The Library connects Cornellians with knowledge, it connects collaborators across disciplines, and it connects the University with scholars around the world.

Faculty and academic staff rated library resources and services as the most satisfying aspect of their work life in a 2016 survey. Ninety-nine percent of the 2,784 respondents to a 2016 graduate student survey said the Library contributed to their success, and seniors consistently rank the Library first among campus services.

Here are some highlights of the Library’s essential work in 2016-2017.
Teaching students to successfully navigate a complex information landscape

Fake news
Students learn to distinguish “fake news” from reliable, accurate information through highly subscribed library workshops, in-class instruction and a marketing campaign.

Library fellowships
Graduate students gain mastery of a host of digital tools enabling critical inquiry through our programs and fellowships, including an intensive three-day course for students in the sciences added last year.

Instruction services
Students learn to use and produce evidence in digital form in first-year writing seminars, in-class instruction sessions, and workshops taught by librarians.

“I believe I am going to be a new level of successful because I learned these skills early in my PhD program.”
Participant in inaugural science program

24,000 participants in instructional services in 2016
**Digital humanities**

Faculty and students alike are getting training in new tools and forming innovative, cross-boundary collaborations through the Digital CoLab, a new workspace in Olin Library dedicated to media studies and other digital scholarship, from text-mining to online crowdsourcing.

**Systematic reviews**

A growing number of Cornell researchers in life, veterinary, and health sciences are partnering with librarians in systematic reviews—comprehensive syntheses of existing studies to answer new research questions. The Library is further expanding its systematic review experts’ team as interest and enthusiasm for this service grows.

**Data management**

Research data management services make faculty grant proposals more competitive and help avoid funding delays.

“There is no way that we could have done this systematic review without your expert guidance.”

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty member

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**Enabling 21st century research and new forms of scholarship**

192 consultations with librarians on systematic reviews, from 11 different departments

1,750 Cornellians to date have used research data management services
Enriching teaching and research through world-class collections

Radical collaborations
The Library’s vast holdings inspire research, enthusiasm, and radical collaborations, as when a chemist partnered with a medievalist and a library curator in 2016 to analyze the inks in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections’ medieval fragments.

Digital collections
Cornellians can access a rapidly expanding trove of online resources through library digitization efforts, and the Cornell Digital Collections registry is a gateway to around 100 websites of specialized and unique content.

Research across disciplines
In 2017, the Library acquired a massive, significant collection from the closing American Textile History Museum, which will enrich research and teaching across disciplines including fiber science, history, agriculture and labor.

“A PhD student analyzing pigments in one of the Library’s medieval fragments.

“The Cornell library is one of the reasons some faculty stay at Cornell. Keep up the good work.”

College of Human Ecology faculty member

7.7M annual journal and ebook downloads

> 5 TB of information archived by the Library from cornell.edu since 2012
Celebrating diversity

The 2016 Kroch Library exhibit, Islam in Asia, offered Cornellians the opportunity to understand Asian Muslims’ rich cultural traditions. Through collections, workshops, exhibits and more, the Library ensures that freedom of thought, respect of difference and diversity of background remain an essential part of the Cornell experience.

Preserving underrepresented cultures

Primary materials including the newly digitized Loewentheil Collection of African-American Photography and new archives from pioneering feminist and lesbian thinkers, activists and artists, enrich Cornell’s research and learning and preserve important voices and viewpoints.

We need more of this on campus—meaningful representation and mutual acknowledgment.

Message left on interactive Islam in Asia exhibit
Promoting open access and visibility of scholarship

Online repositories
Faculty work gets broader visibility on library-managed online repositories such as the Scholarly Commons, which saw its millionth download in 2016.

Research accessibility
In 2017, library staff partnered with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to open up more than a century of Cornell’s agricultural research via the HathiTrust database. This otherwise hard-to-find material is now available to scholars, farmers and students of the history of science.

arXiv.org revamp
The Library embarked on an overhaul of arXiv.org this year, to modernize that essential tool for scientific research.

“Most important to me is arXiv.org, an indispensable resource for research in my field (computer science) and many others. Kudos to the Library for furnishing this vital resource to scientists worldwide.”

Computer Science faculty member

11% annual growth in amount of material in library-managed repositories

140M articles downloaded last year from library-managed repositories
Borrow Direct expansion
The Library is increasing Cornell’s access to scholarship while saving money through Borrow Direct. This successful partnership is now being expanded to include collaboration and resource-sharing in addition to the rapid book-delivery service.

International collaboration
Last year, the Library formally renewed its collaboration with Tsinghua University Library. The libraries partner in supporting students in the Cornell-Tsinghua FMBA/MBA dual degree program, have a staff exchange program and share scholarly resources, professional networks and support for collection building.

On-campus relationships
Partnerships with the Society for the Humanities and the College of Arts and Sciences foster a campus-wide community of scholars interested in the digital humanities and media studies, provide training in emerging tools, and help to inspire digital research.

“Not only is the selection of on-campus materials expansive, but I can get whatever I need within days if the library doesn't have it because of Borrow Direct.”
Architecture graduate student

17 number of years Cornell University Library has been working with Tsinghua University Library
6% increase in number of fulfilled Borrow Direct requests from 2015 to 2016
Audiovisual preservation

With the Library’s new Audiovisual Preservation Lab, we can digitize and preserve fragile materials at a faster rate than ever before, making them more readily available to today’s scholars and ensuring their use by future generations.

Rare and digital

The Library’s first-ever digital archivist is developing scalable standards to store, preserve, and retain access to material in the Division of Rare and Manuscripts Collections that exists only in digital form, such as social media posts, websites, and servers.

Preservation training

Important and irreplaceable texts will remain available to the world’s researchers, thanks to a program in which Cornell library staff train librarians from China and Taiwan in the preservation and care of collections in Western binding.

“I have been beyond impressed by the digital collections’ staff expertise and support. In fact, I can’t tell you how helpful it has been to have this group of pros edging the project forward... This strikes me as the best model of productive collaboration from a faculty perspective.

College of Arts and Sciences faculty member

27% of all research data held on campus only exists in obsolete media

16 librarians from China and Taiwan have received preservation training from Cornell library staff
Challenges

Maintaining essential spaces for students
Deferred maintenance on our physical facilities poses a tremendous liability to the Library and the University. There is currently $47 million in deferred maintenance for Olin and Uris libraries alone, with more than $40 million needed to address current deficiencies.

Supporting research and teaching
Limited budget growth challenges our ability to continue our current level of support for Cornell research and teaching and respond to emerging needs.

Providing expert service and 21st century technologies
Though total salary expenditures have not increased since 2008, the Library has been steadily transitioning toward a smaller, highly skilled and technologically adept organization. Decreases in collections and salary budget will reduce the Library’s ability to maintain services essential to Cornell’s exceptional teaching, learning, and research.

Gerald R. Beasley
Carl A. Kroch University Librarian

I look forward to working with you as we develop the next set of strategic priorities for Cornell University Library. With your help, we can ensure that the Library remains one of the most responsive and innovative research libraries in the world. Please send your thoughts or suggestions to libadmin@cornell.edu.

5% annual increase necessary to maintain access to current resources
92% of undergraduates use library spaces, according to a 2015 study