MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Academic year 2022-23 has been a particularly exciting one in Nimitz Library. In May, the Federal Library and Information Network (FEDLINK) announced that Nimitz won the FEDLINK award for 2022 large library of the year. FEDLINK highlighted our first floor renovation, library space study, Personal Librarian Program, new outreach and first-year experience position, and two new special collections. I was pleased to accept the award, along with Associate Director of User Services Catherine Johnson, and meet Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden at the ceremony.

In September 2022, we celebrated the aforementioned 2-year, 2.5 million dollar renovation with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event included remarks from the Superintendent, music from USNA band, and attendees from across the Yard. This renovation opened up a lovely space facing College Creek, which is very popular with midshipmen for studying, and enjoying the view and natural sunlight.

One of the major highlights from last year’s annual report was the acquisition of a massive collection of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover’s papers, which is sure to be in high demand by naval history researchers. Although reviewing and organizing more than 100 boxes of material in only a year seemed like an impossible task, the Special Collections & Archives department rose to the occasion, and the collection is already available for use.

On a more personal note, this year served as my last full year at the Naval Academy. I arrived at Nimitz Library in 1989 as the Engineering Librarian, and joined a staff of 40 plus librarians working to support the academic mission of the academy. I found working at the Naval Academy my ideal career, working with talented librarians and dedicated faculty to create the best library experience possible for the midshipmen. I was blessed with many work experiences and opportunities thereafter, working as the Director of the Multimedia Support Center (part-time) while taking on various broader library duties. I was honored to be appointed Library Director in 2017 and fortunate to have served in that capacity since that time. But, alas, I will be retiring early in 2024, feeling proud of my small contributions to the Naval Academy these last 34 years, but realizing the mission and the institution will continue as it has done since October 1845. I am proud to state that my entire professional career, more than 42 years, has been supporting the United States Navy, the greatest navy on earth.

V/r,
Larry Clemens
Dean for Information Services and Nimitz Library Director
I am writing about the divisiveness of the Constitution and I would like to show the two different parties that debated it. I am looking to find 5 different sources on the court case Texas v. Johnson and put those sources in proper Chicago style Author-Date format. May you help me find and format those sources? Where can I find material on the phrase "Don't Give Up The Ship?" Do you have any history databases we can look at?

This year, Access Services staff borrowed 2,764 items for USNA patrons from libraries around the world. Nimitz staff also provided 2,929 items to other libraries. Interlibrary Loan connects UNSA library users with the unique and specialized information sources they need to engage in research pursuits.

The library had a door count of 199,135, a nearly 15% increase from the previous year. While the library had more limited hours on weekends than pre-COVID, this is a positive sign that midshipmen are returning to using the library as an academic and social hub.

The Research & Instruction, Special Collections & Archives, and Circulation departments responded to a total of 3,464 research questions during the AY 2022-23, a 6% increase over AY 2021-22. See a few examples of the kinds of questions we assisted with this year.

I'm looking for "appropriate sources" about the ocean shipping reform act.
On October 3, 2022, faculty, staff, and a number of special guests gathered to celebrate the completion of the library’s main floor 2-year, 2.5 million dollar renovation. The event featured music from the Naval Academy Band, remarks from Superintendent VADM Buck, Provost Phillips and Dean Clemens and a reception for attendees. The ribbon cutting gave all attendees a chance to celebrate the continued evolution of the library space designed to facilitate academic conversation and inspire academic success surrounded by library services and resources.

Just before exams began during the Fall 2022 semester, the library installed all new furniture on the main floor’s front corner. The furniture was selected to meet the needs of midshipmen including booths to facilitate casual conversation and collaboration, tables that can accommodate groups of various sizes, and lounge chairs near the windows for individual study or quiet contemplation.

