

Contents

Message from the Dean	3
Pandemic Leadership	4
Enhancing Visibility and Impact of Research and Scholarship	6
Partners in Student Success	6
Modernizing the Research Experience	6
Enhancing Consultation Services	7
Working Together with Students	7
Creating Positive Change	8
Director recognized for contributions to archivist community	8
Indigenous Film Collection	8
Leadership in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB)	8
Accessibility	9
Engagement with Open Scholarship	9
Open Education Steering Committee	9
Operationalizing the Senate Policy on Open Access	9
Community Engagement	10
Events	10
Experiential Education Symposium	10
Steacie Hackfest	11
Undergraduate Research Fair and Art Walk	11
Fireside Chat with Jesse Thistle	12
Open Access Week "Honouring Indigenous Ways of Knowing" Event	12
Outreach	13
La Casita Azul	13
Jane-Finch Community	13
Greek Canadian History Project	14
Collaboration with Ojibwe Cultural Foundation	14
Space Planning Consultations	15
Future Spaces	16

Virtual Exper	iences	16
		4.
Markham Ca	mpus Library	16
2020 By The N	umbers	17

Message from the Dean



I am pleased to present the York University Libraries (YUL) Annual Report for calendar year 2020. This report presents a valuable opportunity for both reflection and forward thinking. As I look back upon the accomplishments our Libraries team achieved together during my first five years in this role, the challenges we overcame in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the priorities we will address in the coming years following my reappointment, I am inspired by the opportunities we have to create positive change at York University and for the world.

In the five years since my appointment, I have made it a priority to align our Libraries with the research intensification mission of the

institution, and to grow understanding of what a 21st century research library can do for students, faculty, researchers, and community members. Librarianship is an information profession, expertise that is needed today more than ever. While our spaces and collections are important to our users and support the work we do in the Libraries every day, I believe it is our expertise that truly sets us apart. This report demonstrates how far we've come in five years in terms of lending our expertise to the creation of research and knowledge, as well as how to make new research and knowledge discoverable and accessible

2020 saw YUL emerge out of a massive organizational restructuring in the Libraries, designed to better leverage our talents and innovative spirit in unique ways to deliver on York's University Academic Plan (UAP) as well as our own Strategic Plan. We have a unique role in the dissemination of knowledge and bring a deep expertise in enhancing the visibility and impact of York's research both inside and outside of the University. I am especially proud of the role we have played in opening up the doors of the academy to the greater community. Open access, open education and open pedagogy all play vital roles in opening up the academy's intellectual assets, and I'm pleased to see the value the University has placed on our leadership across the University with the advancement of a Senate approved Open Access Policy and notably with the inclusion of the Open Access Policy in the UAP. York's values around accessibility and access to education are explicitly linked to this as well and position the University to be a leader in this space. I believe our work in the Libraries, as outlined in this report, has positioned us as a leader, and it is critically important to me that we continue this work collectively with our campus partners.

In a year like no other, the enormity of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world, and all work environments, cannot be overstated. Nor can the determination and effort our Libraries team displayed in overcoming pandemic-related challenges to support the University community. I'm tremendously proud of how YUL rose to the occasion with great agility and professionalism, leading the way with innovative solutions in service to York University students, faculty, researchers, as well as the broader community. This report highlights a selection of the innumerable ways the expertise of our librarians was crucial as our institution endeavoured to adapt our services in the early days of the pandemic, and I hope it will serve as an expression of gratitude to each and every person who worked tirelessly and nimbly to transform our services when it was needed.

This report also places emphasis on YUL's future, and in particular planning for the future of our spaces. As we look towards enhancing accessibility, integrating technology into teaching and learning, rejuvenating major spaces such as Scott Library, and establishing a new library for York's planned Markham Campus, I encourage those interested in <u>supporting these efforts</u> to read about this important work and consider the role York University Libraries play and will continue to play in purposeful research that advances knowledge and creates change.

Warmly,

Joy Kirchner Dean of Libraries York University

Pandemic Leadership

At a time when the unique expertise YUL librarians offered was in great demand, and when Libraries everywhere were forced to adapt the ways they supported their communities, York University Libraries lead the way in 2020, receiving international recognition for showcasing the central role libraries played during COVID-19.



