

Priddy Library Annual Report

July 2024 - June 2025

Introduction

Over the past year, the Priddy Library has continued to grow and adapt in response to the world around us. We've stayed attentive to the changes unfolding on campus, in our communities, and beyond, approaching them with care, creativity, and commitment.

Guided by our vision, values, and priorities, we've stayed focused on what matters most: supporting students, faculty, and staff in meaningful, responsive ways. Whether through access to resources, welcoming spaces, or new initiatives, our goal has been to stand alongside our community as a provider of information and as a partner in learning, research, and wellbeing.

This report reflects the work we've done over the past year, shaped by the times we're in and grounded in our ongoing mission to serve, support, and grow with our community.



Artist Tim Scheirer next to his piece "Turtle", part of the Earth's Echo exhibit held at the Library.

Library

Personnel Changes

Jeni O'Connor, transitioned into a new role and was promoted to **Library Services Specialist**, reflecting both her dedication and the evolving needs of our library. July 28, 2025

Kendall Award Given to Library Staff Member

Irene Münster received the 2025 Kendall Award for Outstanding Service to the USG Community. The Kendall Awards recognize faculty, program leaders, and staff who have provided outstanding support to students, as well as staff who have demonstrated exemplary service to the USG community. The Outstanding Service to the USG Community is awarded in recognition of a faculty or staff member who works across departments to provide high-quality support services that enrich the USG campus, advocates for improvement in services that benefit the USG Community, and assumes responsibilities beyond the call of duty.

