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CAL POLY HUMBOLDT LIBRARY



Dean's Welcome

The year emerged with much excitement about artificial intelligence. When asking Bard, Google's AI, about the coolest thing to do at the library, the answers may be surprising: "attend a library event," "learn a new skill," "use the library's makerspace," and more. Interestingly, Bard's impressive answers overlooked two of the most engaging and impactful aspects about a library: it's a welcoming place that brings everyone together, and in addition to hundreds of mobile whiteboards, it is an ideal place to read books - and we have plenty of amazing reads to choose from; including over half a million books! If you read one a day, that is over 1,300 years of fun! In addition, as of this last year, we now have well over half a million ebooks available. Indeed. our library is both a center for finding information, and a center of knowledge creation and sharing. The Library's Press at Cal Poly Humboldt publishes over 600 authored works a year, and works to provide every student the opportunity to publish before they graduate. The talented librarians and staff at the Library curate a welcoming learning environment, creating positive and meaningful learning experiences with books, technology, laser cutters, 3D printers, software development, virtual reality, digital dissection, and more. Perhaps more importantly, we work continuously to connect people and ideas, facilitating the creation of scholarship and of knowledge. Our librarians have already developed SkillShops, in collaboration with the Writing Studio, on the practical uses and risks of Al tools. We are proactively designing the educational

programs and services to meet the emerging needs of our students and campus community.

This annual report of the Cal Poly Humboldt Library combines data and insights that we hope interests you, and offers an excellent way for us to celebrate one of the best and most innovative libraries in California. Thanks to you and our supporters, the Library continues to be a dynamic learning environment, providing diverse opportunities to be inspired across disciplines and to explore experiential learning, innovative simulation, and solution engineering.

We continue to hire student assistants and provide paid internships to enhance learning through innovative project-based learning initiatives, focusing on building sustainable infrastructure to explore novel ways of learning and accessing knowledge. This last year, we developed two monumental software projects, the 3Dherbarium.org which officially launched January 25, 2024, and the GIS Data Archive Project, due for launch May 2024. These learning tools serve as a powerful portfolio project for Cal Poly Humboldt students creating influential real-world solutions, as well as essential learning infrastructure to advance the future of teaching and learning at Cal Poly Humboldt and beyond.

Cal Poly Humboldt students benefit tremendously from working and interning at the Library. Many studies have shown that students employed at their college or university are more likely to complete their degrees.

In addition to the much-needed financial support that is crucial to their ability to afford a college education, students at the Library are developing important skills such as: communication, customer service. networking, problem-solving, and teamwork. Employing approximately 50 students each year is critical to our operations and services to students, faculty, staff, and community. Our student assistants are essential for our ability to publish over 600 authored works each year at The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt, making local history more accessible online and in Special Collections, checking out much needed expensive textbooks and equipment, and processing new books. We also support five interns each semester to explore learning opportunities from archival and special collections practices, to developing 3D models, and contributing to Google Maps in support of student retention.

Our educational programs positively impact thousands. Last year, library instruction in various academic programs reached 3,753 students. The summer Lifelong Learning Lounge at the Library (L4Humboldt) had 490 participants, and the academic year SkillShops engaged 2,392 people, that is 1 in 4 students completing one or more workshops. Last year 2,154 of badges for online SkillShops were earned while over 720 badges were earned last fall semester. Learn more about our unique SkillShops at libguides.humboldt.edu/skillshops.



Cal Poly Humboldt Library is unique because of our dedication and commitment to providing high quality engagement to students, focusing on their learning and goals. As you read the various annual report highlights, we would like to recognize everyone's role in making this library the students' favorite place on campus, and we hope that it is yours, too.

Congratulations Library Faculty, Staff, Student Assistants, Interns, and Library Supporters!

James Comments of the Comments

Thank you, Cyril Oberlander, Dean, University Library

LOOK CLOSER

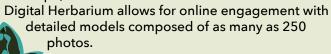
3D Digital Herbarium

The Cal Poly Humboldt Library has been leading the way in innovation and creativity. Dr. Sherrene Bogle regularly invites the Library to provide challenging projects to her Software Engineering class. This senior capstone course directs students to work on their own ideas or to take on one of the Library's proposals. Inspired by the *Anatomage* digital dissection table, the 3D Digital Herbarium was intended to create an equivalent for

flora, in support of botanical and natural science learners at the University. Four of Dr. Bogle's Fall 2022 students began the work and at the end of the course we hired AJ Bealum, one of the recent graduates, to continue as the Programmer and Project Manager.

