

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



Brandeis

LIBRARY

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From the BNC University Librarian

A year like no other. It would be great to say that next year we'll be back to the way things were, but things are changing daily, and while there will be a normal again, it will be a new normal.

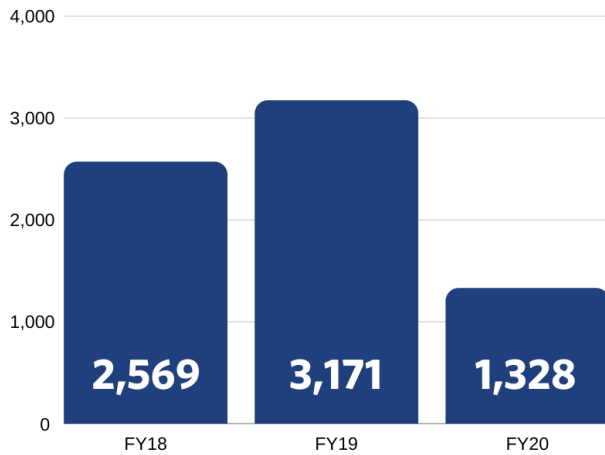
What this year has taught me is how flexible Brandeis University can be, and I am impressed with how innovative the staff in the library have been and willing to adjust and continue to provide support for teaching and research. While no librarian dreams of an empty library at the end of the academic year, I was encouraged to know how much support we were providing through our online research services, workshops, and the ability to flip a robust reserve program to a digital reserve program.

The most important resource in any library is the staff, and this past year it was proven again. Thanks to the entrepreneurial efforts, dedication, and flexibility of the staff, the Brandeis Library supported the community through an extraordinary time and will continue to do so as we move toward our new normal.

