



Northeast Ohio

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

2025

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

LOCATED IN
THE ANEAL MOHAN KOHLI ACADEMIC & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Academics

Discovery

**Engagement &
Operations**

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library@neomed.edu](https://www.neomed.edu/library@neomed.edu)



Message from the Director of Library Services...

The Northeast Ohio Medical University Library plays a vital role in advancing the University's mission to create transformational leaders and improve health of the communities we serve. As a central academic partner, the Library supports student learning, faculty research, and institutional innovation across the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Graduate Studies.

Throughout this year, our work has remained closely aligned with NEOMED's Strategic Plan, particularly in advancing student and educational success and accelerating research and scholarly impact. Through expanded research support, strengthened partnerships such as our collaboration with the Writing Center, and enhanced access to high-quality information resources, the Library continues to evolve to meet the needs of a growing academic community.

This annual report highlights the many ways the Library contributes to the intellectual life of the University—from supporting student achievement and faculty scholarship to creating welcoming spaces for collaboration and discovery. These accomplishments are made possible by the dedication of our talented staff and the continued support of university leadership.

We are proud to support the success of the NEOMED community and look forward to continuing this important work in the years ahead.

Jennifer Rice, MLIS
Director, Library Services

NEOMED LIBRARY
YOUR PARTNER IN
EDUCATION & RESEARCH



Academics

NEOMED Library empowers future healthcare leaders

Mentoring students to prepare for a future in research

Integrating resources with instruction for easy access

Communicating support across the NEOMED community

**175+
Research
Consultations**

This individualized mentorship for research supports critical thinking and emphasizes evidence-based support. We utilize library resources and the right tool for the job, including the latest AI applications.

**190+
Textbooks for
Essential Courses**

We removed financial barriers, ensuring all NEOMED students have access to essential textbooks for their classes. This support allows students to focus on their academic and clinical education.

**31
High Impact
Workshops**

Presentations and workshops across campus provide specialized support so all faculty and students have the impactful support from the library. Topics range from AI to copyright to searching databases.

Providing academic quality for all colleges

**Day One:
Textbook support for the first class of Bitonte College of Dentistry**

The library is an agile partner for university growth. For the first class of the dentistry program, we facilitated easy access to textbooks and high-quality resources, ensuring that the program has the same foundational support as the other colleges.



The Library has been incredibly helpful in assisting me with my first scoping review. Since I had never completed one before, I was unsure where to begin. Colleen, the Reference Librarian, took time to clearly explain the process, met with our team multiple times to refine our search terms, and shared her approach to developing an effective search strategy. Understanding this process has been extremely valuable and will help me write a stronger paper. She has been willing to support us at every step of the project, and we could not have done without her!

CHRISTY PITZER, M2 STUDENT



Discovery

Easy Access Leads to High Engagement to Support Research and Innovation

A small student-centered library environment with the infrastructure of a large university

Resources Supporting Research Excellence

Collection budget of \$787,000 provides access to:
1 million+ assets
38,000+ Journals
600,000+ eBooks
250+ databases

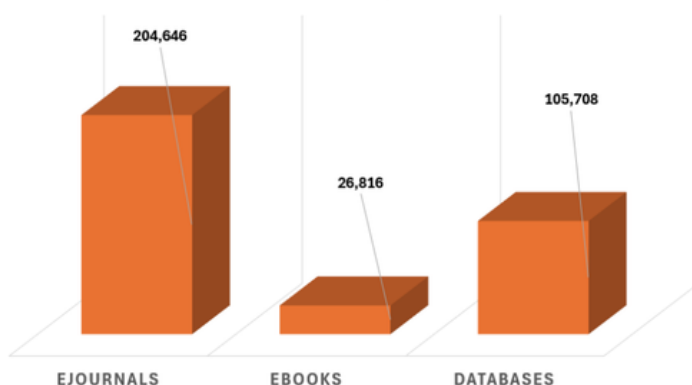
We combine our custom collection development with Ohiolink consortium resources to give access to important information from across the globe that is needed for faculty and student Research Excellence. A library culture with vast resources supports greater impact when addressing complex health topics. Our library team utilizes innovative software to remove obstacles and provide troubleshooting support.



Open Access Research Success
41 Articles Published
\$159,680 Saved by NEOMED authors

With our OhioLink Open Access Agreement, 41 articles were published with no author publication fees across Elsevier, Springer, and Wiley saving \$159,680 to researchers. This is an additional funding avenue that removes paywalls for readers, creating greater reach and impact.

DOWNLOADS, 2025



Beyond our Collection

Over 1,900 InterLibrary Loan (ILL) requests from external institutions

When students and faculty need resources beyond our collection, ILL removes barriers by providing quick access. ILL has provided support for research in Brain Research, Cardiology, Pediatric Health and more.

