



Assessment Annual Report

Service or Collection

Guin Library, HMSC

Fiscal Year

FY23-24

Overview

Longtime Guin Director Mary Markland retired at the end of 2023. Her 8-years of service to OSULP, HMSC, Guin Library, and the Newport Community is greatly appreciated. OSULP hired David Irvin as Guin director in Spring 2024. Irvin previously served as Department Head of Reference and Research Services, at New Mexico State University. Irvin joined library technicians Katie Bowler and Julie Drengson, who worked throughout the interim period to maintain library services between directors.

In FY23-24, the Guin Library continued to provide quality research services to HMSC, OSU and marine science communities. Overall, lending grew and foot traffic increased year-over-year.

Strategic Significance:

Located within yards of the primary HMSC administration building, marine science laboratories and federal agencies, Guin is strategically positioned to respond to on-campus needs of staff, students, faculty and agency researchers. Guin is also an active participant in lending programs, including serving as a drop point for Lincoln County libraries and for Summit Libraries.

Bibliographic resources developed over decades (by staff and volunteers) enhance accessibility to coastal estuaries and field stations research. Research cruise and laboratory logs are being digitized to make old data accessible to new researchers.

The future placement of a Blue Whale skeleton on the HMSC campus, just steps from the Guin Library, will increase the number of visitors coming to the center each year. This development will improve Guin's interface with the public and encourages us to think about the placement of collections of public interest. Encouraging public support through programming and the solicitation of donations will allow Guin to meet HMSC researcher needs and develop inviting public spaces.

New student housing is under construction at HMSC with an anticipated opening in Fall 2025. Supporting students who occupy those spaces will drive strategic thinking at Guin and collaborative opportunities across the research center in the near term.

Takeaways:

- Lending activity at Guin Library continued to grow in FY23-24, but at a more modest pace than the previous two years (Appendix A). Growth was uneven across categories, which reveals areas to focus on for future growth.
- Foot traffic (ins) increased in FY23-24 by 3.5% over the previous year, with 23,854 visits. Monthly data shows that traffic increased between August and February and decreased between March and June (Appendix B). Heat map data shows patron visits peak around mid-day of mid-week, on average (Appendix C).
- In FY 23-24, a DEIAR collection was purchased and placed, and a LibGuide was developed. This effort was supported by HMSC and aligned with OSULP Anti-racist/EDI work (https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/quinn_deiar).
- Course reserves titles were updated, moved locations, and a LibGuide for reserves was established.
- A table was purchased to enhance the children's area; Bowler made new bilingual English/Spanish signage for Guin's self-checkout and for the children's puzzles and games collections.
- Marine Science Day activities (April 2024): In the interim period, Drenghson and Bowler worked with HMSC's MSD committee to prepare for the event; set up a reading nook and filled it with children's books; moved the children's section and set up a new children's play area, with brand new puzzles, toys, coloring stencils, and a children's table and chair set. About 115 people stopped by the library on MSD, with 15 library card sign-ups, a daily record.
- Marketing: We began sending monthly newsletters through Mailchimp ("What's new at Guin"), which provides attractive designs and useful metrics on the performance of emailed communications.

Key Decisions:

- A library shelf inventory was completed in FY23-24, leading to a highly accurate catalog that serves patrons well.
- Guin is developing a climate anxiety book study with members of Hatfield administration and the EPA (<https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/climate>). This is being discussed as the first of a series of book studies at HMSC.
- Guin continued to support the REU/Intern summer community, providing library tours, overviews, checked items, including direct support for the coastal field tour.
- The HMSC Bibliography database was cleaned and restored to the Web. Bibliographic databases, including the estuaries bibliographies, will be secured locally and archived on the Web through a collaboration with SCARC.
- Collection development in ecology statistics was increased after corresponding with Dr. Leslie New, Ursinus College, a stats professor invited by the Hatfield Student Organization.

Next Steps:

- Collections priorities:
 - Collect in areas that support climate anxiety/human dimensions topics. Build collections in DEIAR adjacent areas involved with issues around climate justice and community resilience.
 - Develop a collaborative peer-mentoring and workshops program with collection support in ecology statistics and R, supported by focused collections development in this area.

