



CORNELL UNIVERSITY

# Library

## SLAC 2023-24 Year in Review

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for dedicating your time to the Student Library Advisory Council over the past year. Your thoughtful questions, innovative ideas, and commitment to enhancing the library experience for all members of our community have inspired us. We deeply appreciate your meaningful contributions and look forward to working with many of you again next year.

Your engagement with the Library extends well beyond the five 90-minute meetings we hosted this year! Here is a quick look at all the ways your participation on SLAC and in various Library events and initiatives have directly benefitted Cornell University Library:



### Library Ambassadors

An important aspect of your membership on SLAC is your role as “library ambassadors” – being able to share your knowledge about issues that are central to the role and mission of the Library with friends, classmates, and other members of the Cornell community. We had multiple guest speakers come to SLAC meetings this year to discuss new library initiatives, share information about key library services, and give important facilities updates. Members of SLAC can speak knowledgeably about the following library services and spaces:

- Cornell Self-Checkout pilot
- Library construction projects, including Olin 1<sup>st</sup> floor and basement renovation, McGraw Tower roofing project, Uris Library front steps, and Carpenter Hall renovations
- Privacy Services
- Digital Scholarship Services & Digital CoLab



### Strategic Planning: Stakeholder Engagement

A total of 33 students from across the University participated in one of three student focus groups. These focus groups included 18 graduate or professional students and 15 undergraduate students, including several members of SLAC. This input from students helped the Library identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) that have guided our strategic planning process. While many of you praise the library for its extensive collections, expertise, and commitment to fostering an inclusive and enriching environment, you also offered suggestions for enhancing awareness, marketing Library services, and improving communication about events and resources. We expect the Library’s strategic planning process to be completed by the end of this summer.



### Giving Day

More than 260 Cornell students participated in our pop-up events in Mann and Olin libraries during Giving Day on March 14, 2024. Altogether, students wrote more than 250 thank you postcards for Giving Day donors, played many rounds of trivia, participated in a fun photo booth, shared what the Library meant to them, and ate lots of treats. These events would not have been as successful without participation from multiple SLAC students who volunteered at the pop-ups, and the Library raised more than \$125,000 on Giving Day this year!



### Usability Testing

Members of the Library's Usability Working Group (UWG) attended a SLAC meeting to talk about usability testing and the how the Library uses this methodology to continually improve our websites and systems. SLAC members were given the opportunity to run a brief test of the discoverability of our streaming video collections. Your findings and feedback have been shared with our Technical Services department and Website Development team as we seek ways to improve the usability of these resources.



### Right to Read: Readathon

On April 26, the Library is organizing a readathon as part of our "Right to Read" events that honor and promote the diversity of thought and expression found in books of all kinds. This daylong celebration will include a readathon from 9am to 2:30pm at Mann Library, featuring excerpts from banned and challenged books. We hope that we can count on the members of SLAC once again to sign up to be readers for this event!