



R. BARBARA GITENSTEIN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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WHO KNEW!? BEHIND THE SCENES AT GITENSTEIN LIBRARY

By John Oliver, Information Literacy Librarian and
Interim Health & Life Sciences Librarian

Thanks to technology, many aspects of our lives today flow so well that it's like magic. This is especially true when using research materials like electronic journal articles, e-books, or streaming video. One click, and voila! you've got a PDF saved to your computer. Or, just a few keystrokes and an entire e-book is readable and searchable on your tablet or laptop.

But it turns out that the ability to access library resources is neither magical nor automatic, and there's a finely tuned and complex operation running under the surface: Diligent human labor.

For example, it's easy to think "I got what I needed from Google. I don't need to use the library." Not so fast! Even if you find something via Google, it's likely that folks working at Gitenstein Library identified the needed resources, signed the contracts, paid the bills, and configured the online access that made the full-text download possible.

Below are several examples of how library resources are made discoverable and accessible by librarians and library staff at TCNJ.

Your table awaits

When a new student or employee joins the college, TCNJ Systems Librarian Yongming Wang needs to add them to the list of permitted library users. He loads records from Human Resources and Records & Registration into the library's system. This allows students, faculty, and staff to borrow print books from the library, to access e-books and streaming media, and to use services like library holds. It also makes it easier to submit an interlibrary loan request.

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Gauri Patel, Finance major,
Student Worker in Cataloging

Access to e-journals and other electronic resources is managed jointly by TCNJ Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian Jia Mi and members of the TCNJ IT team. Access needs to be restricted because of terms of the licensing agreements we sign with publishers. It takes regular updates in multiple systems to keep all of our rosters correct.

This PDF is brought to you by Gitenstein Library

TCNJ librarians and library staff have arranged instant access to nearly 150,000 journals, newspapers, and magazines for the TCNJ community. Through a weekly update that runs every Saturday, all of these publications show up in search tools like Google Scholar. Jia Mi sets up this process by sending Google TCNJ's list of subscriptions, and she keeps it updated with any changes to the library's offerings. This happens with JSTOR and a few other commonly used search tools, too. This process makes it possible to easily serve up TCNJ's journal subscriptions (specifically, licensed full-text PDFs) even when folks use a database or search tool outside of the library website.

EZproxy: An electronic sleight of hand

A key reason why access to research materials feels seamless is our use of login info and location (specifically researchers' IP addresses) in setup, maintenance, and troubleshooting. When a user clicks on a library resource—whether it's an article, eBook, or streaming video—EZproxy acts as a secure gateway that enables access to licensed content. (If you've ever accessed our resources from off campus, EZProxy is what you're logging into.) To support this process, Jia Mi prepares configuration files for databases, e-journals, eBooks, and streaming video platforms for the EZproxy server. These files define how EZproxy connects to each resource and ensure that the authentication and redirection process works correctly. Jia Mi's behind-the-scenes setup allows students, faculty, and staff to access full-text resources quickly and securely, no matter where they are.

Unifying wildly different sources of data

Library Search (the universe of materials that are findable with a single search box on the library homepage) is populated from a myriad of collections



TCNJ Cataloging/Metadata
Librarian Yuji Tosaka

provided by about 100 different vendors. (For example, for e-books alone, we need to use more than 20 different platforms to meet our community's needs). So, to make a search tool that works well for the TCNJ community, librarians and library staff create a custom workflow for each of these 100 vendors in order to incorporate materials into our single unified system. Jia Mi regularly updates the Central Discovery Index (CDI) that underlies the library's backend system and makes it possible for the Library Search box on the library's homepage to connect patrons to library subscriptions. Before a resource can be found in Library Search, it must first be activated. This process involves registering the resource—whether it's an e-journal, database, eBook package, or streaming collection—and linking it to the library's holdings and subscription entitlements. Jia Mi is responsible for managing this activation process. Activation ensures that the resource is properly connected to our subscription information, configured with the correct access policies, and pushed to the CDI, which powers Library Search. TCNJ Cataloging/Metadata Librarian Yuji Tosaka



TCNJ Electronic Resources/Serials
Librarian Jia Mi

also monitors new ebooks and streaming media acquisitions from vendors and uses specialized tools and programs to load correct records, to monitor and enhance their data quality, and to integrate vendor-provided URLs into the library's backend system to make those electronic resources seamlessly discoverable and accessible to TCNJ users.

What's this book about, anyway?

So many books have titles that don't tell the whole story of what they're about. That's why books are made more findable through high quality cataloging and metadata. Cataloging is the process whereby descriptive information about library materials (also known as metadata) is added to the records in our system. How else could we expect to discover what books are about when they're called *Becoming* or *Kindred* or *Night*? There are a few different paths to a useful, enhanced metadata record for an individual book, journal, movie, etc. In many cases, most of the necessary cataloging and metadata info comes from a shared system built on standardized, uniform descriptions contributed in large parts by the Library of Congress, national library organizations, and other sources like major university libraries, vendors, and publishers. Overall, that collaborative arrangement is indispensable and saves time and effort for us here at TCNJ, but before that record is added to our system, library staff members still need to check each and every record for accuracy and level of detail. If corrections or enhancements need to be made, for example, in resource description, subject headings, or classification, Yuji Tosaka is responsible for

making them according to national and international cataloging standards. In other cases--such as new resources without any pre-existing records available--Tosaka needs to create original cataloging records entirely from scratch and contribute them to the shared system, which are then picked up and used by other libraries to streamline their cataloging operations.