- Review books delivered to Guin from Valley to reveal reader trends and local gaps.
- Technology:
 - Procure collaborative technologies, like large digital whiteboards, to meet the needs of local researchers and student workgroups.
 - Build accessibility software including collection mapping, catalog kiosks on pedestals, etc., to make the stacks easier to navigate.
 - Ensure software packages on public machines meet the needs of students and agency partners.
- Access:
 - Develop a strategy to sponsor ONIDs from HMSC for agency partners and develop a OSULP user group that provides electronic and ILL access to this group.¹
 - Build upon previous bibliography projects by hardening the database and rethinking process. Explore cross-OSU collaborations to present bibliographic data with GIS to expand access to historic coastal research with emergent Web and AI applications.
 - Incorporate new channels for IAMSLIC article requests into our internal workflow to increase fulfillment support for marine science libraries.
- User engagement
 - Develop compelling public programming for the Spring 2025 Marine Science Day event.
 - Bring Patent and Trademark research assistance to HMSC and across the OSU space by establishing a PTRC.
 - Based upon assessment, promote services or programming to increase traffic in slower times.
- Space
 - Make use of extra space in attic to remove long-journal runs from the floor to reduce the number of volumes, with the aim of reconfiguring the stacks to provide more space for collaborative areas.
 - Enhance the “mind spa” concept by opening more space and collecting Library of Things (LoT) for that purpose to support student well being.
 - Arrange current furnishings to provide better flow and develop procedures that serve our evolving user base.

Assessment:

This is a 5-year assessment of lending trends in various categories at Guin. The assessment points to areas of growth, decline, and potential explanations for both. Interlibrary loan (ILL) and in-house loan activities are reviewed.

In FY23-24, combined lending activity (ILL and loans, in-house and not) grew in aggregate from the previous year at 3.6%, which continues the uptrend that begins at the pandemic low in FY20-21. ILL activity decreased from FY22-23 by 31 percent. In the same period, all loan activity (in house & not) increased by 30 percent. Total activity increased because the latter category is the largest chunk of activity, owing to growth in LoT lending.

¹ An unknown number of agency partners do not have ILL or electronic access to OSULP collections through Guin. This issue evolved over years as Guin moved away from print journals; and it was identified by an internal OSULP strategic team as an area of access concern.

ILL activity is split into various categories. Most categories are relatively stable since the pandemic. However, two categories saw declines this year. Summit Borrowing decreased by 79 percent year-over-year, which breaks the trend in that category and may be anomalous. Also, declines were observed in ILL activities for libraries in IAMSLIC (The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers). While most categories rebounded in the years following the pandemic year, IAMSLIC did not.²

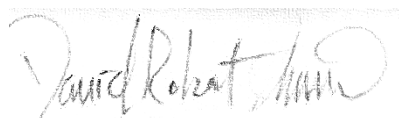
The data provides insight into how our local collections are responding to the local needs. We see a marked increase in the items from Valley sent to Guin from FY21-22 to FY22-23. A subject assessment of these requests is warranted.

Library of Things (LoT)

The increase in loaned items primarily comes from the increase in loans of “equipment,” the Library of Things category. LoT lending in FY23-24 increased faster than book lending. Items in this category include puzzles, field kits (art and science), technology (laptops, hotspots, chargers), party packs, outdoor games, carrel keys, etc. Recently, we have made targeted purchases to strengthen this collection, which we will continue to do.³ Demand for “things” is robust and additional investment is merited through targeted purchases, donations processing, and maintenance.

Growing this collection prompts us to think about what categories of “things” are in scope for Guin’s LoT. With the new housing being built, work is now underway at HMSC to align certain services with main campus. Emerging service points may determine what “things” should be lent from Guin and what “things” would be managed outside the library. As this work is ongoing and expected to evolve, defining LoT categories for Guin will provide reasonable limits and focus for this category of lending.

Respectfully submitted,



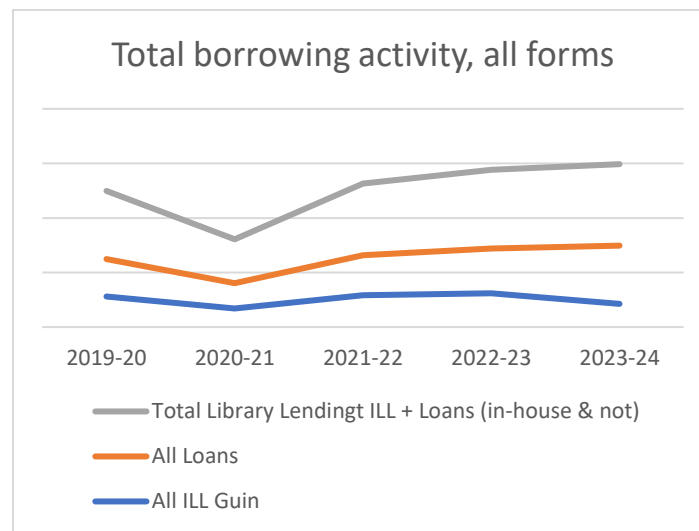
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Signature of the person (or persons) who prepared this report Date submitted

² A possible explanation for the decline in IAMSLIC participation is that members changed how they request items. Traditionally, libraries make requests through the association Website. However, there is also an active listserv where many librarians make requests for “duplicate” copies of articles, likely a pandemic-era solution that changed process. It will benefit Guin Library and the greater marine science library network to pay closer attention to this list, fill requests, and tally fulfillments.

