2014/15 Annual Report
Looking Back:
Now We Are Six
The KAUST Library represents the heart of the University. It is where research begins and where inspiration is born.

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Welcome

Welcome to our first annual report—six+ years in the making! We’ve had an exhilarating ride, both literally (Joe Branin’s legendary “fill a truck with books” trip to Jeddah) and figuratively through the excitement of creating services and programs for our new community. Many people have joined us along the way, and together we’ve created collections, services, and facilities which, as a born-digital library, don’t wrestle for floor space or ask us to compromise our stunning views, team spaces, and quiet areas for book stacks. We miss our founding staff and are grateful for their hard work, particularly our inaugural director, Dr. Joseph Branin, who passed away too soon to delight in the achievements under his leadership.

The following pages highlight the Library’s new services, tools, partnerships, and spaces. What isn’t highlighted is the effort spent on creating a solid infrastructure on which we’ve been able to develop and innovate. While our patron-driven acquisition program (pg. 5) is noteworthy for any research library, we’ve only been able to create such programs because our basic collection services have been stable enough to provide this opportunity. Similarly, our open access policy (pg. 4) demonstrates regional leadership, but such a policy would be meaningless if we hadn’t already had a solid repository infrastructure and a stable library information system.

Rick Johnson, a previous Library manager, described the Library as a place “where inspiration is born.” And, thanks to his work, Joe’s work, and the work of so many, our Library is also where inspiration grows, develops, and matures.

Happy six years!

Molly Tamarkin, 
Library Director
Further information

1. Online research repository allows global access to KAUST theses, articles, and dissertations
2. Early adopter of an Open Access policy approach to providing KAUST-created scholarly communications
3. Library open 24/7; information desk is staffed from 8am to 8pm
4. 20 study rooms over two levels; seven equipped with videoconferencing tools
5. Computer lab with 34 computers, projector, podium, and recording abilities for library trainings and public use
6. Sea View conference room equipped for distance learning and high-tech conferencing services
7. Café area for refreshments and collaboration
8. Copy Center open from 8am to 7pm weekdays, and 8am to 1pm on Fridays
9. Received the 2011 American Institute of Architecture / ALA Library Building award
New Services

We started with the basics: providing essential academic library services and collections from our inception. As we’ve progressed, in keeping with changing community needs and technological developments, we have worked hard to go beyond expectations and provide innovative new services for our researchers. We’ve expanded our collections, tightened our workflows, and enhanced our global presence through our new research repository and archiving services.

Research Repository & Open Access Policy

In 2014, the Library sponsored the University’s Open Access policy, which gave the University the mandate and the means to make published, scholarly articles authored by our researchers available globally. In doing this, KAUST became the first university in Saudi Arabia to adopt such a policy.

The creation of the repository has also offered an opportunity to gather and store research data, digital objects, and gray literature that may otherwise become inaccessible to other researchers. Items such as research data, microscopic images, and even posters can be stored and archived in the repository creating a much more thorough view of KAUST scholarly communications.

We’ve told the KAUST story and highlighted KAUST’s leadership role in these services through the following publications and presentations:

- “Regional Pan-Arab Consultation on Open Access to Scientific Information and Research – Concept and Policies,” UNESCO Summit, Cairo, 2015 (Molly Tamarkin, presenter and moderator)
- “Capturing from the start: Managing grey literature,” Sixteenth International Conference on Grey Literature, 2014 (Mohamed BaEssa with Janardhanan Vijayakumar) (presentation)
- “Promoting KAUST efforts to establish the first mandated Open Access policy in the region,” at Sharjah International Book Fair/ALA Library Conference. Sharjah, UAE, 2014 (Mohamed BaEssa and Janardhanan Vijayakumar) (invited presentation)
- “Open Access and Beyond Panel,” the Special Library Association-Arab Gulf Chapter Conference, 2014 (Mohamed BaEssa, presenter, and Janardhanan Vijayakumar, panel chair)
- “Looking Forward to Preservation,” What’s New (Digital Preservation Coalition), Issue 50, November 2012 (Mohamed BaEssa with Richard Johnson)
Completed Records Survey

Our first step in establishing KAUST’s archive and records management program was to locate and identify all official KAUST records via a Records Survey. Our Survey results have produced a draft archives policy, and we’ve started cataloging and archiving pre-existing and future materials.

