

TMU Libraries' 2026
IMPACT REPORT

Toronto Metropolitan University

Libraries

Inquire. Explore. Discover.

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Dean's *Message*

TMU Libraries serves as a nexus of inquiry, knowledge creation, sharing, and dissemination for our campus. Our 2026 Impact Report captures a dynamic year dedicated to amplifying academic excellence, driving innovation in research, and deepening community engagement.

As our institution grows, the Libraries continue to evolve. Over the past year, we have helped shape critical conversations around AI fluency, championed open scholarship, and guided faculty through an increasingly complex information landscape in support of groundbreaking Scholarly, Research, and Creative (SRC) activity. From empowering students to explore new ideas to stewarding unique cultural heritage, the Libraries remain central to academic life at TMU.

We invite you to explore our achievements from the past year and discover new opportunities to collaborate in the year ahead.

None of this work is possible without our community. If you are interested in learning more, partnering, or supporting our mission, we would love to connect.



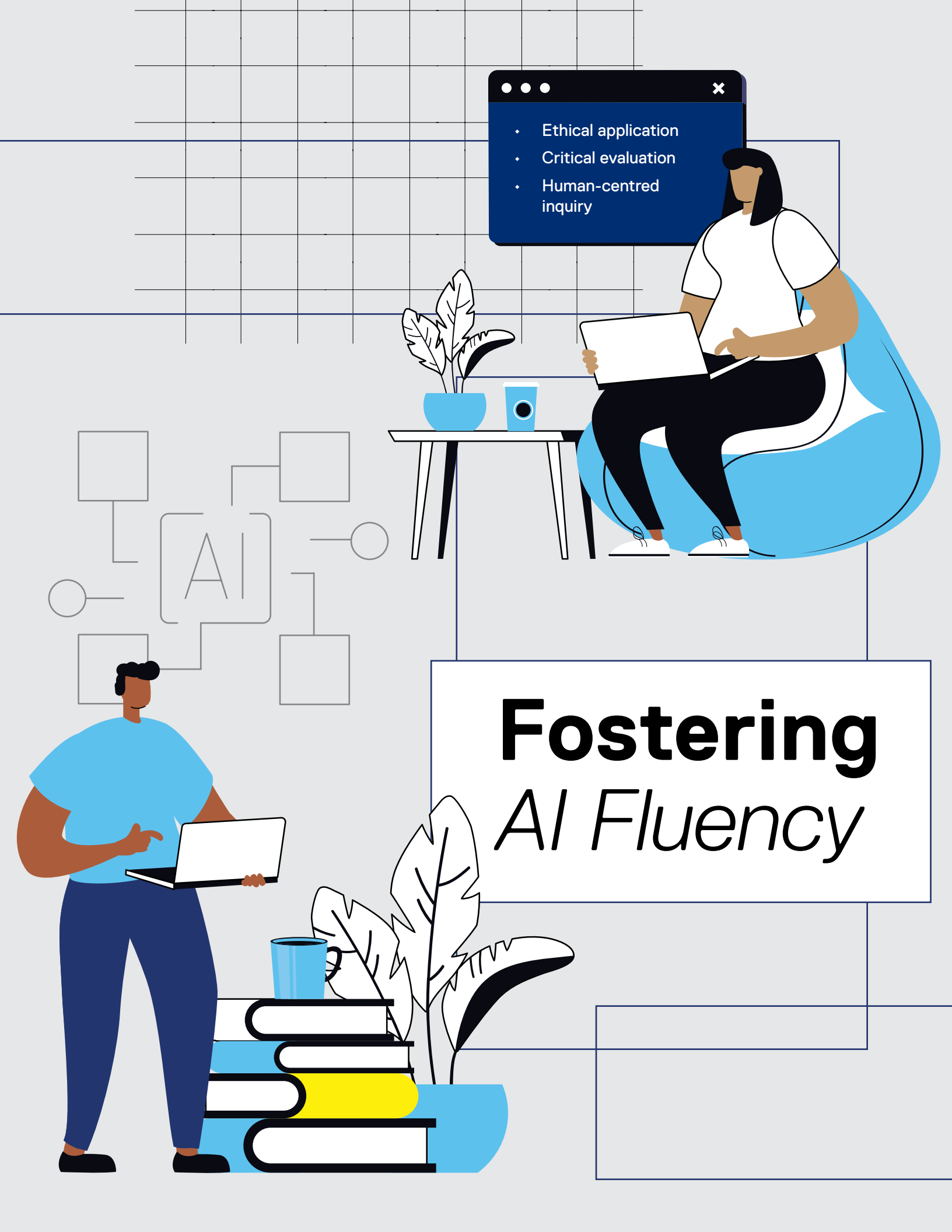
Mark Robertson,

Dean of Libraries,
Toronto Metropolitan University

Land **Acknowledgement**

“Toronto is in the ‘Dish With One Spoon Territory’. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.”