The 3D Digital Herbarium is immersive, interactive, and online. It is more accessible than closed collections and more detailed than traditional herbariums, which use dried and pressed samples of flora. The project uses photogrammetry and 3D modeling to provide true-to-life models of Humboldt County's native species with correct color, texture, characteristics, and structure both for botanical study

and for identification purposes. Instead of flattened and dried specimens which lose color and shape, the 3D



For the purpose of visualizing concepts, testing designs, and developing solutions, 3D modeling has emerged as a crucial skill and competency in many professions. Libraries play an important role in inspiring and encouraging learning 3D modeling techniques across all academic fields. Our 3D Digital Herbarium team has made advances in photogrammetry and software development research, as well as botany education. Another valuable element of this project is that it fosters powerful collaboration with computer science and botany students.

With AJ's and Cyril's direction and in collaboration with four student assistants - two from computer









Top left photo: 3D Digital Herbarium team: David Yaranon, '24 Computer Science, AJ Bealum, '22 Computer Science & Staff Project Manager, & Heather Davis, '23 Botany. Top left middle photo: David Yaranon presenting at *IdeaFest 2023*. Top right middle photo: AJ Bealum presenting at *Access 2023* in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Top right photo: AJ Bealum presenting at *IdeaFest 2023*.

science and two from botany - both the herbarium platform and modeling process have made incredible progress. Our efforts to date have produced a beta version website and approximately 72 finished 3D models, including Humboldt's own Coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirens), modeled from a specimen right outside the Library. The team has already compiled and uploaded 40 of these models, a process that can take up to eight hours. The website, now available to the public, includes not only the models but a variety of useful web service integrations including an imagebased identification feature and access to iNaturalist. The 3D Digital Herbarium supports both student and community access to plant identification and is a learning device for botanical study. In addition, this project plans to test multiple disciplines, from Archeology to Zoology, to enhance the functionality to

meet a variety of needs.

The 3D Digital Herbarium prototype is a groundbreaking project to develop an immersive 3D digital exhibit designed to be an engaging open access environment to learn botany, highlight closed herbarium collections, and provide a powerful new tool for class assignments or internships.

In October 2023, AJ and Cyril presented the 3D Digital Herbarium project in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada at *Access 2023*. *Access* is Canada's premier library technology conference bringing librarians, technicians, developers, programmers, and managers together to discuss cutting-edge library technologies.

Check it out at 3Dherbarium.org

DIVE DEEPER

Sustainable Library Certification

Sustainability for Cal Poly Humboldt Library signifies the intersection of social justice, environmental stewardship, systemic analysis, relational partnerships, and economic considerations. The Library, as a campus and community hub, connects our users to information in an integrated, academic research environment. Sustainability is a conscious practice that connects humanity to nature and promotes collaborative and relational partnerships to seek solutions that support community and environment. We deeply respect the value of thoughtful design and development in our sustainability efforts and understand that meeting our present needs should not compromise the ability of current and future generations to meet theirs.

Our approach to this work encompasses a range of perspectives. It includes accounting for and articulating our ongoing library efforts; actively seeking input and collaboration from our surrounding communities; and acknowledging that sustainability is an integral and evolving aspect of our library operations. Creating radically sustainable learning environments, where

sustainability is both a philosophy and a way of being, is an enduring commitment at the Cal Poly Humboldt Library.

One of the crucial ways the Library supports sustainability is making a college education more affordable to students. Not including Textbooks on Reserve, our campus CSU Affordable Learning Solutions initiative has had a significant impact on helping students by promoting the use of open educational resources in lieu of expensive textbooks. In the past year we helped 3,966 students save a total of \$307,096 by providing access to open educational resources within 204 courses.

In 2022, we welcomed the first
Sustainability Librarian in the CSU
system to the Cal Poly Humboldt Library.
This innovative campus investment is also
an important development for the Sustainability
Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), a
self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to
measure their sustainability performance.

