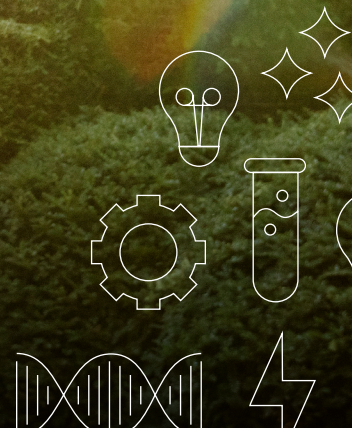


LINDA HALL LIBRARY  
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • TECHNOLOGY

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Despite early warning signs, the COVID pandemic's velocity took the world by surprise, and the months of shutdown presented existential challenges to cultural organizations everywhere. Forced to improvise, some fared better than others. Because the Linda Hall Library quickly adopted the maxim, "Never let a crisis go to waste," it reacted swiftly to the situation, bringing order out of sudden chaos to become a stronger organization than ever before.

Health and safety were the highest priorities, along with keeping the entire staff employed while working remotely. Another high priority was keeping our constituents informed about the pandemic's trajectory, and our reference staff was more than up to the challenge. But, the most formidable challenge was the need to pivot our previously scheduled live programs onto a virtual platform while increasing their number, format, variety, and frequency to help fill the hours of forced isolation suddenly faced by a global community.

**This challenge offered opportunities for us to form new programming collaborations and enlarge our programming portfolio to include relevant and interesting topics to an expanding audience.** The results were overwhelming. By the end of 2020, we had collaborated with ten new organizations for a total of 39 new programs that drew just under 2,000 first-time participants. We increased our total number of programs by 49% and our active donors by 52%.

The most rewarding response came from you. Our traditional audience remained loyal, while new audience members found us. You told us how much our efforts meant to you and your encouragement kept us moving forward. This momentum will continue into 2021 and beyond. **The Linda Hall Library has indeed emerged as a stronger, more vital organization committed to providing support for advanced research and scholarship, and programming that emphasizes the intersection of science and contemporary life.**



**LISA M. BROWAR**  
PRESIDENT, LINDA HALL LIBRARY

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**WHERE  
SCIENCE  
LIVES.**

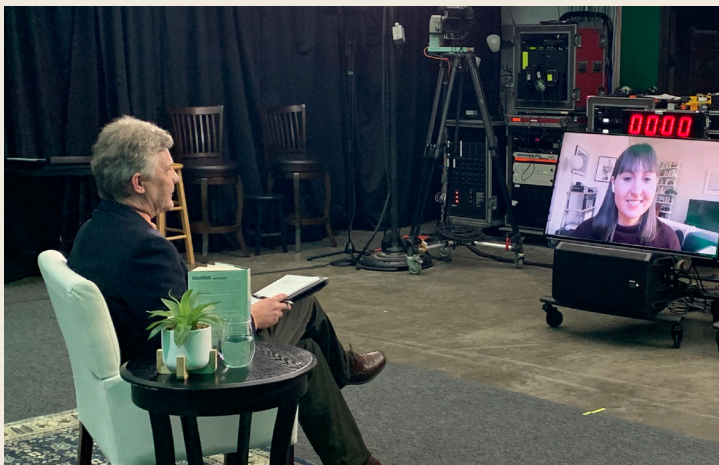
The Linda Hall Library now offers learning opportunities for students considering careers in STEM and their teachers, and for anyone wanting to know more about the intersection of science and contemporary life. With lectures, panel discussions, interviews, conversations, seminars, and demonstrations offered in person, on virtual platforms, in real time, or on demand, the Linda Hall Library has opened its doors to an international community of scientists, engineers, historians, students, and learners of all ages who gather to question, understand, share, and learn.

## LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2019, the Linda Hall Library embarked upon a three-year strategic plan to redirect its efforts in ways that will position it at the crossroads of science and modern life. With the goal of connecting the Linda Hall Library to community — local, national, and international — the work represented in this Annual Report makes abundantly clear the great strides made during a very difficult year to achieve this result. While additional work lies ahead, the early signs are both impressive and encouraging.