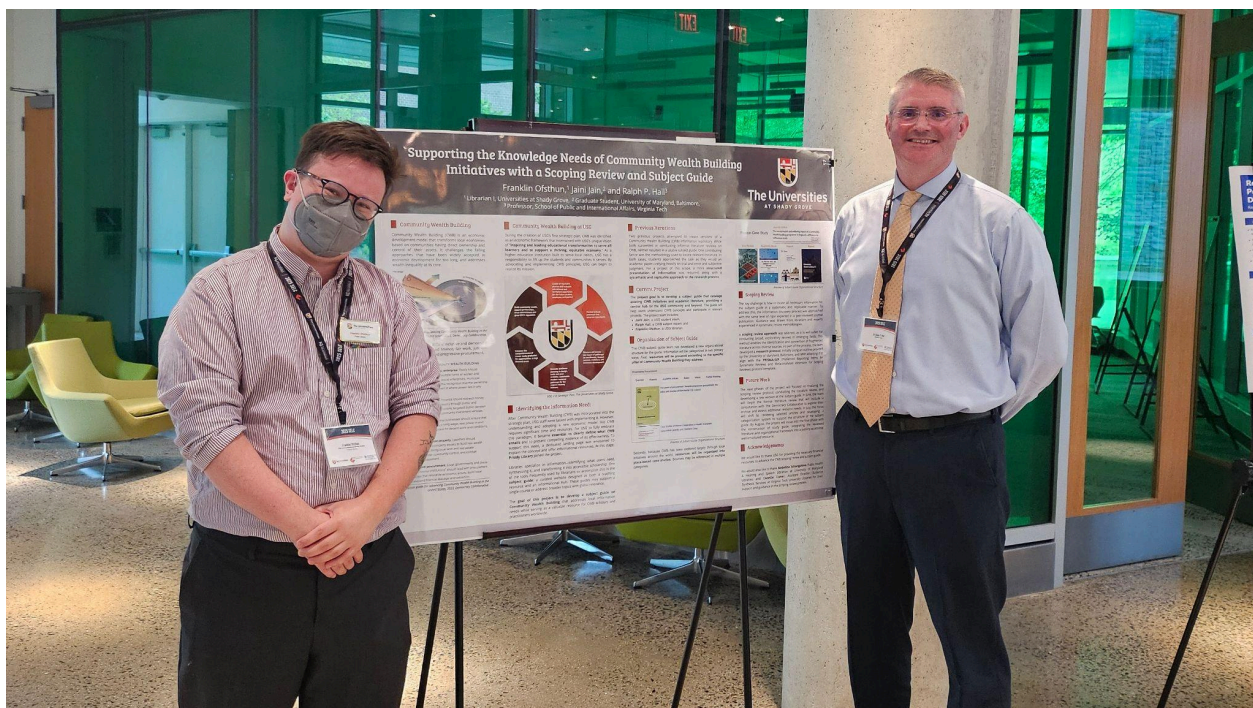


Irene has made the Priddy Library the hub of academic activity on campus. A whiteboard wall encourages visitors to share their thoughts on weekly questions, frequent workshops help students with the intricacies of building research strategies and following citation guidelines, ample computer terminals provide support for those seeking research questions and answers, and rotating exhibits invite viewers to reflect on how past and present shape their worlds. All of

this has emerged as the result of collaborations, as Irene and her staff have worked with classes, organizations, and individuals from throughout the programs at Shady Grove to build a library that invites participation from all visitors in learning how to use information to further their goals and ensure their academic success.

Community Wealth Building Scoping Review & Subject Guide Project

As a part of USG's ongoing commitment to furthering Community Wealth Building (CWB) initiatives, Priddy Library is developing a comprehensive subject guide on CWB resources. The project goal is to develop a subject guide that identifies existing CWB initiatives and academic literature, providing a central hub for the USG community and beyond. The aim of the guide is to help users understand CWB concepts, see the breadth of examples of enacted initiatives, and to be inspired to participate in community wealth building initiatives in their regions. The team of Franklin Ofsthun (librarian), Ralph Hall (Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Virginia Tech, and Joann Boughman Innovation Fellow at USG), and Jaini Jain (intern, student of UMB pharmacy) is employing a scoping review approach to gather, assess, and categorize the scholarly literature on CWB.



Access Resources to Elevate Your Business

As an effort to enact USG's Community Wealth Building (CWB) vision, Priddy Library developed a USG Entrepreneurship & Small Business Services Flyer. Priddy Library connects businesses and entrepreneurs to powerful research tools and databases that can give them a competitive edge, whether launching a startup or expanding their business. The flyer is available in both English and Spanish.

AI and the library

Two new workshops were developed on the in-demand topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI): **Artificial Intelligence in Business** which features the benefits of AI for small business, and features a few free AI tools for small business owners/entrepreneurs; and **Using Generative AI for Learning**, which explores responsible uses and limitations of text-based generative AI in the classroom. Additionally, librarians Greta Ober-Beauchesne and Franklin Ofsthun developed presentations on AI for entrepreneurs and educators, which were very well-received at a statewide library conference in December.

Code of Conduct

The Library developed its first official code of conduct with the assistance of Michael Wahl of USG Security, Erin Fernandez and Rose Jackson-Speiser of the USG Policies Committee, Michael Keeney (CFO and COO), and the UMD Office of General Counsel. It codifies the library's commitment to fostering a scholarly environment that supports learning, research, scholarship, creative production, and collaboration, and outlines the appropriate conduct and expectations for campus and external users.

Full implementation of:

- **Alma/Primo**
 - The [USMAI](#) System's new ILS (Alma) and discovery tool (Primo) have now been fully incorporated into library workflows, further streamlining the process of requesting items from the USMAI academic library consortium and back-end processes. Communication of how these changes impact USG patrons is an ongoing process. Due to temporary constraints with the new Integrated Library System (Alma), we are unable to generate reporting on loans for FY25. We are collaborating with our partners at UMD Libraries to develop new processes for circulation analytics in the coming months, which we will incorporate as soon as possible.
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- **Workday**
 - The implementation of Workday as the primary HR and financial infrastructure software suite introduced steep learning and adoption curves at the end of 2024. However, with the assistance of USG HR, we have successfully migrated almost all related functions.
- **Study room updates**
 - With the support of OIT, the library has orchestrated a significant update to our reservable study rooms, bringing in new wall-mounted TV screens, a more user-friendly and accessible screencasting system, and exterior-mounted screens that allow patrons to determine at a glance whether an open room will remain available or is about to be occupied.
- **Engagement Hub**
 - Priddy Library has a new space for hybrid learning and collaboration. The large touchscreen display and the Polycom X30 camera and audio system have allowed librarians to seamlessly include in-person and virtual attendees in active learning during our workshops. The space is both highly visible in the front of the

