



R. BARBARA GITENSTEIN LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

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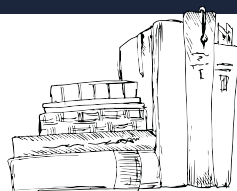
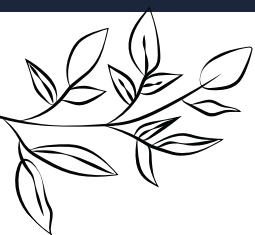
Staff Spotlight • P. 15

INCH BY INCH, ROW BY ROW: WEEDING AND SHIFTING THE PRINT COLLECTION TO IMPROVE RESEARCH OUTCOMES

By Erin Ackerman

There's far more to maintaining a great library collection than choosing the books to add to the shelves or online. Making sure the library offers the materials that its community needs is a dynamic and complex endeavor. If you've visited the 2nd floor of the Gitenstein Library lately, you may have noticed that some items have been moved to new locations and there are even some startlingly empty shelves at one end of the floor. What's going on? This major project sheds light on two processes that are essential to any well-maintained library collection: shifting and "weeding."





The Big Shift



The Gitenstein Library's second floor used to feature a large area for current periodicals in paper or "print" format. In the not too distant past, college libraries had to maintain huge print collections of scholarly journals.

Electronic Resources & Serials Librarian Jia Mi reports that at one point TCNJ's library had as many as 1500 print journal subscriptions. Most scholarly journals are now available online and today's college students have only ever experienced accessing scholarly journal articles through their computer screens. The amount of physical space needed for journals has shrunk. Today the library maintains print subscriptions to only 40 journals that are not available digitally and a select few in which the visual content (such as art or advertising) of the journal makes having a print copy helpful for library users.

The library's Access Services staff, led by Access Services Librarian Bethany Sewell and Head of Circulation Andrew D'Apice, relocated these remaining journals to the Kim Turner Wentworth '80 Reading Room on the second floor, opening up a whopping 504 shelves that could be used to make room for book collections shelved on the second floor--especially materials from the G (Geography, Anthropology, and Recreation) and H (Social Sciences) call number sections. "This was a huge opportunity to improve the look, feel, and conditions of our collection," says Assistant Director for Public Services and Social Sciences Librarian Erin Ackerman. "In some subject areas, like sociology, we literally had no room for new books. Books were so tightly packed that we ran the risk of damaging them and any new books had to go to overflow shelves that were not publicly accessible. Both tight shelves and overflow locations make it harder for students and faculty to find what they need." As Sewell points out, "Books need to be in the right places on the shelves and that can only happen if there is space on the shelves for those books."

Moving library materials around to new shelves is not a small matter--and not only because of the number of items involved. Shifting a collection involves projecting how the collection will grow in the future so that there is room for new books. Sewell and D'Apice developed a formula that included "the number of books in each Library of Congress subclass; the average width of those books within each class; and the number of books purchased within each subclass over the past 10 years, and the number of books currently checked out in each subclass." They then reconfigured the physical shelves that had been set up for journals to accommodate books of varying dimensions. As the shifting is under way, a new challenge arises: signage needs to be kept up to date so that patrons can still navigate the library's resources.



Access Services staff and students workers shift items in the library collection. Here Special Education and Elementary Education graduate student Cassidy Leonardis and Head of Circulation Andrew D'Apice stand next to shelves that previously held print journals and into which they and others moved books from overcrowded shelves.

But Isn't it All Online Anyway?

Some might question why the library even needs to make room for new physical books. Despite the growing role of ebooks in the library's collections, print books remain important for information needs and economic considerations. Health and Life Sciences Librarian Rebeca Jefferson notes that "Gitenstein Library has a wide variety of different kinds of field guides, to plant species, birds, insects, as well as more technical guides and atlases, like anatomy books. Works like this need to be able to travel with a student into settings where there might not be a power outlet handy--that is, into the field. Works like this might need to be shared by several students at once. A print book can be taken out into a garden, or into a lab, and passed around. With an ebook, whether or not you can do that depends on a lot of factors, including access to particular kinds of technologies and the publisher's licensing rules."

