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Wright State University Libraries Annual Report 2021

Wright state University Libraries

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University Librarian’s Note
The University Libraries celebrated a return to more normal operations in 2021.

While we opened our doors to the public in August 2020, many of our staff continued to work remotely until summer 2021. Beginning in fall 2021, most of our staff returned to in-person work for the majority of their time, and we are happy to see increasing numbers of students, faculty, and staff in our building.

As we returned, we found that many of the skills developed and lessons learned during the pandemic inform our work as we move forward. In addition to face-to-face services, our instruction and reference librarians continue to offer online appointments, create how-to videos for point-of-need instruction, and provide remote instruction for online classes. Our archivists continue to encourage the use of appointments that allow them to serve their users more effectively, and our circulation staff continues to offer curbside pick-up. Our staff have demonstrated resilience and commitment to the three R’s—recruitment, retention, relationships—by keeping the success of our students and faculty as the focus of everything they do.

The Libraries did not take a significant budget cut in 2021. This allowed us to maintain staffing at our current level and, combined with cost savings realized through OhioLINK’s renegotiation of contracts, enabled us to avoid canceling subscriptions. Regardless, the Libraries’ basic budget challenges are unchanged. Without increased funding, we are hampered in our ability to provide the resources and services our faculty, staff, and students need for their teaching, research, and learning.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our staff and their accomplishments, highlights from this year, and the Libraries’ challenges and opportunities in our 2021 annual report.
2021 Appointments

Karen Wilhoit

Karen Wilhoit was appointed university librarian in August. A 29-year veteran of the University Libraries, she served as a department head and associate university librarian before assuming her current role. Wilhoit has managed the streamlining and automation of technical services operations, guided the merger of the Fordham Health Sciences Library and Dunbar Library collections, and overseen the transition of the Libraries’ collections from primarily print to primarily online. As university librarian, she is committed to ensuring that the Libraries continue to provide outstanding service to Wright State students, faculty, and staff.

Mandy Shannon

Associate University Librarian for Public Services Mandy Shannon has worked for the University Libraries since 2013, serving first as reference and instruction librarian for social science, coordinator of library instruction and assessment, and then as the head of instruction and research services. Shannon has led grant-funded research projects from the Students First Fund, Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO), and the Friends of the University Libraries to study the relationship between library instruction and student success, particularly with the Libraries’ Research Toolkit workshop series. In her new role, she looks forward to working with students and campus leaders and developing services that meet the evolving needs of our community.
Goodbyes

Sue Polanka

Sue Polanka resigned in August 2021 after 17 years of exceptional service to the University Libraries to accept the position of dean of libraries and Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor for Library and Information Studies at Appalachian State University. During her tenure at Wright State, Polanka served as head of reference and instruction, associate university librarian for public services, and university librarian. Under her leadership, the University Libraries secured the 2019 President’s Award for Excellence as Outstanding Unit, utilized capital funding to modernize the Dunbar Library with new furniture, carpet, and study rooms, and brought the Charles and Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center to the Libraries. We wish her well in her new position.

Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet

Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet served in various roles during her employment at University Libraries from the 1994 Fall Semester to May 2021. She worked as a student employee and in interlibrary loan before moving to the Digital Initiatives and Repository Services Department in 2006 as a digitization specialist. In this role, Tanya was responsible for digitizing materials for patron orders and CORE Scholar.

William Stolz

Bill Stolz served as the reference and outreach archivist from October 2016–May 2021. Stolz helped thousands of researchers throughout the world using materials housed in Special Collections and Archives. He also established a strong outreach program for students of all ages.
Library Staff

Awards & Recognition
StAR Awards

Two staff members were awarded the Libraries’ Staff Achievement and Recognition Award (StAR) in 2021.

Edward Trentman, Library Associate

Edward Trentman works evening and weekends at the circulation desk. Ed was recognized for his reliability and his dedication to the library, his co-workers, and our students. He was also recognized for his efforts during the time the library was closed due to the pandemic, specifically for scanning materials from our book, journal, and microfilm collections to fulfill interlibrary loan requests and for assisting with the move of the Educational Resource Center Collection from Allyn Hall to the Dunbar Library.