"After submitting information in April 2023, Humboldt is proud to announce we have renewed our Gold Rating, earning a rating of 76.57, which represents the percentage of points earned in the assessment. (This score is a roughly 4.5% increase since our last report was published in 2020!) This also helps demonstrate that Humboldt is a premier institution for students, staff, and faculty seeking learning opportunities and model behaviors for In the coming year, our Library will embark on a journey sustainability in higher education!" toward achieving Sustainable Library Certification in - Sustainability Office collaboration with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. www.humboldt.edu/about/sustainability Cal Poly Humboldt will be one of only two CSU campuses that have undertaken this effort to date. This initiative was made possible by funding from an ERFSA (Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association) grant and contributions from the Library. We are working diligently to involve campus partners in this important endeavor under the guidance of our Sustainability Librarian Morgan Barker and with the support of a dedicated library working group.

CHART THE WAY

Discovering Humboldt Project

Putting Humboldt on the map is as easy as exploring local favorite places. In just over three years since starting the Discovering Humboldt project, there have been over 50 million views of the photos, videos, reviews, and new places in Humboldt County that have been added to Google Maps. We recognize that place matters, and when asking students about places that matter to them we discovered many local favorites. By adding these places and reviews to Google Maps we made it easier to navigate and share resources. With the help of five Library Scholar interns focused on travel and tourism, we identified students' favorite locations, and explored how that information helps us retain and recruit students.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Cyril and his family explored and photographed their local favorites. Cyril has contributed over 6,200 photos, 328 reviews, 83 answers, 50 new places, 33 edits, 24 videos, and four facts to Google Maps and, in doing so, made resources easier to find in Google Search. For instance, doing a Google search for 'makerspace near me' while in Humboldt County, our Library Makerspace will appear on the first page of results.

Since May 8, 2023, Cal Poly Humboldt Visitors & Welcome Center had 368,951 views.

The top three most viewed local businesses added to Google Maps by this project are:

- 1. Tomo Japanese Restaurant 2.6 million views
- 2. Wildflower Cafe and Bakery 1.3 million views
- 3. Japhy's Soup & Noodles over 1.1 million views

Cyril recently began adding academic departments to see their impact in Google Search and to highlight their incredible programs. After the Oceanography department was added as a place in Google Maps on September 20, 2023, it was searched and selected 5,455 times. Similarly, Journalism & Mass Communication was viewed 3,903 times and Religious Studies 4,107 times in the same time frame. French & Francophone Studies, added on May 9, 2023, has 1,705 views. While the project originated as an effort to help retain students, it has also served to guide prospective students in the discovery of Cal Poly Humboldt's excellent programs.

We are pleased to share the following examples of views and the dates the locations were added to Google Maps:

862, 763 Carruthers Cove Trail (Jan. '21)

227,367 Natural History Museum (May '21)

78,879 All Gender Restroom, Library (Jan. '23)

43,477 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) (Oct. '22)

25,739 The Library Special Collections & Archives (Sept. '22)

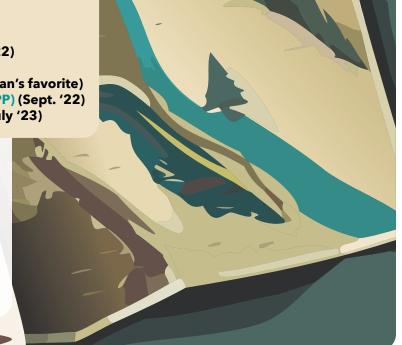
13,904 El Centro Académico Cultural Center (Sept. '22)

12,740 Coffee & vending machines, Library (April '23) (Dean's favorite)

9,917 Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP) (Sept. '22)

1,591 Veterans Enrollment & Transition Services (VETS) (July '23)

Libraries make information more readily accessible and useful. Adding places, reviews, photos, and data such as ADA facilities to Google Map Reviews has a profoundly positive impact on Google Search results. It is important to enhance regional information to make Humboldt County more visible in a world where search engine bias often directs traffic to urban areas. To learn more about the Discovering Humboldt project please visit hum.link/ ALADiscoveringHumboldt or contact Cyril.Oberlander@humboldt.edu.



GROW HERE

Children's Collection

Big changes have taken place this past summer in the Library's Children's Collection and we are very excited to introduce and welcome everyone to the new-andimproved space. We have made it a more welcoming place for families on campus and in the community. In collaboration with faculty, staff, and students in the School of Education and Department of Child Development, as well as many Library employees, we have reorganized the space, shifted books, moved shelves, added child-friendly furniture, toys, and puzzles, and are in the process of updating the collection. Our goal is to make the space a welcoming area for all parents and families and develop a collection that supports the needs of our students and faculty who study children's literature.