Print books in the Children's and Young Adult collections are also very important to the needs of TCNJ's education students and faculty who use the paper books to both model and conduct classroom activities, according to Education Librarian Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott. And Humanities Librarian David Murray weighs format and economic considerations, noting that "not all scholarly information has been digitized. Books and other resources that are available online often cost the library more money to purchase or license compared with their print equivalents," so librarians need to balance format and subject coverage to create "a collection that is maximally useful to students and faculty with the financial resources available."

Weeding

No shifting can happen at all until space has been created to shift into. That's where a process called "weeding" comes in. Weeding is what library workers call it when they review what's on the shelves in order to remove outdated, damaged, and less useful materials from their collections. Sometimes also called deaccessioning, weeding is a core part of deciding what belongs on the

library's shelves. Principal Library Assistant Anthony Immordino sums up the importance of this process perfectly: "Deaccessioning [weeding] allows the subject librarians to keep the collection more current by purging out-of-date materials and by decreasing the amount of obsolete information that could affect the integrity of library patrons' research. It is also an opportunity to weed out damaged/excessively worn items and unpopular items that are not being circulated while freeing up shelf space for the collection to grow when new titles are acquired."

Jefferson reinforces the point about outdated information having a negative impact on researchers, "For the most part, research projects in the sciences rely on up-to-date data and information... having outdated information on the shelves, without context, and looking similar to more current information, could actually be harmful. A great example is a well-known medical reference work called Harrison's Manual of Medicine. Each edition of this book is designed to look exactly like the last one. Having multiple old editions of a work like this on the shelf can cause confusion, since they all look so similar, and the older editions contain outdated clinical information, which is no longer useful." High use items in the Children's and Young Adult collection often show wear and tear according to Dziedzic-Elliott and weeding gives her an opportunity to identify books that need to be replaced to keep up with the needs of the TCNJ community.

Weeding also keeps the collection responsive to the current curriculum at TCNJ. Gitenstein Library has "a collection development policy that emphasizes maintaining a collection that prioritizes curricular needs and acknowledges that the curriculum is constantly changing," explains Business & Economics Librarian Terrence Bennett. Dziedzic-Elliott agrees, "Paying attention to the collection shows our patrons that we understand their needs and that we care about their academic performance as well. TCNJ's faculty and staff are more inclined to send students to the library if they know that we understand how we can best support them."



The factors that librarians take into account when weeding include how many copies of the book the library owns, physical condition, circulation data, and superseded or outdated information. Each librarian considers these factors within the context of their discipline. For example, Murray describes his weeding as “very selective” because older titles remain useful in historical and literary research and “a book containing primary documents rarely if ever goes out of date.” Ackerman and Bennett’s weeding in the area of government and economic information benefits from recent digitization efforts by national and state governments. “This transition has freed up a lot of shelf space, and I doubt that even the most avid book-lover would bemoan this ‘newfangled’ way of distributing information,” observes Bennett. Jefferson sees benefit in curating the collection for patrons, “There’s a truth that I live by as a science librarian, though it might seem counterintuitive: More is not always better-- usually it’s just more. The more results you have to sort through, the longer it can take to find what you need. By making sure our collection is up to date and in line with the college’s curriculum, I am making it easier and faster for our patrons to find the most useful items. Taking things out of the collection is as important to that process as adding new things.”



Sophomore Finance major Gauri Patel works in the Cataloging & Metadata department, processing books that have been weeded from the collection.



Larissa Dillon '15, a staff member in the Cataloging Department, scans and processes a book to remove it from the library's system.

After subject librarians indicate which titles they want weeded from the collection, Access Services staff members, especially Principal Library Assistant Dina Carmy, go to work physically pulling items and transferring them to the Cataloging and Metadata Department, where staff Immordino and fellow staff member Larissa Dillon process the library’s withdrawn items. As Immordino explains, this is a multistep process involving updating and/or deleting item and holdings records in Gitenstein Library’s system, as well as updating records in the OCLC database that is the basis of interlibrary loan requests other libraries send to TCNJ. After being processed, some withdrawn items get a “new lease on life,” according to Immordino, when they are placed on the free book shelf in the Library Cafe for members of the community to take and enjoy.