Communication Channels

550+ Reference Questions Answered

We don't just answer questions, we support students and faculty to provide evidence-based research and guidance for the next generation of research and innovation.



The NEOMED Library has been an essential part of my experience in the *Master of Global Health & Innovation* program. Through our Maternal & Child Health (MCH) work, the Library staff have been an incredible resource not only for me but also for our entire MCH team. They guided us in developing comprehensive literature searches, organizing and streamlining our screening process in Rayyan, and strengthening the overall rigor of our review. Their expertise has made our research process more efficient and far more manageable.

AMIRA ABDALLA, COGS STUDENT



Engagement and Operations

Supporting a culture of transformational excellence through strategic partnerships and modern infrastructure.

Efficiency through Technology and Collaboration

After nearly two years of preparation, in July the library reached a milestone by migrating our library's automated system to a next generation platform as part of a statewide initiative. Alma enhances how library staff manage the behind-the-scenes processes while Primo (the new discovery service) provides an improved user interface. This change will help NEOMED students, faculty, and staff more easily take advantage of the services offered by the library. Specifically:

- Finding information is easier: The search tools are more intuitive, so you spend less time searching and more time reading.
- AI component: Primo includes a Research Assistant that uses AI to improve searching and organizes your results.
- Cloud-based stability: the system is managed remotely with no local IT support needed and less downtime.
- Faster access to borrowed materials: The new system offers greater integration with other libraries both within the OhioLINK consortium and beyond.

The upgrade didn't add any additional cost to the budget. This state-funded project, implemented by OhioLINK, is a testament to the responsible strategies that libraries use to collaborate on large-scale changes to bring innovation to our NEOMED community.



Hospital Affiliate Libraries

NEOMED Library has a long-lasting partnership with **7 Affiliated libraries**. We are able to provide access to resources, cataloging support, and library systems support. This collaboration strengthens our relationship with local hospitals while providing important resources for hospital libraries and medical librarians.

- Akron Children's Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center
- Aultman Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic Mercy Medical Center
- St. Elizabeth Mercy Health Center
- Summa Akron City Hospital
- Western Reserve Health Education



It is always a pleasure working with the team at the library! When I have had complex research questions, they met with me to learn about the project, got to work scouring the literature fast, and even bumped up their deadline when my project's deadline was moved up. Their flexibility, expertise, and collaborative nature make them the perfect partners.

**MATE M. SORIC, PHARM.D., BCPS, FCCP,
FASHP, CHAIR AND PROFESSOR,
PHARMACY PRACTICE**



Writing Center

Mission: The Writing Center strengthens the communication skills required for success in healthcare education and professional practice by helping students develop clear, professional, and reflective writing across academic, clinical, and professional contexts.

Academic Impact Empowering Future Healthcare Professionals

2,370 consultations
Including Consultations for
Over 500 CVs
Over 350 Personal Statements

The Writing Center plays a central role in supporting student learning, professional development, and academic communication across the institution.

Consultations

2,370 consultations assisting students, faculty, and external partners with academic assignments, professional documents, research writing, and early-stage writing development. This includes:

- 558 CV consultations supporting residency, fellowship, and professional development
- 353 personal statement consultations for graduate school, residency, and scholarships
- 1,256 asynchronous consultations expanding flexible writing support
- 366 synchronous online consultations
- 333 in person consultations

Classroom instruction

- Writing focused sessions in the College of Medicine (COM), College of Pharmacy (COP), and College of Graduate Studies (COGS).
- Strengthens academic writing, research communication, and professional documentation skills
- Brook Wyers is a faculty affiliate for the Oak Humanism Badge, working to expose medical students to creative writing

Through these efforts, the Writing Center helps future healthcare professionals develop the clarity, professionalism, and reflective communication skills required for success in healthcare training and practice.

Meeting Students Where They Are



Asynchronous Synchronous In Person





Writing Center

Research and Scholarship: Contributing to National Conversations on Writing and Education

Writing Center scholarship contributes to national discussions on writing pedagogy, digital literacy, accessibility, ethics, and medical education.

2025: 3 publications

2026: 3 forthcoming publications

5 national conferences

This work has appeared in outlets such as The Peer Review, OLOR Reviews, and the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, and has been presented at national conferences including the Conference on College Composition and Communication and the Global Society of Online Literacy Educators Conference.