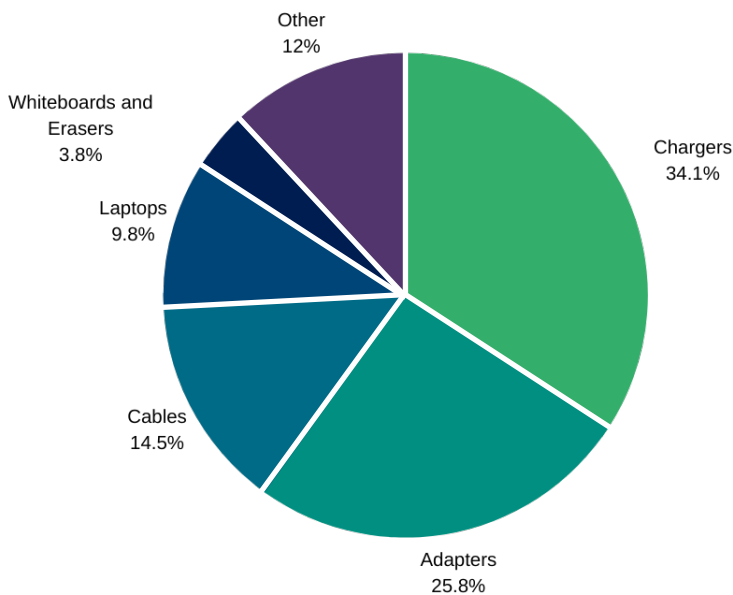


— **Matthew Sheehy**,
BNC University Librarian

CONSULTATIONS

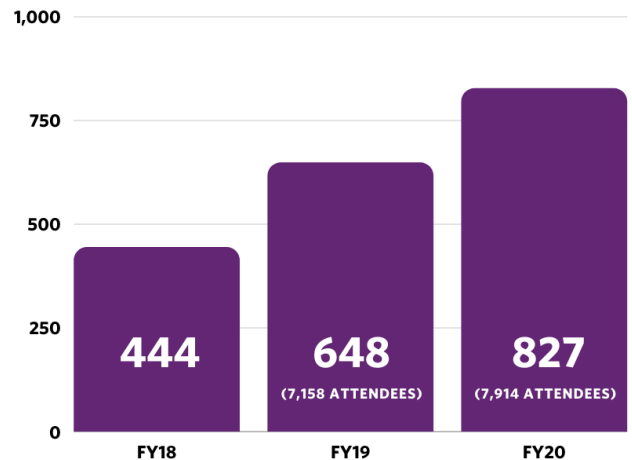


EQUIPMENT LOANS

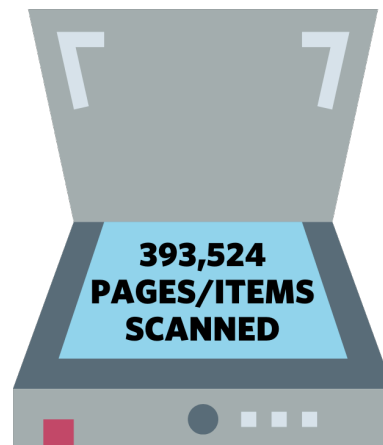


PRESENTATIONS

CLASS SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS, GROUP TRAININGS



**110 REQUESTS ACROSS
36 DEPARTMENTS
AND OFFICES FOR
UNIVERSITY RECORDS
MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT**



**251
LOCKERS
LOANED OR
RENEWED**

Highlights from the Year

BNC HONORING OUR HISTORY CAMPAIGN

In light of increasing anti-Semitism, restrictions on immigration, and institutionalized sexism, the unique collections at the Brandeis Library that speak to such topics are more important than ever.

The Brandeis National Committee announced its new campaign to support the Library's electronic access to these materials. Digitization will help preserve the originals while inviting new forms of digital scholarship and ensuring global and continuous access to our valuable, one-of-a-kind research collections. Learn more at giving.brandeis.edu/bnc.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

The Brandeis Library announced new and improved repository services to be rolled out in two phases over the year.

Unique digital collections have been migrated into OneSearch, creating a more seamless discovery experience for members of our community. In addition, the change of platforms will also allow for new formats to be included, such as audio, video, data, and 3D objects.

The Library also is working on a separate public interface that will allow the world to discover the research (and researchers) of Brandeis University. More information will come in 2020-2021.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS

The newly independent Brandeis University Press (BUP) published seven new titles in the 2019-20 fiscal year. The new English translation of the classic *Glikl* was the star, which performed well in terms of both critical reception and sales. Two new titles were published in the *Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought* series, and publication of Stephen Whitfield's *Learning on the Left* was postponed to fall 2020. BUP was also happy to publish Professor ChaeRan Freeze's *A Jewish Woman of Distinction*, which garnered excellent reviews.



Some titles published by the Brandeis University Press, which launched a new website.

BUP announced a new series in association with the Mandel Center for Jewish Education, and it continues to develop titles in association with The Tauber Institute, the Hadassah Brandeis Institute, and the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. BUP is working with Brandeis faculty as well as with external authors on new projects. It also set up a website (brandeis.edu/press) and a Twitter account (@brandeispress).

NEW SUMMER OF R WORKSHOP SERIES

To complement the current Python workshops, the Brandeis Library launched a Summer of R series for patrons to build coding and data analysis skills. The series included tutorials followed by an hour during which participants coded in R together.

R is a programming language and free software environment for statistical computing and graphics.

CASTE: A JOURNAL ON SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The Center for Global Development and Sustainability at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, in collaboration with the Brandeis Library, announced the launch of their first open-access journal: *CASTE / A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*. The journal advances peer-reviewed scholarship across disciplines into caste systems in South Asia and beyond and considers the marginalization and inter-generational oppression of religious, racial and cultural minorities throughout the world.

UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY COUNCIL

A group of approximately 20 undergraduate students met with librarians to discuss and advise the Library on services, resources, communications, and facilities. The group had five in-person meetings and one virtual meeting over the course of the year.

SIMSTORIES PODCAST

The Sound and Image Media Studios team launched the SIMStories podcast for all things sound and imaging. Each episode, students share what projects they're working on and all the exciting things they can do with SIMS software and equipment.