Learn more here



Fostering *AI Fluency*

TMU Libraries is fostering **campus-wide AI fluency**

TMU Libraries is actively shaping the conversation around artificial intelligence (AI). Building on a long-standing foundation in information literacy, the Libraries' expertise is more relevant than ever as students navigate complex AI issues regarding authenticity, privacy, biases, and ethics.

By approaching AI fluency as an information analysis and critical reasoning skill, TMU Libraries is empowering learners to make informed decisions about AI that align with academic integrity. "We are helping our community make informed and strategic decisions about using AI, as well as how to critically evaluate AI outputs as information sources in and of themselves," says Dana Thomas, associate dean, Teaching and Learning, TMU Libraries.

Through this approach, TMU Libraries serves as a neutral hub for students, faculty, researchers, and staff to explore, critique, and employ AI tools with confidence.

The approach incorporates:

- **Ethical application:** Promoting the transparent use of AI tools in order to comply with academic integrity and citation standards.
- **Critical evaluation:** Teaching users how to verify outputs and identify bias or manipulated content by cross-referencing AI-generated content against trusted, peer-reviewed sources.
- **Human-centred inquiry:** Prioritizing human reasoning, creative inquiry, and original thought when using AI tools.

> "We are helping our community make informed and strategic decisions about using AI, as well as how to critically evaluate AI outputs as information sources in and of themselves"
>
> **Dana Thomas,**
> associate dean, Teaching and Learning, TMU Libraries

To support this vision, TMU Libraries continues to develop a flexible, multi-faceted framework for students, faculty, researchers, and staff to engage with AI tools from a critical perspective. "We are offering opportunities to think about AI that are not graded or tied to a program, so that our community can think about their approach to AI and apply it ethically," says Reece Steinberg, head, Library Learning Services.

Across campus, liaison librarians collaborate with faculty to embed AI fluency into course learning outcomes. Additionally, the Library Collaboratory, a dedicated research hub for faculty and graduate students, provides access to locally hosted secure agentic models like Mistral, offering a safe space to test AI capabilities.

To meet growing demand from faculty and researchers seeking guidance on AI and the research process, TMU Libraries also launched an AI fluency badging program. The workshops from this program now form the foundation of self-study modules developed in collaboration with the Chang School, embedding AI inquiry, privacy, and ethics directly into continuing education and professional programs.

Beyond evaluating standalone tools, librarians and staff also guide users through resources and research tools with embedded AI capabilities—such as JSTOR, Statista, and GlobalData—providing instruction on how platforms can generate answers and summarize dense papers within vetted, cited, authoritative data environments.

By pairing hands-on exploration with critical evaluation, TMU Libraries ensures the campus community is able to navigate AI tools with confidence, human agency, and academic integrity.



"We are offering opportunities to think about AI that are not graded or tied to a program, so that our community can think about their approach to AI and apply it ethically,"

Reece Steinberg,
head, Library Learning Services, TMU Libraries

Amplifying **Research**



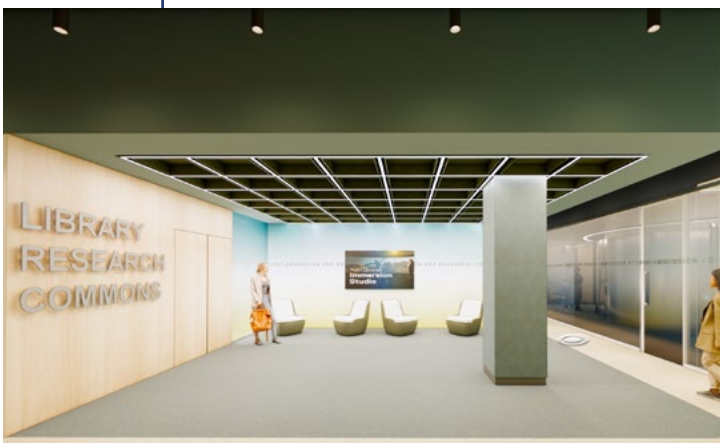
TMU Library's **new third-floor Research Commons**

Construction is officially underway on TMU Library's third floor, turning underutilized space into a centralized Research Commons. Designed to be a hub for scholarly, research, and creative (SRC) activities, the newly developed space will bring together cutting-edge technology and research expertise to streamline support for faculty, graduate students, and researchers.

By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, the Research Commons will serve as a catalyst for innovation, discovery, and knowledge mobilization across campus.

Key highlights of the newly expanded space include:

- **Advanced technology and fabrication:** Shared virtual reality and immersive media in the Immersion Studio, alongside an expanded Collaboratory that's equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters, and a retractable glass wall for versatile workshops and symposia.
- **Specialized data and analysis:** Access to GIS, mapping and remote sensing resources through the Geospatial Map & Data Centre, as well as quantitative analysis, data visualization, and methodology support through Statistical Support Services.
- **Research impact and scholarly communication:** Centralized consultation for scholarly publishing, copyright, research data management, and metric evaluations.
- **Flexible work and meeting spaces:** A balanced mix of quiet study areas, hybrid consultation rooms, and dedicated work zones designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration across campus.