No room for mistakes

Since inconsistencies and inaccuracies quickly de-rail a researcher's progress, precision is a hallmark of the work done throughout the library. That's why it's so crucial to create documentation that outlines the (necessarily) complicated workflows that make library materials accessible. Ever learn how to do something technical or complicated, and then a month later you need to do it again but can't quite remember all the steps involved? Documentation can help. The library's diligent use of extensive documentation keeps the quality of the work high (and therefore helps boost the quality of access to research materials), but it also streamlines work processes so that the full team of librarians and library staff work together efficiently. For example, multiple staff members may need to work on cataloging similar types of newly acquired materials, such as new award books being added to the children's and young adult collections (for the School of Education), or each member may be handling multiple similar projects simultaneously, each of which may still require slightly different cataloging details, including having each new title finally assigned and transferred to one of nearly 40 separate "collections" within the library. Clear, shared documentation helps to standardize cataloging workflows and assure that library collections are organized and managed in logical, coherent manners that enable users to easily access resources they need for their learning and research by using Library Search online or walking through the library stacks.

(continued on Page 11)

Library Search

 Find books, articles, video, music, & more ...



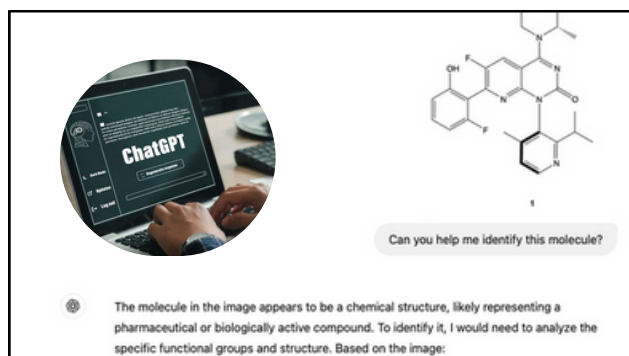
[Search Help](#) | [Advanced Search](#)

CHATGPT CAN'T HELP WITH THAT, BUT THE LIBRARY CAN

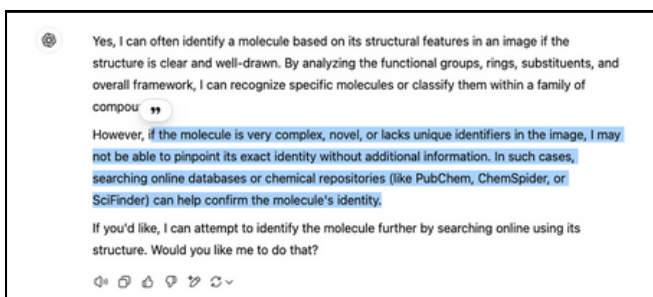
By Rebeca Jefferson, former TCNJ Health & Life Sciences Librarian

Generative AI tools like Chat GPT are an exciting new technology. If you read the news these days, you might get the impression that there is nothing these tools can't do. But that's not true! Generative AI tools are not magical; they are tools, and like any tool, they have limits. One place that AI tools struggle is with identifying new and complex molecules based on their molecular structure – Something that chemistry researchers need to do in their work. As advanced as ChatGPT or Google Gemini may be, they don't have a built-in equivalent to the structure-based search functionality that is available in a specialized library resource designed for chemistry, such as SciFinder. And ChatGPT will tell you so itself!

If you use ChatGPT to try to search for a molecule, and upload an image, it will make a brave attempt to help:



Based on the image alone, ChatGPT was able to identify some features of the molecule, and tell me what kind of compound it looked like. If I were not doing scholarly research, that might be good enough. But if I want to search for scientific articles about this specific compound, or patent literature, I would need a specific name for the molecule. And ChatGPT can't tell me that. In fact, it tells me to use SciFinder, or another similar resource!



In case you're wondering, when I asked ChatGPT to do further searching, it once again could only tell me the drug family that this compound might belong to – Which is lovely, but not nearly precise enough! It's possible to get a precise identification of a complex and/or novel molecule from ChatGPT, but in order to do that, you would need to use a separate program, such as ChemDraw, to draw the molecule, get its IUPAC name, then enter that into ChatGPT.

Wouldn't it be great if you could just draw the molecule straight into the program, and it could find the name for you, and find patent literature and articles about it, or even information about synthesizing it, all in one step? Good news! That's exactly what [SciFinder](#) can do! This unique library resource lets you draw a molecular structure, and search based only on the drawing, all in one tool. ChatGPT may be pretty amazing, but it can't do that. Your library can.