Lee Davey, Web Developer

As the Libraries’ web developer, Lee’s work impacts just about everyone who uses the library. He maintains our website and works to keep the software and systems we use every day working. Lee was recognized for being a team player and for leading the web team through multiple website redesigns while maintaining a high standard for website design and usability.

Years of Service

Four staff members, representing 80 years of service, were recognized for their longstanding commitment to the University Libraries and Wright State. Those honored include:

15 years
- Chris Wydman, University Records Manager

20 years
- Desiree Loewit, Acquisitions Coordinator
- Richard Perry, Library Operation Specialist 2

25 years
- Lisa Bleeke, Manager, Fiscal Services
2021 was a year of adjusting to new and varied approaches of serving the campus and community. New remote methods that were developed in 2020 were continued, and traditional face-to-face services resumed as the campus shifted to hybrid and flexible approaches and in-person activities began again.

**Building hours expanded and extended evening and weekend hours pilot-tested**

Over the course of 2021, the number of open building hours increased as COVID-19 protocols adjusted to changing circumstances. By January of 2021, the library was open 83 hours a week. By Fall Semester 2021, the building was open more than 100 hours a week. As we fully returned building hours to pre-COVID levels, in the Fall Semester of 2021, the Libraries offered extended weekend hours on a pilot basis. Over that semester, staff adjusted schedules to keep the building open until 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings (compared to the typical closing at 6) and opened at 10 on Sunday mornings (compared to the typical opening at 1 p.m.). Over the course of the semester, staff monitored building use, reviewed gate counts, and had conversations with people in the building during the extended hours. Considering all these factors, the extended Sunday morning hours pilot test was continued into the 2022 year.

**24/7 support**

In response to student suggestions, we expanded our self-help instructional video content, and created a new and improved “How-To” section on the Libraries website. Students have reported that these short, general-use videos have been very helpful, and we continue to evaluate the need for new content.

As instruction librarians navigated new teaching systems and processes, they also saw an increased demand for video instruction and support, both for asynchronous online classes as well as 24/7 support for traditional face-to-face classes. They recorded nearly 300 asynchronous videos with instructions to supplement or supplant in-class teaching.
Educational Resource Center/ Dayton Holocaust Resource Center

In 2021, after a full year of housing the Educational Resource Center (ERC) and Dayton Holocaust Resource Center (DHRC), we finalized the integration of the collections in their spaces and began programming to highlight the collections.

Staff helped kick off the year with the Educational Resource Center-sponsored virtual Scholastic Book Fair. Books purchased through this virtual book fair provided “Scholastic Dollars” to purchase additional materials, including new books, maker kits, and an updated globe for the ERC.

To designate the space dedicated to the DHRC, the area was painted blue, with quotes from Holocaust survivors added on the walls.

In recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Month, University Libraries staff created an exhibit called “Through Their Eyes: Children of the Holocaust.” This display highlighted the experiences of children who survived the genocide of World War II, and was created in honor of Charles Frydman, who was a teenager during the Holocaust.

Updating Interlibrary Loan

In May 2021, Resource Delivery Services staff transitioned from the legacy interlibrary loan system (ILLiad) to a new system, Tipasa. The new system streamlines the process for borrowers, using the same campus account for Tipasa as for other systems. As a cloud-based system, Tipasa has greater versatility and fewer maintenance requirements for library staff.

Return to live events

In Fall Semester 2021, Libraries staff were excited to welcome more students back to campus, and a return of campus events. Staff kicked off the new term by volunteering at Move-In Day and Fall Fest. Students were excited for the return of Game Night on the first Friday of Fall Semester. At the end of the semester, the University Libraries hosted DeStress for Success November 29–December 9. For students who were studying remotely, or preferred online events, the DeStress LibGuide was active and updated. Students were particularly happy to welcome back the Raider Pups service dogs-in-training, provided by 4Paws for Ability, for Fuzz Therapy in December.
In 2021, Special Collections and Archives (SCA) focused on its mission of making the records of the university and region available to the community and the world. SCA staff continued to develop new skills and a better understanding of how the Digital Initiatives and Repository Services work contributed to the Special Collections and Archives department. SCA staff cross-trained in metadata creation, uploading materials to CORE Scholar, and assisting in the reading room. Staff from other departments have also been trained in the day-to-day operation of the new, merged department to support this work after two staff members departed in early 2021.