Images courtesy of Lebel & Bouliane Inc.





Accelerating **research visibility**

TMU Libraries is driving research discoverability, ensuring TMU research is easily found, cited often, and has impact internationally.

While traditional publishing models restrict who can read and build upon scholarly work, the Libraries' focus on open access and publishing helps ensure TMU research reaches a global audience to maximize its impact.

TMU Libraries actively advances the University's research mission by hosting digital research repositories, increasing membership of free and open research tracking platforms, and negotiating publisher agreements to remove financial barriers.

By making research easily accessible, the Libraries supports researchers in meeting funder requirements while continuing to champion fair, open, and democratic access to research and information.

Amplifying output through new research repositories:

The Libraries' new open-source research repository, TMUshare (migrated from RShare), serves as the university's highly-visible, accessible and public-facing home for TMU research and student outputs. With the TMU research community's embrace of open access principles, the platform has had a huge surge in engagement. Between 2024 and 2025, uploads to the repository increased by a total of 3,749 items, resulting in a steady stream of global views and downloads.

One of the Libraries' guiding principles is: Scholarship cannot be cited if it cannot be found.

Through high-visibility platforms like the repository, the Libraries provides researchers with:

- **Increased visibility:** Articles openly published are downloaded and read more frequently than those published behind subscription paywalls.
- **Higher citation rates:** Increases in discovery lead directly to more citations and greater academic influence.
- **Global collaboration:** A global stage allows for more and easier connections with international researchers and institutions.

By making research easily accessible, the Libraries supports researchers in meeting funder requirements while continuing to champion fair, open and democratic access to research and information.

In addition to TMUshare, the Libraries manage TMU Dataverse, the institutional data repository. As part of Borealis, the platform connects to the Canadian Dataverse Repository, supporting the open sharing and discovery of Canadian research data.

The ORCID campaign:

The Libraries is also boosting the individual and institutional visibility of TMU research through a proactive campaign encouraging faculty to adopt or link their ORCID accounts.

An ORCID ID is a free and unique, persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers and connects them directly to their work. They are widely used by universities, publishers and funding agencies, and ensure work is accurately attributed and easily discoverable, globally.

Driven by personalized outreach and targeted workshops, the Libraries' efforts to increase registered accounts has sparked a dramatic shift in the university's research profile.

The results:

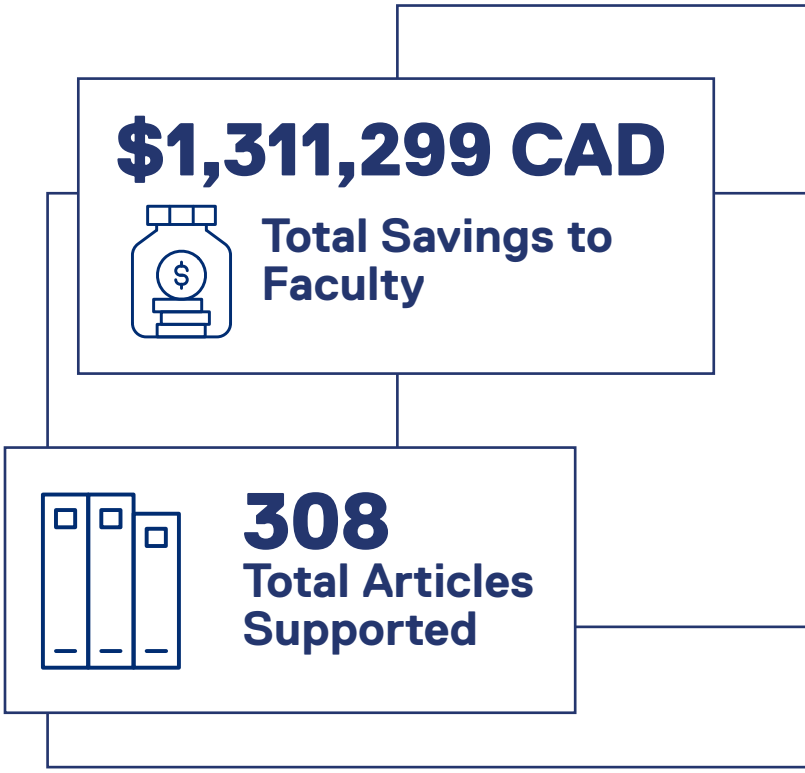
- In January 2025, only **26.5%** of TFA faculty were fully affiliated with TMU on ORCID. By May 2026, that number skyrocketed to **83%.**
- TMU is now ranked as one of Canada's leading ORCID-using institutions by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN).
- All incoming faculty members are now encouraged to affiliate immediately, ensuring visibility from day one.

