

Middlebury Library Annual Report: 2018-19

Introduction

Here at the library, we divide our time among four interconnected activities: designing and managing space, building and maintaining collections, delivering services to support the use of our spaces and collections, and developing ourselves to do all of the above. What follows are the highlights from 2018-19, documenting what was an exhilarating and at times challenging year.

Spaces

A core part of our mission is to provide spaces that inspire excellence in teaching, study, research, and the production of knowledge.

Physical Spaces

Library Space Master Plan The Library Space Team worked closely with the architectural firm Marble Fairbanks to create a Master Plan for Davis Family and Armstrong Library. This plan, developed through extensive engagement with our community, will provide us with a long-range plan for how to use our library spaces in the coming years in order to best meet our evolving needs.

Digital Spaces

Library Website Redesign The library web team worked closely with the Office of Communications to convert the library website to a new design. We created a new information architecture, updated or wrote new copy, and overall simplified the site with an eye to making it even easier for our patrons to find the resources and services that they are looking for.

Upgraded Library Catalog We upgraded MIDCAT, our library catalog, to a new version. This allowed us to move our database to the cloud, providing better security and backups, as well as simplifying future system upgrades. At the same time, we merged our library database with that of the Middlebury Institute. By default, patrons on each campus will view their library's holdings separately, but, if desired, they can also easily see the other library's holdings. Additionally, this upgrade provides behind-the-scenes improvements for staff who work with and maintain our catalog data.

New Library Search Engine We decided to switch our discovery tool Summon to a new product which is both superior in its ability to index the wide array of materials that we provide access to, and is less expensive. The new tool-- LibrarySearch -- is also going to be used by MIIS, providing the Institute faculty and students with a long-anticipated ability to search across their electronic holdings, both print and online.

Collections

A key part of our mission is our work to sustain access to collections that delight our current and future scholars.

Deaccessioning

As part of our ongoing work to ensure that our collections are optimized to meet the needs of our community, we continued to remove materials that are no longer useful, or for which we have excellent digital editions. Highlights of this effort include:

- Our Collections Management unit withdrew 11,000 unneeded multiple copies over the course of the last three years.
- At Armstrong Library, we reduced our holdings of books and bound periodicals. 20 of 40 bookcases were cleared. The bound periodicals collection was reduced by 90%. We have reduced our printed collection of Current Periodicals from 82 titles to 32. For all but three, we're keeping only the last six months. The vast majority of those periodicals we have now acquired online, including one major backfile we purchased specifically in order to make them more accessible and free the shelf space.
- We worked with our faculty advisory committee to revise our plans for an ambitious deaccessioning project that we will begin in the Fall of 2019.
- During the summer of 2018 we reduced the size of the Davis Family Library Reference Collection by 496 linear feet through deselection and transferring materials to the circulating collection. Two empty units of shelving were removed to create a new study area. **Shelves were removed from an adjacent empty unit of low shelving to allow better use as what we believe to be Addison County's largest standing desk.** This new area was immediately popular with students.

Oral History We launched an oral history project called "Sound & Storytelling" that, through a series of workshops, helped develop our community's ability to engage in oral history projects in general.

Digital Middlebury Magazine Through a collaboration between Special Collections and Communications, a complete digital archive of [Middlebury Magazine](#) (1981-2018) is now available.

Digitized Vermont Life Through collaboration with a wide range of academic departments, along with other Vermont institutions, we have made the full run of [Vermont Life](#) magazine available in the Internet Archive.

Launch of the Vermont Green Mountain Archive, a Hub of the Digital Public Library of America Patrick Wallace and Rebekah Irwin led a consortium of seven Vermont schools and cultural heritage organizations to launch the [Vermont Green Mountain Archive](#), Vermont's hub that contributes to the [Digital Public Library of America](#). The hub currently contains over 55,000 artifacts.

New DVD Digitization Service We worked with ITS to launch a new DVD digitization-on-demand service which allows faculty who wish to stream a video for a course to convert a DVD to a streaming file.

