that students have to navigate a complex, information-rich world, not only at school but throughout their daily lives. We are committed to teaching students more than just academic skills and to giving them the knowledge they need to engage effectively with information in every area of their lives. To that end, we developed a three-unit GE course, Introduction to Information Literacy (LIS 101). This course was approved last year and is being offered in Fall 2025 for the first time.

57,288 guide views

In the coming years, we'll expand the curriculum to find more ways to support student learning about information.

Instruction and Research Help

The library's Research Help services provide students an opportunity to work one-on-one with a librarian. In 2024-25, librarians engaged in 482 Research Help sessions with students and other members of the SSU community.

We provide Research Help in person, via email and 24/7 online chat, and during scheduled research appointments. In 2024-25, 51% of all questions were asked by undergraduate students.

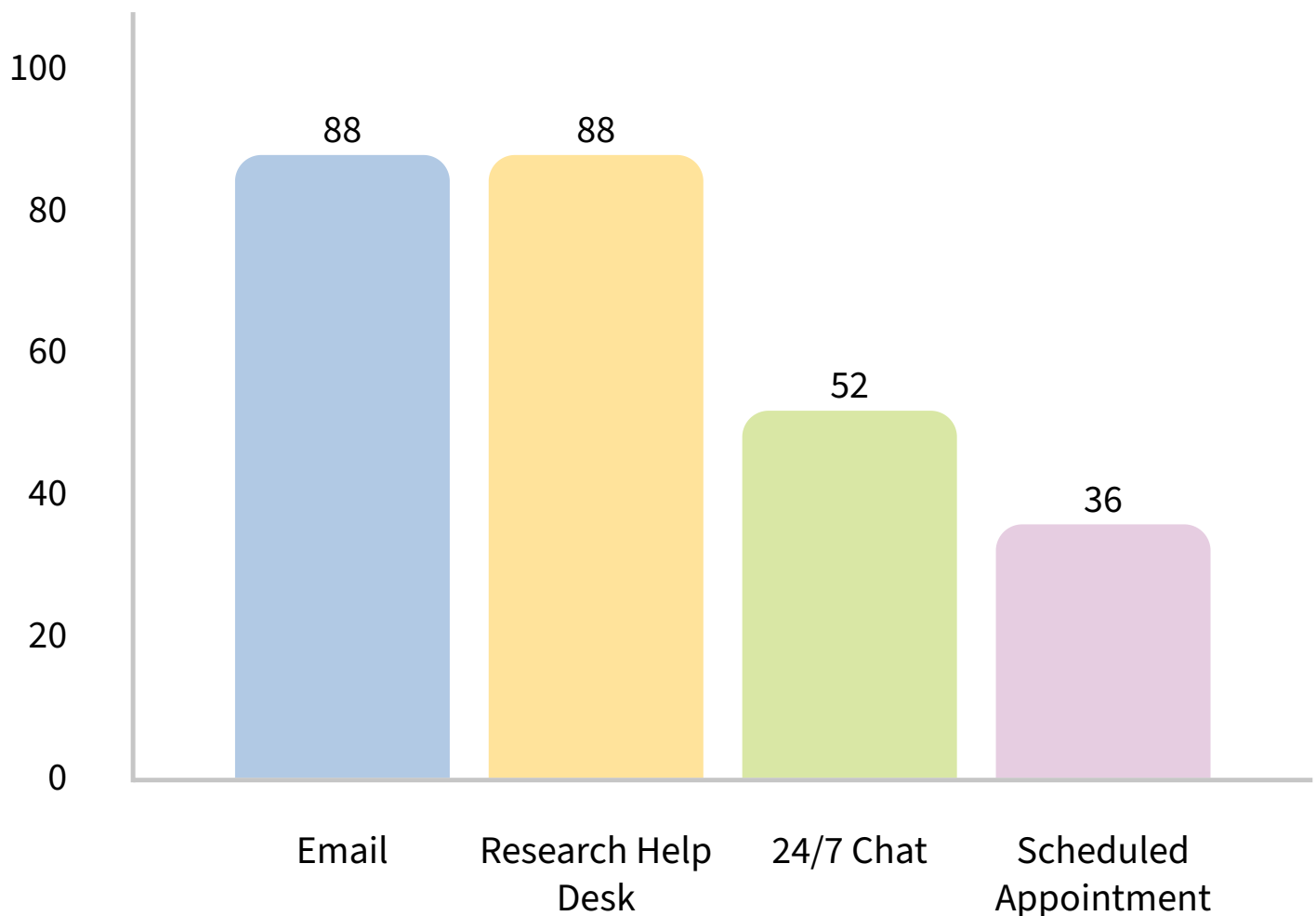
Research Help questions can range in complexity. Most take less than 15 minutes, but about 46% of

questions are more complex, requiring in-depth engagement and support.