Staff publication spotlight:

Brian Harrell, Brook Wyers, and Craig Theissen wrote "Moving Against the Grain: Combining Writing Center Theory and in-House Editing Services to Create a Graduate Writing Center." Published in The Peer Review, vol. 10, no. 1, 2025

Leadership and Engagement Connecting the Institution to National Networks

Strategic National Connections

Writing Center leadership contributes to national initiatives in writing instruction and digital literacy through board service with the following professional organizations:

- Online Writing Centers Association
- Global Society of Online Literacy Educators
- International Writing Center Association
- Two Year College English Association
- Conference on College Composition and Communication
- National Council of Teachers of English
- Basic Online Literacy Instruction Certification through the Global Society of Online Literacy Educators, best practices for online writing instruction.
- Part of The Good Listening Project



Northeast Ohio Cooperative Regional Library Depository

This Climate-Controlled high density storage facility is a promise to the next generation that our archives will be preserved.

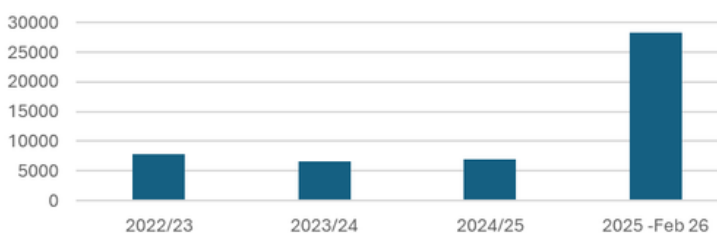
1.5 Million volumes

contributed by partner libraries:
NEOMED, Cleveland State University,
University of Akron, Youngstown State
University, & Kent State University

The Northeast Ohio Library Depository is a high-density storage and circulation library that provides a safe and secure facility to its university partners. As part of a 5 depository system scattered throughout Ohio, it works with OhioLink and SearchOhio to offer its collection to library patrons and university researchers with a collection of nearly 1.5 million volumes. The depository circulates materials both physically and digitally daily and it fills requests using tools from various library lending systems such as Clarivate, OCLC and the National Library of Medicine.

Over 25,000 pages shared with other institutions

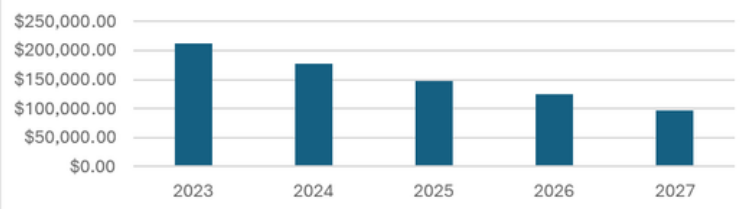
Pages scanned per Academic Year



Technology and Collaboration

With recent upgrades to the depository circulation system the depository has seen a major change in how it delivers services. Whereas previous years saw most materials used coming from physical loans, the improved discoverability of depository resources has produced a dramatic shift towards providing material requests in the form of journal articles, book chapters and specific sections of works to library patrons both in Ohio and world-wide.

Annual Operating Budget for NE Depository



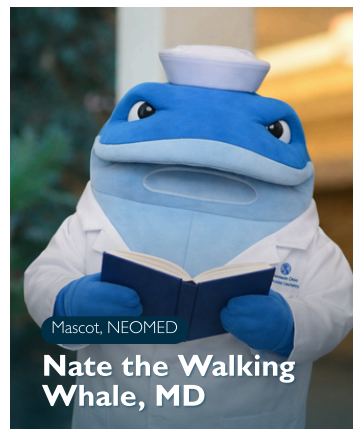
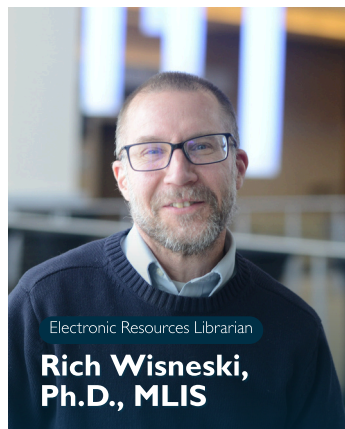
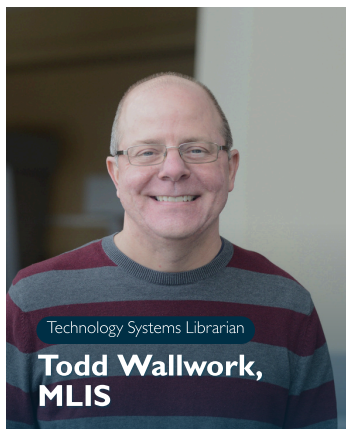
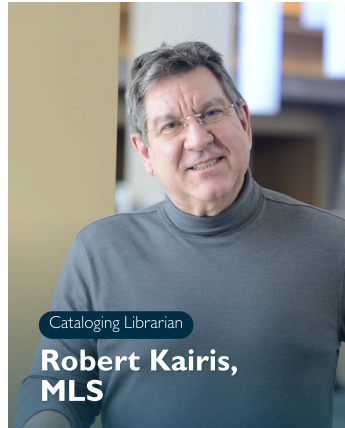
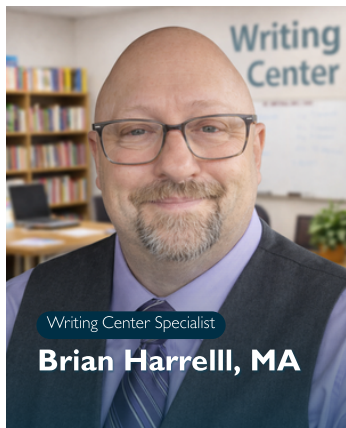
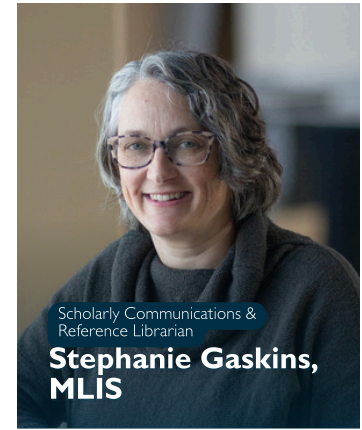
As a state-funded agency, the Northeast Ohio Regional Library Depository receives its operating support on a biennial basis through the Ohio Department of Higher Education. While recent budget cycles have included reductions that have required thoughtful adjustments to staffing and operations, the Depository has remained committed to maintaining service excellence and supporting partner institutions. Looking ahead, the operating budget reflects a 54% decrease, underscoring the importance of continued collaboration, strategic planning, and resource stewardship to ensure the long-term sustainability of this vital shared resource.