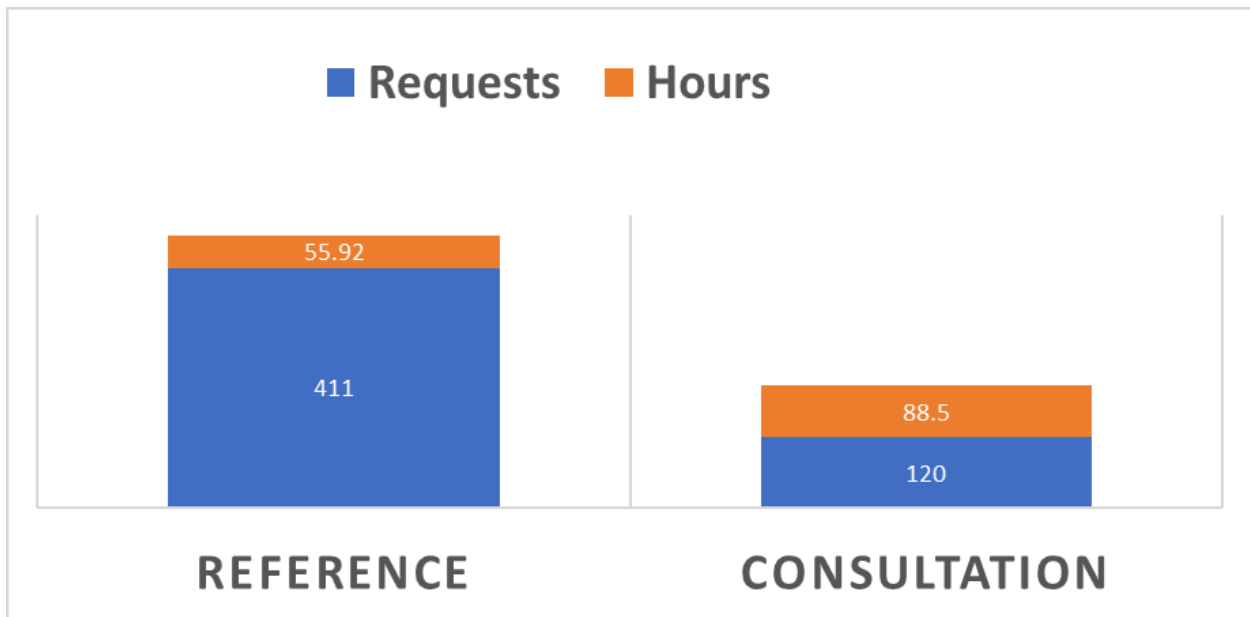
library, and has added opportunities to host student events, such as the Student Council Game event, where students connected with each other over a friendly competition of Mario Kart and Super Smash Brothers.