New Collections

SCA accessioned several important new collections focused on local history, including the records of the Rotary Club of Dayton, the Montgomery County Medical Society Alliance, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, Catharine Greene Chapter. In addition, SCA received new submissions for Document Your Story, an ongoing initiative to help preserve the history of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Miami Valley. New materials were added to existing collections, and the electronic archive continued to grow as new digital materials were added.

SCA processed and made available several previously unprocessed collections, including long-time news photographer Bill Garlow’s extensive collection of negatives documenting 30+ years of Miami Valley history; the records of the Kiwanis Club of Xenia; papers of cardiologist Dr. Richard A. DeWall (who invented the bubble oxygenator and helped to found Wright State University’s medical school); recordings of local daytime talk show The Rob Dennis Show; the Huffman
Prairie research files of biologist and Wright State alumnus David Nolin; and records of the efforts by the Grand Lake Restoration Commission to restore the health of Grand Lake Saint Marys. Highlights from new materials added to the University Archives are historical/development files from aerospace medicine program, M.B.A. program, religion/Judaic studies; and images from the Bolinga Center.

Preservation and Care of Collections
This year SCA refocused its priorities on the preservation and care of its collections to ensure they will be available for generations to come. New temperature and humidity monitors and controls were installed and collection condition surveys conducted to evaluate the preservation needs of collections and their enclosures. During these assessments, we identified items within collections in need of reformatting, more supportive housing, and item-level cleaning. As a result of these surveys, which will be ongoing, we vacuumed and shifted more than 18,000 volumes, constructed 32 custom boxes for books/periodicals, surface cleaned 154 shelves of local government records, and cleaned inactive mold and dirt from hundreds of pages of ledger books.

Access to Collections
To make searching and finding material in the archives easier for our users, staff added content to ArchivesSpace, an information management system that helps better manage and track collections by recording details about accessions, collection finding aids, container storage locations, donor contact information, and many other details essential for the proper care of the collections. ArchivesSpace also has a built-in public user interface for searching, browsing, and discovering archival material within and across collection finding aids, functioning much like the library catalog does for the Libraries’ general collections. When implemented, patrons will be able to search the finding aids with faceted searches, resulting in more precise search results. We look forward to a live launch of the public interface to ArchivesSpace in 2022.

Student Projects
SCA is the learning lab for public history graduate students. With the support of the Wright State University Foundation and donor funding, SCA hired public history students to complete three projects—processing of Montgomery County Medical Alliance collection; conducting oral histories of some of the first graduates of the Boonshoft School of Medicine; and reorganizing and identifying the collection of medical instruments. Working on these important projects also enabled students to fulfill the program’s capstone requirement.

Grants
SCA received a grant from the Friends of the Libraries to host an event, Visions of Dunbar, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s birth in 2022. SCA also completed the Ohio LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) Metadata Mini Grant to expand access to the photographs from the Wright Brothers Collection. Over 2,500 images are now available in the Digital Public Library of America with updated metadata and rights information.

Facilities
Work continues to find a new home for SCA. A committee formed by interim provost Oliver Evans brought together staff from the Libraries, Facilities, and the Foundation to move this project forward. The committee evaluated current spaces, storage, and shelving; recommended improved environmental conditions; and began to evaluate new and/or redesigned spaces. As a part of this process,
SCA staff has been tasked with reducing its footprint. SCA has worked to discard non-archival materials, return items to donors, and shift and rehouse collections. So far, nearly 2,000 linear feet of space has been reclaimed.