As a required service during the pandemic campus closure, YUL lead the way with Libraries staff amongst the first University workers back on campus to deliver remote services and resources to the community. The Libraries developed a contingency planning framework as the University planned for the delivery of services and teaching and learning during the pandemic, and mobilized a fulsome approach to managing a phased strategy in alignment with provincial and institutional guidelines.

Responding with agility to the pandemic, YUL spearheaded the production of an innovative, globally-accessible COVID-19 Library Research Guide for researchers inside and outside of the university, including collaborators and partners across the globe. York librarians also

contributed to United Nations pandemic research, with Content Discovery Librarian **Adam Taves**, Research Data Management Librarian **Minglu Wang** and Teaching and Learning
Librarian **Angie An** supporting York's Stephen Hoffman, Dahdaleh Distinguished Chair in Global
Governance & Legal Epidemiology, in his work on a <u>UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19</u>
Recovery.

In addition to providing on-campus <u>study space</u> throughout the pandemic, and being a leader among Canadian academic libraries by implementing a curbside pickup service followed by <u>contactless book lockers</u> for both Keele and Glendon campuses in Fall 2020, the Libraries led the community through the transition to online learning in innumerable ways, by developing online <u>classes</u>, <u>teaching and instructional videos</u>, <u>workshops</u>, <u>events</u> and <u>student experiences</u>; rapidly acquiring access to virtual collections and digitizing existing library and archive materials, and expanding access to and responsiveness of <u>Ask & Services</u>.



Notable ways the Libraries' resources and expertise were leveraged during the response to COVID-19 include:

- Establishing a <u>Library Services During COVID-19</u> guide to organize information, updates and resources for users.
- Launching a service in partnership with the Copyright Support Office to digitize course learning materials, resulting in the digitization of over 6000 pages serving over 100 courses.
- Investing in expansion of eContent, including 38,872 new eBooks, as well as a new membership with HathiTrust giving users access to over 17 million digitized international items.

- Developing a suite of professional development resources to enable librarians and archivists to deliver their teaching online and collaborating with the Teaching Commons to support instructors University-wide.
- Creating 58 open access information literacy modules, with over 11,00 views, to support synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning.
- Collaborating with York International and York Orientation Director Association to produce an <u>online orientation module</u> to introduce incoming students to the Libraries' academic supports.

Enhancing Visibility and Impact of Research and Scholarship



The Libraries have been deeply involved in raising the visibility and profile of York's research and pedagogical innovations, notably by growing YorkSpace Institutional Repository submissions. Digital Publishing Librarian **Tomasz Mrozewski** strengthened the outreach program for York Digital Journal (YDJ) community members. This involved a revitalization of the YDJ list-serv, individualized outreach to journal editors, and the co-organization of a student journal publishing panel with University of Toronto. Mrozewski worked with three journals to strengthen publishing practices to be successfully indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) which is recognized for its rigorous review and selection process. YUL's Open Scholarship department offered workshops for the Vice-President, Research and Innovation's Research Commons series on the importance of research identifiers and open access publishing. The Digital Scholarship Infrastructure department conducted over 30 consultations to provide York community members expert advice in digital humanities, digital preservation, scholarly publishing, grant proposals, web archiving, project management, scholarly communications, and digital methodologies and tools. Associate Dean for Digital Engagement and Strategy Andrea Kosavic was a core member of the Electronic CV Management System Evaluation Group for the procurement of a campus-wide Electronic CV Management system which will help researchers and the institution articulate the breadth and strengths of their research offerings.

Partners in Student Success

Modernizing the Research Experience

Just before the beginning of 2020, YUL <u>introduced</u> Omni – a new academic search tool presented by the Ontario Council of University Libraries as an outcome of its Collaborative

Futures initiative – to the University community, giving users fast and easy access to a vast collection of diverse, high-quality, academic material from 14 of Ontario's universities. Omni empowers York students, providing an improved search experience by leveraging new technology, driven by a significant enhancement in the ways the Libraries manage resources behind the scenes, streamlining processes such as acquisitions, cataloguing, circulation, and reserves.

YUL's Curriculum & Course Support Department played a leadership role in developing procedures, resources, and training to support a successful transition to Omni for staff as well as students, faculty and researchers across the University. Key players in planning, designing and coordinating training for Omni through 2019 and 2020 included **Sophie Bury**, Director of Learning Commons and Reference Services, Library Accessibility Services Manager **Meredith Hatton** and Branch Access Service Manager **Tanya Prince**, as well as Teaching and Learning Librarian **Kalina Grewal** and Content Discovery Librarian **Adam Taves**, supported by the creation of a <u>Library Guide</u> and Omni open house sessions and workshops for faculty and graduate students at both Keele and Glendon campuses.