**A KANSAS CITY  
INSTITUTION  
GROUNDED  
IN SCIENCE,  
DEDICATED TO  
PROGRESS, AND  
COMMITTED  
TO OUR  
COMMUNITY'S  
FUTURE.**

# COVID-19 IMPACT



We responded to unforeseen circumstances with speed, agility, and our customary attention to excellence. The result was curbside service for borrowing circulating books, the creation of virtual fellowships, and a pivot to virtual programming that produced an increase in audiences. The subsequent development of a comprehensive virtual strategy enabled us to look ahead to incorporating virtual, hybrid, and in-person programming with an increased emphasis on content and education.



**70 virtual programs**



**9,786 virtual attendees**



**Over 12,000 program views**

## PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND OUR REACH

The Library amplified its reach by engaging in partnerships and collaborations with cultural, educational, and scholarly organizations.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

Clendening History of Medicine Library –  
University of Kansas

International Relations Council

Kansas City Art Institute

KC Water

Mid-America Regional Council

MRIGlobal

Nature Conservancy Missouri Field Office

Rainy Day Books

Royal Astronomical Society

Sigma Xi - Kansas City Chapter

Stowers Institute for Medical Research

The Kansas City Public Library

The National WWI Museum and Memorial

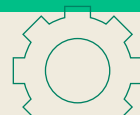
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of  
Computing and Engineering

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Department of Earth and  
Environmental Sciences

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Cockefair Chair

Water.org





# PROGRAMMING

Whether you enjoy lectures and panel discussions, love trivia contests, or want to invent the next great thing, the Linda Hall Library's public programs have something that will engage your interest. For over a decade, the Library has presented some of the world's most eminent scientists and science historians who have challenged and enlightened us. This year, our programs reached a global audience through programming collaborations with other learned organizations, and in addition to traditional in-person events, our content is now available in real time, on demand, and on virtual streaming platforms.


BRINGING  
TOGETHER  
SOME OF THE  
GREATEST MINDS  
IN SCIENCE TO  
EXPLORE THE  
INTERSECTION  
OF SCIENCE AND  
CONTEMPORARY  
LIFE.



  
**1,838**  
first-time  
program  
attendees

  
**1,430**  
attendees  
under the age  
of 40

  
**157%**  
increase in  
total program  
attendees

  
**18,769**  
Facebook  
views



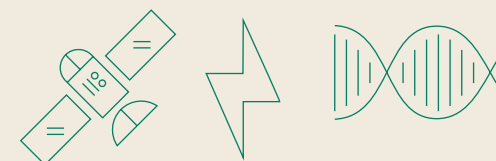
# EDUCATION

**"Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."**  
- Henry Ford

Henry Ford's prescription for knowledge acquisition guides the Linda Hall Library's dedication to lifelong learning. Long a priority, in 2020 the Library intensified its commitment to continuous learning by establishing a new initiative entirely devoted to in-depth learning and exploration. Led by a Chief Learning Officer, the goals of this new project are twofold: to support STEM educators

with professional learning opportunities that enhance their classroom teaching, and to offer in-depth mini courses to adult learners of all ages who wish to deepen their knowledge of science and society.

Collaborating with STEM educators and other STEM professional learning providers, the Library's Chief Learning Officer is building a unique program for STEM teachers that draws on the Library's collections and other assets. Equipping teachers with additional teaching tools will inspire today's students to pursue careers in STEM that may lead to scientific and technological breakthroughs that will benefit all.