Fundraising efforts to support improved facilities continued in 2021. The university submitted a Priority Development and Advocacy Committee (PDAC) proposal to the Dayton Development Collation to garner support for Ohio capital money. We look forward to these continued efforts leading to a new and improved space for these valuable collections in future years.

**New Collections Available in CORE Scholar**


*Nexus* has been published semi-regularly since its start as an insert in the *Wright State Guardian* student newspaper in 1965. Now published digitally, *Nexus* accepts submissions of creative writing, illustrations, photography, and other non-written art forms from around the country, though it maintains its commitment to the Wright State community.

**Dayton Telephone Pole Line Photographs (MS-70)**

The collection consists of a single scrapbook containing 113 images documenting the locations of telephone pole lines in Dayton and rural Montgomery County in March 1923. The photographs by R.E. Fritsch are numbered and clearly labeled with
the exact location of the telephone pole. The images provide a historical snapshot of each location, including area buildings, businesses, residences, and sometimes automobiles, pedestrians, and animals.

**Temperance Committee of 100 Records, 1901–1911 (SC-3)**

This collection consists of the records book containing the minutes from the Xenia citizen’s committee opposed to the sale of alcoholic beverages between 1901 and 1911. A selection of materials from the collection have been digitized.

**Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, Dayton Refugee Oral Histories (SC-349)**

This collection is a set of interviews with refugees who originated from Congo, Iraq, Burundi, and Ethiopia. The project, conducted by Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley (acting as the resettlement agency) in collaboration with area university students and the refugees, archives stories that the community and local refugees desired to preserve and access for years to come.

**Records of Dayton Together (MS-603)**

This collection consists of organizational records, publicity materials, newspaper clippings, and other materials documenting the history of Dayton Together, a 501(c)(4) organization that advocated for the merger of local government entities in Montgomery County to form a consolidated metro government.

**Medical Student Research Symposium Abstracts and Posters**

The Medical Student Research Symposium is an annual showcase of Boonshoft School of Medicine student research across a variety of medical fields. This event took place virtually on April 29, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Student Papers on Local, Regional, and Global Economies**

This collection consists of student papers from Economics 7250: Economies as Subsystems of Social Systems and Ecosystems.
University Libraries
Student Advisory Board
As part of the ongoing mission of the University Libraries to support success through access to exceptional research services and resources, the Student Advisory Board was created in 2021. The board’s primary purpose is to provide students direct access to library leadership to communicate the evolving needs of Wright State’s diverse student body. Student board members will advise the Libraries on issues related to library spaces, services, and resources.

The board will meet three times each academic year: once in Fall Semester, at the beginning of Spring Semester, and at the end of Spring Semester.

Student representatives are solicited from offices and organizations across the university and to represent a variety of student perspectives and needs. Members for the 2021–22 academic year were:

- Ximena Santin Abarca
- Brayden Collier
- Aravinda Gundubogula
- Emily Mancuso
- Jeemi Shah
- DaRonda Woodley
- Sydney Wyatt

The term of service is one year, but student representatives are encouraged to continue board membership for repeating terms for continuity.

The University Libraries are represented by Karen Wilhoit, university librarian; Mandy Shannon, associate university librarian; Leigh Duncan, head of library technology services; and Jamon Flowers, the Lake Campus Library and Technology Center director.
The Friends of the Libraries supports the mission of the University Libraries: Providing exceptional research services and resources to facilitate faculty and student success by fostering innovation and lifelong learning in our diverse community. The funds raised through memberships directly support Wright State students and Libraries staff through a variety of programs, including a book club, scholarships, grants, and materials.

The Friends Board of Directors welcomed four new members and reappointed one member in 2021. Elizabeth A. Ball was appointed as the Alumni Association Board of Directors representative. Richard Hairston joined the board as a member-at-large. Sharon Lynette Jones fulfilled the faculty representative position vacated by Jennifer Ware. Bette Sydelko fulfilled a member-at-large position vacated by Jane Rininger. Student representative Christian Sanders was appointed to a second term.