During the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters, Nimitz Library featured midshipmen art on the newly installed art wall. The library collaborated with the Midshipman Art Club in Fall 2022 and The Labyrinth in Spring 2023 to highlight the art created by midshipmen in those organizations. Midshipmen created and selected the works, and wrote a brief synopses to give context for the works and share information about the midshipmen clubs.
ONGOING RESEARCH SUPPORT

Demand for research assistance continued to grow in 2022-23. Nimitz Library faculty and staff in the Research & Instruction, Special Collections & Archives, and Circulation departments responded to a total of 3,464 research questions during the AY 2022-23, a 6% increase over AY 2021-22. More than half of these research questions were asked and answered at the busy Research Help Desk (RHD) on the first floor of Nimitz. Special Collections & Archives handled 20% of these research questions, the majority of which were asked by non-USNA affiliated patrons. In addition, librarians held almost 200 research consultation appointments with midshipmen, faculty, and staff.

TEACHING INFORMATION LITERACY

During AY 2023-2023, librarians taught 237 information literacy instruction sessions. These sessions pair librarians with classroom faculty to teach critical thinking and research skills to midshipmen. Research & Instruction librarians are deeply involved in plebe core courses, teaching 56 information literacy sessions for sections of FP130 American Government, 45 sessions for sections of HE112 Rhetoric and Introduction to Literature II, and 26 sessions for sections of HH104 Naval History. Librarians also continued to work on the curriculum alignment project, in which subject specialist librarians collaborate with academic departments to create plans for integrating information literacy seamlessly into the curriculum.

ORGANIZATION CHANGES

This year the library made changes to the organizational chart to better meet the needs of our users. The library used a vacant position to create a new Outreach & Plebe Year Librarian. This new position is tasked with coordinating messaging about the library to a variety of constituencies, coordinating our Personal Librarian Program for plebes, and ensuring that plebes use the library’s services and resources for academic success. This year also brought a number of shifts in Access Services, the department that staffs our frontline checkout desk, processes all of our incoming and outgoing interlibrary loan requests, and ensures that the books in the collection are organized properly and available for users. In response to the centralization of a number of duties into that department, the library used empty billets to upgrade an existing position and to create a new department head position. These changes reflect the increased workload in Access Services and build capacity for more strategic work in the future.
The Research & Instruction librarians began developing academic support statements in AY 2022-23. These statements describe the ways that subject specialist librarians collaborate with and support academic departments, covering information literacy instruction, research support services, and collections policies. Statements for each department will be available online, to inform both R&I departmental efforts and partners across the Yard.

**RICKOVER’S PAPERS**

In 2022, the Naval Academy Museum acquired a massive collection of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover’s papers, which were then turned over to Nimitz Library’s Special Collections & Archives department (SC&A) due to its expertise in organizing, preserving, and providing access to this type of collection. In order to make this collection available to researchers eager to learn more about the “father of the nuclear Navy,” SC&A’s archivists devoted much of their time during AY 2022-2023 to organizing the material into categories such as correspondence, Congressional testimony, photographs, personal files, and boat books; rehousing it in acid-free folders and boxes; and describing it in a finding aid now available online. The collection is now housed in 221 boxes occupying 111.2 linear feet of shelf space.

**MORE ACCESS TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The SC&A department also entered into a partnership with the popular online journal database JSTOR to make USNA’s digital collections available through the database. These collections consist mainly of historical photos of the academy and midshipmen, publications such as the Lucky Bag yearbook and catalog, midshipmen letters and journals, and World War II action reports. Their presence on JSTOR will make these materials available to a much larger audience, as the database is a go-to resource for most academic institutions.
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

RIGHT-SIZING THE COLLECTION

The Systems & Materials Processing Department took a hard look at the library’s bound journal collection this year. This collection “right-sizing” was prompted by the need to open up additional study space and prepare to make shelving ADA compliant. For many journals that were removed from the physical collection, the library acquired permanent access to digital versions. More than 33,000 bound volumes were determined to be of limited value to the Academy or replaced with digital access and removed from the shelves during 2022-23. The department removed a further 20,000 print items in the government documents collection, retaining only the items that pertain to one of the academy’s critical areas such as the DoD and NASA. However, Nimitz Library continues to have access to all of the Government Printing Office’s publications, which are now 100% online. Finally, the department removed about 4,000 books that were rarely, if ever, checked out and were either duplicates, damaged, unrelated to the academy’s curriculum, or available digitally.
In December 2022, Nimitz Library partnered with the USNA Research Office to host the Midshipmen Research Poster Session for the first time in the building on the main floor. The midshipmen featured during the poster session were enrolled in independent research courses or honors courses, and benefited from the mentorship of faculty advisers in their departments. Throughout the event, during which 131 posters were on display from 13 academic departments, midshipmen had the opportunity to discuss their research with faculty and visitors. Hosting the poster session in Nimitz was so successful that it will return to the library in December 2023.