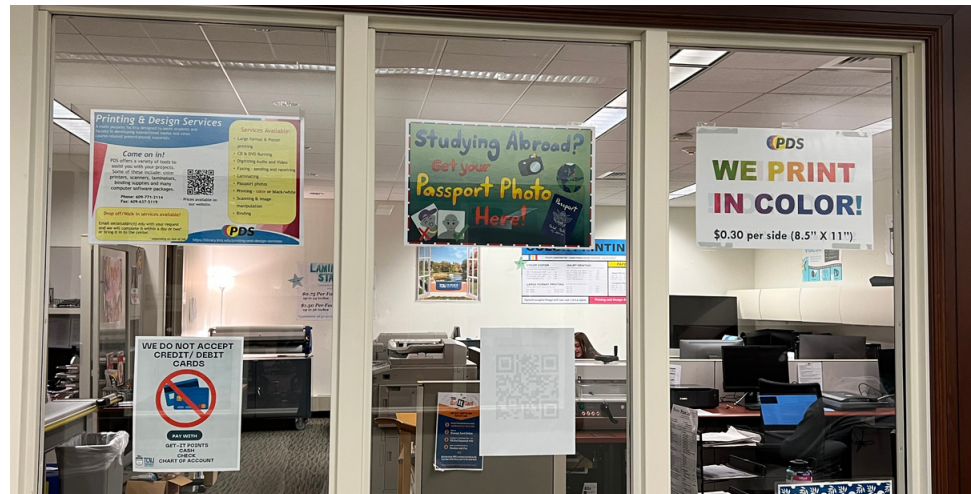
This brings us back to the empty shelves and new locations. With this area of the collection reviewed and refreshed, Access Services Staff and student workers shift books into their new locations. This work takes many people and hours and most often occurs during the summer and winter break to minimize disruptions to the large numbers of students using the library during the semester. Although the shift is currently focused on the G and H call number ranges, weeding is ongoing throughout many areas of the library and shifting has ripple effects of creating space for other areas of the collection.

INTRODUCING PRINTING AND DESIGN SERVICES

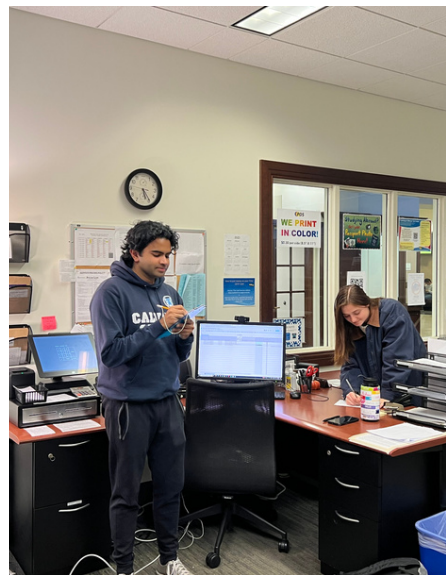
Need help with producing instructional media? Looking for the department that prints and laminates large, colorful posters? Visit Printing and Design Services (PDS), located in the lower level of the library.

PDS, formerly known as Instructional Technology Services, was previously part of the Office of Instructional Design. In July 2023, PDS officially moved under the purview of the R. Barbara Gitenstein Library. While the name has changed, the department still provides the same extraordinary printing and media services to the campus community.

“We are a multi-purpose facility” says Katy Robinson, PDS’s newly appointed supervisor. Printing is a major service the department provides. PDS has color laser printers, inkjet printers, and Large Format Printers able to print items up to 36” in height or width. According to Katy, the busiest times of the year are when students come to print posters for COSA - Celebration of Student Achievement and MUSE - Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience. PDS also prints tri fold brochures, photos, nametags, business cards, and more, offering an assortment of specialty paper like bright white, color, or cardstock. Katy says they also print multi-page booklets and provide thermal or spiral binding as an alternative to traditional stapling.



Printing & Design Lab



**Student workers
Samuel John and Danielle
Sambogna**

In addition to assisting the campus community with printed materials, PDS offers a variety of tools to assist faculty and students with their projects. Such items include digital cameras, paper slicers, laminators, foam board, and high-end computer software packages like Adobe Creative Cloud. Guests can choose between the “drop off service,” where PDS services staff will complete the project after receiving your submission sent via the website order form, or the self-service option in which a guest can complete their job in the lab. The department is staffed with amazing, fully trained student workers who are ready to assist customers.