STATISTICS: OUR LIBRARY IN NUMBERS

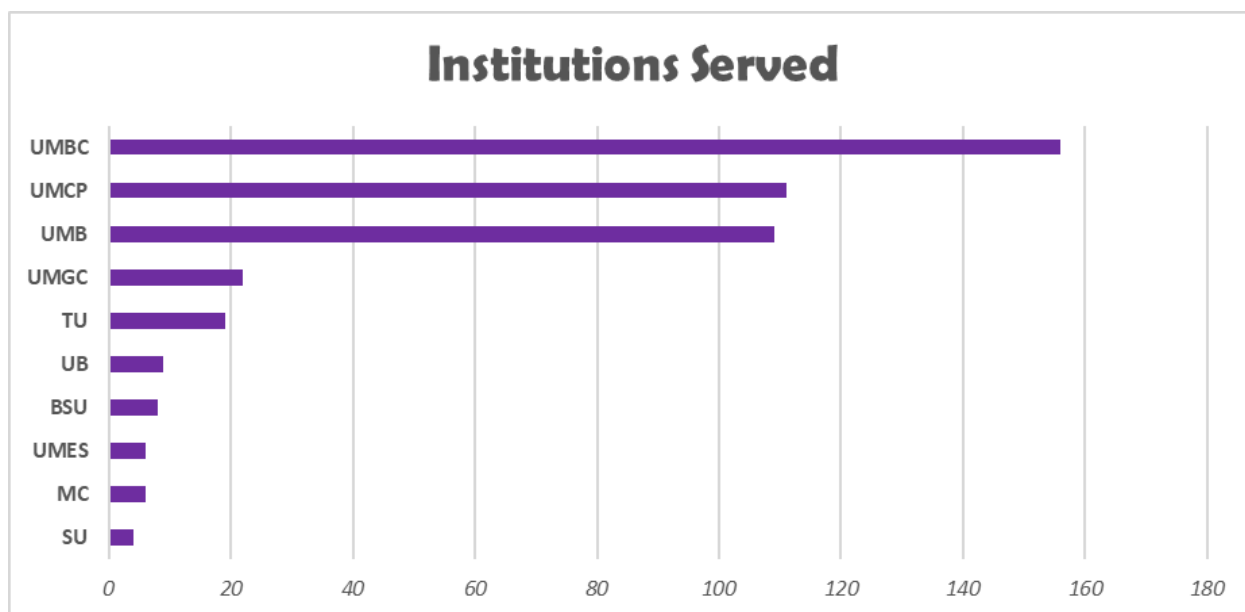
Research Consultations & Reference Help

This year, Priddy Library received over 500 consultation and reference questions. Consultations are primarily one-to-one in-depth research assistance provided by subject specialist liaison librarians. Librarians, on average, spend 60 minutes on each consultation. Reference questions, which tend to be more informational, are answered on average within five minutes.

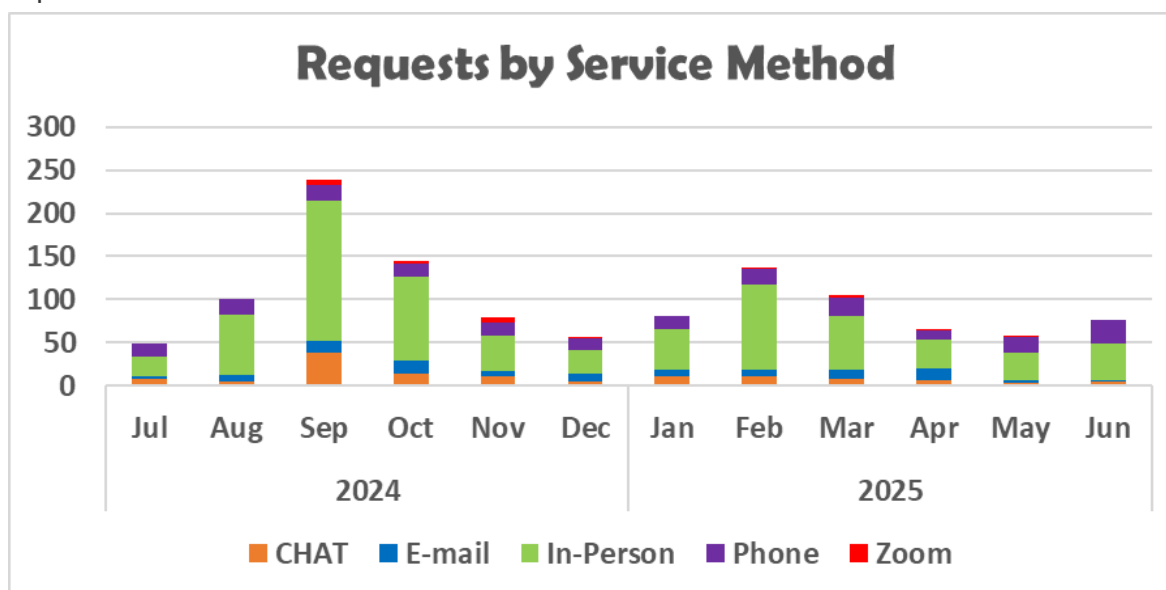


The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) offer programs with some of the highest enrollment numbers among USG institutions.

