

# SSU

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## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Building Equity Through Access:  
Library Impact Report  
2019-2024



# ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The University Library is a dynamic and innovative partner in the Sonoma State University community. We create a strong network of technology, collections, expertise, and spaces to support people tackling local and global challenges.

Our mission is to foster curiosity, critical thinking, and transformational learning with services, spaces, and collections that encourage exploration and engagement with new ideas.



**\$8.9M**

Estimated cost savings to students for course materials accessed from the library

**6,500**

Seawolves taught every year through our instruction and research help program

**17,800**

Study rooms booked to over 2,600 students since 2019



**Over 114,000 visits  
to the library  
annually**

## OVERVIEW

Our 2019-2024 Strategic Plan emphasized collaboration with campus partners, contributing to student retention and engagement, creating environments conducive to learning, and cultivating leadership, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The library's instruction program and collections are central to our support for student learning. Library instruction takes place in many spaces and contexts, including through course-integrated workshops, standalone workshops, and one-on-one interactions with students.

Our collections are broad and encompass not only scholarly books and journals, but also technology, rare and unique materials, digital media objects, and much more.

The library is an important place for students to gather, access support services, and find a quiet place to study. We provide a variety of learning environments to meet a range of preferences and needs.

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# Focus On: Instruction and Research Support

Access to information is expanding at an unprecedented rate. Navigating this sea of data requires high-level information literacy skills. Collaborating with faculty across the university, librarians teach students how to research and use information and empower them to make informed arguments.

Librarians also support students one-on-one by helping them interpret assignments, define a topic, find and evaluate sources, and properly cite other researchers' work.

**640 workshops**  
taught to  
**14,500 students**  
since 2019

**2,500 research**  
help interactions  
reported  
since 2019

**82,000 research**  
guide views  
annually



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# Focus On: Collections

The University Library provides access to a broad and balanced collection of resources in support of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum. We work with faculty across disciplines to ensure we're providing materials that meet their teaching and research needs, and we use an evidence-based approach to ensure we're using University resources responsibly and supporting students in meaningful and effective ways.

Since 2019, we have added over 560,000 ebook and streaming media titles to the collection, and over 2,800 print and media items.

Over **33,000** items loaned to students

Over **590,000** uses of ebooks, journals, and streaming media

Over **18,000** items borrowed from other libraries for SSU students, faculty, and staff



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# Preserving and Sharing

The library plays a key role in providing access to Sonoma State faculty and student research. Our institutional repository houses Master's theses and provides open access to SSU faculty and staff research. Since 2019, we have added **2,721 papers, theses, and research objects, and the contents of the institutional repository were viewed over 500,000 times.**

Our Special Collections are critical to the preservation of the social and cultural history of the North Bay. Since 2019, **we have welcomed over 1,100 people to the library to access our unique and historical collections.**



In the last 5 years,  
over  
**8,500 students**  
have borrowed  
semester-long  
laptops.

# Affordable Learning

The library regularly purchases materials requested by faculty for use in their courses. Since 2019, we have saved students an estimated **\$8.9M in access to course materials.**

In addition to course materials, we provide access to the technology students need to succeed. We have over 200 laptops that can be borrowed anywhere from a full semester to just a few hours.

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# Focus On: Spaces

Sonoma State University Library's three floors provide study spaces that are safe and accessible for students with long commutes, complex schedules, and competing responsibilities at home. The library is a hub for students, connecting them with support services, research help, and resources critical for their learning. We provide a variety of learning spaces to meet personal preferences and needs, from spaces for active and collaborative learning to quiet study rooms and modern, comfortable study carrels.



## Makerspace

The Makerspace is a place to dream, make, and innovate. SSU students, faculty, and staff are invited to explore digital fabrication, prototyping, and a wide range of technology to transform ideas into reality. By providing the tools and ingredients we hope to encourage creativity and inquiry and to facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration.



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# Study Rooms

The library provides access to 13 group study rooms, which can be reserved up to a month in advance.

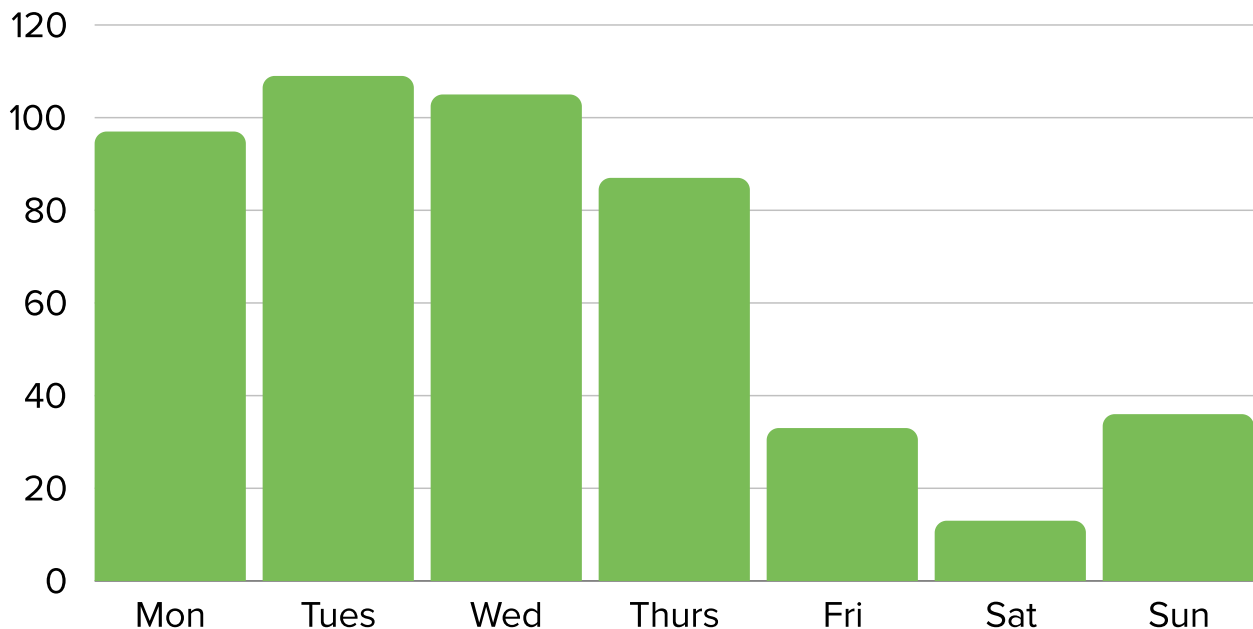
Study rooms are booked an average of **68 times a day**, with peak usage Monday through Thursday.

