2025-2026

Ira A. and Mary Lou Fulton Library Annual Report & Strategic Plan



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The Fulton Library has always been about connection—connecting students with resources, spaces, and the support they need to succeed. This year, that mission looked a little different at times, but our team showed up in every way that mattered. When students needed us most, we met them where they were, with CARE stations, referrals to campus services, and, as always, the steady academic support that is at the heart of everything we do. I am deeply proud of how Team Fulton rose to every occasion.

What defined us this year was not just how we responded to difficulty, but how we continued to innovate and grow through it. We worked diligently to be responsible stewards of our budget as we participated in the university-wide strategic reinvestment. Through thoughtful planning, we reduced expenditures by $126,000 in resources. In addition, a $69,000 reduction in our hourly budget resulted in adjusted hours of operation.

Although these reductions required difficult decisions and presented operational challenges, they created opportunities to align our resources with institutional priorities. Funding allocated to the library from the reallocation supported increased Engineering and Health Sciences database offerings, the addition of a dedicated Health Sciences librarian, and $250,000 for laptops for student use. These investments open pathways for students to enter careers that will serve our broader community for years to come.

The scope of what our team accomplished this year is remarkable, strengthening connections across campus and beyond. Our librarians answered more than 3,700 student questions



and taught hundreds of classes. *Roots of Knowledge* welcomed nearly 75,000 visitors to the gallery, with K-12 field trip attendance surpassing 1,500 students. Behind the scenes, teams within the library were cataloging, digitizing, and upgrading systems to ensure our collections remain current and that the library continues to evolve alongside the 48,000-plus students we serve.

While the numbers are impressive, what moves me most is the dedication of the people behind them. I am grateful for the resilience of our team, the steadfast support of our board, and the trust our students place in us every day.

Sincerely,

Lesli Baker

Lesli Baker
Fulton Library Director

THE FULTON LIBRARY ADVANCEMENT BOARD

The Fulton Library Advancement Board members are champions of the library, its mission, and the people who bring it to life every day. This year, when staff needed it most, the board responded with extraordinary compassion, personally checking in and providing each employee with a gift to show their support. On January 14, 2026 they were awarded the UVU Emerging Advancement Board Award and recognized for their outstanding support of library staff and excellence in advancement leadership.

Board Objectives

- Establish more awareness and opportunities for student success.
- Secure additional funding to support the library's mission to provide an exceptional learning environment for UVU students.
- Create opportunities for the community to experience *Roots of Knowledge*.

Fundraising Initiatives

- *Roots of Knowledge* Endowment
- Naming the UVU Archives: $500,000
- Other Library Naming Opportunities
  - 1st Floor Lecture Hall: $250,000
  - Lakeview Room: $500,000
  - Family Studies Suite Play Area: $20,000
  - Library Study Rooms: $30,000 per room

L to R: Monte Bingham, Brooks Burr, Alan Keele, Linda Keele, Kim Reich, then-President Astrid S. Tuminez, Jennifer Jenkins, Lesli Baker, and Dennis Moss.



FULTON L

CREATING PATHWAYS

STUDENTS FOUND US

Library Visitors

418,677 in-person visitors

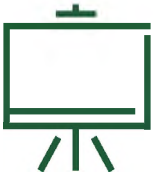
1,519,436 library webpage views

Social Media Outreach

18,448 followers

1,655,101 engagements

Campus Connections



Participated in **34** tabling events across campus including student orientations, resource fairs, CARE stations, and faculty convocations and orientations.

STUDENTS USED OUR RE

Collection Circulation

31,534 total items checked out

17,496 equipment items checked out

Digital Overview

1,279,898 searches in the top 12 databases

884 students borrowed laptops



"I couldn't have attended school without the library. My laptop went out two semesters ago and I thought I was going to have to drop out of school. Someone told me about the library and I was saved."

N FOCUS

TO STUDENT SUCCESS

ESOURCES

Research Tools

Students accessed LibGuides **102,951** times. These customized research guides cover everything from generic research strategies to topic-specific guidance.

STUDENTS LEARNED WITH US

Librarian Lessons

211 English research instruction

140 subject-specific courses

Questions Answered

1,976 on the phone and online

1,662 in-person and appointments

Library Course

Librarians taught **7** sections of SLSS 1050, a one-credit course where students learn how to create a research topic, use library databases effectively, and evaluate and cite sources.



LIBRARY SERVICES

Through classroom instruction, individual consultations, online learning resources, and campus partnerships, librarians connected students and faculty with timely, relevant, and accessible library expertise.

