

Collaborate | Connect | Empower

Corette Library & Simperman Learning Commons

Annual Report July 2021- June 2022

Together, the Corette Library and Simperman Learning Commons are a learning-centered, collaborative space for intellectual freedom and curiosity informed by playful growth and welcoming access for all. We do this by promoting life-long learning, managing the tools needed to support Carroll's curriculum, and providing support that is engaging, empathetic, collaborative, and innovative.

Executive Summary

The Corette Library and Simperman Learning Commons experienced a number of changes, including new personnel and renewed exploration of who and what we are. Our activities for the 2021-2022 academic year centered around four themes: Creating a clear outward-facing identity; serving as a collaborative, student-centric destination; providing accessible resources and services; and preserving Carroll College's history. The following report will summarize why these themes are important to us, outline what we have accomplished, and suggest paths for moving forward.

Library & Learning Commons: Who We Are

Personnel changes influenced much of our work. Cathy Day (the Vice President of Academic Affairs), Stephen Haddad (Electronic Resources Librarian), and Matt Larsen (Academic Technology Specialist) retired or resigned. We welcomed Jennifer Glowienka (Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs), Amy Honchell (Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs), Jennifer Oates (Library Director), Rachel Martin (Academic Technology Specialist), and Nalani (Nani) Hodges (Electronic Resources Librarian) in their new roles. The arrival of Rachel and Nani in June 2022 marks the first time in over a year that the Corette Library and Simperman Learning Commons have had all positions filled (though all of these positions remain less than 12-month contracts).

The influx of new people fueled discussions about who the Corette Library and Simperman Learning Commons are and what we want to be. While these conversations remain ongoing, three goals emerged: creating a welcoming space, defining our outward-facing identity, and finding ways to collaborate.

Create a Welcoming, Accessible, Safe Space for All

We are very passionate about providing a welcoming space for all. This is particularly important after the rash of vandalism to LGBTQ+ signs on campus last spring. We strongly believe in equity and inclusion in terms of those we serve as well as the resources and services we offer.

Define Our Outward-Facing Identity

The Carroll College community may not understand the distinction between the Library and the Learning Commons. We embrace that ambiguity and have taken steps to consolidate our messaging and, hopefully, improve our reach. Our accomplishments in this area include:

- Turning the Library webpage into the Corette Library and Simperman Learning Commons [webpage](#), which highlights all of our offerings and latest news.
- Establishing joint branding via PowerPoint templates and posted hours signs. (We are very grateful to Jeff Wald for creating these for us.)
- Creating a joint YouTube page, including a Tutorials [channel](#) for our video tutorials, which make use of our new PowerPoint templates.
- Consolidating our board and annual reports into a signal document.
- Providing signage for the Communication Center, Communication Lab, and, Lightboard Studio. (The Communications Department very graciously funded this.)

Find Ways to Collaborate Internally and Across Campus

As we grappled with our public identity, we also began exploring ways to collaborate among ourselves and across campus.

Within the Library and Learning Commons

We achieved most of rebranding our accomplishments via ad hoc conversations and emails. More formal efforts to collaborate and formalize our internal communication include:

- Establishing bi-weekly meetings with the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Directors of Academic Technology, the Communication Center, the Library, and the Writing Center.
- A day-long retreat in May, where we made headway in redefining what the Library and Learning Commons means to us.
- Discussing future retreats and what we want to learn from them.

Beyond the Library and Learning Commons

Embedding the Library and Learning Commons into the curriculum and the campus remains an ongoing goal. While freshman and some subject-specific orientations and courses regularly include the Library & Learning Commons, we hope to expand our reach and create new partnerships within the Carroll community.

We continue to support the public by providing access to our spaces and physical collections by appointment, and sharing our materials via InterLibrary Loan with Lewis and Clark Library. The Communication Center also works with local individuals and organizations.

