After designing a workshop for Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) students and their advisors, Holly Sorscher, the Reference Librarian for the Mardigian Library, noticed a significant increase in library usage. In the fall 2021 semester, the Mardigian Library reopened all four floors of the library, including the stacks and reading rooms, leading to a nearly tripled number of checked out items over a typical month of curbside service. On our busiest days, nearly 250 students were present in the library at one time. As the semester progressed, nearly 2,500 items were checked out, highlighting the library's role in supporting academic success.

A Successful Pilot:

An initiative to improve the accessibility of educational resources led to the development of an interactive virtual platform. This platform, designed for students, was found to be highly engaging and realistic, allowing for enhanced learning experiences. Students from various countries, including Tunisia and Algeria, were able to interact with English learners, fostering a valuable exchange of knowledge and cultural understanding. The success of this pilot project has opened the door for further development, aiming to extend its reach and adapt it to meet the diverse needs of learners worldwide.

Global Education, a partner in Experience Plus, seeks to provide a broad range of international educational opportunities. Through partnerships and initiatives, they aim to ensure that global learning is accessible to students from all different backgrounds and to promote cultural understanding and appreciation. By providing a platform for students to connect and learn from each other, they are making significant strides in addressing the growing demand in the workplace for individuals with international perspectives and skills.

The Taubman Health Sciences Library, under the leadership of Jean Rice, has been instrumental in increasing the pipeline of underrepresented groups into health sciences librarianship through active mentorship and recruitment efforts. The Library and Information Science (LIS) program at Wayne State University also plays a crucial role in cultivating future librarians by providing a robust curriculum and professional development opportunities. The student and faculty members of the engineering sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, have collaborated on a project that aims to improve the discoverability of information provided directly from search engines. This initiative not only enhances search engine efficiency but also helps to ensure that valuable resources are not overlooked due to incomplete metadata.

In the digital age, the integration of traditional and technological resources is essential. The Mardigian Library's commitment to providing a welcoming environment for all students, faculty, and staff is exemplified by the efforts of Marwah Ayache, a Paraprofessional in a Kindergarten classroom. Her dedication to education, coupled with the support of her engineering peers through mentorship and educational opportunities, underscores the library's role in fostering a culture of continuous learning and skill development.

Moreover, the library's dedication to celebrating diversity and equity is evident in the work of Holly Sorscher, the Engineering and Mathematics Librarian. She has focused on the pages of women in STEM fields, organizing events and initiatives that highlight the contributions of female scientists and engineers. One such event, an edit-a-thon on March 8th, aimed to improve Wikipedia articles related to women in STEM. The event was a resounding success, with a reported 14,000 views and an additional 5,000 views added daily. The collaboration between students, faculty, and staff on this initiative has not only increased the visibility of women's achievements but has also brought a sense of community and pride to the library's patrons.

The library's commitment to excellence is reflected in its efforts to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for all learners. From workshops and seminars to extensive online resources, the Mardigian Library continues to evolve and adapt to meet the changing needs of its community, ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has access to the tools and information they need to succeed.