Enjoy the library space—transitioning out of COVID restrictions

The past term has been challenging for many. Due to COVID19, everyone has had to adapt quickly to changing health and safety guidelines. We are thankful for our staff and our users for their patience during this time. The library has tried to keep up with all of these changes and implement new policies to accommodate safety and provide as much use of our space as possible. We have had changes in hours, physical distancing, loan period extensions and services. The following are some of our current policies and latest news about our space:

* We have removed all physical distancing restrictions and reopened our mindfulness (prayer) room
* Dentistry students, staff, and faculty can book our group study room at full capacity for 8-10 people
* We are open to alumni, external researchers, and associate members with paid privileges in addition to the U of T Schools community. However, please email us at library.dentistry@utoronto.ca 24 hours in advance of your visit for special arrangements.
* All UofT students, staff and faculty now receive automatic renewals on their books. This means that the due date for our regular books will be automatically extended unless someone places a hold on the book.
* The Dentistry Library is keeping the mandatory masking policy in place until at least June 30, 2022. See provostial memo.
* We have added a welcome sign in 4 Indigenous Languages created by the artist Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckly. Read more about the sign and pronunciation of the words here.

History of Dentures—OMEKA Exhibit

February saw the release of the Dentistry Library’s new online exhibit: History of Dentures from Beginning to Early 19th Century. This exhibition leverages the Dentistry Library’s rare books (1797–1922) to disseminate information about the history of dental prosthesis. The online exhibit will firstly relay key discoveries relating to dental prosthesis in civilizations of classical antiquity such as Ancient Greece and Egypt. Then, it will trace the histories of dental prosthesis in Europe and the United States during the early modern era. Finally, this exhibition will explore the denture types, impression taking methods, and denture materials of the 19th century.

Though by no means an exhaustive history of dental prosthesis, this exhibition will deliver insights about denture history in an accessible, open, and digestible manner. You can explore dentistry history further through the Dentistry Library’s digitized rare book collection. We hope you enjoy and find edifying the narratives and histories detailed in this exhibit.

We would like to thank our student intern Usman Malik for creating this exhibit by researching our rare book collections to detail denture histories and narratives.
In collaboration with Toronto Public Libraries, York University Libraries, and Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) Libraries, University of Toronto Libraries took part in the Toronto Black History Month Edit-a-thon during the month of February. Our staff created and edited several pages highlighting Black dentists in Canada and the United States, including the following:

* Russell Alexander Dixon
* William Thomas Jefferson
* John Alexander Somerville
* Vada Somerville
* Dunbar Hotel

Usman Malik, TALInt intern, is currently helping to facilitate the Toronto Ukrainian culture and history edit-a-thon, which welcomes editors of all skill and experience backgrounds to contribute edits that recognize Ukrainian culture and history. Please follow the above link to learn more and participate. As the most-read reference work in history that anyone can edit, Wikipedia is important for documenting history and culture. We will continue involvement in such initiatives going forward, including expanding knowledge of women

### New MeSH Terms 2022

National Library of Medicine (NLM) Medline’s Medical Subject Headings Terms 2022

Those who are avid users of MEDLINE’s indexing system MeSH terms will have noticed some improvements in 2022. It is no surprise that new terms have been added for the various COVID19 vaccines. In addition, there are some long awaited changes for Ethnic and Racial terms, including a new term for Systemic Racism linked to Social Determinants of Health. See the full list of changes here.

### UofT Libraries signs new Zero-Fee Publication Agreement with PLoS

UofT Libraries is pleased to announce the expansion of its agreement with the Public Library of Science (PLOS) to fully cover author publication costs for all twelve PLOS journals, including PLOS ONE.

Under the terms of this agreement, which began on January 1, 2022 and was negotiated via the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), UofT corresponding authors benefit from unlimited publishing in all PLOS journals without having to pay article processing fees. In the case of PLOS Medicine, PLOS Biology, and the newly-launched PLOS Sustainability and Transformation, this agreement continues the benefits in our previous PLOS Community Action Publishing (CAP) agreement and extends discounts to corresponding authors for papers where U of T researchers are co-authors. See the full list of publishing discounts here.

### Contact

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