³ Items such as a spotting scope and popular lawn games, as well as a collection of fishing rods in a new collaboration with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. We’ll start lending Oregon State Park passes in the near future.

Appendix A: Lending Data



Interlibrary loan, document deliver, and Summit

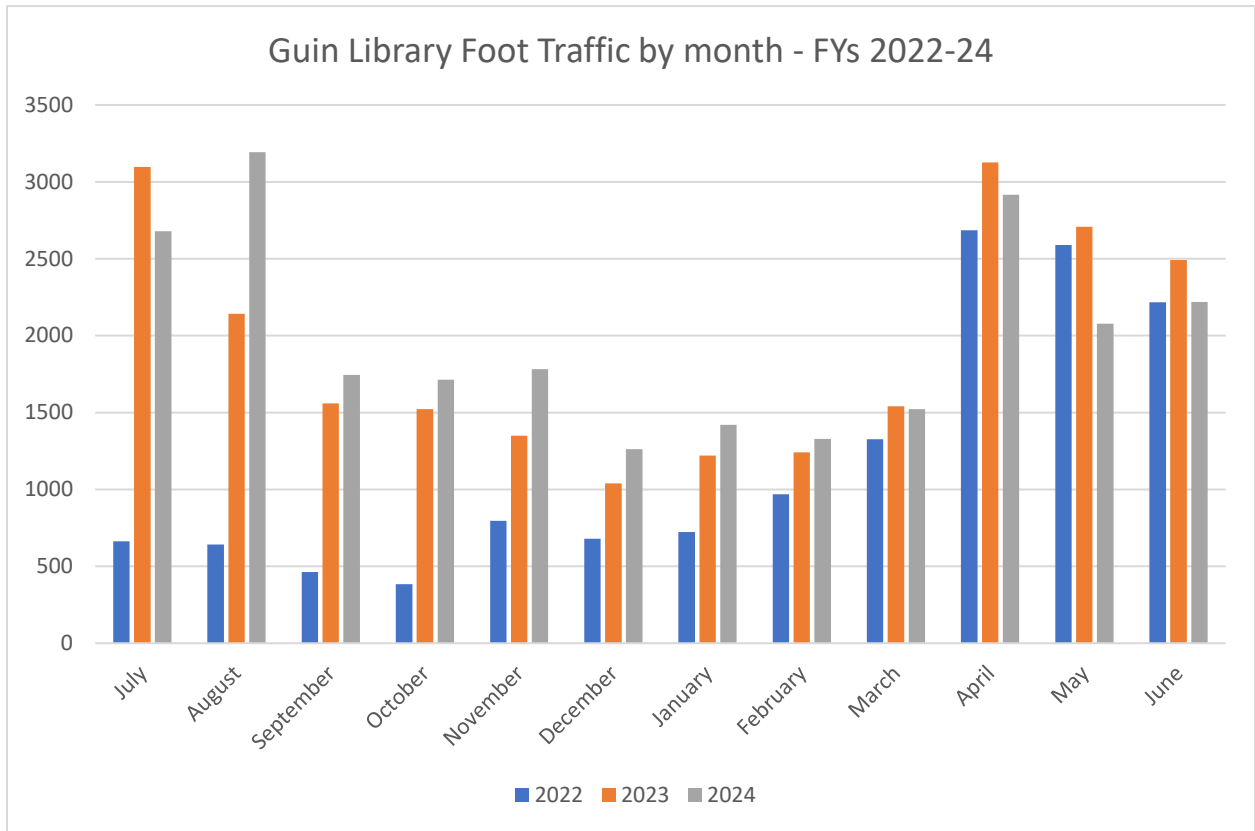
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
ILL Borrowing	79	77	102	86	80
Ill Lending	235	338 ⁴	212	169	178
Scan & Deliver - Guin Patrons	39	33	88	39	31
Scan & Deliver - Guin filled for Valley	110	113	170	129	141
IAMSLIC	139	55	52	44	24
Valley items sent to Guin	43	66	85	162	133
Summit Borrowing	136	0	227	242	51
Summit Lending	334	0	236	368	211
All ILL Activity Guin	1115	682	1172	1239	849

Circulation of physical items

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Loans (in house & not in house)	1382	927	1460	1643	2137
Returns	1367	922	1434	1600	1927
Renewals	100	51	125	70	77
Lost	35	13	21	27	29
Auto renewals	506	164	741	859	1140
Recalls	30	7	20	24	24
Total: ILL + Loans (in-house & not)	2497	1609	2632	2882	2986

⁴ Impact of Covid on ILL services due to Guin Library continuing ILL when other libraries in the state stopped.

Appendix B: Traffic data



Appendix C: Heat map by day and hour (FY23-24 Avg ins)