ONE READER TO ANOTHER

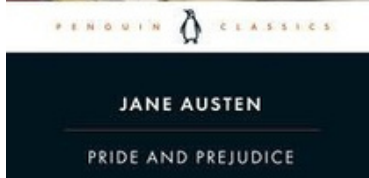
As part of a recurring column, we're asking faculty members to share a book that has had a profound effect on the way they think about their profession or about life in general. For this newsletter issue, we feature Kim Pearson (Communications, Journalism, and Film Studies) and Cynthia Paces (History), each of whom recently received one of TCNJ's Faculty/Librarian Recognition Awards. Pearson received the Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, and Paces received the Excellence in Student Mentoring and Advising Award. To share your recommendations in a future issue, please contact John Oliver at oliverj@tcnj.edu.



Dr. Cynthia J. Paces (History) recommends:

"This year marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, so I have to choose *Pride and Prejudice*. Although I study Central Europe, I've always been a bit of an Anglophile. Jane Austen's wit and her characters' banter make me laugh out loud whenever I reread the novel. *Pride and Prejudice* is more than a charming love story. When I use the novel in my course on European social history, my students and I discuss Austen's early feminist politics. Austen demands her readers to consider women's dependence on men, marriage, and money. We examine the changes in England's economic landscape, as industrialization and the slave trade created a new wealthy class at the expense of other human beings.

I was honored to receive the mentoring award, so *Pride and Prejudice* is a fitting choice. In the fall, I mentored history/secondary/special education major Lily Collins' on her excellent independent research project, which examined English property law as a driving force in Austen's plots. Lily and I discovered a shared love of Austen's books, although we disagree on the best film version of *P&P!*"



Pride and prejudice. By Jane Austen. Available at Gitenstein Library. Call number: [PR4034.P73 B7.](#)

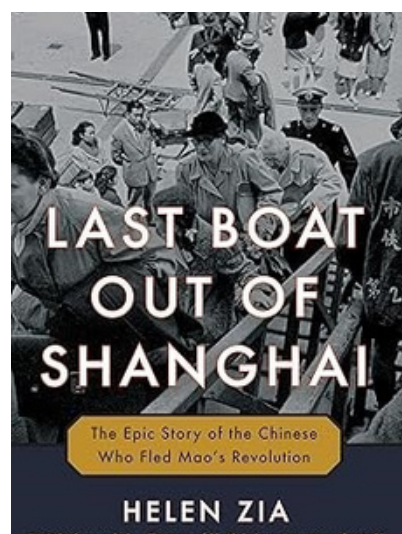


ONE READER TO ANOTHER

Prof. Kim Pearson (Communications, Journalism, and Film Studies) recommends:

"My current favorite among the books I've read recently is Helen Zia's *Last Boat Out of Shanghai*. Zia tells the stories of four young Chinese people from different regions and backgrounds who find themselves in Shanghai in the late 1940s, trying to escape as the Chinese Communists march to final victory over the Nationalist government. Through Zia's vivid and detailed recounting of these individuals' lives, we see what it was like to go from childhood to young adulthood in China under the Nationalist government, the Japanese invasion in the 1930s, and finally the civil war that ended in 1949 with the establishment of the People's Republic. Even the most privileged of the characters grows accustomed to seeing bodies in the street—lives extinguished either by privation or by the previous night's bombs and bullets. They have to make hard choices about whom to trust and what to believe. We follow their paths away from the Chinese mainland and into the new lives they try to build in places that are often either indifferent or hostile to their presence. Zia's account is gripping as she guides the reader through these parallel stories with a sure hand that balances the demands of accurately conveying the drama of individual lives caught in the maelstrom of war and chaos. The acknowledgements reveal something of the depth and breadth of reporting required to tell the story—the extensive interviewing, archival research, and consultation with subject matter experts helped Zia understand how to shape a narrative that is true to the history without being ponderous or academic.

Eighty-five years after the Chinese revolution, millions of people continue to flee authoritarian regimes. *Last Boat Out of Shanghai* offers a visceral portrait of how it feels to be in such desperate circumstances."



***Last Boat Out of Shanghai*.** By Helen Zia.
[Available online at Gitenstein Library.](#)

INTERLIBRARY LOAN RECOGNIZED FOR SPEEDY SERVICE

By Bethany Sewell, Access Services Librarian

Gitenstein Library's interlibrary loan team was recently recognized for its multi-year membership in OCLC Express. The Express program enables digital resource sharing among a select group of libraries that have prompt turnaround times for lending digital materials. TCNJ's interlibrary loan services unit was selected for this program in 2021 based on our exceptionally efficient workflows and quick turnaround times. At the time, OCLC Express was a new and unique interlibrary loan initiative. TCNJ's ILL team also has been a contributor to OCLC's long standing and very popular Libraries Very Interested in Sharing (LVIS) program, a network of libraries committed to supplying resources free of charge among its members.

Since accepting our invitation to be among the first libraries in this program, OCLC Express has grown and increased efficiency over the last four years and includes partners from a network of 1,000+ libraries across 20+ countries. We represent the best in fast, efficient resource sharing. And our current average turnaround time for article requests for TCNJ borrowers is an amazing 6 hours from submission to delivery.