Achievements

- Created seven new video tutorials, giving students flexible ways to build research skills.
- Launched LIT, a text-based research and information literacy tutorial.
  - Earned national recognition from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) for the online tool that supports students through engaging, accessible learning modules and serves as a valuable extension of library instruction.
  - 2,226 students completed a survey after using LIT, and 88% answered the assessment questions correctly, indicating that the tutorial is effectively supporting student learning.
- Launched work groups to support research and project development covering topics like innovative instruction, artificial intelligence, assessment, outreach, LibGuides, and strategic planning.
- Developed a new series of three AI workshops for students.
- Created LibGuide audit materials for librarians and explored improvements to the LibGuides' homepage navigation and usability, helping students more easily locate reliable research resources and subject-specific support.

Impact

These efforts increased the library's capacity to meet students where they are—whether in the classroom or online, and at the beginning, middle or end of their UVU experience. By connecting students with reliable digital resources and effective research instruction, the library helped them build the research, evaluation, and critical-thinking skills they need for academic success and to navigate a world full of misinformation and competing ideas.



LIBRARY SPACES

Fulton Library provides spaces for study, collaboration and engagement. This year, the library expanded access to student-centered study spaces while strengthening *Roots of Knowledge* programming, visitor services, and educational outreach.

Achievements

- Expanded *Roots of Knowledge* programs, services, and visitor engagement.
  - Added a *Roots of Knowledge* gift shop kiosk in the Bingham Gallery.
  - Developed, piloted, and published a new field-trip curriculum to strengthen the educational experience for K-12 visitors.
  - Hosted Evening for Educators, a statewide professional-development workshop for K-12 teachers.
  - Welcomed nearly 75,000 visitors to the gallery.
  - Conducted private guided tours, public guided tours, monthly themed tours, and campus tours with more than 6,900 attendees.
  - Hosted the *Roots of Knowledge* Speaker Series with guests from across UVU campus and the local community.
- Maintained 37 individual study pods, available on a first-come, first-served basis, to provide a quiet place for students to focus and study.
- Received a $15,000 gift from the Gibson Family Foundation for maintenance and updates the Gibson Family Foundation Family Study Suite. This room gives student parents a place to study alongside play areas that help keep young children entertained.



Supported group study with 31 reservable study rooms that were booked 28,548 times.



Impact

Together, these spaces make Fulton Library a welcoming place for all types of learners. Study spaces give students flexible areas to study, with options that accommodate a range of academic needs, while *Roots of Knowledge* creates opportunities for reflection, conversation, and learning beyond the classroom by connecting students, educators, and community members with stories of human achievement throughout time.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Fulton Library connects the UVU community with the resources needed for coursework, research, and discovery. Library staff expanded digital and physical collections, strengthened resource-sharing services, and increased access to unique archival materials.

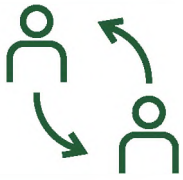
This year, Wolverine Access, a flat-rate digital textbook program facilitated through the UVU Store, changed the way students accessed course materials. While the demand for physical textbooks declined, the library continued to provide print copies for students who prefer or need them, fulfilling 1,782 reserve checkouts during the fall and spring semesters.

Achievements



Acquired 24,384 new physical and digital items, including 3,495 titles ordered in the first full year using the Koha suggestion-ordering process.

- Expanded access to online films, documentaries, and other video content through educational streaming-video collections Academic Video Online (AVON), Kanopy, and Swank.
  - Added 36 videos with permanent access through AVON.
  - Added 64 Kanopy videos, bringing the collection to 304 videos. Kanopy videos were viewed 8,504 times.
  - Maintained access to 213 Swank video titles, which were viewed 17,269 times.
- Added 7 databases, including Anatomy.TV.



Fulfilled 2,530 borrowing requests for UVU patrons, and 1,586 requests for other institutions, through Interlibrary Loan.

- Achieved a 100% accessibility score for documents remediated for Canvas.
- Acquired technology and specialized learning materials for circulation to support students' coursework both in and beyond the classroom.
  - 200 hotspots
  - 212 Dell laptops
  - Anatomy models—including skeletons, skulls, limbs, and joint models.
- Digitized 28 master tapes of local bands from 1990s-2020s.
- Recorded an oral history with Utah Women's Walk and 3 histories with Geneva Steel.

Impact

Fulton Library helps students and researchers access reliable resources in the formats that work best for them, from print books and databases to streaming media and materials borrowed from other libraries. The library also removes barriers to learning by lending technology and specialized equipment, ensuring that all students have the tools they need to fully engage in their education. Its preservation and digitization work safeguards local and institutional history while making unique materials more visible and available for current and future generations.

COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

This year, Fulton Library focused its communications and engagement work on connecting students, faculty, staff, and the community with the library's spaces, services, and resources through clear and accessible content, intentional outreach, and a consistent and visible presence across campus and online.

Achievements

- Produced content across multiple channels to keep students, faculty, staff, and supporters informed and engaged.
  - Electronic newsletters.
  - Blog posts.
  - Articles for myUVU Workplace.
  - Materials supporting the Advancement Board and Faculty Liaison group.
- Maintained an active and growing social media presence, with a combined following of 18,448 across platforms and 1,655,101 combined engagements.
- Developed strategic and operational documents to guide the library's future, including the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan, updated messaging guidelines, and an Emergency Manual.
- Created design materials to improve navigation, promote services, and enhance the visitor experience, including floor maps, study pod numbering, a student services brochure, digital signage, and a Writing Center–Research Help handout.
- Designed new *Roots of Knowledge* merchandise.
- Elevated the library's profile beyond campus through an interview for the *Super Library Marketing* blog and a presentation at the "Beyond Books" library conference.
- Brought the library to campus through 34 tabling events at student orientations, resource fairs, CARE stations, Faculty Convocation, Faculty Orientation, and community events, and collaborations with 16 campus organizations.

Impact

Fulton Library's communications and engagement work ensures that students, faculty, and the broader community know what the library offers and feel welcome to use it. It builds relationships that connect the UVU community with the resources and support they need to succeed as students, professionals, and lifelong learners.



LIBRARY BUDGET

Strategic Reinvestment

As part of a legislature-directed initiative across Utah's higher education system, the Fulton Library participated in UVU's strategic reinvestment plan. These financial realignments ensure that funding supports the institution's most impactful priorities.

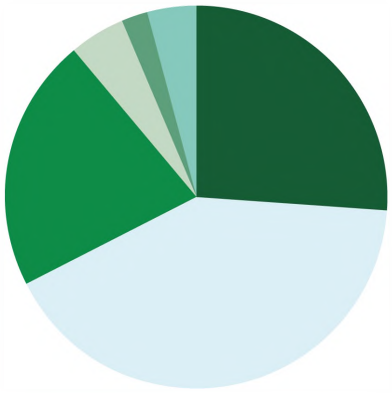
$126,000 cut from resources

$69,000 cut from hourly budget

$100,000 received for Engineering & Health Sciences

$250,000 received for laptop checkouts

Budget Breakdown



- Database Subscriptions: $1,456,838
- Full-Time Payroll: $2,304,812
- Benefits: $1,198,238
- Part-Time Payroll: $263,716
- Acquisitions: $127,870
- Other: $216,772

Total: $5,568,246

Operational Excellence

- Supported a knowledgeable, engaged, and well-prepared workforce through training, professional development, and team-building events, including:
  - Annual staff retreats and campus engagement activities
  - Staff appreciation, peer recognition, and workplace engagement opportunities
  - De-escalation, emergency preparedness, and library systems trainings
  - Staff development presentations from library and campus experts
  - Library Advancement Board meetings and special events with board members

Hired 16 employees, including 1 full-time, 2 part-time, and 13 students

Reclassified 2 full-time positions

FULTON'S FUTURE

Mission

The Fulton Library provides user-centered services, various learning spaces, and essential resources that support the university's mission of educating students for success in work and life.

Fulton Library Strategic Plan Objectives

Services: Provide User-Focused Services

The library will refresh its customer service framework, strengthen privacy compliance, and expand how it connects with faculty and students through a sustained liaison model, targeted consultations, AI literacy programming, and *Roots of Knowledge* 10th anniversary events.

Spaces: Maximize the Library's Unique Spaces

The library will elevate its spaces by consolidating collections, updating navigational signage, and optimizing technology across instruction labs, service points, and equipment lending. Archives storage will also see significant improvement through priority rehousing, processing, and reorganization.

Resources: Support the University Curriculum and Minimize Access Barriers

The library will strengthen access to physical and digital collections by updating collection management processes and refreshing LibGuides and other electronic access points. It will work with the Office of General Counsel to establish review processes to maintain legacy archival materials.

Connection to UVU 2030

Fulton Library's strategic plan objectives closely align with Utah Valley University's Vision 2030 plan. The service objective primarily supports UVU's initiative of completion through comprehensively designed curriculum and services. Through our space objective, we assess and remove barriers at every stage of the student life cycle, providing a welcoming environment and technology to enhance student learning. Similarly, the resource objective of supporting curriculum, promoting student success, and removing access barriers aligns with multiple Vision 2030 initiatives. At all levels of Fulton Library planning, we seek to uplift, enhance, and promote Utah Valley University's vision of development and student success.





FULTON LIBRARY

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