We also provide research support asynchronously via subject Research Guides. In 2024-25, our Guides were viewed over 57,000 times.

We are looking at ways to embed Research Help services more directly into student and researcher workflows, including options for faculty to easily refer students to a librarian for expert help with research.

Research Help Sessions





Collections and Technology

Use of library collections remains at the heart of what we do in the library, and we provide access to so much more than books. In 2024-25, we loaned almost 10,000 physical items, from books to LPs to laptops.

Course Reserves

In 2024-25, we initiated a three-year pilot to purchase and make available textbooks and other course materials in our Course Reserves program. We purchased over \$20,000 in materials in fall and spring, and saw use of Course Reserves services by 6%. Based on an average cost of \$70 per title purchased, we estimate that we saved each student who used Reserves an average of \$185, for a total savings of \$23,865.

Laptop Lending

Our laptop lending program saves students an estimated \$150,000 every year. In 2024-25, 153 students were able to secure a free laptop for an entire semester.

**\$23,865 in
textbook savings**

**749 laptop
loans**

**9,929 items
loaned**

Collections and Technology

Media Creation

We are expanding our technology offerings. In 2024-25, we added two media kits to our equipment collection. Media kits include cameras, microphones, and tripods that can be used to record podcasts, videos, and other forms of digital media. The media kits were loaned 25 times in 2024-25.

This year, we're building two new media production studios where students can create and edit digital media, supporting students' creation of information in all forms.

Makerspace

The library's Makerspace remains a cornerstone of creativity and innovation at Sonoma State University. In 2024-25, there were 6 courses held in the Makerspace and 10 campus groups held events in the space.

Thanks to a generous equipment donation from Dr. Robert Gohstand, we are expanding the Makerspace to include a Bindery and Book Arts Studio, where we will host campus and community workshops.

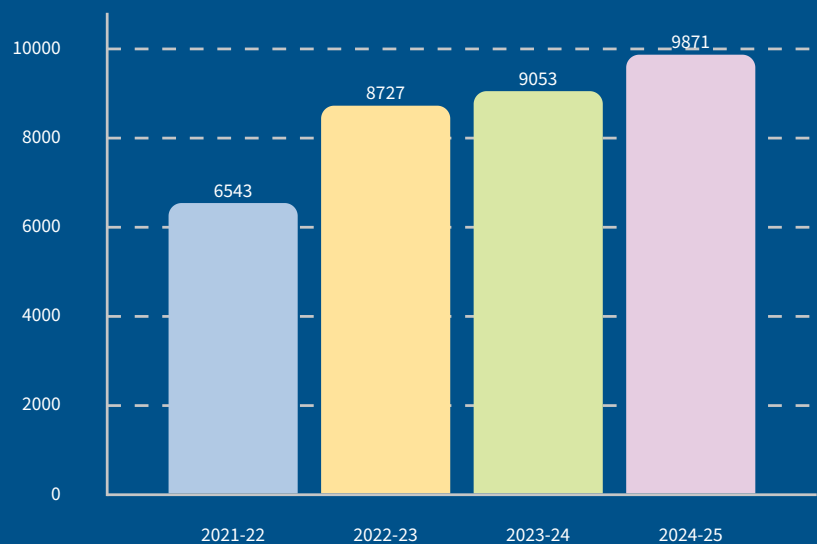
Library Collections and E-Resources

Outside of personnel, library collections make up the biggest portion of the library's annual budget. In 2024-25, the library spent just over \$736,000 on all materials in all formats. These materials are purchased on

behalf of the entire university, saving money for individual departments, faculty members, and students. We spent an average of \$1,635 for every faculty member at SSU across all collection categories in 2024-25.