The OCLC Express network includes libraries that support research, education, and discovery for traditional academic scholarship and is also made up of a variety of special libraries that enhance our ability to meet TCNJ patrons' needs, including:

- 130 medical and hospital libraries, ensuring quick access to critical resources for healthcare professionals.
- 62 ARLs (Association of Research Libraries), leading the way in academic excellence and innovation.
- 37 law libraries, supporting legal scholarship and practice.
- 33 theological libraries, fostering knowledge and understanding across faiths.
- 10 art, music, and history libraries, preserving and sharing cultural treasures.

To request unique materials from our interlibrary loan service you only need your TCNJ username and password. We'll take care of locating and delivering your requested materials in the fastest and most efficient way.



Members of the TCNJ ILL Team (L to R) Maurice Crawley, Larissa Dillon, Bethany Sewell, Sharon Austin

NEWLY DIGITIZED RESOURCE SPANS THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF TCNJ COMMENCEMENTS

By Debra Schiff, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

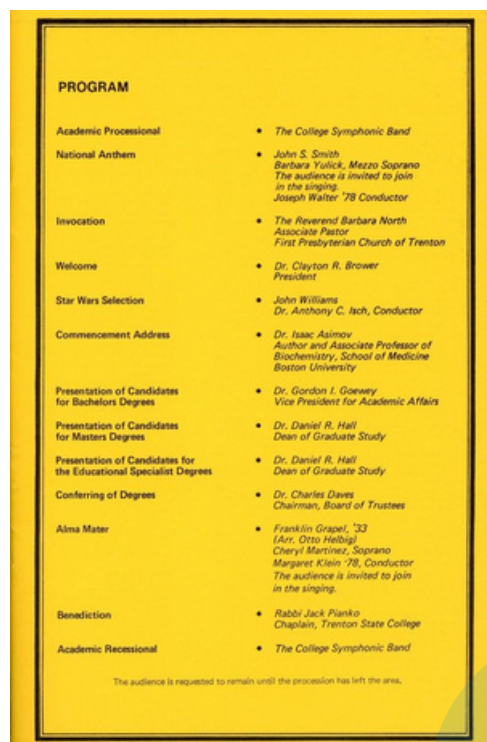
Researchers within TCNJ and outside the college can now explore the Commencement Collection. This sizable set of materials covers Commencement from the first ceremony in 1869 up through the present day. The collection includes commencement programs, invitations, a small number of speeches, Class Day materials, event tickets, and more.

This digitization project is the result of hard work by Archives and Special Collections student worker Stephanie Martinez and Processing Archivist Kerin Shellenbarger. Stephanie digitized the entire collection and Kerin created the finding aid and uploaded all of the materials to our AtoM site. Stephanie is a senior English Liberal Arts and WGSS double major who is enrolled in the 4+1 English Masters program. Most recently, Stephanie completed the scanning of a particularly challenging and fragile Commencement scrapbook. This project was made possible in part by (recently terminated) Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant number ST-252518-OMS-22.

Even prior to being digitized and made available online in late 2024, the Commencement Collection was one of the most used collections in the TCNJ Archives and Special Collections. Why? When people apply for jobs, prospective employers contact the Archives and TCNJ Records and Registration to verify information included on their resumes.



Student Stephanie Martinez, English / Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major, scanning documents in Archives



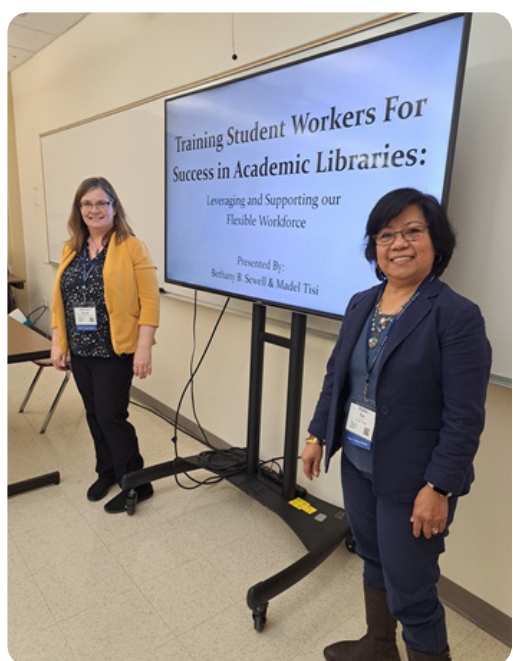
This image shows a page from the 1978 Commencement program in which science fiction author Dr. Isaac Asimov gave the Commencement address.

LIBRARIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS



Amanda Cowell (Engineering, Physical Sciences, and Web Design Librarian) presented her poster "Information Literacy Needs in Science and Engineering: A Survey of Undergrad Faculty" at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in April. This poster shows results of her survey with former TCNJ librarian Rebeca Jefferson examining the difference in faculty expectations of undergraduate student's information literacy skills across STEM disciplines over the course of a four year education.

David Murray (Humanities Librarian) earned a competitive sabbatical for the Fall 2025 semester. His research will focus on what he calls the librarian-professor model as an effective approach to the delivery of information literacy instruction. His research, in other words, involves how finding, evaluating, and using information looks different when academic librarians develop, teach, and grade courses across the curriculum.