Patron-Driven Acquisitions

What would happen if we dumped a list of publications in our catalog and bought them automatically if they receive sufficient use? Patron-driven acquisitions (PDA) is a new model in collection development which reduces the guesswork in deciding to purchase a title; if a researcher reads a significant portion of one of our e-books, then we procure this title automatically, on the fly. While we still work to cover gaps and negotiate the best packages, our work is enhanced through our decision to add a patron-driven acquisitions element to our collections.

By starting a PDA project with Cambridge University Press, we no longer need to purchase full electronic collections in advance but can instead purchase only those items our researchers find useful. However, for our heavily used resources, we have negotiated multi-year licenses to provide long-term collection stability and budget savings.

We are regional leaders in our adoption of PDA and have shared our experiences as follows:

- “The Journey to Publisher PDA,” at the Special Libraries Association Arabian Gulf Chapter, 2015. (Janis Tyhurst, panelist; Janardhanan Vijayakumar, session moderator)

- “To Get or Not to Get: the KAUST Library E-Resources Acquisition Experience,” at IATUL Helsinki, Finland, 2014 (Ola Kabli and Rindra Ramli)(presentation)
Subject Librarian and Faculty Liaison Program

Our collaboration with KAUST’s Human Resources Department has led to a full complement of Subject Specialists who work with departments to ensure our services meet the needs of the students and researchers in each discipline as well as assisting them with subject-specific research. Our Subject Specialists have also become an integral part of the library training programs, delivering sessions on information literacy, effective searching, plagiarism, and many more were newly introduced in 2014.

Our work in information literacy was shared more broadly as follows:


- “A Study on the use of Facebook, RSS, Blogs and Twitter (Web2.0) among selected academic libraries from 6 Gulf countries...” at SLA-AGC, Doha, Qatar, 2014 (Rindra Ramli) (presentation)

- “Survey Results of Post Graduate and Post Doctorate Information Literacy Skills Assessment at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology,” at the European Council on Information Literacy, 2014. (Janis Tyhurst) (poster)

- "Role of librarians in increasing the research impact and academic profiling of universities", at International CALIBER, Shimla, India, 2015 (Janardhanan Vijayakumar) (invited presentation)
New Tools

We have explored and adopted new tools to make current services more effective and to provide new services in response to changing information technologies.

Obtained Credit Card

Although procuring a credit card may seem like a minor activity, at KAUST this small change has improved our acquisitions speed significantly. As a new and developing university, we faced difficulty using standard systems for rush items, such as items requested by our researchers that are not in our collection (document delivery items) and textbooks (where students may use alternate suppliers). Obtaining a credit card has allowed us to provide acquisitions services which match those of our peer universities globally.

We published an article about this!

- “The Role of the document delivery service at an evolving research library in Saudi Arabia,” in Interlending & Document Supply, 2015. (Janardhanan Vijayakumar with Faten Barayyan)

ORCID Integration

In January 2015, we launched an integrated service linking ORCID to our online repository. ORCID creates a unique identifier for researchers allowing research activities to be accurately attached to individuals, thus reducing problems distinguishing between researchers who have similar names. An ORCID ID links all publications by a specific researcher to ensure work is correctly attributed in tools such as SCOPUS.

By integrating ORCID with the KAUST Repository, researchers who add KAUST affiliation information to their ORCID profile will automatically update their profile with information about their publications in the Repository. As of June 2015, 82% of faculty, 52% of Postdocs, and 13% of research scientists at KAUST have ORCID IDs.

Our ORCID work has received some attention:

- “Connecting the pieces: using ORCIDs to improve research impact and repositories” at ORCID-CASRAI Joint conference, 2015. (Mohamed Baessa; Thibaut Lery; Janardhanan Vijayakumar; Daryl Grenz) (presentation)

- “ORCID Integration: Services to Create and Use ORCID IDs at KAUST” at Open Repositories 2015. (Daryl Grenz and Mohamed Baessa) (presentation)
Providing Statistics with PlumX

Our repository will soon be implementing PlumX analytics to provide extensive data not just related to the version of articles or other items in our repository, but for all versions of all items. We will now have a tool that provides usage data for materials such as computer code, datasets, and even videos.

The PlumX tool also supports our use of the ORCID ID by using the ORCID API to update researcher’s profiles with their latest repository additions.
New Partners

Now that we’ve established our basic services, we are eager to collaborate with other Saudi university libraries and to continue our engagement with international library associations. We also seek to develop our collaborations with KAUST researchers to identify areas for innovation and improvement. We meet with staff at the community’s Harbor Library and the school libraries regularly to discuss areas of mutual interest.