Your library team:

Here to support you during every step

NEOMED LIBRARY
YOUR PARTNER IN
EDUCATION & RESEARCH



Advancing academic excellence through expertise and service.



NEOMED
100%
Yellow Belt
or higher certifications

What do faculty and students think of the library?

“

The NEOMED Library has been an important part of my return to academics. I am a non-traditional student in the Masters of Global Health and Innovation program... The library staff has been immensely helpful to assist, guide and explain the resources that are available to me and also the other students in my program. Many of us are "regulars" at the [library]... Colleen has been a lifeline for those of us learning how to do a scoping review or to search for needed literature for our projects. Not only has she taught us about conducting a search, but also how we will use programs, such as Rayyan for keeping our data sorted... I am relieved to have Brian to guide steps for writing tasks related to the searches guided by Colleen... Since I was a small child, I have found the library to be a place where I can find answers, and I am relieved to know that the NEOMED library is meeting that need today. Thank you to the staff who encourage us to do great work.

Sincerely, Margaret (Meg) Lamb
COGS 2027

Most recently, I have worked more closely with Colleen. I am very grateful for library staff as they continued to help me navigate resources regarding my summer research project. They go above and beyond to accommodate students requests such as helping me with SNMA curate a Black History Month book display in February. These may seem like small acts, but they make me feel supported on campus.

Brianna Owairu, M2 Student

Electronic publishing has had the benefit to bring research results to a much broader audience, instantaneously. Whereas in the past one had to buy expensive paper reprints and mail these out, now a click of the button suffices to send out pdfs. Even more exciting is that ability now to publish open-access, allowing anyone anywhere to read results of research. Unfortunately, open-access publishing is expensive for the authors, as publishers charge for open-access publishing. This is where the OhioLink publishing arrangements come in, they make sure that Ohio's scientists are able to distribute their work, as part of a worldwide community of scholars.

J.G.M. 'Hans' Thewissen, Ph.D., Chair, Biological Sciences

2025 Highlights

Association Memberships:

- American Library Association (ALA)
- Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO)
- Ex-Libris Users of North America (ELUNA)
- Medical Library Association (MLA)
- Northeast Ohio Regional Library System
- Northern Ohio Technical Services Librarians

Conference participation

- ALAO: Colleen Duchon & Stephanie Gaskins presented “Professional Development Protocol: A Tom Cruise–Level Mission for Campus Success”
- ALAO annual conference also attended by Jen Rice & Rob Kairis
- ELUNA annual conference attended by Todd Wallwork
- MLA annual conference attended by Rich Wisneski



Library Events:

- Voter registration and Constitution Day
- National Library Week events
- Wellness Social : Wow Support Social & Snack Bags
- Meet & Greet Open House with Library Staff
- Depository Open House

Writing Center & NEOMED Library Workshops

- Textbook Discussion with Colleen Duchon and Stephanie Gaskins
- NEOMED specific ORCID, Open Access, and Copyright with Stephanie Gaskins
- Open Access Overview and OhioLink: Publishing Your Manuscript with Joanna Voss