Services

In order for our faculty, students, and community members to make best use of our spaces and collections, we provide services that help guide, orient, and instruct.

Information Literacy Website In an effort to highlight the importance of information literacy and how faculty can work with the library to integrate it into their courses, we created a new [Information Literacy website](#).

Winter Term New Faculty Workshop We inaugurated what we hope will become an annual event: a half-day orientation to the library for new faculty that is part of their month-long Winter Term orientation.

Digital Fluencies Series In conjunction with our colleagues in DLINQ and the DLA, we created a digital fluencies series that explores various aspects of digital fluency. Amy Collier from DLINQ and Mike Roy hosted an Academic Roundtable on “What Is Digital Fluency & Why Does It Matter?,” Ryan Clement led “Digital Fluencies 101: Databases,” Terry Simpkins along with College Counsel Hannah Ross talked about copyright, and Patrick Wallace led a discussion on “The Technology & Ethics of Social Media & Web Harvesting.”

Library User Experience (LUXE) Testing We created a new monthly user testing event to explore the student and faculty experience of the library both as physical building and as something experienced via screens of various sizes.

Library Carpentries Workshops We became members of the [Library Carpentries](#) organization. Ryan Clement, Wendy Shook, Leanne Galletly, and Jonathan Kemp became certified instructors. They then conducted a two-day Software Carpentry workshop for faculty, students, and staff on how to perform data analysis and how to manage the process to make it as automated and reproducible as possible, and a series of workshops for summer research assistants on data/computing skills to allow researchers to get more done in less time and with less pain.

Creative Outreach Katrina Spencer organized, marketed, and led two events. First, she held a **Scavenger Hunt for first generation students** to help orient them to the resources and services available at our library. Second, she held a reprise of **Black History Month Jeopardy** game that attracted a standing-room only audience.

New Instructional Videos Amy Frazier led the process of creating two new library videos. [Top tips for starting your research](#) provides students with our best ideas for how to use the library in the process of a research project. Amy also assisted Carrie Macfarlane and the Academic Integrity Committee in guiding DLINQ interns through the production of an [Academic Transitions Video](#), which provides practical advice for entering college students.

Presentations, Lectures, and Press Coverage

We've made an effort to publicize our work by getting others to write about what we do, and to participate in the intellectual life of campus. Here are some of the outcomes of that effort.

- *The Middlebury Campus* featured Special Collections in two pieces: [Walking Through Middlebury's Past: An Intro to Special Collections](#) and [The Past is Not a Place for Strangers: Beer and Special Collections](#).
- Danielle Rougeau delivered an Alumni College lecture in August, 2018 "Robert Frost and the Spiral Press".
- Wendy Shook's description of a 19th-century daguerrotype appeared in the winter issue of *Middlebury Magazine*.
- Amy Frazier's work was described in a "Day in the Life" story that appeared in the fall issue of *Middlebury Magazine*.
- Terry Simpkins, Katrina Spencer, Rebekah Irwin, Wendy Shook, and Mike Roy provided advice to new students in [What Every First-Year Student Should Know About Middlebury Libraries](#)
- Rebekah Irwin and Danielle Rougeau offered a public lecture in conjunction with the fall exhibit "Frankenstein and Science at Middlebury 1818".
- Rebekah Irwin was featured in "[Out of Office: The places they work. A photographic essay](#)" in the August *Middlebury Magazine*.
- We made the front page of *The Middlebury Campus* in their article [Middlebury Memes Page Partners with Archives](#).
- The [Special Collections Instagram](#) account reached 1,000 followers (and continues to grow).

