

Library Report: Bachelor of Arts & Science

Cyclical Program Review 2020

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Summary

The library provides **strong** support for the University of Guelph Bachelor of Arts and Science program.

Recommendation

1. Consider reinstating an introductory research skills / information literacy workshop in one of the core ASCI courses at 1000 or 2000 levels. Prior to 2018, library research workshops were a key component of ASCI 2000, ASCI 1110, and ASCI 1120. These workshops provided students with an introduction to research at the university level, and to the resources and tools specific to the University of Guelph.

Part 1: Collections

Access to the broad literature related to the interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences program is very strong. Library participation in national and provincial purchasing consortia results in better collections than would be expected at comparable, less well-connected institutions. Many resources are acquired in electronic format, facilitating convenient and ubiquitous access. Because of the comprehensive and interdisciplinary curriculum coverage of the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences program, it relies upon and is well-supported by the university's historic interdisciplinary strengths in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

Journals

The library invests heavily in providing access to online journals that support the University of Guelph curriculum. Currently, the library subscribes to approximately 55,000 online journals, most of which are discoverable at the article level through the library's Omni catalogue. The library subscribes to nearly-complete collections of journals from major scholarly publishers, including *APA (American Psychological Association)*, *BioMed Central*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Duke University*, *Elsevier*, *Emerald*, *Gale Cengage (18th and 19th Century Collections Online)*, *IEEE*, *Johns Hopkins UP*, *JStor*, *MIT*, *Periodical Archive Online*, *Project Muse*, *Oxford University Press*, *Routledge*, *Royal Society of Chemistry*, *Sage*, *Springer*, *Taylor & Francis*, *University of Chicago Press*, and *Wiley-Blackwell*.

The library adds new subscriptions in response to evolving demand (often in response to faculty requests) as budgets permit. The number of open access titles in all disciplines has increased greatly over the past decade, and the Library links to all titles on the *Directory of Open Access Journals* list.

An analysis of the library's journal collection demonstrates that the Library provides access to a strong collection of academic journal titles to support core BAS (ASCI*) courses including:

- the top ranked 100 English language journals classified in Clarivate's multi-disciplinary *InCites* journal citation database (2018).

- 94% of the journal citations retrieved through a sampling of relevant searches in the broad interdisciplinary core databases which support the BAS program (Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, Web of Science).
- A strong collection of academic journals in the full range of disciplines which BAS students might select as their minor specializations

Books and E-Books

The Library acquires books via:

- an approval plan with a third party vendor to ensure that relevant titles in philosophy (as taught at Guelph) are automatically added to our collections as they are published
- title-by-title (“firm ordering”) as identified by the humanities collections librarian
- when requested by faculty and students

Many books that are purchased on behalf of other programs and courses at Guelph will also support students enrolled in the undergraduate BAS program. While the Library continues to purchase print books, the acquisition of e-books is increasing. E-books facilitate point-of-need and remote access to books. E-book chapters are also used in the campus learning management system. The following e-book publishers provide thousands of relevant titles for BAS students:

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|---|--|
| • ACS (American Chemical Society) | • IDRC (International Development Research Centre) |
| • ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) Humanities E-book Collection | • IMF |
| • ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) Digital Library | • JSTOR |
| • Association of Canadian University Presses (all imprints from 2009 -) | • Loeb Classical Library |
| • Brill Publishing | • Manchester Medieval Sources Online |
| • Cambridge University Press e-books | • MIT Press |
| • Cambridge Companions Online series | • Morgan & Claypool |
| • Cambridge Histories Online | • OECD |
| • Canadiana | • Oxford Handbooks Online |
| • Duke University Press | • Oxford Reference Online |
| • Early English Books Online | • Oxford University Press |
| • ECCO | • Project Muse |
| • Elsevier | • PsycBooks |
| • Harvard University Press | • Routledge Handbooks Online |
| | • Royal Society of Chemistry |
| | • Sage |
| | • Taylor & Francis |
| | • Wageningen Academic Publishers |
| | • Wiley Online Library |
| | • World Bank |

Comparison with Ontario peer institutions (Queen’s University, Western University) indicates that, in recent years, the Library has been acquiring a high proportion (76%) of the titles being published in the subject areas pertinent to the core BAS courses.