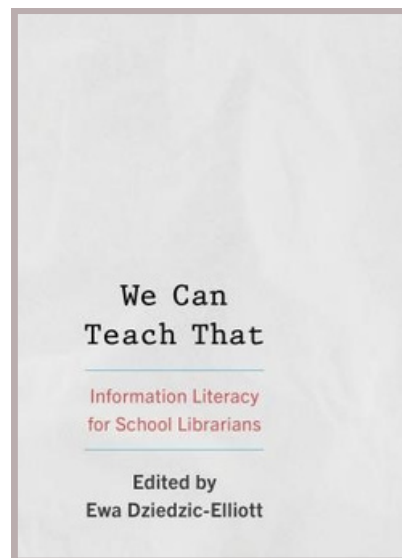
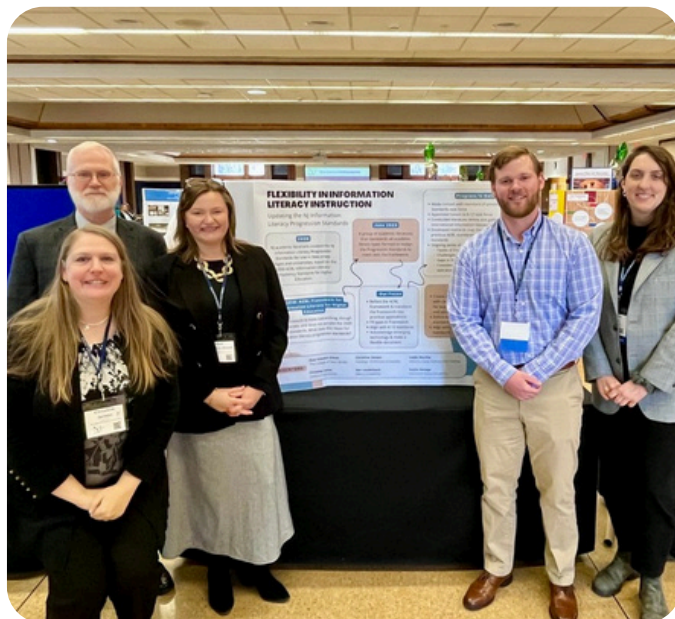


Bethany Sewell (Access Services Librarian) gave two presentations recently. In the fall she presented at the national Back in Circulation Conference on "Making Shhhhh! Happen: How a library cross-trained staff members during a budget crisis driven hiring freeze" and in January she presented at the New Jersey Academic Librarians Conference on "Training Student Workers For Success in Academic Libraries: Leveraging and Supporting our Flexible Workforce" with Madel Tisi (Ramapo College).

LIBRARIAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott (Education Librarian) presented at two conferences this spring. As a member of the NJ Academic Librarians Information Literacy Progression Standards Revisions Committee, she presented a poster comparing the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education with standards from the American Association of School Librarians. Pictured from left: Christine Jansen (Fairleigh Dickinson), Joe Louderback (DeVry University), Justin Savage (Montclair State), and Chrisitina Getaz (Caldwell University).

She also presented on "Information Literacy and AI" at the New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative (NJ ECC) conference in March. Her presentation co-presenters were Beth Raff (NJ Association of School Librarians), Darby Malvey (Library Link NJ), and Sharon Rawlins (NJ State Library).



Ewa is also pleased to announce the publication of her edited volume *We Can Teach That: Information Literacy for School Librarians* (Rowman & Littlefield), which serves as a handbook of best practices and concepts for teaching information literacy at all levels.

(Continued from Page 3, *Who Knew!?*)

The only constant is change

Since our single unified searchbox Library Search compiles records from multiple systems that are constantly updating and often adding, merging, or deleting contents without any notice, near daily system maintenance and quality checking is needed in order to make sure that records and holdings in the library's backend system are fully in sync with those in all the external systems that the library needs to interact with to provide seamless access for users. Failing to perform such critical system maintenance work would have significant negative impacts on user experience as well as on library staff work. Users might be frustrated with finding error messages when they are sent to external platforms from our Library Search results or online search engines, for example, or they might be confronted with a confusing array of similar, duplicative records pointing to the same external contents. Also, if the library's holdings information were not synced accurately, Access Services staff working in interlibrary loan might find themselves wasting time trying in vain to locate books requested from other libraries. The library is constantly checking for this type of data integrity issues (and many other types of database errors). "Each day it's a small thing, but by the end of the year it accumulates, so we need to do that sort of day-to-day cleanup and maintenance of things," said Yuji Tosaka.

Search interfaces and library systems regularly offer updates and upgrades, and sometimes completely new tools come onto the market. Systems Librarian Yongming Wang leads TCNJ librarians in identifying and implementing new features and systems. For example, a few months ago Wang collaborated with Access Services Librarian Bethany Sewell on a major upgrade to the parts of the system that library employees use for key logistical tasks like purchasing, processing, and borrowing/lending. Wang and Sewell are also working on moving interlibrary loan (ILL) services to a new platform that will enhance the ILL borrowing experience for TCNJ patrons.

What could possibly go wrong?