Nimitz has continued hosting lunchtime events throughout the year to draw midshipmen and faculty into the library. Faculty Research Talks remained popular amongst faculty, especially the January 2023 talk on ChatGPT, presented by Dr. Nate Chambers of the Computer Science department. Additionally, several ensembles from the United States Naval Academy Band filled the main floor of the library with music during the fall and spring semesters, including the successful debut performance of the percussion ensemble.

Nimitz Library saw the return of the Languages & Cultures Department’s much-loved holiday performance; COVID-19 had prevented the event during 2020 and 2021. More than 150 midshipmen serenaded library users with holiday carols sung in Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Spanish, and Ukrainian while several professors and midshipmen accompanied them on various instruments.
This year a number of Nimitz Staff contributed to the profession through presentations and publications. This year’s accomplishments include:


**Houlihan, M., & Click, A.** (2022, October 14). Wait, wait, please tell me! Everything you wanted to know about publishing and presenting in LIS. Core Forum, Salt Lake City, UT.


**Johnson, C., Click, A., & Holman, L.** (2022, October 15). 360 view of the 360 review. Core Forum, Salt Lake City, UT.


**Mills, Eric, host.** "The Annapolis Spies of World War I" Proceedings Podcast, U.S. Naval Institute, 2022. (podcast episode featuring Minakowski, A.)

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**SERVICE AWARDS**

Nimitz Library is lucky to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of long serving staff. Bravo Zulu to these staff members celebrating anniversaries of their federal service:

- Michael Macan 20 years
- Mary Stephens 20 years
- Donna Goda 15 years
- Adam Minakowski 10 years
Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Library Technician
During the 2022-2023 year I attended the Book Repair Workshop at The School for Bookbinding Arts in Winchester, VA. On 17 October 2022 I learned many hands-on book repair techniques, which have equipped me with the skills and confidence to repair the damaged books at Nimitz Library. Thanks to this in-depth training, I have been able to work alongside my colleagues to clear the once very crowded book repair table. The detailed training documents that the school provided for us allowed me to train new hires, and to create a book repair folder in our shared drive so that other staff may benefit from this information.

Kelly Durkin Ruth, Engineering Librarian
This year I am participating in the Institute for Research Design in Librarianship, a continuing education program aimed at creating a community of confident librarian-researchers. In June 2023, I attended the institute's summer research workshop, designed to provide attendees with social science research training. The workshop is followed by a year of peer and formal mentor support in completing a research project. The library has supported me with release time to attend the workshop and to make progress on my project. This opportunity has helped me broaden my network of peer librarians while developing my experience with skills and methods that will help me make evidence-based improvements to my professional practice.

Adam Minakowski, Assistant Archivist
I attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in fall 2022, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary. The conference gave me the opportunity to learn more about audiovisual digitization projects, which is a current focus at Nimitz Library. I had the chance to meet more vendors for this work and learn what other archivists are doing in potentially relevant areas such as web archiving.

Amanda Click, Head of Research & Instruction
During 2022-23, I served as co-chair of the Core Forum Planning Committee. Forum is the annual conference for Core: Leadership, Infrastructures, Futures, a division of the American Library Association. I have learned a great deal about managing multiple teams, budget and sponsorships, and building a compelling conference program.

STAFFING CHALLENGES
During 2022-23, Nimitz Library brought in a new librarian and a new part-time student employee and two staff members shifted into new roles within the library. Over the same time, six valuable staff members departed the library for other opportunities. These losses exacerbated the series of institutional knowledge losses that began with last year’s high rate of turnover. These departures, coupled with long search/rehire periods created a number of staffing shortages and reduced library hours. Library staff have been seeking alternative hiring strategies and hope to close the gap and increase staffing levels during 2023-24.