Search Tools to Access the Literature

- Omni is an academic search tool (catalogue) which provides access to resources from 14 Ontario university libraries. It permits searching a shared collection, including books, databases, journal articles, videos, music, and more. Omni facilitates access to full-text by linking to library-subscribed and Open Access scholarly works.
- Access to the literature is available by searching library journal databases including:
 - *ABI/Inform*
 - *Academic OneFile*
 - *Academic Search Premier*
 - *Agriculture and Environmental Science Database*
 - *AgEcon Search*
 - *Anthropology Plus*
 - *Bibliography of Native North Americans*
 - *Bibliography of the History of Art*
 - *Biological Sciences*
 - *CAB Direct*
 - *Cairn.Info*
 - *Canadian Business & Current Affairs*
 - *Canadian Newsstream*
 - *Canadian Periodicals Index*
 - *Communications & Mass Media Complete*
 - *Compendex*
 - *EconLit*
 - *Érudit:*
 - *Engineering Village*
 - *ERIC*
 - *Factiva*
 - *Family & Society Studies Worldwide*
 - *GeoBase*
 - *Historical Abstracts*
 - *Hospitality & Tourism Complete*
 - *INSPEC*
 - *JSTOR*
 - *MLA International Bibliography*
 - *PAIS International*
 - *Periodicals Archive Online:*
 - *PhilPapers*
 - *Project MUSE*
 - *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses*
 - *PsycINFO*
 - *PubMed*
 - *Repère*
 - *ScholarsPortal Journals*
 - *SciFinder – Chemical Abstracts*
 - *Sociological Abstracts*
 - *Theses Canada*
 - *Web of Science*
 - *Women's Studies International*
 - *Zentralblatt Math Databae*

Primary Sources

The Library has purchased or subscribed to a number of important collections including:

- *17th-18th Century Burney Collection*
- *ARTstor*
- *British Library Newspapers: full runs of 70 newspapers from across the UK*
- *British North American Legislative Database, 1758-1867*
- *British Records on the Atlantic World, 1700-1900*
- *Canadiana Discovery Portal*
- *Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture, 1790-1920*
- *Defining Gender*
- *Digital Library of the Caribbean*

- *Early Encounters in North America: Peoples, Cultures, and the Environment:*
- *Eighteenth Century Collections Online and Eighteenth Century Journals*
- *First World War: Personal Experiences*
- *Gartner Research*
- *Globe & Mail: Canada's Heritage from 1844*
- *Héritage*: Digitized documents from Library and Archives Canada collections
- *Historical Periodicals, 1684-1912*
- *iPortal: Indigenous Studies Portal*
- *Leisure, Travel and Mass Culture: the History of Tourism*
- *Literature Online (LION)*
- *Maclean's Magazine Archives: 1905-2015*
- *Medieval Sources Online*
- *Migration to New Worlds*
- *National Aboriginal Document Database*
- *New York Times: 1851 -*
- *North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories*
- *North American Indian Thought and Culture*
- *Oral History Online*
- *Sex and Sexuality: Sixteenth to Twentieth Centuries*
- *Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice*
- *Times Digital Archive, 1785-2011*
- *Toronto Star: 1894 - 2016*
- *U.K. Parliamentary Papers, 1679 – 2019*
- *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*
- *Women's Magazine Archive*

Course Reserves / Textbooks

To support courses, the library provides:

- Textbooks – since 2017 library has purchased at least 1 print copy of every required textbook for each undergraduate course (and online where possible) with the goal of mitigating high costs for students
- Course reserves - accessible, copyright-compliant links to readings

Reference Sources

Some important online reference titles include:

- *Annual Reviews*
- *Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria*
- *Brill's New Pauly*
- *Cambridge Companions (History)*
- *Cold Spring Harbor (CSH) Protocols*
- *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*
- *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*
- *Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Food Systems*
- *Encyclopedia of Islam*
- *Encyclopedia of Statistical Sciences*
- *Encyclopedia of Sustainable Technologies*
- *Gale eBooks*
- *Health and Psychosocial Instruments*
- *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*
- *Merck Index*
- *OED: Oxford English Dictionary*
- *Oxford Bibliographies - Medieval Studies*
- *Oxford Bibliographies - Renaissance and Reformation Studies*
- *Oxford Islamic Studies Online*

- *Oxford Music Online*
- *Oxford Reference*
- *Oxford Scholarship Online*
- *Sage Research Methods*
- *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- *Springer Nature Experiments*
- *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry*

Multimedia resources

In support of a trend across higher education to integrate multimedia (audio, video) resources into the curriculum, the library has developed a robust streaming media collection, which includes access to documentaries, instructional videos, feature-length films, and news clips.

The library purchases individual films and subscribes to a number of streaming media online collections including:

- *American History in Video*
- *Audio Ciné Films*
- *Classical Music Library*
- *Criterion on Demand*
- *Curio (CBC)*
- *Docuseek 2*
- *Environmental Studies in Video*
- *Films on Demand*
- *Jazz Music Library*
- *JoVE (Journal of Visualized Experiments) - selected*
- *Kanopy*
- *Music Online: Smithsonian Global Sound for Libraries*
- *Naxos Music Library (Classical;Jazz)*
- *New World Cinema*
- *NFB.ca*
- *News in Review (CBC)*
- *PBS Video*
- *PsycTherapy*
- *SAGE Practical Research and Academic Skills Videos*
- *Sage Research Methods Video*
- *Sage Video (Media, Communication & Cultural Studies Collection)*
- *TVO Documentaries and Programs*
- *Veterinary Education in Video*

Archival & Special Collections

The Library holds 40,000 rare books and special subject collections. They are actively used by many faculty to provide students with individual research projects, or as part of experiential learning classes in which students engage with the collections in order to gain skills and understanding of primary source research materials. Collections of particular interest for the BAS programs are