Despite our best efforts at precision in setup and regular maintenance, issues still pop up. For a system with hundreds of millions of items, if issues emerge with even a fraction of a fraction of that full body of items, the problems will number in the hundreds of thousands. "The troubleshooting part is the hardest. It's like a puzzle sometimes, and you're trying to think where the problem started," said Jia Mi, who is responsible for maintaining access to electronic resources like e-journals and online databases. What can go wrong? These issues take many shapes, but here are a few possible hiccups:

- A publisher may cease publication of a journal, change its title, transfer it to a different publisher, or convert it to open access. Each of these changes can break access in the library's system. If the journal's platform changes, the old links may no longer work, and our subscription entitlements may not carry over automatically. When students or librarians report broken links or access errors, Jia Mi investigates the cause of the issue, contacts one or more publishers, deactivates old title information and activates new information, and then checks the EZproxy configuration to ensure that off-campus users can access the content through the new platform. She also updates the Central Discovery Index (CDI) to ensure changes are reflected in the Library Search interface, allowing users to access the journal through the correct links.
- Problems are somewhat more likely in journal packages assembled and licensed by third-party companies known as journal aggregators (a kind of "middle man" arrangement). Academic Search Premier is one example of a relatively well known aggregator package. Journal aggregators are useful because they help the library acquire high volumes of materials in a single bundled transaction (at a discount), but sometimes technical issues arise. Aggregator packages—like those from EBSCO, ProQuest, or Gale—can be especially complex because they license content from many publishers, often with limited or shifting rights. A journal that appears available in one semester might suddenly disappear the next due to changes in licensing

agreements. We also see embargoes, where the most recent 6 or 12 months of content are restricted—something that often surprises users. In other cases, a journal might still appear in the platform but actually redirects to an external source that's not part of our subscription. When discrepancies appear in aggregator databases, Jia Mi verifies coverage and availability with the vendor and works with publishers to ensure that inaccessible journals are either removed entirely or updated with an end date if only partial access is available.

- Metadata mismatches are another major issue. Sometimes, the title listed in our records doesn't exactly match the one on the platform, or the ISSN (unique international ID used to identify a periodical publication) is missing or incorrect. This leads to broken links, failed searches, or users being directed to the wrong resource entirely. Jia Mi first has to figure out what is causing the mismatch and then contact publishers to correct the issue and restore TCNJ patron access.

The details are not just the details

Some mundane but necessary tasks just can't be automated, and it's a good thing TCNJ library staff are here to do them. This includes things like literally paying the bill for a book or journal subscription. Or, checking each e-book URL that a publisher/vendor emails to us. (Links most often work, but sometimes they don't!) Or, printing and affixing the call number label that goes on a book's spine (making it findable in a predictable location on the library's shelves).

These are just a few examples of how librarians and library staff get digital materials onto the screens of TCNJ students, staff, and faculty, while also managing physical resources and making them easily discoverable and accessible in the library. It may seem like the digital materials are just online automatically, but in reality it takes a lot of behind the scenes work to make it happen.

Erin Ackerman, Jia Mi, and Yuji Tosaka contributed to this article.

MCLS Card Sign Up

Did you know that TCNJ employees and staff are eligible for library cards from Mercer County Library System (MCLS)? With this library card TCNJ community members can access and use MCLS print and digital resources, such as [national and local newspapers](#) (including full site access to the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*), popular reading, and children's and young adult materials. MCLS staff recently visited Gitenstein Library for a signup event. Over 50 TCNJ faculty, staff, and students signed up for MCLS cards.

• Missed the event but want to sign up? If you are a resident of Mercer County, you can sign up for or renew a library card online at <https://mcl.org/catalog/library-card-application/>. If you are not a resident of Mercer County, but work or attend school in Mercer, you can apply for a library card in person at any MCLS branch location. See sections D and F of [MCLS's borrowing policy](#) for more information, especially what documentation you need to bring with you to apply.



Over 50 TCNJ faculty, staff and students signed up for MCLS cards.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Catherine Hayes

Self-Designed Classical Studies with double minors in
Art History and Political Science
Class of 2023
Access Services



Feeling Ancient-ly Awesome

While studying at TCNJ, Catherine Hayes created an impressive CV that included interning with The American Institute of Roman Culture, studying in Rome and Greece, participating in the Honors program, and self-designing her own Classical Studies majors with art history and political science minors. During her studies at TCNJ, Catherine also served on two college executive boards: Kokikai Aikido (2020-23), Alpha Phi Omega (2020-23). She was also a member of Sigma Tau Delta and Honors & Scholars Program. Fast forward to 2025 and Catherine is still pursuing her love for classical arts in a master's program in Ancient Worlds at The University of Edinburgh. "This is a part-time online program, so I can go at my own pace. I plan to graduate in about three years. Running a museum is a career that I am strongly considering," explains Catherine.