For instance, the department prints invitations and flyers and provides faxing and scanning services for campus visitors and local community members. Frequent services include color printing for \$.30 per letter page/side and converting outdated VHS tapes to DVD or video file formats. One service that many students do not know about is that PDS takes and prints passport photos for a nominal fee of \$4.00, much less expensive than the other passport photo printing companies. Katy says “our goal is to keep services inexpensive and accessible to the student population.”

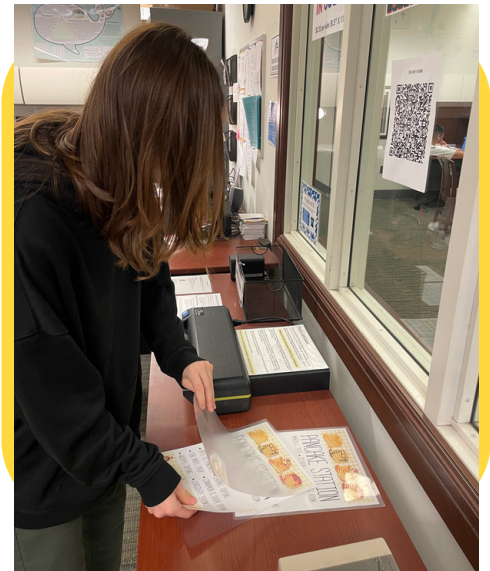
Katy Robinson has 23 years of combined experience in library access services and professional video production that has helped her transition to her new role in PDS. In her former position as the Media Access Services Supervisor, a position she held for 12 years, Katy maintained the music and media collection located on the 4th floor of the library. Although some aspects of supporting music and media have transitioned to the library’s Access Services Department (which is where library patrons can request these items now), Katy is still involved with some aspects of the music and media workflow; “I continue to manage streaming video requests, troubleshoot streaming video issues, track video licensing content, and process media digitization for the library collection.”



Student Worker Tallulah
Pentecost
working the laminating machine



PDS Supervisor Katy Robinson with
student worker Danielle Sambogna



In addition to her new role, Katy successfully completed her first semester as a TCNJ Masters in Business Administration (MBA) Candidate, specializing in Strategy, Innovation & Leadership. “Taking part in the TCNJ MBA program has been a rewarding challenge and I’ve been able to apply what I’ve learned in the classroom to the workplace, which has benefited the department during a period of adjustment.”

Katy adds. “I enjoy mentoring students and helping them establish a balance between their personal and professional life. As a manager, it’s important to collaborate with both your employees and customers in order to enhance departmental services and cultivate a positive work environment. For this reason, I promote open communication and a transparent work culture.”

For more information about Printing and Design Services, please check out:
<https://library.tcnj.edu/printing-and-design-services/>



AWARD SEASON

Congratulations to TCNJ Business & Economics Librarian Terrence Bennett, who has received the Faculty Senate's Excellence in Campus Leadership and Service Award. This award honors a faculty member/librarian who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to campus leadership and service. Terrence has shown exemplary leadership in a wide variety of roles across campus and in the library. In nominating Terrence for the award, Access Services Librarian Bethany Sewell noted how much his faculty and librarian colleagues appreciate Terrence's deep knowledge of the college and its policies and procedures, his ability to facilitate complex discussions, and how his careful analysis fosters thoughtful decision making. We are fortunate to work alongside him. Congratulations, Terrence.



Business & Economics Librarian Terrence Bennett accepts the Faculty Senate's Excellence in Campus Leadership and Service Award. He is shown with Professor Melissa Zrada, who presented the award, and Access Services Librarian and Librarian Faculty Senate Representative Bethany Sewell, who nominated Terrence for the award.



Congratulations to TCNJ Education Librarian Ewa Dziedzic-Elliott pictured with co-authors and Rutgers School of Communication & Information professors Brenda Boyer [left] and Joyce Valenza [middle], who is part of a research team that received an American Association of School Librarians (AASL) 2023 AASL Research Grant. Sponsored by School Library Connection, the AASL Research Grant recognizes excellence in manuscripts addressing a persistent and recurring challenge in the field of school librarianship. The award was presented at the AASL Annual Conference in Tampa in October.



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 Michele Lise Tarter (English) and Mark Edwards (iSTEM), each of whom was the recipient of one of TCNJ's inaugural Faculty/Librarian Recognition Awards. Tarter received the Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award, and Edwards received the Robert Anderson Teaching Award, which recognizes distinguished service and long-time contributions to the college's First Year Seminar program. To share your recommendations in a future issue, please contact John Oliver at oliverj@tcnj.edu.