These programs (nursing, psychology, and social work) also tend to have assignments that require library research. Generally, Priddy Library's reference and consultation numbers are often highest in these two institutions. However, this past year, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) joined near the top of the list, with a high number of requests from Business and Communication students (two programs with strong connections to the library). Students from all nine partner institutions at USG, as well as those from Montgomery College, were served by our service desk.

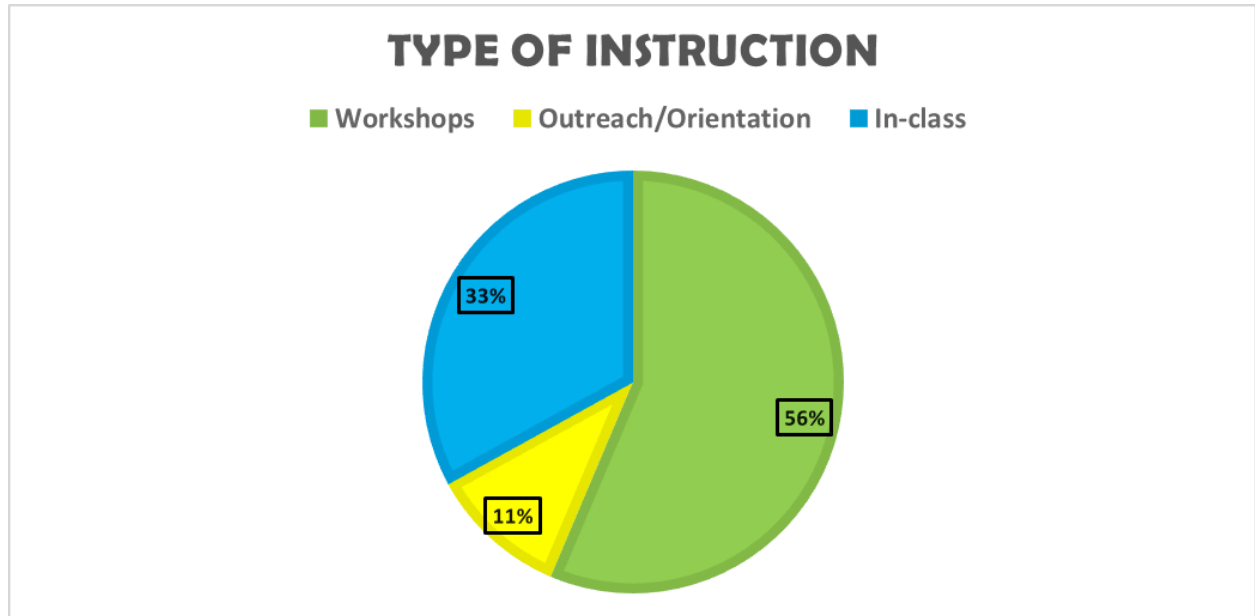


All request types are higher at the start of the semesters; more so for the fall semester, when most students begin their programs. Even with some virtual and hybrid courses offered, the majority of requests were consistently for in-person services, demonstrating the demand for in-person instruction.



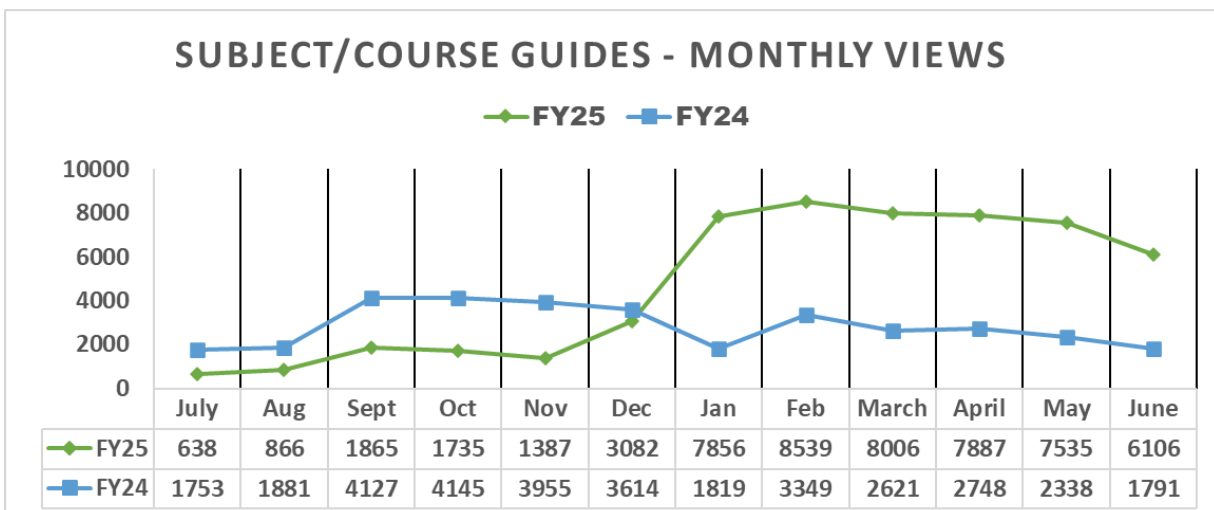
Instruction and Workshops:

A major area that librarians serve students is by teaching in-class instruction sessions and workshops. This year, almost 1,000 students attended these instruction sessions. An additional 1,000 current and potential students were reached through just a handful of open houses and orientation sessions. Priddy Library workshops continue to be offered in a hybrid format, with the majority of attendees being virtual.



Subject Guides

Research/course guides continue to be a valuable resource for students and faculty. While there was a drop in usage during the Fall 2024 semester, numbers increased dramatically in 2025 (specifically for courses not offered in the Fall semester). Also during that time, two new guides were added: HIST 488 - Europe, 1914 to the Present (course guide), and What's On Your Plate? (subject guide) which was created to accompany a special library exhibit.



Library Usage

In FY25, staffing constraints required a reduction in operating hours during the Fall and Spring semesters, which we accommodated by changing our standard closing time from 10pm to 8pm, and temporarily ending our Night Owls program. Despite these changes, the trend of solid library use continued, with the average number of library patrons for any given hour declining by only 4% year-on-year. Our commitment to making scheduling cuts as efficiently as possible meant that, despite a 14% reduction in hours, we only saw an 11% decline in visitors.

Course Reserves

As always, our Course Reserves section contained physical copies of all available required texts for classes at USG, with over 445 volumes to support students who have difficulty purchasing their class textbooks, including 127 new and updated volumes for this year. This represents the overwhelming majority of our acquisitions for the year, because we have prioritized purchasing the titles that USG students need the most to succeed in their degree programs.

Scholarship

Eileen Harrington

Harrington, E.G. (2024). Review of the book *Low Carbon Transition: Sustainable Agriculture in the European Union* by D. Streimikiene, I. Siksnelyte-Butkiene, & T. Balezentis. *Choice Reviews* 62(7). <https://www.choicereviews.org/review/10.5860/CHOICE.237130>

Harrington, E.G. & Moncrieffe, M. (2025, June 11-12). *Tooth Telling: Sharing Oral Health Stories to Transform Training and Patient Care* [Conference presentation]. UMD Library Research and Innovative Practice Forum, College Park, MD.

Irene Münster

Münster, I. (2025). *The Origins of Tarbut School, Buenos Aires, Argentina*. In *[Hi]stories of the German-Jewish Diaspora*. (A project of the Moses Mendelssohn Center and the WAG of the Leo Baeck Institute, Germany) <https://diaspora.jewish-history-online.net>

Münster, I. (2024). Las bibliotecas en los asentamientos judíos de Entre Ríos [Libraries in the Jewish settlements of Entre Ríos]. *Revista del GEHESC*, año 1(n. 1), 12-16. <https://www.gehesc.com.ar/revista/ediciones/n1/numerouno.html>

Münster, I. (2024, August). [*Exploring the South American Jewish press at Harvard*](#). *News and Updates, Harvard Judaica*

Schoenung, S., & Münster, I. (2024, November). *ABEndgymnasium, Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany*. Karlsruhe, Germany. Invited talk.