Collaborations On Campus and Beyond

Much of the work that we do involves collaborating with colleagues across campus and across the country. Here are a few of the notable collaborations from this year:

- **Write In** The Writing Center, the CTLR, and the Libraries co-sponsored the third annual Middlebury College Write-in December at the Davis Family Library and the Anderson Freeman Center. The Write-In offers a one-stop writing support party for students, with snacks and prizes, as well as writing tutors and research librarians available to help with any questions that a scholar might encounter in preparing their end-of-term papers. More than 70 students participated this year. 13 students worked with the research librarians, and 10 students worked with Peer Writing Tutors.
- **Library Contribution to the Clifford Symposium** Amy Frazier, Danielle Rougeau, Joseph Watson, Rebekah Irwin, and Kaitlin Buerge collaborated with Professor Larry Yarborough to create a display in the library atrium as part of the Clifford Symposium on the work of Toni Morrison. The display included video footage of Morrison and books by and about her.
- **Makerspace** Leanne Galletly helped in the planning for Middlebury's [Makerspace](#).
- **19th Amendment Exhibition** Special Collections staff worked with the Museum to acquire materials to support a Museum exhibition and First Year Seminar on the centennial of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote.
- **Book Burial** Special Collections co-sponsored (with the Scott Center and the Department of Religion) a [Book Burial](#) at the Knoll.
- **Freedom to Marry** Special Collections loaned to the New York Historical Society materials from the Vermont Freedom to Marry records for an [exhibit](#) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.
- **LibGuides @ St. Mikes** In January, Ryan Clement and Leanne Galletly visited with librarians at St. Michael's College to talk about how we use LibGuides.

- **Repository Software Development** We joined with eight other schools in the [Lasir project](#) which is a collaborative approach to making improvements to Islandora, the software we use for our repository.
- **Project Stand** Patrick Wallace collaborated with [Project STAND \(Student Activism Now Documented\)](#), a centralized archive of digital and analog primary sources that document the activities of student groups of historically marginalized communities (e.g., African American, Chicano/a, LGBTQ, religious minorities, disabled, etc.).

Exhibits & Events

The library remained a popular space for exhibits and for hosting events. We also participated in putting up exhibits across campus, promoting use of our resources, building community, and creating ties to the curriculum and important campus conversations.

Library Exhibits

Library-based exhibits included:

- “Hair Me Out” a celebration of Black Hair
- A Companion exhibit for the Clifford Symposium’s “Toni Morrison: The Origin of Others”
- Audiobooks on OverDrive and You
- In the Footsteps of the First German Printers: 1450-1500
- “So very hideous an idea” Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein at 200
- Object Poems: Jody Gladdings and On and Off the Page

Library contributions to campus exhibits

- “The Continuity of Change: Living, Learning, and Standing Together,” a permanent exhibit at the Kirk Alumni Center, offered a look at student life and activism throughout Middlebury’s history. It was the result of nearly two months of research by six student interns in the College’s summer MuseumWorks program, working in close collaboration with the College Archives. The students were asked by Alliance for an Inclusive Middlebury and the President’s Office to reimagine the Kirk Center as a space highlighting the past, present, and future of Middlebury.
- We loaned a 19th century mosque lamp to the Museum for their exhibit Wondrous Worlds: Art and Islam through Time and Place.
- The Archives provided images for an exhibit on Middlebury Olympic athletes featured in the Virtue Field House.
- The MIIS library participated in the Nuremberg Trials Exhibit, an exhibition sponsored by the International Association of Conference Interpreters that focused on the history of conference interpreting and the first use of simultaneous interpreting at an official proceeding.