In 2021, the Friends awarded $4,500 in scholarships to nine Library Student Assistant Award recipients. The recipients were Delaney Dawson, KC Lyphout, Megan O’Connor, Alexis Rakovan, Anabelle Smith, and Daniel Talkington, Spring 2021; and Tori Ceyler, Jasmin Clark, and Zyanya Menchaca-Howell, Fall 2021.
In April, seven students were honored as the Top Scholar for their college. The Top Scholars program began in 1995. Honorees are selected by the Office of the Dean in each college and the Lake Campus. Recipients are presented a certificate and book in their honor. The book becomes a permanent part of the University Libraries collections and contains a bookplate with the student’s name, major, and award. Recipients included Anna Dunn, Raj Soin College of Business; Autumn Jackson, College of Education and Human Services; Kara Combs, College of Engineering and Computer Science; Karen Knight, College of Liberal Arts; Bailey Eickholt, College of Nursing and Health; Garrett Reinhard, College of Science and Mathematics; and Chasalin Cobb, Lake Campus.

Wednesday, April 21, the Friends hosted its first “lunch-In” event, a virtual presentation and discussion featuring Dayton mayor and Wright State University alumna Nan Whaley, with more than 85 virtual attendees. Mayor Whaley spoke about her experience leading the City of Dayton through tornadoes, a mass shooting, and the pandemic. Following the mayor’s presentation, Mandy Shannon, head of instruction and research services/associate university librarian, shared strategies for fact-checking information, improving news literacy, and being responsible consumers of news and other media.

The Friends Board of Directors approved two library staff grant proposals at its March meeting. The first award supported registration costs for library staff to attend statewide conferences. This support enabled 16 library staff members to attend 13 conferences, both local and national, enhancing their professional development and enabling them to stay responsive and proactive in addressing the changing needs of the Wright State community. The virtual formats allowed staff to attend more high-level conferences than in previous years.

The second grant was awarded to the Libraries social media team for the installation of a selfie station in the Group Study Room. The selfie station is used to bring wide exposure to Wright State students at the library.

The 2021–22 Book Club sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries, Wright State Alumni Association, and Wright State Retirees Association, continued to host discussions virtually and opened the season September 14 with a discussion on Ann Patchett’s novel The Dutch House. The featured title for the November 16 discussion was The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson. Additional titles are scheduled for 2022 and beyond; we welcome you to join us.

More about the Friends and how you can support great causes like these can be found at the Friends of the Libraries website.
Library Challenges & Opportunities
The University Libraries mission is to provide exceptional research services and resources to facilitate faculty and student success. As has been the case for the past several years, our challenges revolve around budget and staffing. However, 2021 also offered opportunities as the libraries returned to more normal operations and the campus began to open and students returned.

Budget
The Libraries materials budget was reduced only slightly for FY 22. Since many publishers held the line on pricing during the pandemic and OhioLINK renegotiated contracts, allowing us to realize some savings, we were able to manage the small reduction without canceling resources or reducing spending for books and media. Even though we were able to maintain the status quo for a year, the longer trend (well-documented in previous annual reports) of flat or reduced budgets for library resources still threatens our ability to provide the resources our students and faculty need for their learning, teaching, and research.

Staffing
We were fortunate that this year’s budget reduction did not require reductions in staffing. However, we did lose three staff members to resignation. We were able to use some of the funds from those resignations to return to full time a few staff members who voluntarily reduced their hours in 2020. However, we have not been able to replace one position, again requiring existing staff to absorb the work.

Library Opportunities
We look forward to working with new campus leaders in 2022, including new deans at Lake Campus, CHEH, COLA, and COSM and a new provost and vice president of academic affairs. We anticipate adjusting our librarian responsibilities to more closely align with the restructured CHEH and COLA divisions. We also look forward to opportunities for new partnerships and collaboration with the Center for Faculty Excellence, particularly with their research and teaching fellows.

Facilities
Planning for the re-envisioned Special Collections and Archives project began in 2021. Special Collections and Archives staff are working with University Advancement and Facility Operations to draft plans and establish a timeline for the completion of this important project.