



Libraries through the lens

Bibliothèque de l'Université Laval, Québec City

“WITH this seasonal image of the Université Laval main library in Québec City, I’d like to wish the readers of *Information Professional* happy holidays and all the best for 2023,” says Thomas Guignard in this final *Libraries through the lens* image for 2022.

He goes on to explain: “Université Laval traces its roots in the establishment of the Québec Seminary by François de Montmorency-Laval in 1663, and consequently the oldest in Canada. After the conquest of New France in 1760, the British expanded education in Canada

beyond theology. Nevertheless, access to higher education was beyond the reach of French Canadians until 1852 when the Québec Seminary was granted royal charter by Queen Victoria and became a university.

“In the 1950s, the Seminary in Old Québec having become too cramped, the university began relocating to a modern campus west of town. Its libraries however remained bound to their old quarters until a 1962 report revealed that library services were not worthy of the expanding university and desperately needed a new venue. This wish was granted in

stages. After some years in a temporary space in the new Humanities building, the library finally received its own home in 1968.

“Designed by architects St-Gelais, Tremblay, Tremblay and Labbé, the library was initially separated between an undergraduate studying space below and a research library in the upper floors, where the shelves were only accessible to professors and staff. Policies were relaxed over time, and thanks to a renovation of interior spaces in 2011, the library now offers more generous facilities to all users.”