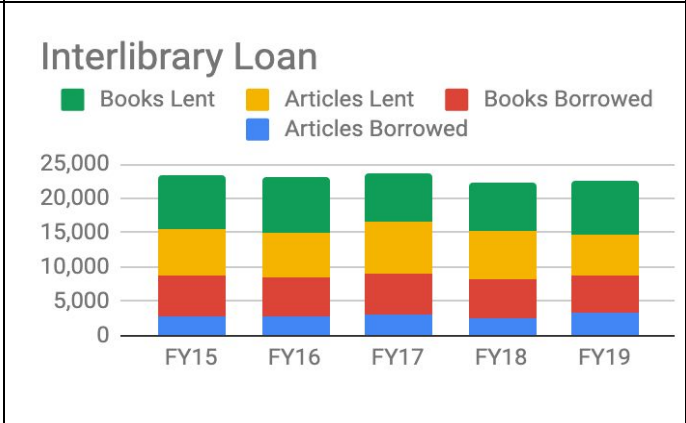
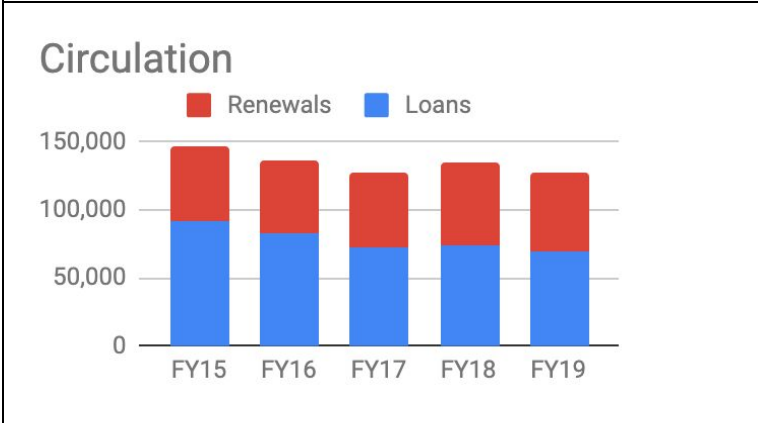
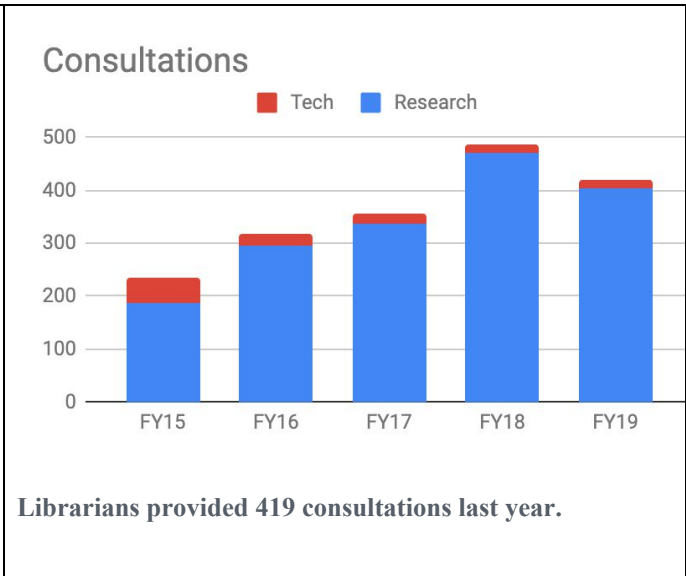
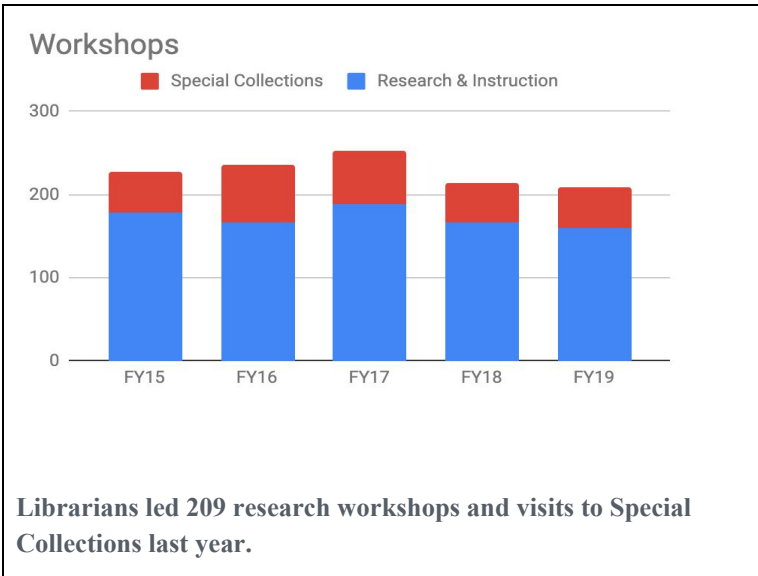
Events in Special Collections

Our Special Collections hosted a number of popular events, including:

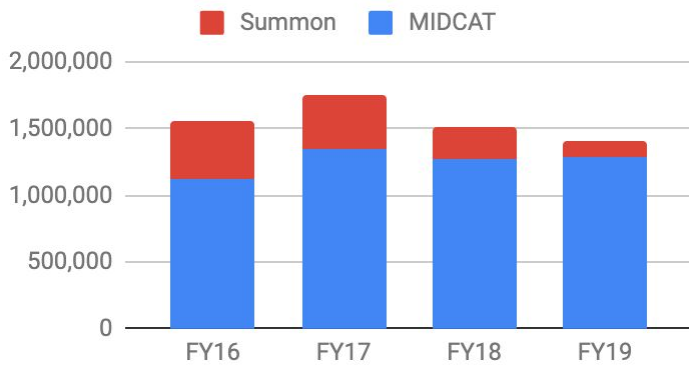
- A Pop-up Bookmaking event for Halloween drew dozens of students to make Frankenstein pop-up books
- A Fall Family Weekend Open House and Pop-up Bookmaking that attracted over 50 visitors
- The Reunion 2019 Open House which drew over 100 visitors
- A DIY Recycled Book Flower Making event drew dozens of new students to Special Collections and was featured on the front cover of the print edition of The Addison Independent

By the Numbers

While it remains true that not everything that matters can be counted, and that not everything that is counted matters, we do keep historical data about how our services, spaces, and collections are used in order to understand broad trends.

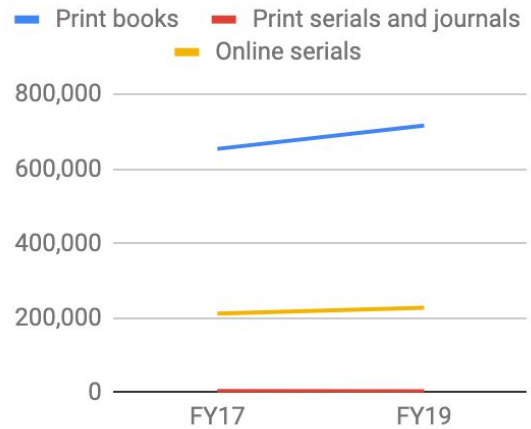


Library Searches



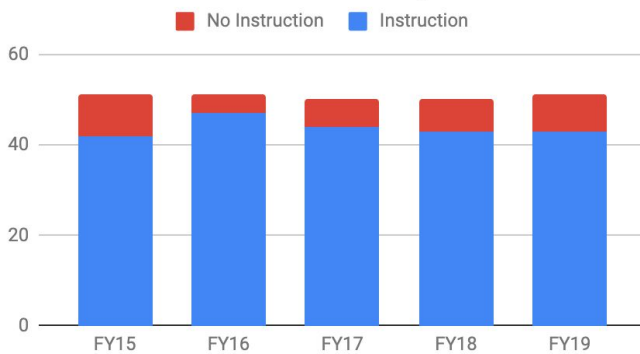
Searches of MIDCAT held steady, while use of Summon has dipped.

Holdings



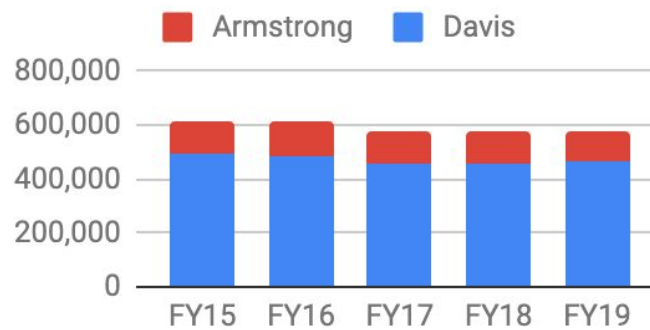
Our holdings for print serials and journals has dropped from 4,111 to 3,408 as the shift to electronic delivery continues.