Our plans for this coming year are to order hundreds of new, award-winning books with a focus on promoting diversity and inclusion in both subjects and authors within the collection. We have engaged students from a Child Development class in the reimagining process of this space, as well as the adjacent Lactation Room. We have plans to hire a student as a Library Scholar

intern to help promote the collection and integrate it with campus curriculum.

The Library continues to be thoughtful and intentional about the way we interact with students and families. Curating this space to better connect with families and children while providing engaging children's literature is just one example of our commitment to our community and to all future learners.



FIND CREATIVE PATHS

Hackathon

Each spring the Library hosts Cal Poly Humboldt's annual Hackathon in collaboration with the University's Computer Science department. In 2023, the Library hosted nearly 50 participants, split into nine teams working on 11 exciting projects. Teams raced to create prototype programming projects within a 24-hour window. It's an exciting collaborative competition and an amazing networking opportunity rolled into one. Students combine their diverse skills and interests to solve a problem, create a product, write code for it, and then deliver a 5-minute sales pitch. It is excellent practice for students, both in terms of developing a program and in developing pitch skills.

Hackathons connect individuals to the community and leverage their knowledge and passion to solve real problems. Teams focused on cryptosecurity, created fun new games, and developed a social networking app. Judges selected four winning teams based on criteria such as viability, realism, originality, thoughtfulness, visual appeal, usability, and whether they demonstrated their project well. This year's first place winning team's project, Unfair Mathio, incentivizes math practice by providing access to a student-designed 2D-platformer

game. *Grocery Broker*, the runner-up, compares nearby grocery item prices and presents users with their cheapest and nearest options.

Student and community events like these are critical to supporting our innovators by giving them The Library collaborates with many organizations on and off campus to provide valuable and enjoyable programming and engagement for students. We are committed to supporting our students by hosting events such as the Hackathon, to provide opportunities to develop skills and further their education.



Southwest Humboldt Hinterlands



Jerry Rohde

Southeast Humboldt Hinterlands



Jerry Rohde

DOCUMENT STORIES

The Press @ Cal Poly Humboldt

The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt supports universal, equitable access to information through digital open access publishing. The only open-access press in the CSU system, the Press publishes high-quality scholarship for maximum global exposure and impact. As of 2022-23 the Press hosted 8,388 works and publications have been downloaded 841,130 times. Last year Press publications were downloaded 228,926 times across 214 countries.

Whether publishing journals and monographs, or posting graduate student theses and senior capstones, the Press is committed to connecting local scholars and student authors to international audiences. In Fall 2022, the Press published the next two books of Jerry Rohde's visually stunning and comprehensively researched Humboldt County People and Places series. Southwest Humboldt Hinterlands and Southeast Humboldt Hinterlands have already been viewed by over 600 people across 6 countries.

Publishing student works transforms students from passive recipients into engaged and empowered scholars with direct impact in the world. In the Philippines, for example, the top downloaded Humboldt Digital Commons publication is Jenney Bickel's graduate

thesis Electronic books or print books for increased reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition in third grade students. Local grade-school student Cario Dedini's Redwood Writing Project essay Egyptian Inventions is the seventh most downloaded article in the Philippines, demonstrating how scholarship and creative works from any age can have global reach and impact.

Authorship and knowledge must be accessible to all. The Press at Cal Poly Humboldt publishes over 600 authored works a year online for free, transforming the lives of authors and readers around the world. Learn more at press.humboldt.edu or contact us at press@humboldt.edu.





Photo: Celeste Sadler, '26 English (left) and Kiran Dunning, '23 English (right) tabling for The Press at ideaFest 2023.

EXPAND EXPERIENCE

Student Employment

At Cal Poly Humboldt Library we offer work experience that helps prepare our students for future career opportunities by developing time management, responsibility, and leadership skills. The work culture for our students is respectful, collaborative, and balanced. We believe that our students' jobs are also part of their education, and take an interest in their well-being, supporting them in their learning by helping them build skills valuable to their professional journey.

Last year, we employed over 50 students in the Library who helped in many ways:

- At the front desk, students provided a variety of services to patrons, checking out over 42,000 items.
- Behind the scenes, students assisted in cataloging our books.
- Students operated the Makerspace and provided over 100 workshops.
- In Special Collections, students worked with researchers and primary documents, and supported processing collections.
- In The Press, students are crucial to the publishing processes including editing, designing, illustrating, and publishing, which enabled us to publish over 600 authored works.