## GROWING OUR REACH THROUGH DIGITAL CHANNELS



**44% increase**  
in website sessions



**43% increase**  
in website page views



**57% growth**  
in social media engagement



**47% increase**  
in new users

## INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The International Advisory Committee (or IAC) offers insights that inform our public programs and research opportunities that expand our intellectual reach with national and international organizations.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Dr. Katie Atkinson,**

Dean of the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics, and Computer Science, University of Liverpool, UK

**Dr. Lori Baker,**

Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity, Professor of Anthropology, Baylor University

**Lisa M. Browar,**

President, Linda Hall Library

**Dr. Anne C. Dema,**

Provost and Professor of Chemistry, William Jewell College; Linda Hall Library Trustee

**Dr. David Gallo,**

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Chair, Linda Hall Library Board of Trustees

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Associate Professor of Physics, Drexel University

**Dr. Alejandro Sánchez Alvarado,**

Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer, Stowers Institute of Medical Research

**Dr. Kevin Z. Truman,**

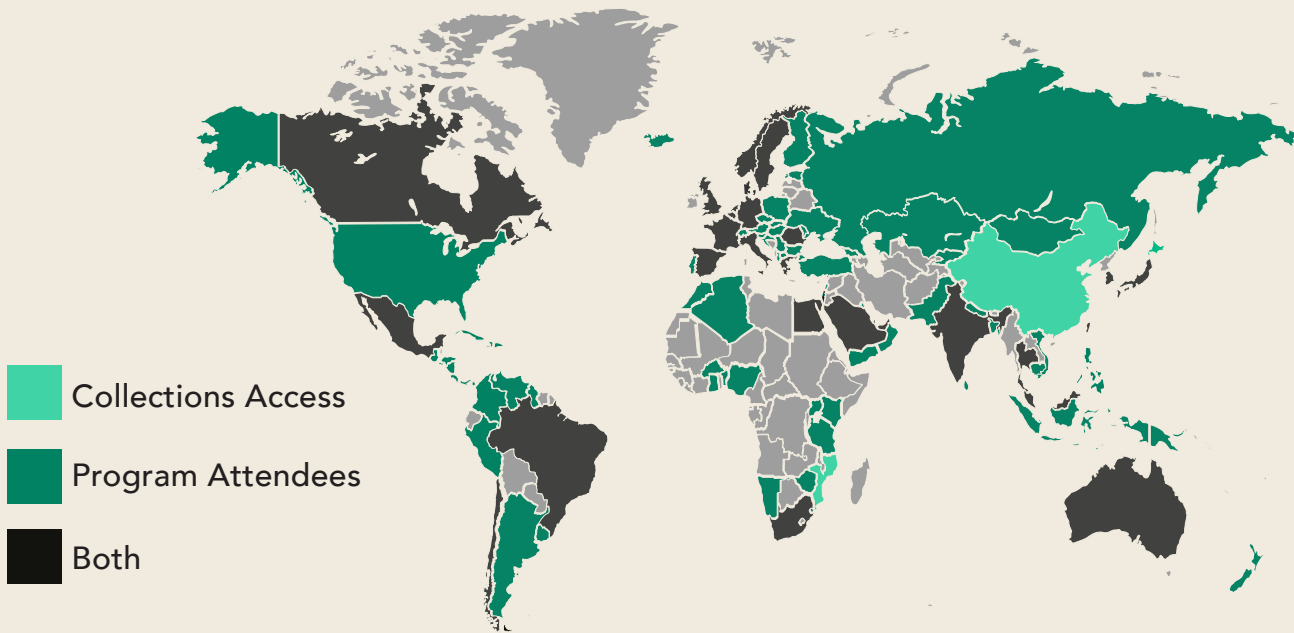
Vice Provost & Dean, School of Computing and Engineering, University of Missouri-Kansas City



# GLOBAL AUDIENCE

Since opening in 1946, scholars, students, science enthusiasts, and businesses around the globe have accessed the Library's vast collections. We collect in 82 languages and welcome inquiries from around the world.