Recommendation from Dr. Mark Edwards (iSTEM)

"This book has messed up my life on at least three big occasions. As a freshman I was struck by how the imprisoned Boethius is drawn out of his confusion and despair by a conversation with Lady Philosophy. I fell in love with her questions, poems, and perspectives and so became a philosophy major. In graduate school, I returned to its analysis of time and eternity, writing a dissertation on a modern Swiss thinker's appropriation of its classic ideas. After graduating, largely inspired by this book, I started teaching a course on great works written from jails, even going to prison myself (to teach) to learn something of that setting. I've read it twenty times or more. When a book guides you through college, graduate school, life, and even trips to jail, you know it's powerful."

The consolation of philosophy.

By Boethius. Translated by David R. Slavitt. Available at Gitenstein Library.

Call number: B659.D472 E5 2008





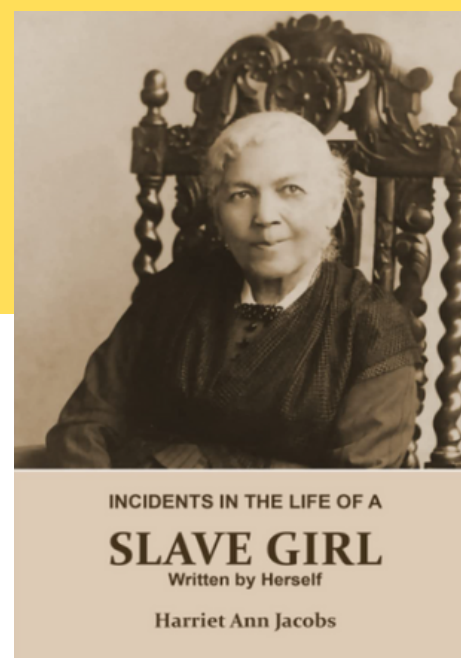
ONE READER TO ANOTHER

Recommendation from Dr. Michele Lise Tarter (English)

"While beginning to study the literary genre of Women's Autobiographies decades ago, I came across this 19th-century woman's life story, and it changed everything for me. I was riveted by the ways that Harriet Ann Jacobs—escaped slave, mother, abolitionist, activist, and author—challenged all odds and persevered beyond measure to speak her truth to power, ultimately leaving her legacy with a self-published memoir. Although Harriet used a pseudonym and changed the names in her narrative to protect her loved ones left behind in slavery, 20th century historian Jean Fagan Yellin cracked the code and lifted Harriet and her story (long believed to be fictional) out of the buried North Carolina archives onto center stage. Harriet's narrative is now a centerpiece of any early American literature or history class in American colleges (and some high schools). Replete with stories of extraordinary courage and intricate maneuvers to overcome patriarchal oppression and white supremacy, this autobiography inspired me to launch into the prison system (also called the modern day plantation) in 2001 and create a memoir-writing workshop for women 'lifers' in maximum-security. Together, we read and discuss Harriet's narrative as a springboard for writing one's life story. The participants consistently share how they find not only resonance but also invitation in this invincible woman's story. She is a constant beacon of light to me—and to anyone who picks up her book and reads her powerfully crafted narrative."

Incidents in the life of a slave girl.

written by herself. By Harriet Jacobs. Available at Gitenstein Library. Call number: [E444.J17 A3 2000b](#)



LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Meet our Information Literacy Librarian

Information Literacy Librarian John Oliver brings to his work in the library a “deep and abiding interest in the student experience,” particularly focused on “what makes students successful in classrooms.” As Information Literacy Librarian, John focuses on the relationship between the college curriculum and information literacy, which the [Association of College and Research Libraries](#) (ACRL) defines as “the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.” John’s focus on setting students up for success means that he is heavily engaged in the first year student experience, facilitating the transition that students make between high school and college. One of his main responsibilities is as the instructor for the IDS102 Information Literacy Proficiency course that all first year students are required to pass as a graduation requirement. He also collaborates with the First Year Writing and First Year Seminar leadership to promote the integration of information literacy into these courses. Additionally, John’s research considers how we can use information literacy to thoughtfully design classes and activities in ways that are fulfilling for both students and educators.