Greta Ober-Beauchesne

Ober-Beauchesne, G. (2024, December 12). *Artificial Intelligence for Small Businesses: A guide for librarians supporting local entrepreneurs* [Conference presentation]. MD Tech Connect 2024: AI and Emerging Technologies, Rockville, MD.

<https://mdtechconnect.org/previous-events/md-tech-connect-2024/>

Franklin Ofsthun

Ofsthun, F. (2024, December 12). "Eat at least one small rock per day": Information literacy in the age of generative AI. [Conference presentation]. MD Tech Connect 2024: AI and Emerging Technologies. Rockville, MD. <https://doi.org/10.13016/vlr8-mb8z>

Ofsthun, F., Jaini, J. & Hall, R.P. (2025, June 5-7). Supporting the Knowledge Needs of Community Wealth Building Initiatives with a Scoping Review and Subject Guide. [Conference poster]. Social Equity Leadership Conference 2025, Rockville, MD.

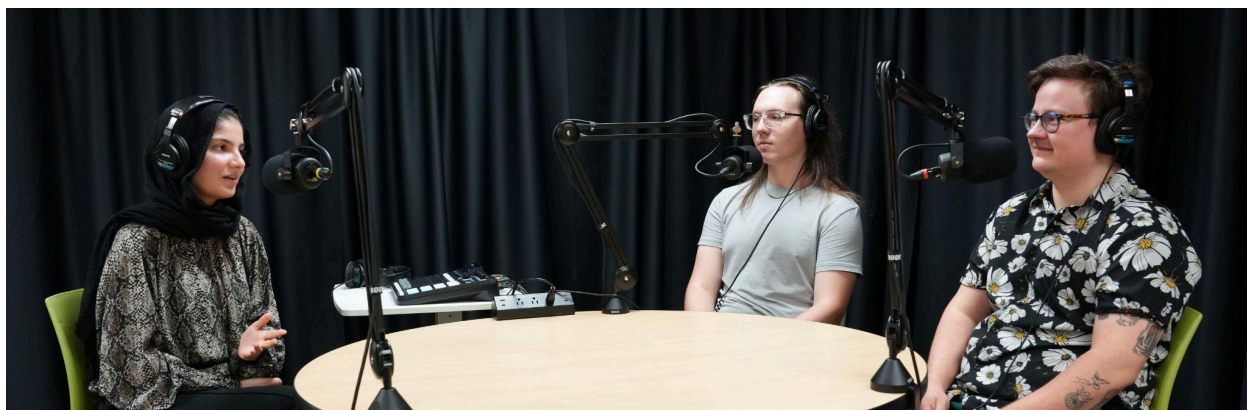
<https://doi.org/10.13016/wu7w-hpuq>

Ofsthun, F., Ortiz, M. & White, G. (2025, June 11-12). LGBTQ+ Library Improvement Survey & Interviews: Preliminary findings. [Conference poster]. UMD Library Research and Innovative Practice Forum, College Park, MD. <https://doi.org/10.13016/zedf-o0ze>

Andrew Yager

Lieggi, T., Sterling, L., Hipsher, J., Yager, A., Forbes, C. & Hooker, L. (2025, June 27). "Call It What You Want": Updating the Framework for Access Services Librarianship. [Conference presentation]. ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition. Philadelphia, PA.

Partnerships



Planned To Pivot Alumni Panel & Career Expo - April 1, 2025

A partnership with the department of Office of Strategic Partnerships, spearheaded by Andrew Yager and Deb Zimmer. This event connected USG students and the community with

prospective employers in the helping professions. It included a panel discussion by USG alumni working in careers outside of the traditional fields for their academic programs. It also included a Q&A session with those alumni, and encouraged students to consider work in less obvious areas where they could leverage the strengths of their education. Podcasts with other alumni were also recorded for later release.



Podcast Recording Studio

A podcast studio facilitated by the Marketing and Communications department opened in Priddy Library this past year. This space is available for all students, faculty, and staff to use during the Library's open hours. Jeff Kenton (Marketing and Communications) and Jordan Edelin (Macklin Center for Leadership and Communication) conducted workshops on podcasting in the new space, as part of the Macklin Center and Priddy Library's shared workshop program. Also, podcast instruction was included in library instruction for two classes of UMCP Communication courses.