After TCNJ and prior to attending graduate school, Catherine completed an Associate Degree of Fine and Studio Arts at Warren County Community College. She took specific visual arts courses which helped her understand the history, creation and appreciation of the visual arts. In addition, Catherine is preparing for her future career by working at the Hunterdon Art Museum in Clinton, NJ as an Administrative Associate. "Because I plan to work in the museum field or even in the archaeology field long-term, working at the museum is great. I currently work part time at the front desk on weekends and weeknights because they need someone in the building to lock up after classes are done. Over the weekend, I open and close the building, and am the person who takes money for visiting the museum, answering phones, taking new/renewing memberships, and doing consignment sales. If we have exhibitions that have to be turned on for the day, I

have to do that as well. I also work part-time at Lowe's with the Merchandising Sales Team which is great experience in customer service."

Catherine sees her work experience at Gitenstein Library as helpful to her work in museums. "Working as a Front Desk Assistant at the museum is a similar role to working at the Access Services Desk in the library. I answer guests' taking tally the number of visitors, and help my supervisor with various clerical tasks. I also have to enforce rules when I am at the museum, such as telling guests not to touch the artwork," says Catherine.



Catherine Hayes at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC

It was utilizing the college's resources, particularly the library, that made her studies so successful. "My advice to students is to utilize all of the college's resources, particularly the library. It has librarians for all of our schools, who are really knowledgeable in their fields. The study rooms make great space for group work and the library is a great space to just get out of your dorm. I used the library when I wasn't on shift, because I needed to separate my living and studying spaces."

When asked what Catherine enjoyed about working in the library, she explained, "My roommate Cassidy (Cass) Leonardis, also worked the front desk and she and I would often walk together to an 8am shift on Wednesdays and Fridays. She would take the 8:30 stats, and I would take the 10am ones. We also would text each other whenever [Head of Circulation] Andrew [D'Apice] would send out an email. The texts were alarm emojis surrounding 'ANDREW EMAIL ALERT!' This led to me creating a book with Andrew's funny email phrases. I gave it to him on my last shift and (I hope) he still has it in his office. I absolutely loved working at the library. I made so many memories there--from hanging out with Cass, Dina, Andrew, Paula, Taras, and Katy to knowing exactly what some people would ask when they came up."

This coming summer Catherine and Cass will be traveling overseas and they will be visiting The University of Edinburgh, the very place from which Catherine will be graduating when she finishes her masters.



Catherine Hayes with Andrew D'Apice, Access Services Manager, and Cassidy Leonardis

DON'T FORGET

Printing and Design Services



↓ LOCATED IN THE LIBRARY
LOWER LEVEL TO ASSIST WITH
PRINTING AND OTHER
SERVICES. ↓



LIONS ROAR!

FOCUS ON STUDENT WORKERS

Paula: What do you do here in the library?

Keira: I work at the Access Services desk, and I help people locate the books they need. I also reshelve the books, and I try my best to answer any questions people may have about the library, or direct them to people who can answer the questions.

Paula: Keira, you are always smiling at the Access Services Desk. What puts that smile on your face?

Keira: The library staff are nice. I also love people watching when I'm at the desk and saying hi to my friends if they come by! My favorite thing about TCNJ is spending time with amazing friends who I made during my time here. They made my college experience memorable!

Paula: That is great. I understand your major is Biology. Could you share some fun experiences studying this major?

Keira: I could think of a couple. I really enjoyed Dr. Matthew Wund's Biology of Vertebrates class--studying the evolution and biodiversity of many animal lineages. In addition, I have been involved in Dr. Wendy Clement's independent research lab in the biology department for about 2.5 years, where I have been studying organ fusion in honeysuckle plants. This semester I am writing my capstone so I am excited to see all my hard work come together! I will also be presenting at COSA on April 29, 2025. I am excited about that as well.

Paula: Sounds exciting! What would you like to do after you graduate from TCNJ?

Keira: After graduation I am hoping to take a break from academics for a year or so to work an internship or research experience, and then attend graduate school to earn a PhD.

Paula: Share a fun fact about yourself.

Keira: I love to do hands-on projects like crocheting and painting, and I have recently gotten back into ceramics!

Paula: What words of advice do you have for current and future TCNJ students?

Keira: Have fun. Be serious about school, but not too serious. Make friends and make the most of it. This time only comes once. During my earlier years here, I became involved in the Outdoors Club and Environmental Club. Plus, Circle K International (CKI) is a great way for students to give back by servicing local and global communities.



KEIRA KILLEEN

Biology Major

Access Services

Class of 2025

Interviewed by Paula Rainey

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to our Retirees, Marlena and Kitty



Marlena Frackowski, Assistant Dean for Technical Services (middle), pictured with Erin Ackerman and Taras Pavlovsky
23 years of service

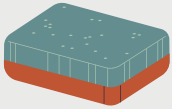


Kitty Shu, Technical Library Assistant (3rd from L), poses with Technical Services Colleagues
35 years of service