Enhancing Consultation Services



YUL's Curriculum & Course Support Department launched a new <u>Book a Consultation</u> online registration system in January 2020 to connect students and researchers with librarians faster and more conveniently than ever before. To inform development of an effective model, Learning Commons and Reference Services Director **Sophie Bury** engaged in research and planning including a needs and gaps survey for YUL librarians. Subject and data librarians began offering consultation services through

this new model in January 2020, both virtually and in person. In March 2020, Application Support Specialist **Ali Sadaqain** supported the transition to virtual meetings as the primary form of consultation in response to pandemic-related restrictions.

Working Together with Students

Significant accomplishments in the areas of teaching and learning include:

- The <u>YUL Teaching Calendar</u> feature of the YUL class database was deployed by the Library Digital Systems & Initiatives department, offering an easier and more organized way to manage and track class bookings.
- YUL's Learning Commons and Student Learning & Academic Success departments
 collaborated to create a new <u>Learning Commons orientation video</u>, distributed to each
 of York's Colleges for use in virtual orientation events in August 2020.
- A library curriculum was successfully embedded into all the ESL classes offered at York during the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Digital Publishing Librarian Tomasz Morzewski helped organize and run the <u>Student Journal Forum 2020</u>, a panel discussion and workshop featuring speakers and attendees from York, hosted in partnership with the University of Toronto.
- Digital Scholarship Librarian Kris Joseph delivered a new workshop on online privacy and security for researchers as part of Research Data Training Camp offerings, and completed work on <u>11 asynchronous</u>, openly licensed modules on advanced use of Zotero citation management software.

Creating Positive Change

Director recognized for contributions to archivist community

Anna St.Onge, Director of Digital Scholarship Infrastructure, was recognized by the Archives Association of Ontario with the James J. Talman Award for her "innovative work in bringing archival theories and methodologies to digital scholarship and for her continuing efforts to put challenging ideas and beliefs into action." The award is given to individuals who have "demonstrated an outstanding level of imagination and innovation in contributing to the profession, their institution or the archival community, or who have challenged conventional thinking about archival work." St.Onge is the fourth archivist and fifth recipient with York connections to be honoured with the Talman award.

Indigenous Film Collection

As part of YUL's Indigenous Content Working Group, Teaching and Learning Librarian **Norda Bell,** and Digital Scholarship Metadate Librarian **David Montgomery**, collaborated on the Indigenous Film Collection Project to proactively identify gaps and build the Libraries' collection of films *about* Indigenous groups and *by* Indigenous film makers. Norda and David consulted with Indigenous faculty members and members of the University's Indigenous Council to identify and purchase key Indigenous films.

Leadership in Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB)

YUL launched a multi-year strategy to evaluate services and spaces from an anti-racist, anti-oppression, inclusion and belonging perspective. This has included an organizational assessment, development of an EDIB toolkit, forming an EDIB Committee to draft a YUL EDIB Strategic Plan and Roadmap, and organization of Customized EDIB training for all YUL staff in coordination with York's Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion. Hiring committees were also launched to increase Black and Indigenous representation in senior management and faculty.

Accessibility

Building on the success of the OCUL <u>Accessibility Symposium</u> held at York University in 2019, <u>Library Accessibility Services</u> (LAS) increased capacity of more than 350 users to engage with their academic work by supporting both the physical and technological environments within the Accessibility Lab. A pilot project of having study space monitors was established with very positive feedback from students who utilize the <u>Adaptive Lab</u>. YU-Card access was installed to ensure that nonregistered users could no longer access the space. YUL's reputation as a leader in Library accessibility services was further highlighted in the development of a Master Space Plan for Scott Library, which includes a vision to expand the Adaptive Lab.

Engagement with Open Scholarship

OPEN EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Dean of Libraries Joy Kirchner partnered with York's Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning, to form the University's <u>Open Education Steering Committee</u>, dedicated to advancing innovations online teaching and learning, global accessibility of teaching material and enhanced visibility of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Steering Committee members Teaching and Learning Librarian **Stephanie Quail** and Digital Engagement Librarian **Sarah Coysh** supported this work in the Libraries by establishing an open education training program to help faculty locate open educational resources for their courses and teach them the necessary skills to create their own open educational resources, and developed a training program for <u>Academic Innovation Fund</u> recipients to help project leads create open educational resources for their AIF projects and deposit them into the <u>YorkSpace</u> Institutional Repository.