ILL USABILITY TESTING

Staff conducted usability testing of our Interlibrary Loan interface to identify improvements that will make the service easier to use. Updates being implemented in summer and fall 2020 include clearer language, improved navigation, and a mobile-friendly design.



The Helmut Hirsch collection is among the materials to be digitized with support from the BNC Honoring Our History campaign.

SHE CAN DO ANYTHING: FEMINISM AND JEWISH LIFE IN THE POST-SOVIET STATES

The day-long academic symposium held in September was a collaboration between Brandeis University Archives and Special Collections, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Jewish Women's Archive, and Project Keshet. Presenters included Brandeis faculty and Library staff.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE PRIZE

Our Research Excellence Prize recognizes students who apply sophisticated information literacy skills to the selection, evaluation, and synthesis of sources for a research project. The five awards also serve to encourage students to engage with library resources and make use of library services.

Award for research completed in a University Writing Seminar: Rebekah F. Kristal, *The North End Italian: Practicing Cultural Traditions to Maintain Ethnic Identity*.

Award for a research paper or project completed by an undergraduate student outside of UWS: Lucia Pugh-Sellers, *Seeing Humans, Making Commodities: Slave Ship Rebellions on Film*.

Award for a research paper or project completed by a graduate student: Alex Luu, *Non-Topical Coherence in Social Talk: A Call for Dialogue Model Enrichment*.

Award for research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections: Esther Bley, *Calamity Jane: Ain't No Buckin' Around, the Woman Who Wore Buckskin. A Thesis on the Adaptations that Mythologized and Developed a Character's Queerness*.

Award for a digital research project: Claire Ogden, *Funeral Care Work in Massachusetts: Community, Tension, and Change*.

Providing Services Remotely

When Brandeis University moved to emergency remote instruction in mid-March, the Library moved to continue to support the research, teaching and learning of the campus community.

VIRTUAL RESEARCH HELP

Although the Research Help desk was closed for in-person appointments after mid-March, staff offered virtual support in three different ways:

Students could schedule a research consultation via Zoom with a subject librarian or specialist.

Questions could be emailed to researchhelp@brandeis.edu.

Students could also use the “Chat with a Librarian” button on the Library website to chat during service hours.

In a typical spring semester, research help is typically one-third virtual and two-thirds in-person, but as of mid-March the Library’s research help desk has been 100 percent virtual. There has been a 74 percent increase in questions asked over chat this spring, resulting in a 24 percent increase in questions answered overall by Library staff in any format.