Read and publish agreements:

One of the ways researchers have made their research open has been by paying publishers Article Processing Charges (APCs). The burden of these fees has often fallen directly on researchers. In recent years, library consortia have been negotiating "Read & Publish" (R&P) licence agreements. Through these agreements, TMU Libraries has significantly lowered the financial barrier for the TMU community. These agreements offer fee waivers and/or discounts for APCs.

To help faculty find eligible high-impact journals, the Libraries introduced Scifree, a searchable database that quickly identifies journals covered under these agreements.

The financial impact of these agreements is eye-opening:



TMU Libraries remains committed to making the publishing process as seamless as possible. Through open infrastructure, license agreements, and an updated open access repository, the Libraries ensure that TMU remains a university leader in a visible and sustainable global open research ecosystem.

Elevating *Student Experience and Excellence*



TMU Libraries announce the inaugural **Louise Penny Library Research Award** winners

It's no secret that best-selling Canadian mystery writer Louise Penny is a long-time fan of libraries. After all, a librarian is featured prominently in her books. Reine-Marie Gamache, the wife of main character Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, is a librarian and a consistent presence throughout Penny's mystery series.

So, when TMU Libraries approached Penny about supporting a Library research award for students, she was immediately intrigued. "Libraries are on the front line of critical thinking, of freedom of expression, of informed choice," says Penny. "In rewarding those who support its Library, TMU is doing a service far beyond the individual or the institution. It is an honour, a pleasure, to be part of that celebration."

In January 2026, TMU Libraries launched the Louise Penny Library Research Award: three annual awards of $2,000 recognizing outstanding research papers (2,500 to 4,000 words) written by third- or fourth-year undergraduate students maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.

This Spring, TMU Libraries announced the inaugural award recipients: Faculty of Arts students Abigail Apalit and Allison McCausland, and Faculty of Science student Amir Ali Eslami.



Meet the inaugural **award recipients**



Amir Ali Eslami

4th year, Computer Science, Faculty of Science

"This award means a great deal to me because it recognizes not only the final paper I submitted, but also the time, effort, and care that went into the research process behind it. The TMU Library has supported me through access to reliable sources, research tools, and resources. To me, the Library is more than a place to study; it is an active partner in student learning and research."

- Amir Ali Eslami



Allison McCausland

3rd year, Majoring in History, Minor in English, Faculty of Arts

"The award has had a lasting impact on how I see my future in academia. This research experience has confirmed my intention to pursue graduate studies, with the long-term goal of contributing to academic research and public policy!"

-Allison McClausland



Abigail Apalit

4th year, English and History (double major), Faculty of Arts

"I am deeply honoured to receive recognition for research that I truly care about, and hope to continue in graduate studies this fall. Through the support of librarians and the extensive resources available through the Library, I gained not only research skills, but also the confidence to see myself as someone capable of contributing to scholarly conversations."

- Abigail Apalit

About **Louise Penny:**

Louise Penny, a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University (Radio and Television Arts '79), was a CBC journalist before embarking on a remarkable writing career. She has written 20 crime novels in the Armand Gamache series, many of which are New York Times bestsellers, alongside winning numerous literary awards. Her latest book in this series, The *Black Wolf*, was listed among the Globe & Mail's 100 most notable books. Penny holds several honorary doctorates, including one from TMU, and is a Member of the Order of Canada and an Officer of the National Order of Quebec.

Media Production students create atmospheric performance at TMU Libraries' Media Creation Studio

For their Live Audio Production class, James MacLean, a 2026 student lead at the Libraries' Digital Media Experience (DME) Lab, and his Media Production classmate needed the perfect space to record a live, instrumental performance for their major fourth-year course assignment.

The assignment required students to plan and execute a live audio event utilizing multiple sound channels. Some classmates opted for live karaoke or comedy shows, but MacLean was focused on developing an immersive live audio-visual performance.

To do this, MacLean and his classmate booked the Libraries' Media Creation Studio, which provided the ideal setup to execute a technically challenging musical and visual live recording. While the pair brought in some of their own equipment, the ready-to-use Studio saved them from having to source or rent extra gear.

For the musical element, they created evolving synth texture tracks by using a Roland sampler and running it directly into a large analog mixer. They then placed two microphones on either side of the Studio to capture the natural tones reverberating through the room.

To match the moody tones of the music, MacLean transformed the room into a deep immersive environment. Utilizing the Studio's three-point lighting he created a subterranean-like atmosphere by altering the colour of the room. "I wanted the room to be this deep red," says MacLean. "We used those lights to create this amazing look in the room."

MacLean also borrowed a video camera and tripod from the DME to capture the whole performance, filming against the Studio's white back wall and shooting the entire piece in a single, continuous shot.

The result was an experimental sonic live performance set in a mesmerizing atmospheric environment.