OPERATIONALIZING THE SENATE POLICY ON OPEN ACCESS

In 2019, the Senate of York University approved an <u>Open Access Policy</u>, reinforcing York's commitment to the democratization of knowledge by making its research widely accessible to citizenry and the global community. The policy was developed by York's <u>Open Access/Open Data Steering Committee</u>, co-chaired by Dean of Libraries **Joy Kirchner**.

Since the passing of the Open Access Policy, YUL has undertaken many efforts to strengthen York's research community's interest in the adoption of open publishing practices. The Libraries' Open Scholarship department advanced the prioritization of open access at York University through such efforts as:

- Developing a mediated deposit service, resulting in an increase in independent and mediated deposits in the <u>YorkSpace</u> Institutional Repository.
- Strategic communication efforts coordinated through the Research Commons, leading to an increased level of interest in mediated deposits.

- Supporting researchers with an author rights support consultation service that helps during transfer agreement negotiations with publishers.
- Establishing preliminary criteria for supporting membership in Open Access journals.
- Refining longer term recommendations of the administration of <u>YUL's Open Access</u>
 Author Fund.

Led by Director of Content Development and Analysis **Patti Ryan,** and Director of Open Scholarship **Dany Savard**, the Libraries continue to support content development efforts that can parallel the intentions and directives outlined in York's Open Access Policy. This has involved working on local approaches to tracking and benchmarking our collection budget investments in Open Access and tracking author-level gold Open Access spending at the institution to better ascertain how YUL investments in Open Access should be improved.

Community Engagement

Events

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM



The Experiential Education (EE) Symposium on January 21 and 22, 2020, saw 32 students, representing all the Faculties and Glendon College, present posters detailing their experiential education opportunities. Each of them talked about the growth required by the challenges of their placements or class experiences. Dean of Libraries Joy Kirchner gave remarks at the event, which was co-sponsored by York University Libraries along with the Associate Vice-President, Teaching and Learning. The symposium featured a panel discussion focusing on the benefits, both in the classroom and the field, of experiential education.

STEACIE HACKFEST

Led by Scholarly Publishing Librarian **John Dupuis**, the eighth annual Steacie Science and Engineering Library Hackfest took place on February 19 and 20, 2020 and welcomed over 80 student participants who came together to learn as teams and turn ideas into reality. Students showed their tremendous inventiveness by presenting projects such as YU Announce (a project seeking to save users time and resources on posters and



marketing), Kindred (a project seeking to help individuals keep lines of communication open with the elderly and children), and Classroom Insight (a project seeking to address the bias against shy students).

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR AND ART WALK



More than 50 posters and 10 pieces of artwork representing over 70 students took over the Scott Library Collaboratory when the Libraries hosted the eighth annual <u>Undergraduate</u> <u>Research Fair and Art Walk</u> on March 4, 2020. Sponsored by York University Libraries and the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation, the event honoured student researchers and artists and provided them with an opportunity to share their work. Students from both Keele and Glendon campuses and from multiple disciplines – social sciences, fine arts, humanities, health, sciences and environmental studies – were at the fair and eager to demonstrate their findings. Projects included an exploration of long-distance relationships, to an application of utilitarianism, deontology and ethics to the ways political parties communicate with audiences.

Awards were presented in eight different categories, with students taking home monetary prizes for Best Lower-Year Project, Best Upper-Year Project, Best Thesis/Major Research Paper (MRP) Project, the Library Information Literacy Award, Best Poster, Best Group Project, the People's Choice Award as well as the first ever Art Walk Exhibit Award.



All presenters received an invitation to submit an article on their project, to be considered for publication in the refereed e-journal <u>Review YOUR</u>

<u>Review</u> (York Online Undergraduate Research Review) published by York University Libraries and associated with the fair. The Art Walk award winning submission appears on the cover of the e-journal.

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH JESSE THISTLE

Alumni Engagement and York University Libraries hosted a <u>virtual fireside chat</u> on August 18, 2020, featuring alumnus Jesse Thistle, author of the award-winning memoir, *From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way.* During the virtual event, moderated by Dean of Libraries **Joy Kirchner**, Thistle shared his journey writing his first novel and discussed the influences and impact that York had on his success. Now a rising Indigenous scholar, Thistle spoke to Kirchner and listeners candidly and honestly about the experiences that led him to where he is today, and how he found his way back into the circle of his Indigenous culture and family through education.