**17,794** document delivery requests received from **32 countries** in 2020



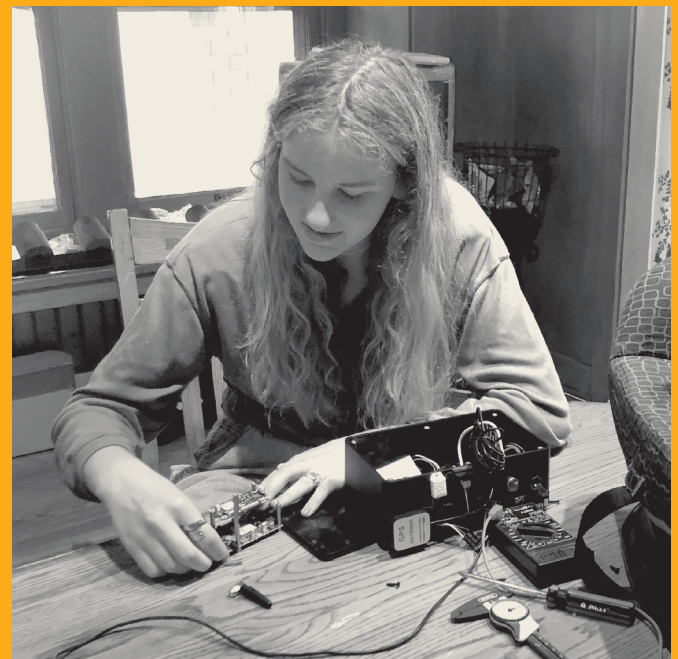
## INTRODUCING THE KANSAS CITY INVENTION CONVENTION



ONE IDEA CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

KCIC is a STEMIE (STEM + Invention + Entrepreneurship) competition that teaches problem-solving and creativity skills to students in grades 4-12, and provides educators with a project-based curriculum to inspire the innovators of tomorrow.

<b>17</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>31</b>
Counties	Students	KC Inventions at U.S. Nationals	School districts



Kelly Anne Greene, Inventor of the *Baby Saver*  
Market Potential Award Winner – U.S. Nationals

Thank you to our local partners, sponsors, and volunteers who make this program possible.

# COLLECTIONS

The Library's collecting strengths include engineering disciplines, chemistry, physics, natural history, astronomy, environmental and earth sciences, aeronautics, life sciences, infrastructure studies, science in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and mathematics. Beyond monographs and serials, the Library collects reference works, conference proceedings, government publications, technical reports, unpublished engineering society conference papers, has more than 250,000 industrial standards, and is a Patent and Trademark Resource Center.

**486,305** books

**287,977** serial issues

**54,514** total serial titles

**9,364** loaned items

**5,115** reference transactions

**82** languages represented

**42** miles of shelving



## 2020 RARE BOOK ACQUISITIONS

*A visit to grove cottage for the entertainment and instruction of children* by Lucy Sarah Atkins Wilson (1823)

*Trees, plants, and flowers: their beauties, uses, and influences* by Sarah Bowdich Lee (1854)

*Stratoplan-polureaktivny* by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky (1932)

*Entomology in sport; and Entomology in earnest* by Mary Ward and Jane King Mahon (1859)

*La bombe atomique* by R. Pascal-Moussellard (1946)

*Vollständige Erklärung des Calenders, mit einem fasslichen Unterricht über die Himmelskörper, insbesondere über die Sonne und der sich um sie bewegenden Planeten. In drey Abtheilungen, mit versinnlichenden Abbildungen.* by Ludwig E. Walz (1830)

*A Laboratory Note Book for Bacteriology* by Edna B. Dayton (1924)

*Hungry Dutch: a typographic adventure* by Russell Maret (2020)

**We continue to build upon our historic strengths, with a specific acquisition focus on:**

**MATERIAL CREATED BY AND FOR WOMEN  
WORK CREATED BY PEOPLE OF COLOR  
ITEMS IN NON-WESTERN LANGUAGES  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE**

## CRITICAL CATALOGING:

The work of creating catalog records for each item in a library collection is never done. Over time, words and phrases take on new meanings, occasionally to the detriment of established use. When this happens, existing catalog records must be revised to reflect contemporary meanings. Employing a practice known as "critical cataloging," the Library has begun the ongoing work of updating its catalog in ways that will promote inclusivity and enhance access.



# RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Understanding the past is the key to unlocking the future. The Linda Hall Library's fellowship program provides a deep immersion in our extensive collections and participation in a rich intellectual community comprised of in-house experts and an international cohort of scholars.