- *Agricultural History and Rural Heritage: founding of the Ontario Agriculture College in 1874; history of agricultural and rural life in Ontario*
- *Scottish Studies (the largest outside of the UK)*
- *Culinary: early cookbooks and archives relating to food ways and the domestic sciences*
- *Regional and Early Campus History: history of the University of Guelph and surrounding Guelph community*

- LW Connolly Theatre: archives from many Ontario theatre companies
- Centre for Canadian Landscape Architecture Archives

Government Publications and Data Resources

The library collects many types of international government documents produced by foreign governments and international agencies, including the various bodies affiliated with the United Nations. The Library also provides links to many online government resources

The Library's Data Resource Centre (DRC) provides comprehensive access to digital geospatial and statistical data resources provided by various levels of government, NGOs, and commercial publishers, as well as links to other data centres. Library staff provide students with expert support in using data, statistical/survey software, and mapping resources including GIS.

Part 2: Academic and Professional Skills

Student Consultations (aggregate; not limited to BAS students)

Library staff provided more than 8,000 individual consultations to students in 2018-19. Students receive expert support on a range of academic and professional skills: research, learning, studying and writing.

SLG's (Supported Learning Groups)

Weekly student-led study groups help students taking historically challenging courses to:

- Meet students from the class in a small group format
- Test their knowledge prior to tests and exams
- Leave with something tangible to review later

SLG participation data is gathered for each course - but does not collect students' major or program. Table 1 reports the aggregate data and is not limited to BAS students

Course	# of sign-ins (indicating attendance)	# of unique students
BIOL 1090	591	284
CHEM 1040	1292	421
CHEM 1050	832	221
MATH 1080	650	327
STAT 2040	396	129
PSYC 1000	233	134
ECON 1050	474	295

Research and Information Literacy Skills

Information Literacy (IL) librarians prioritize support to large, required, and core courses that have research skills or digital media literacy assignments or components. IL librarians aim to scaffold their information literacy instruction throughout the required curriculum for all undergraduate programs, providing students with the opportunity to build on their skills year over year. Options for supporting students include:

- guest lectures
- customized digital learning objects, such as online course guides
- one-on-one or small group consultations with librarians
- Literature review support

Information Literacy librarians have supported ASCI 4010, the capstone course, for a number of years through a hands-on in-class workshops and one-on-one consultations. Prior to 2018, library research workshops were also key component of ASCI 2000, ASCI 1110, and ASCI 1120. These workshops provided students with an introduction to research at the university level, and to the resources and tools specific to the University of Guelph. The Library recommends that such a workshop be reinstated in one of the core ASCI courses at 1000 or 2000 levels.

Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
ASCI 4010	Research skills	1	16

Learning Services

Learning Specialists support students' academic skill development through:

- working with faculty to develop assignments, assessment and in-class workshops (critical reading, working in groups, presentation skills, poster presentations, and exam preparation), customized student resources (such as an error analysis worksheet for midterms)
- co-curricular programming, including workshops - Graduate programming, including Brain Food (thesis management), Presentation Boot Camp, and Graduate on Time (time and project management)

Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
ASCI 4010	Creating and Reviewing Research Posters	2	16

Online Learning Resources

The learning, research, and writing staff in the library have developed more than 200 guides tailored to students' needs.

Most Viewed (aggregate use; not limited to BAS students)

Topic Guides

- Cite Your Sources: APA, 40,502 views
- Write a Literature Review, 18,797 views

- Write a Close Reading, 10,722 views
- Find Video Collections, 8,534 views
- Cite Your Sources: Chicago Notes & Bibliography, 8,126 views
- Cite Your Sources: MLA, 8,107 views
- Study Effectively, 7,011 views
- Succeed at Exams, 6,345 views
- Edit Video: Shotcut, 5,150 views
- Find Mental Health Resources, 5,305 views

Videos

- How to Create a Concept Map, 120,217 views
- What is a t-test?, 20,034 views
- Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism: Types of Plagiarism, 7,763 views
- How to Read an Article, 7,324 views
- Cite Your Sources: When / Why Cite, 5,002 views

Handouts

- Study Smarter Not Harder, 771 views
- Template for Writing Thesis Statements, 244 views
- 5 Types of Thesis Statements, 243 views
- Presentation Planning 101, 133 views
- Dealing with Group Conflict, 130 views

Writing Services

Writing Specialists work with faculty to develop students' writing skills through:

- Co-curricular programming (e.g. Dissertation Boot Camp, Writing in the Sciences; Writing Tune-Up (grammar and style)

Course	Type of Session	# sessions	# students
ASCI 1110	Writing Annotated Bibliographies	1	140
ASCI 2050	Writing Essays	1	120
ASCI 3100	Writing Strategies for Knowledge Translation	1	40
ASCI 4010	Paper Planning & Argument Building	1	18
ASCI 4010	Writing Strategies	1	18
ASCI 4020	Writing the Lit Review	1	27