Student employment is mutually beneficial providing our students with a sense of belonging both to campus and to the community. For most, the Library has become a home-away-from-home while they are far from their homes and families.

We encourage our students to attend Skillshops as paid professional development. Skillshops are 50-minute drop-in workshops offered to introduce and develop skills in important areas for student success including Resume 101, Exploring Careers in the Community, Note-Taking Like a Pro, and Using Google Explore for Research.

The Library's dedication to education and development for our students shapes their employment here, and provides them with meaningful opportunity, flexibility, and training for their future endeavors while supporting them in their academic journeys at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Please view some of our student employee projects by visiting library.humboldt.edu/humboldt-real-world-projects.

CREATE COMMUNITY

Makerspace

The Library Makerspace embraces hands-on learning, meets students where they are, encourages peer-topeer learning, and provides a safe place to explore and learn. In Fall 2022, the Makerspace moved to the second floor of the Library and opened a digital recording room on the first floor, called The Studio. There is always engaging new programming that improves with every interaction. As a co-curricular program, it is flexible and adapts to student needs and interests outside of their coursework and supports a variety of course assignments. Students use the materials and tools to make their academic and creative projects in a variety of media. Hundreds of users visit the Makerspace for both drop-in and course-related instruction. The development of a community of makers and learners increased student engagement and creativity because of the Makerspace.

Some of the projects that Makerspace facilitates for Cal Poly Humboldt students include: crochet, knitting, and sewing; 3D modeling and graphic design; collage and origami; podcasts, music, and video; photography and lighting; and creating digital teaching tools and artifacts.

The Makerspace is a campus-wide collaborator involved with events like National Transfer Student Week's

Maker Event and Maker Skillshops. The Makerspace assists students with their preparation for ideaFest, and with their class projects for art, chemistry, engineering, and firstyear writing courses. In "As someone who has been a maker from a young age, it has been endlessly rewarding to work in such a hands-on environment."

- Makerspace student employee Peyton Leone, '24 English

Spring 2023, the Makerspace helped the Computer Science department design and 3D print parts for their supercomputer project. Young visitors from both the local GATE Academy and the I've Been Admitted to College tours are welcome in the Makerspace to learn in this hands-on environment, too.

How we teach matters as much as what we teach. We connect with learners to meet them at their skill level, and encourage them to communicate with peers or Library staff and faculty about skills they would like to develop. We also encourage persistance, to learn by doing, and adapting their methods as they work through challenges with their projects. By providing space and resources, we remove barriers for our students and assist in their success.

PRESERVE THE PAST & ADVANCE THE FUTURE

Special Collections

Located on the third floor of the Library, Special Collections is a thriving laboratory for research related to northwestern California. Open to both the public and academic community, Special Collections is a place where people make connections to our region through archival documents. These place-based collections create conversations about our past in order to engage people in our community's future.

During the past academic school year over 30 classes visited and received information literacy instruction in Special Collections, reaching over 600 students. In addition, we answered 530 reference questions at the Special Collections desk. Thousands of students and community members come to Special Collections for research, and those numbers are growing every year.

New collections were added to the archives including President McCrone's Papers, the Campus Housing Collection, and Brian D. Tripp's Papers. Brian Duane Tripp (1945-2022), a member of the Karuk Tribe, was an internationally renowned artist, poet, traditional singer, and dancer and his collections will inspire the next generation of activists and creators. This past year also saw a partnership with the Altruism Behavior Institute to make Drs. Samuel and Pearl Oliner's research, interviews, and survey results available to the public



"From One Time to Another" Brian Tripp display in the Library, September 2023

in an online archive. In January 2023, we hosted a community event to celebrate, connect, and engage in environmental conservation history. Participants learned how Cal Poly Humboldt Library is preserving and documenting the history, legacy, and environmental justice work of leaders in Humboldt County.

All these events and collections would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, student employees, and interns. Last year, paid interns worked on processing a glass plate negative collection from the Freeman Art Studio in Eureka, California. This collection of images will give another glimpse of Humboldt County in the 1930s and 1940s.

Students scanned thousands of maps, photographs, and documents to make them available to researchers online. This includes publications like the Tri-County Indian News and the Tim McKay Postcard Collection. Students transcribed research notes from the Don Tuttle newspaper index, and are now processing the Humboldt County Aerial Photograph Collection curated by Don Tuttle. Student Scott Peifer, transcribed half of the Don Tuttle historical notes, over 4,200 pages of local history!