First Year Seminars with Library Instruction



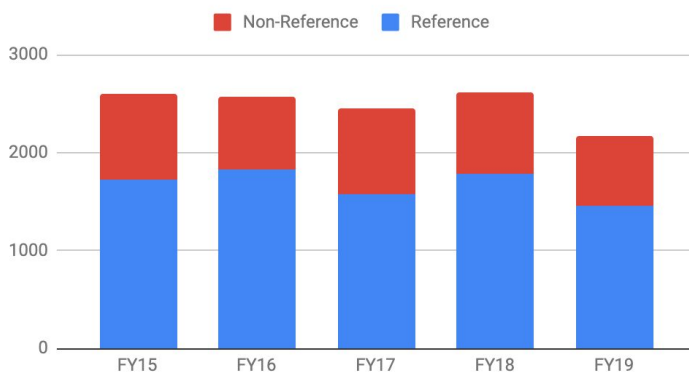
There were 51 first-year seminars last year, and librarians provided workshops for 84% of them.

Gate Count



Foot traffic at Armstrong and Davis remains steady, as both libraries are popular places to study, collaborate, and get help.

Questions Answered by Librarians



Librarians answered 2,172 questions last year.

Library Staff and Organization

Along with the rest of campus, we engaged in **workforce planning for the library**, which was a useful activity as it gave us an opportunity to take stock of what we currently do, how we do it, and how this work contributes to Middlebury's educational mission. Linked to this was our [contribution](#) to the Envisioning Middlebury strategic planning process, which also proved a useful exercise to consider how we might adapt to best align our work with Middlebury's future direction. As a result, we have now officially merged the MIIS and College Libraries. As part of that process, we continue to explore ways that we can work together to best serve the needs of all of Middlebury faculty and students across all of our programs.

Staff Transitions

- Peter Liu retired from leading the MIIS Library for 18 years.
- Nancy Reynolds retired from Armstrong Library after 32 years of service.

Library Staff Accomplishments

The staff of the library continued to contribute in many ways to the profession, through serving on boards, writing in professional journals, presenting at and attending conferences.

Bryan Carson attended [Innovative Users Group Conference](#) in Phoenix, AZ.

Ann Flower had a [website review](#) published in the Internet Reviews column of *College & Research Libraries News*, May 2019 issue. The focus of her review is the site of the Japanese think tank the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Rebekah Irwin was [appointed](#) to serve on Vermont Board of Libraries. She published a book review of Sally Gardner Reed's *The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly: A Librarian's Guide to Working with Friends Groups* in "College & Research Libraries." She gave three conference presentations: *Email Archiving for the Rest of Us: Developing & Implementing a Low-Resource Strategy for Institutional Email Preservation* at New England Archivists (NEA) Spring Conference (with Patrick Wallace), *Beyond Frost: Northern New England Poets in the Archives*, New England Archivists (NEA) Spring Conference, and *Promoting Your Digitized Collections* at "History from A to (Generation) Z," held in Woodstock, Vermont. She was interviewed on Vermont Public Radio: "[Analog's Place In The Digital World](#)." In June, Rebekah attended the [London Rare Books School \(LRBS\) at the University of London](#). Rebekah also served as project lead in the launch of the [Vermont Hub of the Digital Public Library of America](#).

Kaitlin Buerge attended the New England Archivist Annual Conference, Burlington, VT

Ryan Clement became certified as an instructor for the Carpentries (Software, Data, and Library Carpentry), and taught two official Carpentries workshops, in Middlebury (January 2019) and at Carnegie Mellon University (June 2019). He was accepted as a Fellow for the [Visualizing the Future Symposia](#). Along with colleagues, he published "[How are we Measuring Up? Evaluating Research Data Services in Academic Libraries](#)." In *The Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*.

Amy Frazier presented on the topic of supporting streaming video at a small institution for the VLA College & Special Libraries Program, *People at the Center: User Focused Librarianship* (November 2018.) She also published a book

review of *The Fun of Motivation: Crossing the Threshold Concepts (Publications in Librarianship No. 71)* by Mary Francis in "College & Research Libraries."

