

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: University Library Committee

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2024 - 2025

Date Report Submitted: May 6, 2025

Report Submitted by: Dr. Sarah Egan Warren, Chair

Number of times committee met: 4

Name of Chair Elect: Dr. Sarah Egan Warren

RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The University Library Committee (ULC) is a Standing Committee of North Carolina State University. The ULC advises the Senior Vice Provost and the Director of Libraries on issues of library policy related to the allocation of collection funds, the allocation of library space, and the development of resources for instruction, research, and the general program of library service to the institution as a whole.

In 2024-25, the committee's 20 members included 13 current faculty members, one staff member, two graduate students, two undergraduate students, and a representative of the Association of Retired Faculty. The Senior Vice Provost and Director of Libraries, Greg Raschke, also serves as an ex-officio member. At each meeting, Raschke or a fellow Libraries administrator provided an update on the Libraries' activities and operations within the university context, highlighting significant initiatives, achievements, and challenges and inviting questions and comments from the committee.

Planned Closure of the Hill Library for Electrical Upgrades

At the October 21, 2024 meeting, Patrick Deaton, Associate Director for Learning Spaces and Capital Management, announced that the Hill Library would be closed from May 5, 2025 through July for necessary upgrades to its electrical infrastructure. Essential services will continue over the summer, with some services and staff members temporarily relocated to the James B. Hunt Jr. Library on Centennial Campus. The Hill Library will reopen no later than August 1 to allow for preparations for the fall semester.

The Libraries' work with Generative AI

Tyler Kroon, Research Librarian for Engineering, and Adam Rogers, Learning Innovation Librarian, described how the Libraries support the university community in learning about and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications in teaching, learning, and research, and through our workshops and training activities. Librarians have developed an AI workshop called "Critical Play with Generative AI" that enables students to learn together in groups through hands-on experience and collaboration. Midjourney is the generative AI tool used with ChatGPT as the brainstorming tool. The Libraries also offers an online [AI Research and Instruction Guide](#).

The Data Science and AI Academy, one of the Libraries' closest partners, is leading and coordinating university AI efforts and policy development, with participation of Libraries representatives.

State of the Libraries, Fall 2024

On November 14, 2024, Greg Raschke provided an update on the State of the Libraries. Use and demand are strong, both in the buildings and online, continuing to rise each year following the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries' events, programs, and wellness activities have been well attended. Staff recruitment has been highly successful, attributable in part to the Libraries' strong reputation regionally and nationally. The biggest challenge continues to be keeping pace with the university's growing enrollment without the associated funding, given the increasing collections costs over the years due to inflation.

News about the Libraries' budget requests through the University Strategic Budget Initiative allocation process is expected in December. It has been the best three years ever in fundraising for the Libraries – we have the highest performing Development team by percentage at the university. Recently, the most popular areas for donor contributions have been student scholarships and student success initiatives.

Collections Budget Update and Approval

The proposed FY25 collections budget was presented, totalling \$12,515,363, with no reductions anticipated, but noting the ongoing impact of inflation, which is being addressed with one-time funds. The Libraries' focus is on cost containment and maximizing access to content. The budget distribution, with a significant portion allocated to journals and databases, was discussed. Currently, 99.9% of journal purchases and 92% of book purchases are in electronic formats.

The Libraries supports open access (OA) publishing through a number of publisher agreements (including "Read and Publish") that provide savings on article processing charges (APCs) for authors. Those agreements are listed on its website (lib.ncsu.edu). From 2020 to 2023, over 580 OA articles were published, saving \$1.8 million in APCs. Faculty members and researchers are encouraged to register for an ORCiD ID

(<https://orcid.org/>) to help with managing and facilitating access to their scholarly work, and to connect their ORCID profile with their Unity ID in the Libraries' Citation Index to enable comprehensive management of their citations over time.

The committee approved the collections budget for the fiscal year.

Course Ready Materials Program

On February 6, 2025, the committee discussed the implementation of the Course Ready Materials Program, managed by the Wolfpack Outfitters Bookstore. According to its website, "Course Ready is NC State's digital-preferred, flat-rate course materials program designed to streamline access to essential course materials for undergraduate students enrolled in undergraduate courses at NC State."