International Games Month Event - November 13, 2024

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13uEX-E6SCCkyQmlqeIVzkhxQxFvg-fdB>

Priddy Library hosted an event for International Games Month. This event included coordination between the UB Simulation and Game Design program, the RLB Library, and the TableTop Guild. We borrowed several legacy consoles from RLB Library (University of Baltimore) collection and allowed guests to play games that influenced the field of game development. Students from UB's Simulation and Game Design set up play tests of the games they were designing for their capstone projects and solicited valuable feedback from the students, staff, and visitors at Priddy Library. Finally, the TableTop Guild ran several games throughout the day that students could drop in and join.



What's on Your Plate? Exhibit - November 22, 2024

This exhibit and [accompanying Subject Guide](#), developed by a librarian and iSchool interns, explored both the issues related to food and innovative solutions to move forward with sustainable food systems that can nourish us all.



What's on Your Plate?

Food touches everyone. It is linked to culture, heritage, and history. Complex food systems connect various actors locally, nationally, and globally. Agricultural innovations have led to increased productivity, but at the same time hunger persists in many places. Food systems intertwine and impact human and environmental health and can reinforce social and economic inequities. Issues related to food systems include climate change, habitat loss, pollution, nutrition, food security, food waste, animal welfare, and workers' rights.

This exhibit explores both the issues related to food and innovative solutions to move forward with sustainable food systems that can nourish us all. To delve more deeply into any of the topics presented, scan the QR code below for additional resources, including websites, videos, and books.



Photos courtesy of USDA



Priddy
Library

November 2024

2024 MD Tech Connect - December 12, 2024

AI and Emerging Technologies

Priddy Library was once again the primary campus sponsor of the statewide technology in library conference, MD Tech Connect (MDTC). For 9 years, MDTC has brought academic, public, school, and specialty library and technology professionals from across the state to USG to share, educate, and learn. Presenters this year included faculty and students from USG programs, and two of our librarians.

Earth's Echo: Voices of Environmental Justice - Exhibit - April 10 - May 30, 2025

This exhibition explores themes of environmental degradation, climate resilience, and the human impact on natural ecosystems through contemporary art, bringing together a diverse group of artists whose work challenges, inspires, and engages with critical issues of our time. Curated by Judy A. Greenberg, director emeritus of The Kreeger Museum in Washington, D.C., with assistance from Professor Stephanie Simmons (Salisbury University).



Towson University Family Reading Night - April 16, 2025

Students in the Towson Early Education Club held a second Reading Night, which coincided with Priddy Library's Earth's Echo art exhibition, so young learners and their parents were treated to a tour and art talk by Curator Judy Greenberg. Children and parents alike listened with rapt attention as Judy engaged the audience with lessons about art and the environment. Kids were inspired to create their own earth day art with themed coloring sheets.



Environmental Justice Panel - April 22, 2025

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, a panel discussion was held featuring Judy A. Greenberg in conversation with scholars from several institutions at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). Panelists included Professors Jeanette Hoover (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and Kendall Bustad (University of Maryland, College Park), and Jennifer Cueva (University of Maryland, College Park student). The discussion was moderated by Professor Kate Keeney (University of Maryland, College Park).



Environmental Justice in Social Work Posters - April 22 - May 6, 2025

Students in Professor Jeanette Hoover's Environmental Justice in Social Work Practice course researched topics related to environmental justice that they were passionate about. In partnership with Priddy Library, students created posters to share the topics they have learned about with the rest of the USG community. These posters reflected a wide range of topics from plastic pollution in the ocean, deforestation in Nigeria, to issues in our neighborhoods here in the DMV.



UB Game Design Event - May 7, 2025

Students in the University of Baltimore's Simulation and Game Design Program showcased the video games they have designed as part of their senior capstone projects. Four teams utilized both our high-powered gaming PCs and portable screens in the VR lab, as well as the flexible space and touchscreen display in the newly renovated Engagement Hub. The students were able to receive critical public feedback with the help of students looking to destress during finals.