While John is interested in information literacy and the student experience broadly, working in this area at TCNJ has special resonance for him. John is also a TCNJ alum, having graduated in 1999 as an English major. John transferred to TCNJ for his sophomore year of college and was a commuter student, giving him insight to many different aspects of student experiences at TCNJ. “I have a lot of recollections of what it was like to be a student, and incidentally, on this very campus, on this very ground. It certainly makes state specific memory a lot easier for me,” he says. “I like to think this allows me to bring an empathetic view and open hearted approach to my work here.”



This selfie of Information Literacy Librarian John Oliver was taken on a recent vacation to Portugal.

John describes his path to librarianship, and back to TCNJ, as “circuitous.” After graduating from TCNJ, John worked as a journalist for the Trenton Times and then after a few years went into technical writing as a medical writer, and he worked for the pharmaceutical industry for about 5 years. As John explains, “One reason for that change is that I wanted to increase my hourly wage, but not for mere capitalist desires, but because I really had a hobby that I really wanted to pursue as a life, which was competitive golf.” John found himself dissatisfied with life as a journalist, even though some parts of it were “engaging and exciting. There’s nothing better than working an election night in a newsroom. The pizza is flowing, and everyone is worried about which elections are going which way. And it’s like an intellectual party. That being said, most days were not like that.” What John really loved to do was “spend hours and hours honing [his] craft as a golfer. And so I realized pretty quickly that as a pharmaceutical writer I could double my hourly wage and therefore work half as many hours and make time for this competitive golf interest.”

Professional golf was a very difficult road, John found. "There's a lot of talent and there's a lot of people who are willing to do the stuff that's required to become a professional golfer. Living in my car for 30 weeks a year wasn't in my cards."

At about that time, John and his wife each started looking into careers they would find more fulfilling and realized together that librarianship would be a good fit for him. As a young person, he spent a lot of his time on weekends at his local library and between that memory and his later experiences he realized he had "an affinity for self directed and self guided information quests" that related to core aspects of being a librarian. He attended Rutgers University's library science program and his first job in librarianship was as a Health Sciences Librarian at Columbia University. In this role he drew heavily on his experiences as an English major at TCNJ. "My original fantasy career path was to be a science writer at the New York Times and so [at TCNJ] I took a lot of science classes." (As an aside, TCNJ Biology professor Matt Wund and John, who now work together on the AFT [union] Executive Board, took Professor Janet Morrison's ecology class together as undergrads.) "And then my pharmaceutical writing career helped inform what kind of librarian I would become because that job involved me reading literally hundreds and thousands of scholarly articles and synthesizing the key messages from them. And so I had read a lot of medical texts and was able to write that way and read them." These experiences gave him the familiarity with scientific and medical literature to combine with his new degree in library science and land the job at Columbia in 2006.

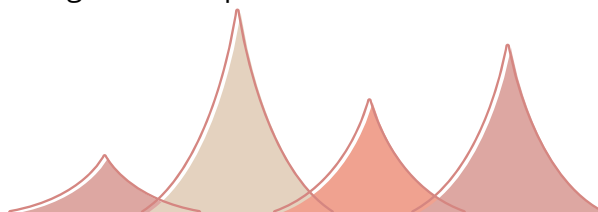
But TCNJ caught John's attention again pretty quickly. "In the first year of my working as a librarian at Columbia there a job was posted at The College of New Jersey and it looked almost exactly like the job I sit in now." At the time, though, John needed more experience as a librarian so he printed out the job ad and filed it away as the kind of "student focused job [he] might be interested in doing in the future."



John Oliver teaching an information literacy session in the Gitenstein Library

He enjoyed living in New York City and his work at Columbia. While at Columbia he earned a second master's degree at Teachers College in cognitive studies in education, which he describes as focused on the scholarship of teaching and learning. With the years of experience in librarianship and the additional graduate degree, he was ready when in 2011 the TCNJ Information Literacy Librarian position was posted again.

Human understanding and discovery are central to John's enjoyment of librarianship and academia. "What I love about college campuses and the role of libraries on college campuses is that our job is focused on human understanding. What interests me is that literally anything you can think of--any person, place, thing, concept, a pattern in the world--is studied by a person on our college campus or on a college campus like ours. There are people everywhere, trying to understand the world around us in systematic and thoughtful ways, and innovative, unexpected, amazing ways. And just, I just love that there are people who get to focus in that kind of detail." He loves what he describes as the daily growth opportunity inherent in being a librarian, working through questions with students to identify the words and concepts that will connect them with the research to investigate their questions.