All these projects in Special Collections give students hands-on, paid experience while making archival collections more accessible to the online community. Please stop by Special Collections to learn more about our projects, and start your own research about our unique community in northwestern California.

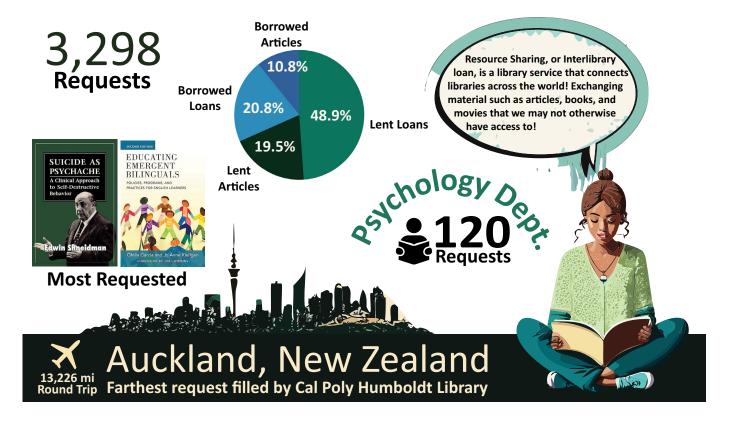
Top photo: Special Collections student employee Jude Rouland, '22 History. Bottom photo: Special Collections student employee Scott Peifer, '23 Sociology.





EXCHANGE FAR & WIDE

Resource Sharing



LOOK FORWARD

Your Library is far more than a half million books. According to a 2022 facilities survey of Cal Poly Humboldt students, the Library is students' favorite place and the campus' primary place that cultivates a sense of belonging. Fostering connections of people and ideas, this community hub inspires discovering new ideas, exploring worlds, learning skills problem solving and creativity,



year ahead, we hope to secure funding to develop a 360-degree theater to provide immersive experiences to help students learn more effectively, while also making learning more accessible by simulating access to inaccessible locations. Imagine a class presentation of research about redwoods in the virtual

eve on the future. In the

and so much more. This annual report highlights a healthy library, and your support is crucial to ensuring continued vitality of this unparalleled community resource, and expanding our abilities to meet student needs, for example:

- The Library receives over 10 times the number of student applications for student assistant positions than we are budgeted to hire
- The evolving needs of our students require investing in new digital audio/visual equipment and rooms that support and enable the creativity to produce work online in familiar and emerging channels

In addition to today's realities, we must also keep an

canopy of a redwood forest, or marine biology and oceanography in the virtual tide pools of the Pacific. Our transformational journey focuses on connecting students to ideas, information, and community. We continue to design opportunities to explore the changing learning and information landscapes, from innovative software development, internships, student employment, and hundreds of educational programs and events, we foster a uniquely positive and meaningful lifelong learning adventure. We especially invite you to the Library for ideaFest this May 3, 2024, a tremendous culminating celebration of teaching and learning, research and scholarship, creativity and performance at Cal Poly Humboldt.

THANK YOU

The Library, heart of the university, is healthy and continues to focus on students and the learning environment. Made possible through your support and dedication, the Library's crucial role persists while learning continues to change. Thank you for the ways you engage and support the Library, we welcome your feedback and suggestions, and look forward to seeing you.

To support the Library and positively transform the lives of students, please visit library.humboldt.edu/giving-library.

The Cal Poly Humboldt Library Annual Report is **produced by** the Cal Poly Humboldt Library Marketing & Outreach Team & **our Cal Poly Humboldt Library Team:** Morgan Barker, AJ Bealum, Cheryl Conner, Amanda Dinscore, Bernard Fosnaugh, Sarah Godlin, Xandra Gradine, Abigail Green, Brianne Hagen, Denise Holbrook, Lucy Ingrey, Melitta Jackson, Carly Marino, Janee Mason, Madison McLaughlin, Tim Miller, Kyle Morgan, Cyril Oberlander, Garrett Purchio, Kimberly Stelter, Kumi Watanabe-Schock, Jessica Welch, & George Wrenn. **Editor & Graphic Designer:** Jessica Welch. *All artistic images created with Adobe Firefly generative artificial intellegence*.



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