Beginning in spring 2025, every student will be charged \$280/semester to have access to all course materials, on an opt-out model. The Libraries will help students to understand their rights and help faculty members consider their adoption of textbooks, including any open access options. The adoption of this program is likely to affect the Libraries' Course Reserves service and Textbook Lending Program.

Data Science Services and Initiatives

Mara Blake, Department Head, Data & Visualization Services (DVS), described the department's support for a wide range of data science approaches and tools, including geographic information systems (GIS); data analysis strategies and processes; consultation and instruction on programming languages such as R and Python; and data visualization. The department partners with the Data Science and AI Academy (DSA) to provide the Data Science Consulting Program, which is staffed by graduate students from the Statistics department. The Libraries provides two specialized Data Labs for data computing and work: the Data Experience Lab at the Hill Library and the Dataspace at the Hunt Library.

Branch Libraries Overview

Carolyn Argentati, Donald E. Moreland Deputy Director of Libraries, offered an overview of the three branch libraries that are part of the NC State University Libraries system, complementing the two main libraries by providing resources and services for their primary communities in several colleges and for the entire university community. They are the Harrye B. Lyons Design Library, the Natural Resources Library, and the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Library of Veterinary Medicine. The branch libraries are funded and operated through partnerships between the Libraries and the colleges with which they are located. Details about them are provided on the Libraries' website (<https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/>).

There are three additional "Campus Information Centers" that provide spaces and collections in support of their missions and in collaboration with the Libraries: the African American Cultural Center Library and Media Room; the Media and Education

Technology and Research Center (METRC) in the College of Education (currently located temporarily at the Hill Library); and the LGBTQ Pride Center Collection.

Integrated Library System (Alma) Migration Update

Kristen Wilson, Discovery Systems Manager, Digital Library Initiatives, described an upcoming migration of the Libraries' "integrated library system" (ILS) software from a product called Sirsi Symphony (in use for over 23 years) to a product called Alma from Ex Libris. Alma was chosen by the UNC System libraries, including NC State, through a competitive selection process. It is a cloud-hosted service that offers better support for the Libraries' workflows than the existing system. Implementation is planned for July 2026, and preparatory work is currently underway.

The ILS supports a range of core library functions, including the following:

- Ordering and paying for materials
- Managing the catalog and inventory
- Managing library user data
- Checking out items to our users
- Allowing users to request materials

Changes to the software interface will be most visible to Libraries staff conducting operational, "behind-the-scenes" work. The Libraries' web-based user interfaces are not expected to change significantly, and user services overall will be improved. Additional updates about these changes will be provided to the ULC and the university community in the 2025-26 academic year.

Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) changes

Since its founding in 1977—and with roots dating back to cooperative collecting agreements in the 1930s—TRLN has played an essential role in bringing together the library systems of Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, and NC Central Universities. As the oldest library consortium in the U.S., TRLN has built a distinguished legacy of innovation, collaboration, and capacity building in the library profession.

In March 2025, the TRLN Executive Committee announced some changes to refocus TRLN's strategy and structure in the current "digital-first" environment, making it a smaller, more streamlined organization that prioritizes the activities that it is uniquely positioned to advance:

- Resource sharing among member libraries
- Print courier service between member libraries
- Communities of practice among the staff of member institutions
- Maximizing collaboration within Alma during and after each institution's transition to the same library enterprise system

These changes should remain mostly transparent to library users. All of the member libraries are committed to maintaining their high standards of resource sharing and delivery that maximize the return on our investments in our research collections.

Libraries Hours for 2025-26

The Libraries seeks to maximize access to our spaces and services, including through the 24-hour schedule (Sunday through Thursday) at the Hill and Hunt Libraries during the academic year. Both main libraries are open 361 days a year. In addition to in-person services, chat reference and other Ask Us services are always available when the Libraries are open. The proposed Libraries hours for 2025-26 were approved.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)

N/A