

News from Saint Mary's University - A Tribute to Peter Webster

Sarah West, Outreach and Engagement Librarian

After 32 years of service as a professional librarian, **Peter Webster** has retired from Saint Mary's University. On May 26, Peter will be named Librarian Emeritus at the Spring Convocation ceremony, becoming the first librarian at the university to receive this prestigious status.

Peter's research and professional work have included many areas of interest, with much of his work being done in the field of library systems and technology. He is a recognized expert in providing access to information through library catalogues; the development of scholarly information networks; providing access to specialized resources; and most recently, the impact of Artificial Intelligence on information management systems. It is an understatement to say that the 32 years of his career have been a period of massive change in how library and information services are provided, and during that entire time, Peter was at the forefront of that change.



Representing Saint Mary's University, Peter has served in management and project leadership roles within NOVANET (the Nova Scotia academic library consortium), the Council of Atlantic Academic Libraries (CAAL-CBPA), the National Library of Canada, the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), Statistics Canada's Data Liberation Initiative, and the Digital Research Alliance of Canada. He was the recipient of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) Merit Award in 2010. With 35 published journal articles, book chapters, and other works, Peter's impact has reached professionals, students, and academics around the world.

An experienced educator, Peter has taught thousands of Saint Mary's students during his career. These classes have ranged from basic library research and critical thinking classes for new students, to highly advanced research methods sessions for graduate students, utilizing the latest tools and databases. He also worked closely with faculty to support their research and data needs. For many years, Peter was the primary expert on campus for statistical and data resources. Many faculty developed close working relationships with him, knowing he is the person to contact for specialized advice.

Peter served as Acting University Librarian in 2007-2008 and again in 2018, providing crucial institutional continuity and operational knowledge during times of transition. He also served as Associate University

Librarian from 2010 to 2024, assisting the University Librarian (later Dean, Library and Archives) and library management team.

Given his immense contributions to the Patrick Power Library, the University, the broader Canadian library community, and to the academic field of information management, please join us in congratulating Peter on this well-deserved recognition of his work.