For fun, John “loves to move.” To him, this is more than exercise, which he enjoys, but it is about “being in constant motion” and understanding movement and technique. “I can use my brain better when I’m moving. I have a treadmill at a very specific incline at my desk so it’s like I’m climbing a very small hill whenever I’m in the office and it translates into other activities. Like I’ve been really enjoying learning how to row. I just find it so engaging to learn this new motion.” When asked about books he would recommend, John says the book that “has his brain on fire these days” is *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. John describes it as the story of “one ecologist’s attempt to reconcile her personal heritage as a native indigenous person, knowing the millennia-long history of traditional and indigenous knowledge, with her training as a so called ‘proper scientist’ and how these two traditions can each be true even though they can sometimes seem at odds. It’s a serious look at the structure of knowledge, at a way of viewing the world that is different from what’s accepted widely.”



Based on a recommendation from TCNJ Health and Life Sciences Librarian, Dr. Rebeca Jefferson, John is listening to the audiobook because the author reads the whole book and you get to hear her pronounce words in her ancestral language, Potawatomi. John is particularly taken with the book’s chapter on learning the grammar of animacy--of what things are animate and inanimate, much the way some languages assign gender to objects. “It feels so much more authentic and real to me, even though it goes against the training I’ve received. A good example is a bay (the place between the shore, in between the barrier island and the mainland). The bay is an animate object in Potawatomi. And that’s just poetic and almost philosophical to say that the bay is never a fixed thing by its very definition. It’s the transition between fresh and saltwater, and so wherever you dip your cup in, it’s a micro level difference in the climate from a millimeter away from it. So what in English we would call one word is actually a process. It just makes me feel like the whole world could be viewed that way. We’re all in transition. We’re all a process. We’re all never one thing.”

**“We're all a process. We're all never one thing.”
- John Oliver**





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Ilyssa Roseman

Technology Education Major
Class of 2023
Media Services, Spring 2019 –2023
Library House Manager, Spring 2022



A Woman in STEM

Ilyssa Roseman is a woman in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education). STEM is an interdisciplinary approach that helps students succeed in college and in their future careers. A 2023 graduate, Ilyssa now works as a middle school technology teacher in the West-Windsor Plainsboro school district. "I always knew I wanted to teach and help other people, but now that I am actually doing what I love, it just feels so surreal and makes me incredibly happy," explains Ilyssa.

Ilyssa teaches woodworking, computers, and technology for grades 6, 7, and 8 and thought teaching would be the perfect fit since she tutored in high school. She also always knew she wanted to work in the technology field. "The TCNJ technology education program was incredible and taught me all the essentials that I would need for success and allowed me to work in the makerspace and woodshop to gain hands-on experience in the field," Ilyssa says. She also credits individual professors, like Professor Mulligan. "I had taken many classes with Professor Mulligan. He is the most kind-hearted person I have ever met, and he instilled in me a love for teaching and engineering as a whole. From a technology ethics class to woodworking to my junior practicum, Professor Mulligan's classes were always something I looked forward to, no matter the content," explains Ilyssa.

Reflecting on working in the Gitenstein Library, Ilyssa says, "Working at the library was my favorite part of my week. No matter how many or how long my shifts were, I always looked forward to my time on the 4th floor. I have too many memories to choose from. However, my best moments were always with my boss Katy Robinson. I knew if I saw the light on and her office door open that it was going to be a good shift."

Although Ilyssa had customer service experience from her past jobs, working in the media department really enhanced her skills. From checking in/out materials to helping patrons with questions, every interaction she had strengthened her ability to interact with other people successfully.

When asked for suggestions to TCNJ students, Alyssa offers that "My biggest advice is to get involved and try new things. Just take it from me; I was only looking to get any kind of paying job on campus my freshman year, and decided to randomly apply to an opening at the library because my friend/future suitemate worked there. I ended up working all 4 years of my college career in media services and it is an experience that I will cherish forever!"



LIONS ROAR!

FOCUS ON STUDENT WORKERS

Interviewer: What is your favorite “thing” about TCNJ?

