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Fall 2016

Friends of the Library Newsletter Autumn 2016

Michael J. Paulus Jr.

Seattle Pacific University, paulusm@spu.edu

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Recommended Citation

Paulus, Michael J. Jr., "Friends of the Library Newsletter Autumn 2016" (2016). *Library Newsletters*. 11.
http://digitalcommons.spu.edu/library_news/11

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Beginning the Next 125 Years



Seattle Pacific College Library, circa 1940 ([Source](#))

This year is the 125th Anniversary of the founding of Seattle Pacific University and its library. The Library began as a modest vision in the Articles of Incorporation from June 1891: There would be a reading room with books on hygiene, missions, and other resources necessary for the school. On December 1, 1891, the Seattle Public Library began to realize its own vision by providing access to some 6,000 books in rented rooms in a Pioneer Square hotel. Although founders expected these libraries to grow over time, no one in the 1890s imagined how radically library collections, services, and spaces would evolve throughout the coming century. Even H.G. Wells, whose time-traveling protagonist journeys thousands of years into the future, did not imagine a library becoming much more than books in a building.

The pace and magnitude of technological change in the

SPU Library Numbers

In academic year 2015–16:

255,777
entries into the Ames Library.

37,427
books checked out.

194
information literacy sessions
taught by librarians.

8,915
reference, research, and
technology consultations.

Orbis Cascade Alliance Numbers

SPU is one of **39** universities and colleges in the [Orbis Cascade Alliance](#).

Alliance libraries hold over **30 million** items.

The Alliance provides access to over **160,000** ebooks.

SPU patrons checked out **3,999** items from other Alliance libraries.

The SPU Library delivered **3,415** items to other Alliance libraries.

21st century causes many to wonder about the future of libraries, even though libraries have been at the center of technological changes for millennia. A common mistake is to reduce libraries to the function of providing books in rooms — i.e., access to information. If libraries were merely about information access, the internet and the devices we use to access digital networked resources would largely replace them. But libraries are about much more than information access. A library intentionally selects and mediates access to information to enable people to discover and use the best information so that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom.

As this year's [Annual Report](#) and [previous reports](#) show, the SPU Library continues to evolve in its second century to enable students and scholars to discover, create, and share knowledge in both traditional and innovative ways. Since implementing a new strategic plan five years ago, we have:

- increased access to digital content (books, journals, databases, and video);
- increased librarians' time for and with students in and beyond the classroom;
- created new instructional and scholarship services for faculty;
- reorganized service areas to provide greater technological support;
- enhanced learning spaces, equipment, and aesthetics in the Ames Library building;
- implemented new systems to support the discovery and use of library resources and services;
- pursued creative collaborations to improve every dimension of our work.

The SPU Library — like all dynamic libraries — will continue to evolve in both expected and unexpected ways. But, like any good library, this evolution will be shaped by, with, and for the community that generated and sustains us.

Friends of the Library 125th Anniversary Event

One of the ways we decided to mark SPU's 125th Anniversary was to commission historian and theologian Howard Snyder to write a book about the early history of our institution. In *Rooted in Mission: The Founding of Seattle Pacific*

For more information about the Library in 2015–16, see our [Annual Report](#).

Connect

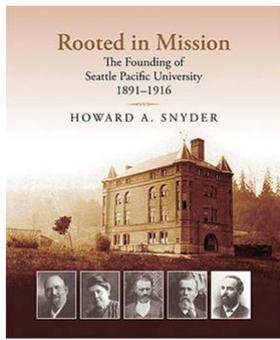
Become a Friend of the Library by giving to an endowment that enhances both the quantity and quality of resources available to SPU students and scholars. If you are not already a member, or have not yet renewed your annual membership, please visit the Friends of the Library [giving site](#).

Attend the Library's speaker series [Creative Conversations](#), in which members of the SPU community share scholarly and creative works in progress. The series runs during the school year and is open to the public.

View videos from the lecture series "[Digital Wisdom: Conversations at the Intersection of Technology, Theology, and Culture](#)."

Follow the Library's [blog](#) and [Twitter account](#).

Explore the Library's website, and the resources and services available through it, by visiting spu.edu/library.



University, 1891–1916, Snyder tells the story of Seattle Seminary before

it became Seattle Pacific College in 1916, situating its development within the historical context of the Free Methodist denomination as well as the growing city of Seattle.

On Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 7 p.m. in Upper Gwinn, the Library will host a panel discussion on *Rooted in Mission*. Snyder will join a panel of SPU faculty and staff to discuss various dimensions of SPU's history — local, national, ecclesial, missional, and more. University Archivist Adrienne Meier will be part of the panel, to talk about the archival research she has done on the early history of SPU. The work of former University Librarian Bryce Nelson on the history of Seattle will be featured as well.

We will announce additional information closer to the event. *Rooted in Mission* was featured in the summer issue of [Response](#) and SPU's [125th Anniversary site](#) has additional information about our quasiquicentennial. A collection of digital archival resources is available in the [Special Collections](#) section of the Library's Digital Commons repository. A special collections exhibit, "[The SPU Quasiquicentennial, 1891–2016](#)," is currently on display in the Ames Library.



Published by: Seattle Pacific University, 3307 3rd Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98119-1950, U.S.A.

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