A Collaborative, Student-Centered Destination

The Library and Learning Commons strives to be a student-centered destination for collaboration, study, research, and technology. From August 2021 to July 2022, we were open 284 days for 3,018 hours and had 98,217 building visits. (For more information on our hours, see the [hours homepage](#). While this page lists hours for this academic year, they are similar to last year's hours.)

We continue to prepare for the upcoming renovation of the main floor (second level). The building plans have been finalized and feature a new podcasting studio, 3-D printing room, and technology studio. Other improvements include an ADA accessible elevator, dynamic study spaces, 9 new study rooms, a new tutoring room that is more visible, a small meeting room, a reimagined library staff area and circulation desk, and a 24/7 accessible space with a fireplace.

Accessible Resources and Services

Use of Information Resources

While electronic resources continue to be our most used Library resources, our print collections and InterLibrary Loan services remain well used. The self-checkout kiosks are the most popular way to check out Carroll-owned books.

Resource Usage	
Books	661 check outs (406 via self-checkout)
E-Books	41,928 views
E-Journal Articles	66,504 views
Streaming Media	235 views
DVDs	70 check outs
Reserve Materials	245 check outs
InterLibrary Loan – Lent to CC	416 items
InterLibrary Loan – Lent by CC	234 items

Student and Faculty Support

The Library and Learning Commons provide support for the Carroll community in various ways: in-class instruction sessions, one-on-one research support and tutoring, creating online videos, and working with faculty on tailoring assignments to meet information literacy, communication, or writing needs. We also launched a [YouTube Tutorials playlist](#) in February

2022. We view this as a living, growing set of resources that faculty can link to in Moodle and students can use as needed.

Library & Learning Commons Class and Individual Support

	Class Sessions	One-on-One Support
Library	32	107 (Reference & Research Assistance)
Communication Center	16	158
Writing Center	18	243

Library & Learning Commons YouTube Tutorials Views as of August 22, 2022

Tutorial	Views	Date Posted
The Art of Using Sources in your Papers	33	16 February 2022
Communication Center Introduction	48	9 February 2022
Finding Books and Articles Using Saints Search	15	10 March 2022
Integrating Sources into your Writing	37	16 February 2022
Scholarly (Peer-Reviewed) & Popular Sources	37	22 February 2022
Using InterLibrary Loan	38	15 February 2022

Student Support via Student Employees

The Library employed 17 student workers for 2,400 hours during the fall and spring semesters. Our student team members are vital for creating a welcoming atmosphere, assisting patrons, ensuring our physical collections are well-organized and easy to use, and helping us complete behind-the-scenes projects that keep our services as user-friendly and efficient as possible. Over the summer, we had three student workers for 160 hours. In addition to the duties listed above, they also assisted with special projects, including processing new additions to the Carroll Archives, creating internal documents to formalize some of our processes and procedures, and helping the Library Team keep services running smoothly.

Our students serve as ambassadors for the Library and Learning Commons. In training our student Library team members, we meet them where they are and aim to cultivate excellent ambassadors who embrace the importance of welcoming everyone, serving all with humility, and exploring new ideas and experiences. We do this through our training and by striving to lead by example.

Preserving Carroll's History

The Library seeks to document and share the Carroll College experience in terms of day-to-day life on campus and special events in Archives and scholarship created by our students and faculty.

Archives

We received and answered 13 Archives queries this past academic year, including questions from the producers of the movie, *Father Stu*. We continue to collect print materials, including adding digital scans of the class photos in O'Connell to our collection. An online Archives Exhibit is in the works and will be officially launched in Fall 2022. We hope to expand and improve access to our digital materials in the coming years. Documenting current Carroll College life has become more challenging with the shift from print to digital publications, communication, etc. We are working with various departments, including Marketing, to find ways to capture digital materials to preserve.

Carroll Scholars

Our Institutional Repository (Carroll Scholars) remains our primary mechanism for preserving and promoting Carroll scholarship. It is a popular site receiving 92,608 unique visitors during the 2021-2022 academic year. Currently, the student research, including some SURF projects and student theses, makes up the bulk of the Carroll Scholars content, but we welcome faculty contributions as well.