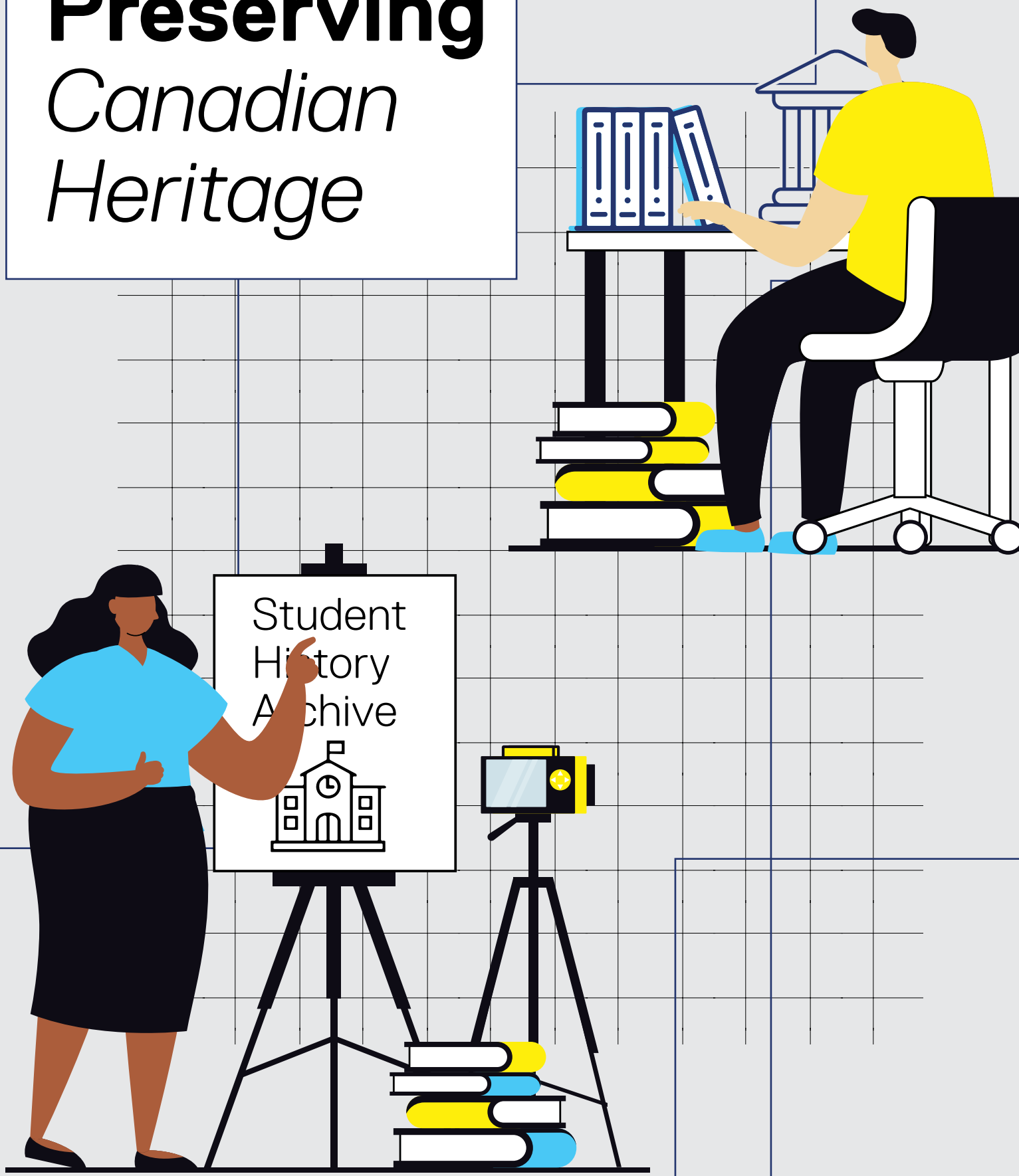
For these two, the Media Creation Studio provided the space and resources to produce a highly technical, creative performance. When asked why they chose the Media Creation Studio, MacLean highlighted its ease of access. "The best thing about the studio is that it's already set up for you," says MacLean. "The lights are mounted, the backdrops are ready, and the gear is super accessible."

Because of that accessibility, the pair were able to walk in, perform their set efficiently, and walk out with an incredible audio-visual project.