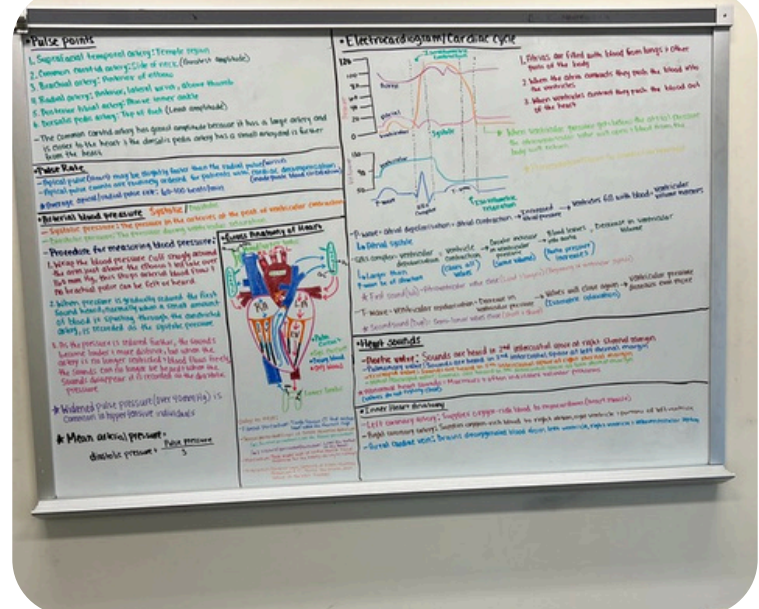


Congratulations,
Tabitha

Tabitha Hilliard received the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award at the 2025 Staff Recognition Awards

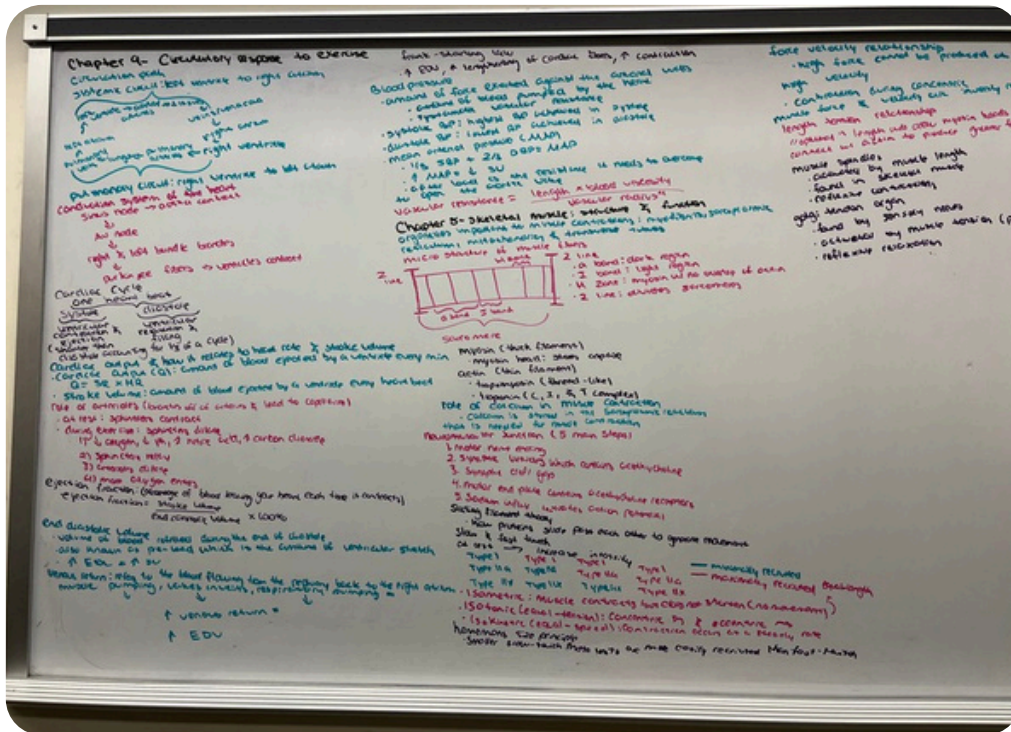


Seen on the Library Study Room Whiteboards



Tweet!

Have a heart!



Keeping the blood flowing!

CONTACT YOUR LIBRARIAN

Librarians can help you wrap up your semester! With reading days and finals coming up, remember there is more than one way to contact a librarian. You can find Reference hours on our website at <https://library.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/hours-of-operation/>.

Text your Question: SMS: (609) 482-3981



Librarians are available during Reference hours.
Regular text messaging rates apply.

Submit your Question by E-mail



Librarians will respond during Reference hours.
For questions submitted after hours, librarians will respond when Reference opens.

Ask Your Question by Chat



Librarians will respond during chat hours. If chat is unavailable, you may ask your question by email instead.

Schedule a Research Consultation



Librarians are available for virtual research consultations and instruction. Check the list of *Librarians by Subject/Major* (<https://library.tcnj.edu/research-help/contact-a-subject-librarian/>) for assistance.



CLICK HERE TO ASK A LIBRARIAN



REGULAR LIBRARY BUILDING HOURS

Main Library Building

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 11:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Extended Study Area

Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM &
11:00 PM – 2:00 AM
Friday 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM & 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
Saturday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM – 2:00 AM
Sunday 11:00 AM – Noon & 10:00 PM – 2:00 AM

For hours of other services & library special hours, please visit:
<https://library.tcnj.edu/about-the-library/hours-of-operation/>