For more than a decade, literary scholars, music and art historians, and social scientists have joined the many science historians whose work has been enriched by consulting our collections.

The work produced by our research fellows will continue to highlight the well-known and widely accepted and reveal hidden truths about the world around us.

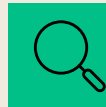
## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

35

APPLICATIONS

20

FELLOWSHIP OFFERS



26,929

LibGuide views

9,364

loaned items

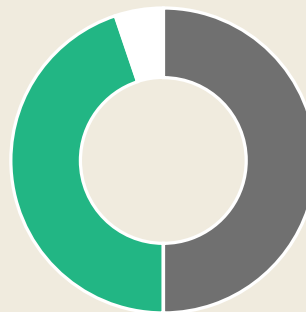


5,115

reference transactions

1,415

database transactions



10 residential fellows  
(3 doctoral, 7 postdoctoral)

9 travel fellows

1 History of Science  
and Medicine fellow

## SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE:

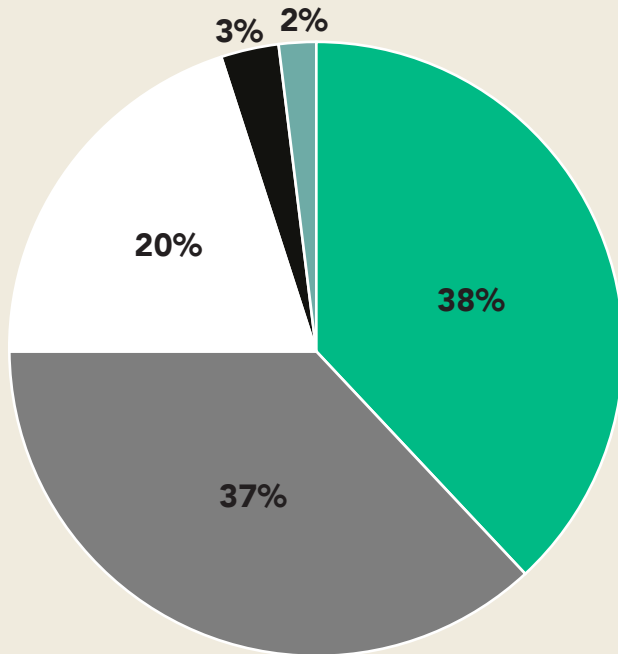
The position of scholar-in-residence provides support for scholars in the Kansas City metropolitan region whose research will benefit from sustained engagement with the Linda Hall Library's collections. UMKC professor Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox was our first scholar-in-residence. During the spring of 2020, Rydberg-Cox examined the Library's oldest book, the 1472 edition of Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*, alongside other printed editions of this text from the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries.

Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox (UMKC); Modelling Pliny's Natural History (January 7 - March 17, 2020)

Public lecture: "Modeling the Sources and the Topics of Pliny's Natural History" (July 30, 2020)



# 2020 FINANCIALS



For a copy of our IRS Form 990, please contact [finance@lindahall.org](mailto:finance@lindahall.org) or 816.363.4600.

## OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

We promise to use your gift as intended to support the mission of the Linda Hall Library.

Since 1946, the Linda Hall Library has been dedicated to exploring the past, examining the present, and imagining the future in the fields of science, engineering, and technology.



## ARBORETUM

The Linda Hall Library Arboretum, a 14-acre urban oasis surrounding the Library, is home to over 300 trees representing 48 genera, 130 species, 12 champion trees, and the renowned tree peonies.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Linda Hall Library's collection of tree peonies was started in the early 1970s.

Tree peonies are propagated by grafting a tree peony bud onto an herbaceous peony root.

Tree peonies are not really "trees," but deciduous shrubs.

In their native habitat in China, they can reach 8-10 feet tall.

The largest shrub on the grounds of Linda Hall Library is 5' tall and 5-6' wide.

# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

## Thank you, President's Circle Members, for your generosity!

Your support makes access to our collections, programming and educational resources possible.

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# WHERE SCIENCE LIVES.



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