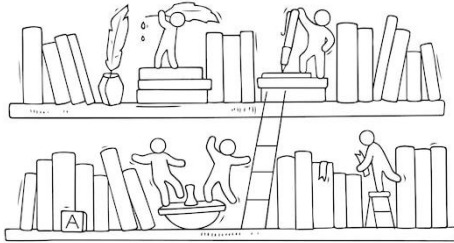


## SSUC Library holdings inventoried, physical space refreshed

Dear fellow seeker,



SSUC's Library, which hoards a collection of books and more about religion...writ large...was revived this summer. Over the course of the five Wednesdays in August, plus the first in September, all of the Library's holdings were inventoried—it's been awhile since such a thoroughgoing tally was conducted. The collection, it can now be reported, houses 800 books, plus 55 DVDs/video cassettes—all are accounted for, though some are "checked out" for far longer than can be considered normal [several were borrowed in 2019!]. There are, as well, sundry magazines, essays, journals, reports, etc.,

which are not chronicled.

The book and A/V holdings are continually being added to—recent additions include: a couple more of The Great Courses DVDs; a trio of books by Ivan Coyote about identity, gender, trans-ness, and family; the novel *Search*, about a congregation's quest for a new minister; a non-fiction volume about secularization; and Harry Emerson Fosdick's 1922 preachment about fundamentalism, said to be "one of the most important and influential sermons of the 20th century".

All books and A/V items are recorded in four now-up-to-date catalogues: authors, titles, reference works, A/V. These listings are to be found online [[ssucedmonton.com/library](https://ssucedmonton.com/library)]; as well, a hard copy of each is in the sign-out/sign-in binder atop one of the bookcases. As before, books on the shelves are arranged alphabetically by their authors, from Abernethy to Zuckerman.

Two "special collections" have been formed: both those having to do with 2SLGBTQIA+ matters, and those that address Indigeneity, are now found on their own shelves in the largest of the Library's bookcases; there, too, are the A/V items, plus "oversized" books. Reference books—not to be removed—are located in their own bookcase inside the entrance to the Library & Lounge.

As well, to make it more inviting, less plain-Jane, the Library's physical space has been gussied-up: several [artificial] plants have been scattered about on the shelves, along with a stark-white antique-look lantern [think enlightenment], and several framed enlargements of those photographs that adorn the opening screen of the Library's webpage—they show sculptures of young readers poring over books. SSUC's minister Chris New refers to these embellishments as "some artful decor".



Too, there's an old "Peanuts" comic strip—Snoopy is writing a book on theology—both funny and true, affixed to the top of the reference bookcase. There's even a new bin to hold returned books—the original book-return basket went AWOL! Finally, the several posters that had been affixed to the walls have been retired, and an older series has taken their place—both sets hail from the American Library Association; the ones now posted are bolder and more colourful, and sport ever-so-appropriate quotations [i.e., "We lose ourselves in books. We find ourselves there, too"].

All these alterations are intended to confect a reading room that's both practicable and inviting. Please, come and see for yourself, come browse and borrow.

Ellen & Ken Fredrick