Image courtesy of James MacLean

Preserving *Canadian Heritage*

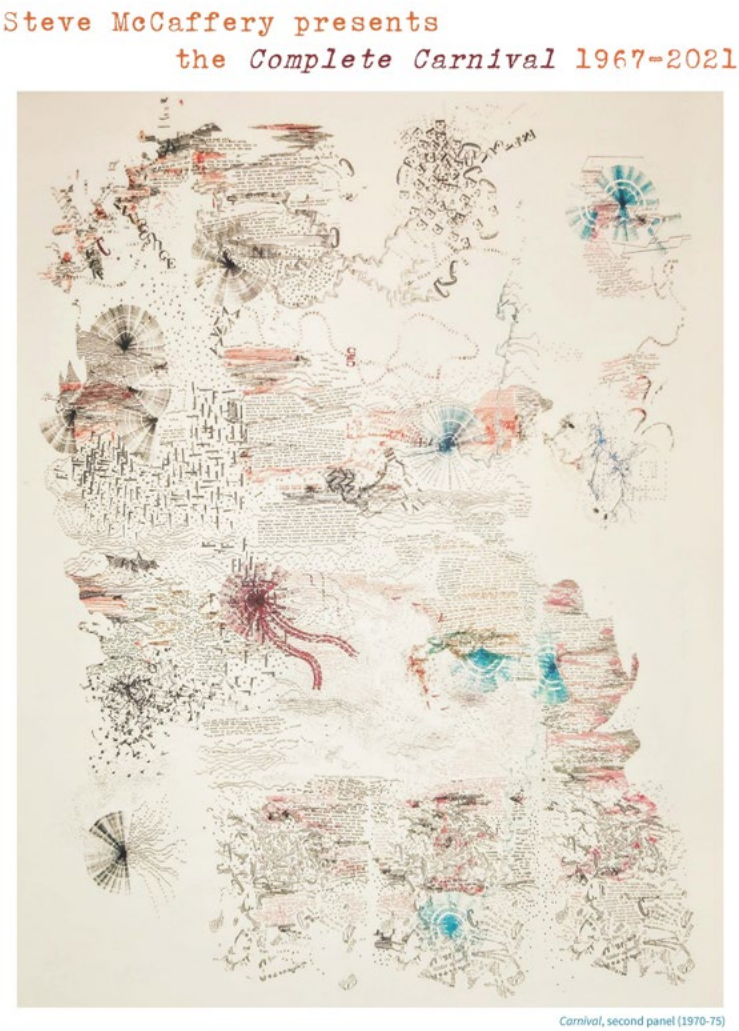


McCaffery's *Carnival* donation boosts TMU Libraries' **avant-garde Canadian poetry collection**

TMU Libraries is now the sole Canadian university library to acquire a rare copy of ***Carnival: the Complete Edition***, the groundbreaking 1973 work by sound poet Steve McCaffery. In celebrating this significant gift, McCaffery came to TMU Libraries for a special event, where he shared a fascinating talk on the history and impact of the work.

"We are deeply honoured that Steve McCaffery has entrusted TMU Libraries with this seminal work. Decades after its inception, *Carnival* continues to captivate and challenge audiences with its visionary spirit," says Mark Robertson, dean of TMU Libraries.

Carnival consists of four massive panels of visual poetry, which reject the idea of linear reading, asking the audience to engage with word structures as three-dimensional 'maps' of language.



Carnival **promotional poster**

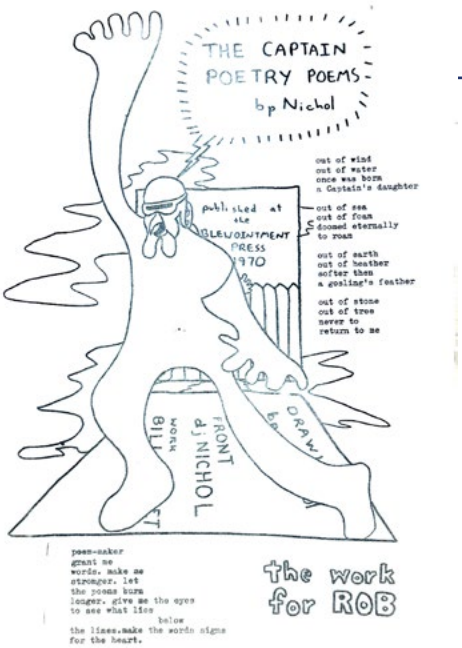
The Concrete Poetry Collection:
Carnival is now included in TMU Libraries' expanding collection of books, art, and ephemera relating to the avant-garde, sound, and concrete poetry movement of the 70s. The poetry movement spearheaded in Toronto by a quartet of poets called The Four Horsemen—composed of Steve McCaffery, bpNichol, Rafael Barreto-Rivera and Paul Dutton—pushed the boundaries of traditional poetry with explorations of 'concrete' (visual) and 'sound' performances.

In Fall 2025, TMU Libraries also received a large-scale donation of bpNichol's work. The collection, donated by Brian Dedora and Donald Irving, features close to 200 items, providing a view of the Toronto avant-garde literary scene at the time. It includes a rare and complete series of *GrOnk* magazines (published by Nichol's own Ganglia Press); *The Adventures of Milt the Morph in Colour*, a collaboration between Nichol and artist Barbara Caruso featuring limited-edition serigraphs; and personal ephemera like handmade Christmas cards and personal notes. The personal items provide a unique glimpse into the literary community and the friendships that fuelled this creative revolution.