OPEN ACCESS WEEK "HONOURING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING" EVENT

Data Services Librarian **Rosa Orlandini** and Teaching and Learning Librarian **Norda Bell** received \$2000 in funding from the Indigeneity in Teaching and Learning Fund for their online event titled <u>"Perspectives on Openness: Honouring Indigenous Ways of Knowing"</u> on October 20, 2020. This moderated panel discussion centered Indigenous approaches to open scholarship with the aim of the York community gaining a better understanding of Indigenous approaches to research, ownership, control, access, and possession of information and data. The aim of the Indigeneity in Teaching and Learning Fund was to encourage faculty members to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives in York's teaching and learning. The event was the culmination of The Learning Circle series, which was organized to learn about Indigenous history, cultural practices and knowledge with respect to research and scholarship. Several York University librarians, archivists and library staff explored these topics during this professional development series. Inspired by the theme, "Open with Purpose: Taking Action to

Build Structural Equity Inclusion," the panel, moderated by Teaching and Learning Librarian **Stacy Allison-Cassin**, celebrated Open Access Week.

Outreach

LA CASITA AZUL

The Libraries' La Casita Azul location, part of York's Las Nubes Project in Costa Rica, continues to serve as a vital link to local communities and to provide students and researchers at York's EcoCampus with services and resources in support of its semester abroad program. In early 2020, Dean of Libraries Joy Kirchner was joined by Dana Craig, Director, Student Learning and Academic Success, and Tom Scott, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, as part of a group of York dignitaries,



including York's President & Vice-Chancellor Rhonda L. Lenton, that visited the EcoCampus in Costa Rica and La Casita Azul. This visit was pivotal to the future planning of the Las Nubes Project and La Casita Azul, and provided those involved with an opportunity to showcase the Libraries' role as a vital community partner. Local residents expressed accolades for the meaningful and impactful effect La Casita Azul has had with workshops and other planned activities for the local community. Despite pandemic-related setbacks, Tom Scott and Dana Craig continue to play vital leadership roles in advancing this partnership for the Libraries.

HOME MADE VISIBLE



The Home Made Visible partnership with Regent Park Film
Festival and Charles Street Video was shortlisted for
the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in
Community Programming, Canada's highest honor in the heritage
field. The project was previously awarded the Lieutenant
Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in
Conservation. Home Made Visible highlights the personal
histories of BIPOC communities in Canadian public memory

through engagement with archives, research, art and public programming. Home Made Visible aimed to preserve histories, celebrate the joy captured in home movies, and explore how archives have the power to shape who we become and how we relate to one another. Lead by Media Archivist **Katrina Cohen-Palacios**, this collaboration saw 39 donors contributing almost 300 video clips that continue to be uploaded to the <u>York University Digital Library</u>.

JANE-FINCH COMMUNITY

As part of the <u>Jane-Finch Community Partnership (JFCRP)</u> the Libraries are involved in a SSHRC-funded project to develop a community research ethics process and accessible research results for the Jane-Finch community in Toronto. In particular, the Libraries are

contributing to the Collections Working Group, establishing a collection of Jane-Finch scholarship to meet community needs. This involves ongoing training of the group to identify research that is related to the Jane Finch Community (with help from Teaching and Learning Librarian Maura Matesic) and how to organize and disseminate this research (with help from Anna St.Onge, Director of Digital Scholarship Infrastructure). Through this work, the community identified the "Jane-Finch Corridor (North York, Ont.)" subject heading as problematic and discriminatory, as it reduces their neighbourhood to something to pass through instead of engaging with. York University librarians – including Associate Dean, Digital Engagement and Strategy, Andrea Kosavic; Content Discovery Librarian Adam Taves; Metadata, Discovery and Access Librarians Heather Fraser and Haiyun Cao; and Digital Scholarship Metadata Librarian Marcia Salmon – worked with the community to identify a new subject heading "Jane-Finch Community (Toronto, Ont.)" and connected with the Library of Congress to update the heading. A Jane-Finch Community (Toronto, Ont) authority was also created in OCLC Connexion. OCLC Connexion allows libraries to create and edit high-quality bibliographic and authority records and then share them with the entire OCLC cooperative, which benefits libraries around the world. In other words, updating the OCLC Connection authority file has a global cascading effect for correcting a subject heading in library catalogues.