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

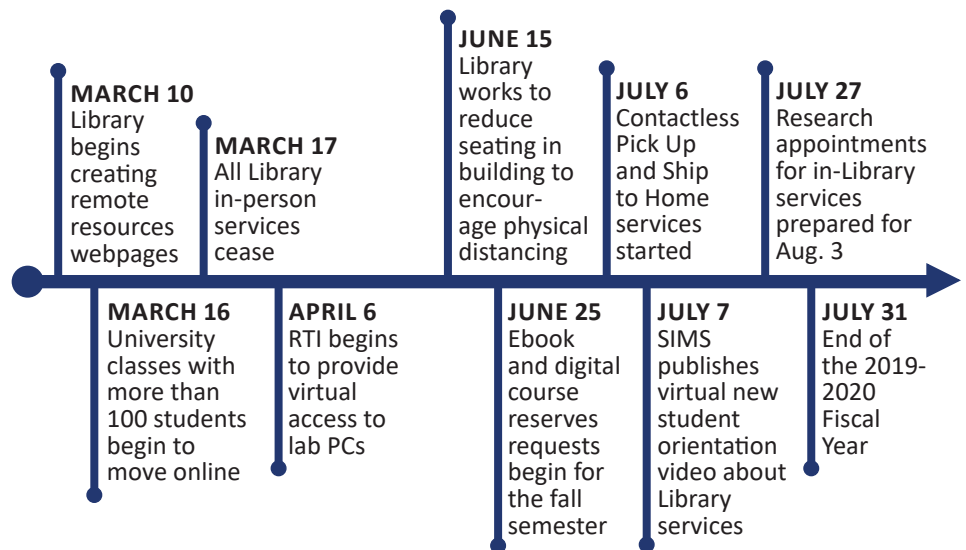
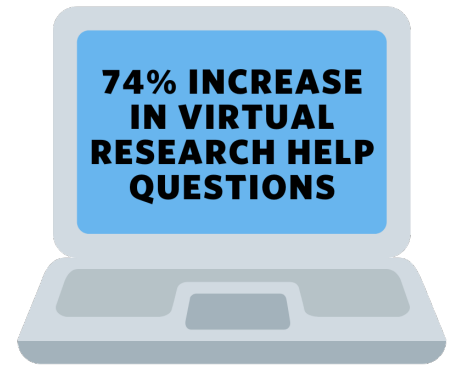
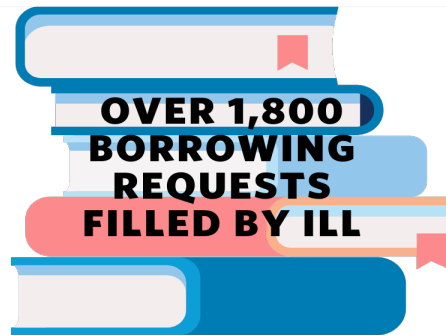
The Library shifted to offering all virtual workshops in a variety of subject areas, including Advanced Searching, R, Python, Stats, Qualtrics, Lit Reviews, Git and GitHub, Arduino, and Find Funding Opportunities using Library Databases

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Archives and Special Collections has made accessibility improvements to its digital exhibits and online presence, including the Lenny Bruce exhibit and the BlackSpace Portal. Accessibility improvements include closed captioning, transcription and alt-text creation, assessment, reworking and testing of web functionality and design, and much more.

ILL FULFILLS REQUESTS REMOTELY

While libraries around the world were closed, or only minimally staffed, print collections became almost entirely inaccessible. But the show must go on somehow, and between mid-March and June, the Brandeis Library Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery (now called Scan on Demand) department filled more than 1,800 borrowing requests, almost 600 Document Delivery requests, and almost 1,400 lending requests—all while working remotely!



Librarians are the best! In the midst of all this chaos, you found exactly what we needed, and gave us easy access instructions. With this film as a resource, my students’ understanding of the context of this creative endeavor will be enormously enriched.

— Faculty member who requested a copy of a video to stream for her class on LATTE

Bringing Campus Together

FALL SEMESTER

MEET YOUR PERSONAL LIBRARIAN

First-year and transfer students enjoyed cider and donuts as they met their personal librarians to get a head start on academic success in September.

LIBRARY PARTY

Hundreds of students filled the dance floor in Farber for the Campus Activities Board's annual Library Party in October.

CAMP IN THE LIBRARY

Presented by the Brandeis Mountain Club and the Library as part of Sleep Week, students were invited to drop in and take a power nap, make their own trail mix, or drink some tea!

GAME ON!

In November, the Brandeis Society for Creative Fantasy and the Library welcomed students to come play their favorite board games or learn a new one.

GOLDFARB BIRTHDAY PARTY

Goldfarb Library turned 60 in October, and we threw a birthday party to celebrate! Festivities included cake and a display of photos from the past six decades.

CODESTELLATION

The sixth annual Codestellation was a huge success! 170 attendees spent 24 hours coding together to build technology.

CITATION DAY

Ahead of fall finals, students visited the Research Help desk with all their citation-related questions—including MLA, Chicago, APA, and tools such as Zotero.

SPRING SEMESTER

DEISHACKS

Every year the MakerLab partners with IBS to put on DeisHacks, an applied social justice hack. Each team chose a design challenge to support Waltham's non-profit community.

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

No need to judge a book by its cover—just the description! Students in February were invited to check out wrapped books and DVDs to discover their next great story.