When we manage collections on behalf of the university, we ensure equitable access

OneSearch Clicked Services



for all students, faculty, and staff at SSU. The average cost per use across all e-resources is \$5.78, far lower than the cost for individual purchases would be.

After several years of declining usage, use of library e-resources increased in 2024-25, with 9% more clicked services from OneSearch over 2023-24. Searches in library databases increased by nearly 30%, and hits to the library's A-Z Database List increased by nearly 5%.

Library Collections and Technology

Special and Regional Collections

The library's Special and Regional Collections allow us to preserve and provide access to the rich cultural heritage of the North Bay. It includes both rare manuscript collections and published materials about the North Bay and by North Bay authors.

**9,674 visits to
North Bay Digital**

In 2024-25, we began processing one of our most recent acquisitions: The National Women's History Project papers. This collection documents the establishment of National Women's History Month, right here in Sonoma County. We're excited to make these materials available for teaching and research in the near future.

Other collections of enduring interest include the Jack London collection, the Gaye LeBaron Archives, and the University Archives. Last year, the Special Collections Librarian fielded 66 in-depth research queries and hosted 31 visits to the archives.

One notable group were docents from the Jack London State Historic Park. The docents made several visits and were so enthusiastic about what they discovered, they said it was "even better than a casino win!"

Digital Special Collections

We provide global access to our special collections through digitization, and have recently been able to add five of our most popular digital collections to JSTOR. In 2024-25, there were 1,828 views of SSU's items on JSTOR, with users coming from 64 different countries.

9,674 people visited our digital collections on North Bay Digital and viewed nearly 50,000 pages and digital objects.

Our digitization team worked on an exciting project to support innovation in the Registrar's Office: We digitized 21 years of SSU course catalogs so they can be used with an AI tool to identify graduation requirements for those returning to SSU to finish their degrees. Over 13,000 pages were digitized and made accessible for this project.

SSU Publications and Scholarship

The library showcases and preserves faculty scholarship both in our physical collections and via ScholarWorks, our institutional repository. During the 2024 calendar year, 1,038 items were viewed or downloaded 91,317 times.

We are also highlighting faculty scholarship via a monthly SSU Research Spotlight on the Library News blog, and with a new permanent rotating book display on the 2nd floor. Follow our social media for updates!

Outreach and Engagement



Outreach and Engagement

**4,451 people
reached on social
media**

**37% open rate
for emails**

**8% increase in
engagement**

The library engages in outreach on and off campus, participating regularly in Decision Day, Preview Day, Noma Nation Orientation, and Sonoma County History Day. We frequently host tours and workshops for local schools and enrichment programs, including groups like the Redwood Coast K-15 Collaborative, Tinker Academy, and local elementary, junior, and high schools.

Last year we implemented a strategic communications plan to ensure we are sharing important updates with our community. We established a Library News mailing list, which currently has over 3,800 recipients. Our email communications have an open rate of 37%, 11% higher than the industry average for email marketing.

Our engagement on social media has also steadily increased, with interactions growing by 8% over the year before. We reached over 4,400 people on social media in 2024-25.



Looking Forward

This year, we celebrate 25 years in the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center. The Schulz Information Center opened in fall 2000, and over the years the building has evolved to adapt to changes in how information is published and shared, how students learn, and how librarians work. We are excited to see how this amazing space can continue to grow to support our community.

Our 2024-25 strategic planning process highlighted the ways that our library has served our students over the years and how we can continue to meet rapidly changing needs and expectations. In the coming years, we will focus on realigning library services for greater impact, providing more support for digital creation, embedding the library into learning networks and workflows, and providing opportunities for deeper learning about information. We'll upgrade our spaces and technologies, and find ways to help students feel connected to the scholarly

community. It's more critical than ever that we effectively use the resources we have to provide services and support that our students, faculty, and community members need to help them achieve their academic and research goals.

The Library Vision

As we look toward the future, we are guided by our vision of how the library can support students, faculty, and the broader community.

As a result of the library's commitment to equity, curiosity, and critical inquiry, students are confident in making informed decisions in an information-rich world and are empowered to collaborate, contribute, and lead. Faculty and staff are supported in advancing teaching, research, and institutional transformation. Our spaces foster creativity, belonging, and community connection, strengthening both academic success and regional impact.