Wright State University Libraries Annual Report 2022 - 23

Wright State University Libraries

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University Librarian’s Letter
The university’s bridge strategic plan outlines five broad goals centered around student success, advancing knowledge, forging relationships, inclusive excellence, and resource management.

Embracing these goals comes naturally to us. Our work has always been and will remain clearly focused on meeting the needs of our students, a goal foremost in our minds every day. Likewise, we have always been in the knowledge business, focused on providing the resources our students and faculty need for their teaching, learning, and research and on helping them use those resources effectively. This year, we have placed a special emphasis on relationships by expanding our outreach to student organizations, increasing the number of library staff serving on campus and college committees, exploring collaboration with the Air Force Museum, and opening our facilities to campus groups. You will see many of those initiatives highlighted in our annual report. While I firmly believe inclusivity is one of the core values of libraries, we have formalized the pursuit of inclusivity this year by forming an inclusive excellence committee to explore ways we can expand our efforts in this area and ensure we are providing a welcoming environment for all patrons. Finally, we continue to manage our resources effectively by focusing on providing both essential resources and outstanding services even as we face the challenges limited funding brings.

I hope you enjoy reading about our staff and their accomplishments and the highlights of the past 18 months in our annual report.
2022–2023 Appointments

Christina Heady

Christina Heady was appointed head of the Instruction and Research Services Department in July 2022, coming to the University Libraries from the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale. Unfortunately, we also said good-bye to Christina as she resigned her position in May of 2023. During her tenure, Christina managed the delivery of library research and instructional services for the campus and community, including classes and workshops, the Information Desk and virtual reference services, the Patent and Trademark Resource Center, the Student Technology Assistance Center, and the Charles and Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center.

Alexis Whitney

Alexis Whitney joined the Libraries in October 2022 as our new digital initiatives and metadata librarian, coming to us from the Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library system. Alexis is responsible for metadata creation and associated authority control as well as enhancing the discovery, access, and delivery of content through our institutional repository, CORE Scholar. Alexis holds a master’s degree in library and information science with a focus in digital humanities, special collections, and archives from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Cincinnati.

Goodbyes

Lee Davey

Lee Davey served as the University Libraries’ web developer from January 2008 to October
Lee modernized the website using input from students, faculty, and staff to best serve their research and service needs. He also partnered with Special Collections and Archives to make research data and online exhibits available and searchable via the website. His many contributions continue to benefit researchers. We wish him well in his new position at Wright State.

Kayla Hennis

Kayla Hennis served as the online learning librarian from November 2019 through September 2022. Kayla coordinated library services in support of online learners, including overseeing the transition of the Research Toolkit workshops to online. She also provided multimedia instruction and support in the Student Technology Assistance Center and served as the subject librarian for the social work and human services programs.

Alex Sanford

Alexander Sanford served as the digital initiatives and scholarly communications librarian from January 2020–May 2022. Alexander advanced the University Libraries’ scholarly communications efforts and worked to add scholarly and historical content to our institutional repository, CORE Scholar.

Mandy Shannon

Mandy Shannon joined the University Libraries in 2013, serving first as a reference and instruction librarian for the social sciences. During her tenure, she also served as the coordinator of library instruction and assessment, the head of the Instruction and Research Services Department, and, since August 2021, as the associate university librarian for public services. Mandy oversaw the development of the library’s Research Toolkit Workshop series, led assessment efforts, and served on several library and university committees.

In Memoriam: Edward J. Trentman

We mourn the loss of our friend and colleague, Edward J. Trentman, who passed away June 18, 2023.

Ed began working for the Libraries in May 1997 and dedicated over 25 years to working at the circulation desk, where he was known for his unwavering support of students. Ed helped countless students feel welcomed in the library and went the extra mile to answer their questions. Ed was known, in particular, for working extended night shifts during finals week and for his mentorship of the student workers. As a former student worker himself, he shared his own experiences with students, made sure they were doing well in their classes, and was even known to buy them grilled cheese sandwiches during their shifts.