WELLNESS WEEK

For Wellness Week in early March, the Library hosted a Crafternoon for students to make glow-in-the-dark fairy jars and do yoga in the Meditation Room.



A team collaborates on a project for DeisHacks.

#DEISPOETSSOCIETY SPINE POETRY

In honor of National Poetry Month in April, our community showed off their creativity by stacking the books around them so that reading the titles from top to bottom made a poem.

VIRTUAL TECH FEST

The MakerLab held Tech Fest in a virtual reality space in AltSpaceVR, where students could display videos and presentations, and play games like basketball!

BOSTON STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

SIMS sponsored the film festival in July, and many Brandeis students had their work represented. Several SIMS student employees organized the event, finding a way for the festival to continue as a Facebook livestream after its original venue closed due to COVID-19.

Empowering Staff

PUBLICATIONS

Margarita Corral published an *Atlas.ti* Data Curation Primer for the DCN Specialized Data Curation Github repository. The primer is also archived in the DCN primer collection at the University of Minnesota's Digital Conservancy.

Mark Dellelo was a contributing writer for *Off the Back of a Truck: Contraband for the Sopranos Fan*, published by Simon & Schuster.

Chloe Gerson and **Laura Hibbler** published "Archivists and Librarians: Co-Teaching Connections with Primary Sources," in *Teaching Undergraduates with Archives*.

Maggie McNeely was a co-writer for the Archiving Student Activism Toolkit, Project STAND website, published in November.

PRESENTATIONS

Liz Bodian and **Drew Parker** presented "Implementing Alma Digital" at the Ex Libris Northeast Users Group meeting in October.

Esther Brandon, with Shivaji Kumar of Amherst College, presented "Status of Digital Accessibility: During And Beyond COVID-19," a NERCOMP webinar.

Esther Brandon, **Laura Hibbler**, and **Lance Eaton** (Rabb School), presented "These Collaborations Are Long Overdue: Partnerships Between the Library and Faculty Development" at NERCOMP.

Esther Brandon presented "Deis Does Citizen Science: Collaboration Across the College Community" at the Watch City: Science and Technology Forum.

Esther Brandon presented "OER Your Library" at NERCOMP.

Esther Brandon and **Sarah Ferguson** presented "Creating an Accessible Culture in Higher Ed" at A Future Date.

Joanna Fuchs served as Chair of Program Committee and Moderator for the BLC Media COI webinar "Resource Sharing and Streaming Media: Survey of the Landscape."

Joanna Fuchs also presented "Multiple Projects and Time Management" at the NETSL 2020 Annual Conference.

Ian Roy and **Tim Hebert** presented two talks at Colgate Dronefest 2019: "Water Sampling Project with BC and Brandeis," and "Urban Anthropology Support with Drones."

Surella Seelig and **Sarah Shoemaker**

served on the organizing team and as presenters for "She Can Do Anything: Feminism and Jewish Life in the Post-Soviet States," celebrating the gift of the archives of Project Keshet to Brandeis, in October.

Hazal Uzunkaya presented "Accessibility in Teaching and Learning with XR" at CAA 2020 and served on the panel, "Centering the Student Experience: Using Data to Improve Student Learning."

SERVICE TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Staff served on several organizations outside Brandeis, including the Boston Library Consortium, Society of American Archivists, New England Technical Services Librarians, American Library Association, New England Archivists, New England Library Association, HathiTrust (User Support Working Group), Project STAND, Boston Police Teen Academy, Changemakers, CRMII, OCLC-SHARES, Reciprocal Borrowing Group, Waltham Boys and Girls Club, Weston AIC, New England Science Boot Camp, and DH+LIB Review (ACRL).

Enhancing Collections

ABBIE HOFFMAN MATERIALS

The Archives last year received a series of audio recordings created by producer Stuart Hutchison on the subject of Abbie Hoffman '59. These recordings are being digitized and preserved. One excerpt from a set of "Dear Abbie" recordings features Kurt Vonnegut on writing, honesty, humor, and opposing the Vietnam War.