Study rooms have been reserved **17,800 times** in the last five years

Study rooms have been reserved by over **2,600 unique students** in the last five years

We are preparing to open an additional 6 study rooms on the second floor when we reopen the North wing of the building, in addition to a student meeting room and tons of study space.

Avg Number of Study Room Bookings per Week



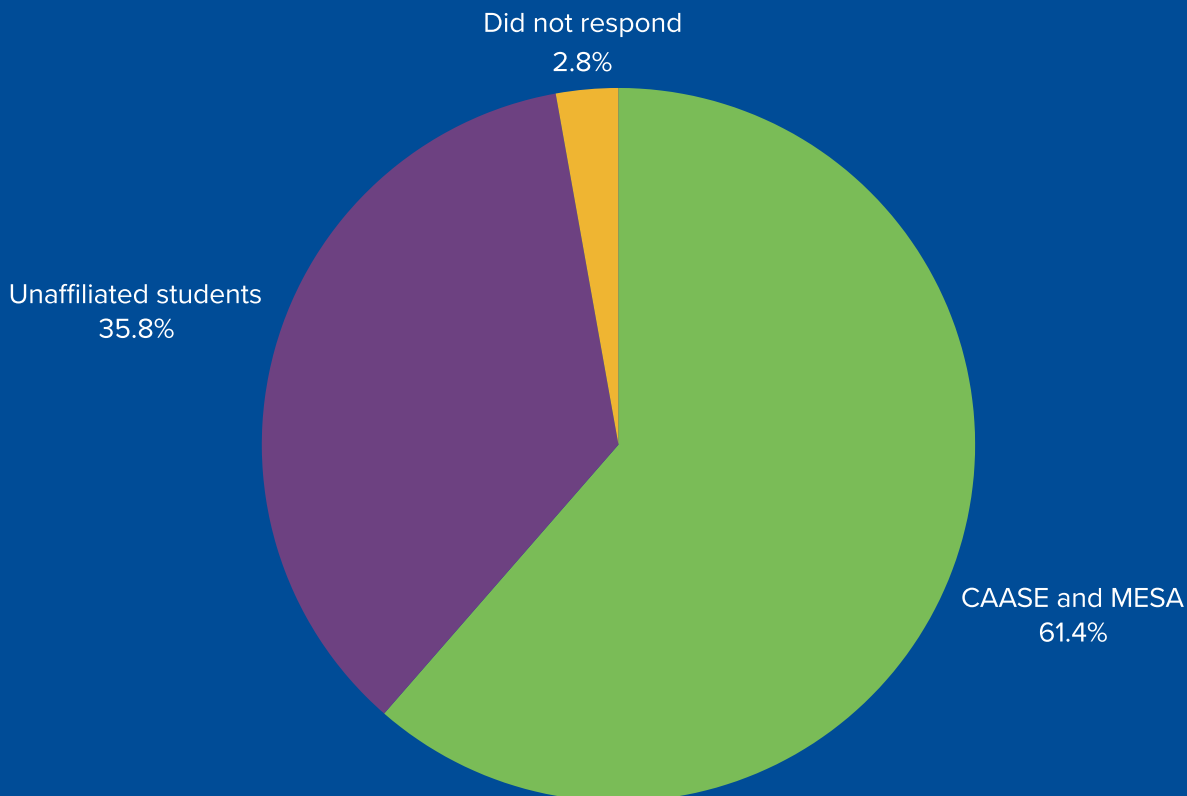
# Focus On: Pandemic Support

In March 2020, the library pivoted quickly to support students in a new way. We implemented a laptop mailing program to get technology into the hands of students as quickly as possible, mailing 355 laptops to students all across California and the country.

We also put into place a digitization program to provide course materials to faculty and students online. We fulfilled **484 digitization requests** for DVDs and book chapters, providing access to materials that otherwise would have been unavailable.

As soon as staff could return to the building, we put into place a contactless pickup service and a mailing service to send materials to students and faculty who were no longer living locally. We processed **1,175 requests** for items to be mailed to patrons.

## COVID Laptop Loans by Student Affiliation



# Looking Forward

The library is committed to our vision to support learners in becoming inspired, curious, and empowered users of information. As we look forward to the coming years, we will be renewing our strategic plan by assessing the successes of 2019-24 and finding new and innovative ways to continue to support students.

We are focused on providing expanded student learning space and access to even more new technologies and tools. We are planning new media labs, even more study rooms, distinct spaces for a variety of student needs, and expanded access to digital resources of all kinds.

We will continue to provide equity through access, providing learning materials, access to cutting edge technology, and direct support and instruction to help all students succeed.