"The addition of *Carnival* strengthens the bpNichol collection, helping to make TMU a destination for researchers in Canadian avant-garde literary history, concrete poetry, and typography and visual art. We look forward to continuing to grow the collection," says Alison Skyme, special collections librarian.

Together, these donations have put the Libraries' Special Collections on the map as housing a deep and expanding collection of Canadian avant-garde concrete poetry, offering an insightful look at a 1970s literary movement that broke language away from syntax to create emotional and three-dimensional experiences with words.

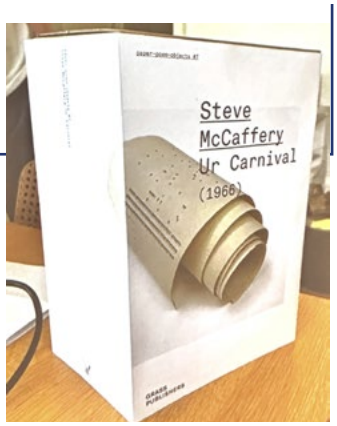
Learn more about donations and giving to TMU Libraries



bpNichol collection courtesy of Archives and Special Collections



bpNichol collection courtesy of Archives and Special Collections



Steve McCaffrey's *Carnival*, courtesy of Archives and Special Collections

Donation helps launch **student history archive initiative**

What happens to posters from a student protest when crowds disperse? Or meeting records when a campus group disbands? To ensure the transient history of student life isn't forgotten, TMU Libraries launched a student histories archival initiative generously funded by a gift from the Ryerson Centre—a former charitable foundation. The goal of the project is to capture crucial historical gaps in active student life.

"Student group records are an important voice in the history of TMU," notes TMU Archivist Tanis Franco. "This project allows student groups to consider donating to the Archives to preserve their histories."

With the Ryerson Centre donation, TMU Libraries hired Project Archivist Roxy Moon, and TMU student Carol Mary Varghese to connect with student groups across campus.

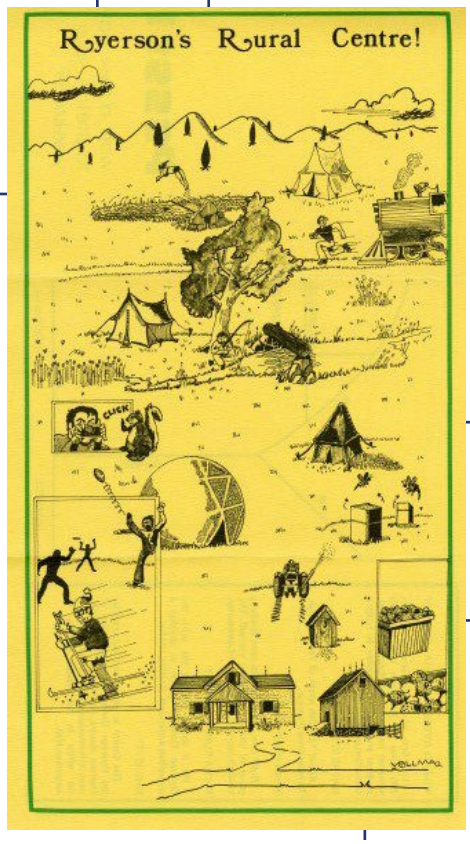
Moon and Franco developed an outreach plan they implemented throughout the 2025/2026 academic year. As a 5th year TMU student with student leadership experience, Varghese played a huge role in the plan's rollout. Under Moon's guidance, she built a comprehensive directory of all active campus groups, assisted with donation guides, and helped plan for future phases of the project.

Throughout the winter term, Moon and Varghese hosted archiving workshops for students, and tabling sessions to connect with student groups and unions, all of which led to a number of consultations and meetings.

The Libraries' Archives and Special Collections



RG 951.02.03.01 -StyleCircle The Book, Issues 10 (2024-2025) and 11 (2025-2026).



RG 457.03.02 Ryerson Rural Centre

held a student archival exhibit and open house that showcased student ephemera, and Moon also created a Student Life and Action Research Library Guide for researchers investigating student life materials.

- By the end of the year, the project successfully delivered the following outcomes:
- 17 linear metres of archival materials collected and processed.
- 10,000 visual assets (8,000 photographs and 2,000 posters) organized and preserved.
- 3 historical films from the mid-century Ryerson Rural Centre farm digitized for preservation.
- 11 new student collections secured or currently in progress from campus publications, societies, and cultural groups.

By preserving monumental milestones this ongoing initiative is ensuring that the legacy of TMU students remains available and accessible for future generations of campus leaders.

Interested in donating?