HENRI LAZAROF COLLECTION

Acquired in August 2019, the Henri Lazarof collection comprises more than 75 linear feet of materials that include unique holographic composer's scores, musical sketches, published musical works, correspondence, personal papers, and nearly 400 audiovisual items.

PROJECT KESHER

The Library has processed and created a guide to the records of Project Keshet, one of several Jewish Feminism collections at Brandeis. Project Keshet was founded



Three Project Keshet activists in Lutsk, Ukraine. The Project Keshet archives were gifted to Brandeis University in 2019.

in 1989 in support of Jewish renewal throughout the former Soviet Union, and materials in this collection illustrate the administrative, programming, and fundraising operations of the organization.

LILITH MAGAZINE RECORDS

The Library has processed more than 25 linear feet of the *Lilith* magazine records collection. The records provide clear documentation of the administrative and editorial operations of *Lilith* and offer valuable insight into the perspectives and lives of Jewish women from the 1970s to the present day.

FORD HALL TAKEOVER FOOTAGE

Nineteen minutes of rarely-seen 1969 TV footage on the Ford Hall Takeover were recently discovered at the Rhode Island Historical Society, and Archives and Special Collections funded digitization of the film.

NEW DIGITAL PRIMARY SOURCES

The Library gained access to several hundred primary source databases through ProQuest's Evidence-Based Acquisition (EBA) program. The program runs for a minimum of a year, and, after that, the Library selects titles to acquire for perpetual access by evaluating usage data and research needs.

THEOREM

Archives and Special Collections acquired a copy of *Theorem*, an artist book co-created by poet (and co-director of the Brandeis Creative Writing Program) Elizabeth Bradfield and artist Antonia

Contro. This edition is one of only 30 handmade copies produced and is a moving collaboration that alternates between printed word and image.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH BOOK DISPLAY

The Library invited students, faculty, and staff to submit book recommendations that show what Black History Month means to them. Throughout the month of February, the titles were displayed on Farber 1.

FRANK B. GILBERT ORAL HISTORY

Special Collections received a transcript of an oral history with Frank B. Gilbert, grandson of late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis. In this interview, Gilbert recalls his early life, his education, and his family, including his grandparents. The oral history was conducted by David P. Briand and Leigh Swigart (both of Brandeis University).

SPANISH CIVIL WAR POSTERS

Special Collections acquired two Spanish Civil War era posters: "Sauvons du garrot" and "Por la Republica. Hacia la liberacion de la mujer." These materials were donated from the Estate of Dr. Constance Hubbard Rose of Marblehead, Mass.

GRETA BEER PAPERS

Special Collections received the papers of Greta Beer, who led efforts to restore funds to Holocaust families from Swiss banks. The collection includes articles, correspondence, interviews, and video recordings documenting her activism.

Transforming Spaces

GOLDFARB 3 RENOVATIONS

Goldfarb 3 got a refresh over the summer with new paint, new carpeting, and new furniture!

BNC WALL

The Brandeis National Committee Wall on Goldfarb 1 is undergoing design improvements in order to easily allow for more names to be added to the donor display.

RESTORED LOUIS BRANDEIS PORTRAIT IN FACULTY STUDY

A large, realistic portrait of Louis Brandeis was recently restored and is on display in the Faculty Study on the Goldfarb Mezzanine.

The portrait used to hang on Goldfarb 1 and 2, but was moved into storage after it was damaged twice—first by vandalism and again when a ladder accidentally tore the canvas. Now restored, the portrait returned to the Library, where it is now on display in the Faculty Study.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING PREPARATIONS

Library spaces were transformed over the summer to prepare for students and staff to return to campus in fall 2020. Changes included reduced seating and computers to encourage physical distancing, new plexi-glass barriers at service points, and floor markers to indicate line distancing and manage traffic.



Goldfarb 3 renovations included new paint, new carpeting, and new furniture.