Alexis: The relationships I've built with my professors. They all work really hard to foster a strong sense of community, and I always feel supported academically and as a person! That, and the herds of deer that follow me on my late-night walks.

Interviewer: When did you join the R. Barbara Gitenstein Library and what do you like most about working here?

Alexis: I started in spring 2021, and my favorite part of working here has been being able to meet all of the amazing people who work here and getting to learn about all of the different facets and departments that make our library so special. Shout-out to ILL and my favorite ghosts that live on the third and fourth floors!!!

Interviewer: Name one unique, interesting fact about yourself.

Alexis: I'm really good at drawing wizards.

Interviewer: Tell us about your life at TCNJ.

Alexis: I'm involved in a lot of different activities—the English Honors Society, the TCNJ Wind Ensemble and Bassoon Ensemble, and the International Fraternity for Women in Music—to name a few—and through those organizations, I've been able to play many different leadership roles. I've even received several awards and recognitions through them. However, it doesn't matter how much I achieve on paper. The two things that make me the proudest at the end of the day that I'll truly cherish forever are the friends and community I've gained from attending here, and the fact that because of the friends I made here, I now know how to cook a pasta dinner without burning every aspect of the meal.

Interviewer: What are your plans after graduation?

Alexis: I plan to become an English teacher and find my voice as an activist through teaching, supporting local libraries, and fighting book bans. Further in the future, I'd love to find myself in a library again as a librarian and YA novelist.

Interviewer: I would love all this for you too, Alexis. Also, a special thank you for helping to fight book bans. One last question: What advice do you have for your TCNJ peers?

Alexis: Advocate. Advocate for yourself, for your friends, for your community, and for people who need it...advocation is a way to enact change. Whether small or large. The power of your voice matters even in the smallest of circumstances.

Interviewer: Thank you so much, Alexis. You are an amazing young lady!



ALEXIS CHERBY

**English Secondary Education and
Music Minor**

**Access Services and Printing & Design
Services Student Employee
Class of 2025**



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



“As soon as I walked into this beautiful library in 2011, I knew that it would be my home forever”

**-Louise Pezzullo-Bizon,
Senior Library Assistant in the
Acquisitions Department**

Louise brings an educational and professional background that benefits her service to students, faculty and staff. Prior to joining TCNJ, Louise was a teacher who received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an English minor from then-Shippensburg State College (now Shippensburg University). Louise worked at Villa Victoria Academy as a long-term substitute second grade teacher and at Blessed Sacrament School in Ewing, NJ as a Kindergarten teacher until it closed, then later worked several years in various Bucks County school districts as a substitute teacher. In fact, Louise had designed one of the first full-day Kindergarten programs in Bucks County at the William Penn Center.

So, what eventually brought Louise to the Library? “I worked part time as a librarian in the Bucks County Library system. That time in my life was very challenging, but it exposed me to various educational programs as well as life as a librarian. In 2011, I reached the pinnacle of my career when I was fortunately hired to work as a Senior Library Assistant at TCNJ,” explains Louise.

At first, Louise worked part time in Access Services, supervising procedures and students at the front desk. Louise adds, “It was another challenge learning more on-the-job training of Library procedures as well as working the late shift till midnight, opening and closing the Library and working weekends. Eventually I became a full time worker, with 95 hours. I was working with the wonderful people here at TCNJ, students, staff, professors, and co-workers.”

A few years ago, Louise moved to Acquisitions where she has learned more about the process of books and materials being acquired for the use of both the college and community, which is different from working directly at a service point like Access Services, but the time there was well worth it. Louise was also one of the recipients of the 2021 TCNJ Helen Shaw Staff Excellence & Special Achievement Award for Access Services' extraordinary service to patrons during COVID.

“What I like most about the Library is the people. It has been a pleasure being part of this campus community. I learned a wealth of information here, and took my first airplane trip with a co-worker about five years ago to see my first grandchild in Chicago.” In Louise's spare time, she enjoys spending time with her children (Heather, Allison, and Andrew), grandchildren, and gardening. She also likes the arts, music, and history. Most importantly, Louise considers herself a lifelong learner, and she hopes that students also aspire to always want to learn, help each other out and share peace in the world.

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/)* (<https://library.tcnj.edu/research-help/contact-a-subject-librarian/>) for assistance.



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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/>