GREEK CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT



The <u>Greek Canadian History Project</u> (GCHP) is an initiative committed to identifying, acquiring, digitizing, preserving, and providing access to primary source materials that reflect the experiences of Canada's Greek immigrants and their descendants. The GCHP plans to be a continued repository for information, accessible for current and future research in broad thematic fields such as social, cultural, and economic practices of Greeks in Canada. While this project seeks to preserve the

primary source documentation of the community, it is also intended to provide online access to a selection of records for use by researchers, scholars, teachers, students and the general community interested in learning more about the Greek experience in Canada. This open and accessible online portal promotes free dissemination of knowledge and scholarship while preserving the original sources in YUL's Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections.

COLLABORATION WITH OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Co-led by Director of Digital Scholarship Infrastructure **Anna St.Onge** of YUL with Naomi Recollet of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), this project aims to establish a preservation repository with flexible online discovery that supports citizen engagement with over 2000 archival audiovisual recordings documenting over 40 years of programming by the cultural centre based on Manitoulin Island. Working with the History of Indigenous Peoples (HIP) Network at York, the project is committed to facilitating scholarly and community access while respecting cultural protocols and ensuring the institutional autonomy of the OCF.

Building this sustainable digital preservation infrastructure facilitates community access and aids local arts programming, cultural events, language programs in Anishinaabemowin, and knowledge preservation and stewardship. This initiative received \$250,000 in funding from the Canada Council for the Arts Public Access to the Arts and Citizen Engagement.

SPACE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

Scott Library Feasibility and Functional Space Plan Stakeholder Engagement
Planning for the future of Scot Library hit full stride in 2020 after Dean of Libraries **Joy Kirchner** was successful in advocating to York's Provost to champion the library's rejuvenation as one of two faculty capital projects supported by the University's Board of Governors.



As part of the <u>development of a Master Space Plan for Scott Library</u>, Moriyama and Teshima Architects, the firm awarded the bid following a comprehensive procurement process, embarked on a stakeholder engagement process from December 2019 to April 2020 to hear from users and map to a new vision for a 21st century research library. 24 meetings were held with functional groupings of library users. (e.g. undergraduate students, graduate students, Digital Humanities Communities) and by academic units/faculties. These engagement sessions included an Open House on February 24, 2020, which launched an online survey to collect stakeholder feedback. The completed Master Space Plan intends to not only refresh an aging building, but also to recast the services and resources provided by the Libraries in new and innovative ways. The Plan will inform the next phases of the planned renovation including fundraising and sequencing.

Future Spaces

Virtual Experiences

YUL's Digital Scholarship Infrastructure Department's Media Creation Lab, backed by York's Academic Innovation Fund, partnered with faculty to make use of the Libraries' newly-purchased virtual reality equipment and adapted spaces to provide onsite, interactive VR experiences for 30 students in instructor Carolyn Steele's Arts in Digital Environments course. The success of this initiative led to the development of online interdisciplinary introductory VR workshops in partnerships with York's School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design.



Markham Campus Library

2020 saw several important milestones reached in the planning of a new library for York's future Markham Campus, based on a vision of creating immersive, interdisciplinary spaces for networking, experimentation, discovery, and creation of new knowledge in support of Markham Campus curricula.

YUL completed the final architectural data sheets for space and equipment for the planned library, determining where equipment, library furnishings, and other resources will be located. In addition to establishing a technology budget, YUL participated in discussions on early staffing planning, IT governance, and how the Libraries' services and spaces can be used to support a common curriculum for Markham Campus.

2020

By The Numbers

_	
17	Open Educational Resources deposited to the YorkSpace Institutional Repository
18	linear metres of University records acquired by the Clara Thomas Archvies and Special Collections
30	digital scholarship consultations delivered to York community members
53	courses supported by new digitization service
75	per cent increase in digitized public domain print maps made discoverable on York University Digital Library
123	linear metres of private textual records acquired by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections
270	clips of family movies donated to the Home Made Visible project
350	students supported by Library Accessibility Services
420	GB of private digital records acquired by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections
930	photographs acquired by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections
,114	children's books acquired by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections
3.641	user queries responded to by Curriculum & Course Support Department