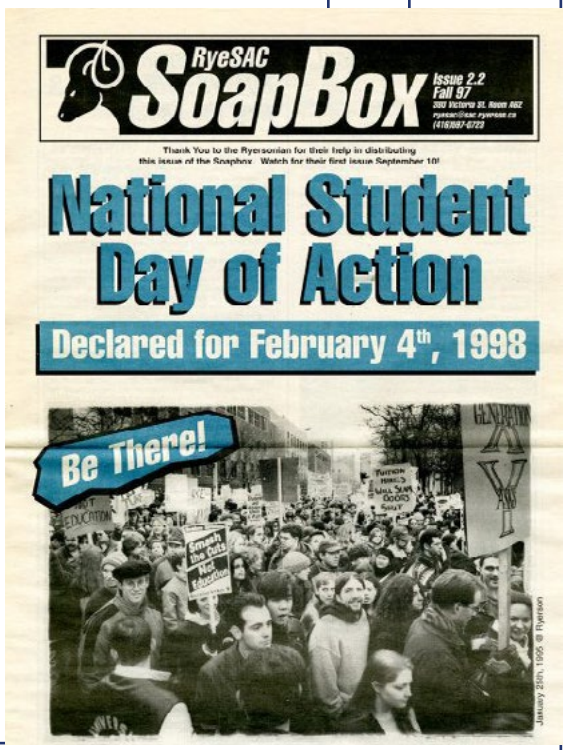
In addition to current student groups, the Archives is also open to donations from past student clubs. Current student leaders, organizations, and alumni are highly encouraged to connect with the team to contribute meeting minutes, photographs, correspondence, event posters and other documentation to secure their place in TMU history.



C 001.429 Eyeopener, October 3rd, 2001



Student Archive Zine promotion



RG 79.59 RyeSAC SoapBox Newspaper

2026 by the **Numbers**

$2,396,539
In student savings

Library OER Partnership Grants help increase development of OER materials providing an estimated $2,396,539 cost avoidance for students, 2022 - 2026

28
new archival accessions*

1,902
new Special Collections items

**accessions are new collections that contain different types of materials and numbers of items.*

7,271,640
RShare (now TMUshare) TMU publication downloads

TMU researcher publications included in the Libraries' repository have increased significantly and are getting noticed.

44,679
Group study room bookings

6,166 **Tailored appointments and other one:one help**

Librarians and staff connect students with relevant scholarly resources, and teach them to navigate those resources effectively.



20,032
Loans of technology items

ranging from podcasting equipment, phone chargers, laptops and more!

1,174,575
Electronic titles

held through Library subscriptions (journals, e-books, databases, articles collections)

20,655
Library workshop participants

1979
e-reserves

Library course materials were embedded in **1979** course sections.

New **Team Members**

Bethany Peterkin

Indigenous Librarian



Bethany Peterkin has joined TMU Libraries as the new Indigenous Librarian, working to advance Indigenous approaches to librarianship, research, and collection development while collaborating closely with campus and community partners. Bethany is a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation from Treaty One Territory, and holds an MLIS from Western University, as well as degrees in Classics from Memorial University and the University of Manitoba. She brings valuable experience from her previous positions as the Indigenous Teaching, Learning & Initiatives Librarian at Capilano University and the Indigenous Learning and Engagement Librarian at the University of Calgary.



Cheryl Fraser

Digital Experience Librarian

Cheryl Fraser has joined TMU Libraries as the new Digital Experience Librarian. Prior to starting at TMU Libraries Cheryl served as Manager of Digital Products at Toronto Public Library, following over a decade as Web Manager at the ROM. Drawing on her extensive background in website redesign and her MLIS degree from Western University, she will oversee TMU's digital presence, driving user-focused web improvements, conducting usability research, managing Content Management Systems training, and supporting open publishing platforms.

Victoria James

Medical Librarian

Victoria James (she/her) is one of two new Medical Librarians at Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) Bikram S. Dhillon & Family Medical Library. In her new role she supports medical learners and clinical faculty through research consultations, information literacy instruction, and collection development. Prior to moving into this new role, Victoria worked as a liaison librarian at TMU Library (Toronto campus). Since joining TMU Libraries she has, and continues to, collaborate on initiatives across the School of Medicine, TMU Libraries, and on university-wide committees, engaging in ongoing scholarly and professional projects that strengthen inclusive, community-rooted approaches to librarianship.





Thomas Blennerhasset

Medical Librarian

Thomas Blennerhasset joins TMU Libraries as one of two new Medical Librarians at the Bikram S. Dhillon & Family Medical Library. Thomas has served as a librarian at the Michener Institution of Education at University Hospital Network (UHN), most recently as Associate Librarian. He has a depth of experience in instruction, collection development, knowledge synthesis, digital resource management, and research support. Prior to the Michener Institute, he was the STEM and Trades Librarian at Ontario Tech University & Durham College. Thomas holds a Master of Information Science, a Master of Science, and a Bachelor of Arts.

Toronto Metropolitan University

Libraries

TMU Libraries

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