Reaching Out to Saudi Research Libraries

In the spring of 2015, KAUST librarians visited several Saudi research libraries for the first time. We learned more about the library environment in Saudi Arabia, established relationships, and identified areas for future collaborations. In June of 2015, we joined KACST librarians in representing Saudi Arabia at a UNESCO summit and have extended special invitations to our Saudi colleagues to our Open Access events.

Libraries visited include those at King Abdulaziz University, the Saudi Geological Survey, King Fahad University of Petroleum & Minerals, Aramco’s Technical Information Center, King Saud University, King Fahad National Library, the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, and the Princess Norah Bint Abdulrahman University.
The University Library has hosted a lecture series bringing area experts to campus to engage with the entire KAUST community. Below are a few of the lectures we hosted.

- Records & Information Management (2015)
- Copyright and libraries: A comparative study between the United States and Saudi Arabia limitations in copyright laws (2014)
- American-style academic libraries in the Gulf region (2014)
- KACST Role in Research Support: Enriching the Arabic content on the web (2012)
- King Fahd Public Library: Future vision (2011)
- Saudi Digital Library (SDL) Project (2011)
On Campus Collaborations

In 2010 we began working with the Office of the Arts to provide venues and hosting assistance for regular Sunset Concerts and the annual Artists of KAUST exhibit.

Working with the Enrichment Office, we have become a central venue for exhibitions and events during the Winter, Spring, and Fall Enrichment Programs and we are planning on increasing our participation in these programs in starting with FEP 2015.

We also sponsor the “Science to Watch,” a lecture and film series which has led to our new DVD collection of scientific-themed feature films.
New Spaces

From the initial design to realization, our building inspires and promotes the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of all. Our spaces have become an integral part of our services, accommodating events, workshops, conferences, and ad hoc collaborations and group projects.

ALA Award

In 2011 KAUST received the American Institute of Architecture and the ALA Library Buildings Award for accomplishments in library architecture. The building was admired for its translucent marble shroud, grand views of the Red Sea and the KAUST beacon, and its provision of spaces that blur “the boundary of formal and informal knowledge sharing”¹.

Jury comments included:

- “There is something magical about the way the façade transforms, the way the skin works from dusk until dawn, pulsing and in flux.”
- “It stands as a beautiful metaphor for knowledge, as things go from opaque to revealing... Symbolic of change and growth.”
- “Its program as a library seems to represent what we are moving towards in the future for libraries: much more public, social space without the imposition of looming storage.”²

Red Sea Research Center

In summer of 2014 we transformed a somber maps area to a showcase for KAUST’s Red Sea Research.

Here are our before and after photos.

We discussed our award-winning library at:

- “Diversified technologies and services in transition for brand new libraries: the story of KAUST” at 7th Shanghai International Library Forum. Shanghai, China, 2014 (Janardhanan Vijayakumar) (presentation)
Our Staff - 2015

Library Director
Molly Tamarkin
Jayamika Shah

Executive Assistant

Administrative Services
Majid Kaisrani
Nada Mursi
Safanah Kadi
Jacquelynne A. Waldron

Business Administrator
Outreach Specialist
Library Services Assistant – Administration
Library Services Assistant

Archives and Records Management
Chris Graves
Maria Castro

Acting University Archivist / Records Manager
Library Services Assistant

Collections & Information Services
Janardhanan Vijayakumar
Faten Barayyan
Janis Tyhurst
Lee Yen Han
Stephen J. Buck
Rindra Ramli
Ola Kabli
Mary D. Waswa
Ali Al-Qahtani
Basma Parkar
Nouf AlSulaimani

Collections & Information Services Manager
Reference and Training Coordinator
Senior Subject Specialist & Team Lead
Subject Specialist
Subject Specialist
E-Resources Specialist & Team Lead
Electronic Resources Acquisitions Coordinator
Metadata Specialist
Acquisition Specialist
Library Services Assistant
Library Services Assistant

Systems & Digital Services
Kenneth P. Mitchell
Mohamed Ba-Essa
Daryl Grenz
Han Wang
Jose Martin
Manju Vijayakumar
Mohammed Abduldaem

Systems & Digital Services Manager
Digital Repository Specialist
Digital Repository Coordinator
Library Services Assistant
System Coordinator
Access Librarian
Library Services Assistant
The End

When I was One,
I had just begun.

When I was Two,
I was nearly new.

When I was Three,
I was hardly Me.

When I was Four,
I was not much more.

When I was Five,
I was just alive.

But now I am Six, I’m as clever as clever.
So I think I’ll be six now for ever and ever.

From A.A. Milne's *Now We Are Six*
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