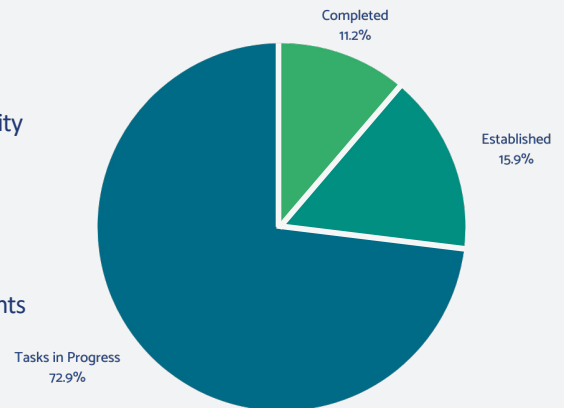
Strategic Plan Progress

I. Core Services

- Tasks completed in FY20
 - Revise/refresh current copyright information on the Library website
- Tasks established in FY20
 - Market e-resources to students and other members of the campus community
 - Collaborate with CTL and others on faculty development offerings

II. Teaching and Learning

- Tasks completed in FY20
 - Complete Ithaka Supporting Teaching with Primary Sources study
 - Assess UWS student reflections
 - Provide workshops for TurnItIn and academic integrity to IBS graduate students
 - Develop academic honesty webinar for Rabb GPS faculty
 - Contribute to HWLS area of the Brandeis Core
- Tasks established in FY20
 - Develop and offer Arduino workshop
 - Adjust SIMS public workshop schedule to accommodate community needs/desires
 - Build on success of Maker in Residence Program, to start Community Maker program
 - Develop drone flying workshop curriculum for simulation
 - Enable successful one-on-one tutoring for academic coursework in digital media
 - Extend research help hours through hiring and training of graduate student assistants
 - Develop a community of practice to assist in assessment of workshops and in making informed adjustments to workshop offerings
 - Partner with faculty to design assignments and instructional sessions to integrate digital media production into their courses
 - Design and implement an online tutorial about avoiding plagiarism for the Heller Summer Institute 2019
 - Start new program, Impact:Maker
 - Integrate Library resources and services into World Languages and Cultures courses
 - Integrate information literacy skills and research skill development into First Year Experience
 - Contribute to Quantitative Reasoning area of the Brandeis Core
 - Offer design thinking workshops for IBS
 - Work with faculty on Brandeis Core Digital Literacy and Oral Communications course designations



III. Access and Equity

- Tasks completed in FY20
 - Create screen reader accessible workshop materials and sample lesson plans for digital literacy assignments to provide to faculty
 - Experiment with using the transparency framework for lesson plans
 - Bring RTI online branding in line with University standards
- Tasks established in FY20
 - Host DEI workshop series for Library staff
 - Develop a faculty accessibility training workshop series with campus partners
 - Facilitate conversations about the Multicultural Communication and Conflict Framework during incoming student orientation
 - Streamline Kurzweil 3000 Training
 - Continue to develop and run DeisHacks targeted at the problems of local non-profits in Waltham and support these projects

IV. Process Improvements

- Tasks completed in FY20
 - Overhaul the Staff Intranet
 - Create a purchasing request workflow for e-resources
 - Create onboarding process in Monday.com, and create and integrate financial onboarding
 - Create a Library-wide request form for professional development opportunities
 - Create a notification system for the receiving room
 - Implement OpenAthens
 - Implement a new Project Management software for RTI
 - Create and document department-wide best practices for instant messaging via Slack
 - Update and improve meeting and reporting guidelines
 - Create a clear policy or set of best practices about what content goes on the Library website versus in a LibGuide
- Tasks established in FY20
 - Incorporate Library branding materials consistently throughout print and digital materials
 - Hold monthly Research Help meetings for internal staff development

V. Digital Scholarship and Creative Works

- Notable tasks in progress in FY20
 - Select and implement a new institutional repository
 - Offer new training in data analysis and coding
 - Continue to partner with faculty, grad students, and others on content creation and publishing using alternative media
 - Expand support of drone cinematography, remote sensing via UAV, robotics, embedded systems, and XR