Leanne Galletly, User Experience and Digital Scholarship Librarian, became a certified instructor for the Carpentries after completing the Data Carpentries training program. Leanne attended the Association of College and Research Libraries conference in Cleveland.

Carrie Macfarlane, Director of Research & Instruction, continued to serve on the Scholarship Committee of the Vermont Library Association. She also earned her certification as an Appreciative Inquiry practitioner from the Cooperrider Center for Appreciative Inquiry at Champlain College.

Danielle Rougeau served as the President of the Henry Sheldon Museum Board of Directors

Mike Roy, Dean of the Library, served on the board of the Lever Press, was president of the Oberlin Group of Libraries, and Principal Investigator for a grant "Mapping the Scholarly Commons." He published "The First Step Towards a System of Open Digital Scholarly Communication Infrastructure", (with David Lewis and Katherine Skinner) and "What's to be done? Thoughts on Moving the Open Access Conversation Forward".

Wendy Shook, Science Data Librarian, became a certified Software/Data/Library Carpentry instructor, and assisted in teaching official Carpentries workshops in the Winter and Spring of 2019. She was a member of the Liberal Arts Sprint for Institutional Repositories Steering Committee, and served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Empirical Teaching and Research, which investigated the potential for a data science initiative at Middlebury. At the Digital Library Federation Forum, Wendy also presented on library collaboration with the MuseumWorks program.

Terry Simpkins, Director of Discovery & Access Services, continued to serve on the Executive Committee of the Eastern Scholar's Academic Trust, a shared print initiative involving 60 academic and research libraries in 11 states from Maine to Florida.

Katrina Spencer, Literatures and Cultures, Librarian became a graphic novel reviewer for the American Library Association's Booklist, published a critical review of *The Handmaid's Tale* in *Resources for Gender and Women's Studies* and diversified our Overdrive-based audiobook collection as documented in "Creating A Culture of Use" on the Against the Grain Hot Topic blog.

Patrick Wallace Co-led the launch of the Green Mountain Digital Archive, coordinated Middlebury's institutional sponsorship of POWRR Professional Development Institutes for Digital Preservation, an IMLS-funded initiative to provide digital preservation training, technology, and support for resource constrained institutions. He also presented on "Small school, small state, big dreams: building institutional digital archives infrastructures and community in Vermont" at the Digital POWRR Institute, "Email Archiving for the Rest of Us: Developing and Implementing a Low-Resource Strategy for Institutional Email Preservation" at the New England Archivists Spring 2019 Meeting, (with Rebekah Irwin), "Archiving [with] students: collective empowerment & memory through digital collections" at the New England Archivists Spring 2019 Meeting.

Joseph Watson was the convener for the Addison County Cultural Heritage Emergency Response Network, an organizing working group member of the Vermont Arts and Culture Disaster and Resilience Network, and served as a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh, Vermont.

Library Goals for Next Year

We have established four main goals for 2019-20. They are:

1. **Expand efforts to support campus-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives**

We will identify ways that the Library can participate in Middlebury's ambition to create a community that is as diverse and inclusive as the world that it seeks to engage. This means thinking about our spaces (both physical and digital), our services, and our collections.

2. **Identify our role in building and sustaining the infrastructure required for Digital Scholarship**

With an increased curricular and research focus on digital scholarship as evidenced by the DLA and the new MiddData efforts, we will work faculty, CTLR, DLINQ, ITS to define what infrastructure (hardware, software, facilities, and personnel) are needed to enable Middlebury's digital scholarship ambitions.

3. **Clarify the role of the library in support of on-line and hybrid courses**

As Middlebury begins to offer more on-line and hybrid courses, we need to understand what library services are required for students and faculty who may not ever set foot on campus. To that end, we'll be working closely with pilot on-line courses, primarily at the Institute, as well as learning from those that have already made this transition.

4. **Continue to work on the Library Space Master Plan**

Having completed the first phase of the Library Space Master Plan, we will be developing more specific plans for projects that will advance the ideas we developed. In particular, we will launch our deselection project, which will both relieve some of the overcrowding in our stacks and free up space for developing some of the ideas in the plan.