Ed had a vast knowledge of the library and excelled in customer service. He had a reassuring presence, that was both no-nonsense and kind. He had a way of making people feel seen. The library won’t be the same without him.
StAR Awards

Four staff members were awarded the Libraries’ Staff Achievement and Recognition Award (StAR) in 2022 and 2023.

2022 StAR Award Recipients

Shannon Michalak,
Library Operation Specialist

Shannon does an outstanding job connecting Wright State to resources in her role supporting interlibrary loans and course reserves. She is always willing to step up to the front desk, answer the phone, or help out wherever needed. She comes to work every day with energy, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude. Staff noted Shannon’s creativity and willingness to help. Shannon is creative and innovative, looking for solutions to improve processes. If you’ve checked out a bookable room in the past year, we have had a much easier time finding the key, thanks to the 3D holder and key rings Shannon and her husband made to organize them. It improved the handling of the keys, and staff are now able to see which rooms are available and which are checked out at a glance. Her colleagues shared that this has made a big improvement to the whole process. Her nominator concluded, “Shannon is great at everything she touches, and we are lucky to have her.”
Heather Back, Student Success Librarian

Heather brings energy and excitement, along with a smile and a positive attitude, into the library as the student success librarian. She channels this power into a wide variety of activities and projects from creating a Student Success Book Collection next to the Starbucks in the first floor group study room, promoting the Libraries during Student Welcome Week; helping students during finals by coordinating DeStress for Success; and connecting education students with the Charles and Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center, all with a focus of helping students succeed. Her colleagues noted that she plans well in advance to keep things humming and fresh for students. Heather comes up with interesting projects for the student workers to help with. One colleague pointed to her attitude and interaction as building bridges between departments and across campus. The Libraries have a special librarian in Heather. We are grateful for her fresh perspectives and students-first focus.

Donna Bobb, Administrative Specialist

After working in our administration office for many years, Donna Bobb transitioned to the Special Collections and Archives Reading Room when it reopened with new hours and an appointment-based schedule. Donna’s stellar organization provides continuity at the Reading Room desk and gives patrons a consistently positive experience. She’s worked hard to learn the ins-and-outs of a new department and quickly made herself indispensable. In addition, Donna readily assists with special projects and helps student assistants learn how to manage tasks at the desk. Donna is the perfect fit for Special Collections and Archives, and she is deserving of a StAR Award.

Phil Flynn, Engineering, Science, and Mathematics Librarian

Phil Flynn always goes out of his way to help Wright State students, faculty, and staff as well as his library colleagues. Since the subject reorganization in Instruction and Research Services, he is responsible for many of the disciplines for the College of Science and Mathematics in addition to continuing his duties for the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Despite the major demands on his time, Phil never fails to take more time to make his already excellent teaching even better. He consistently develops new activities to develop his students’ information literacy skills. Chemistry is just one example. In the CHM 3190 course, the librarian teaches numerous topics and creates and grades all of the library and information literacy assignments. Phil engaged these students in his very first time co-teaching the course by designing a citation relay to help students develop familiarity with ACS style and developing a lesson in which he used the East Palestine disaster as a topic. He has repeatedly taken it upon himself to meet with walk-in students who expect immediate
help from a librarian, including students in
general education courses and engineering
students at a loss about how to format their
thesis. Not only is Phil extremely generous
with library users, but he is equally generous
about sharing his time and expertise with his
colleagues, many of whom have benefitted
from his answers to “quick questions.” He
is also ready to go beyond a quick answer
if he can help anyone with questions about
GOBI, Excel, LibGuides, the website, Wright
State or Dunbar Library history, etc. Despite
his vast knowledge and skill, he always treats
everyone with respect and never makes
anyone feel badly for asking a question. In
summary, Phil is awesome!

Years of Service

In 2022, two Library staff members reached
25 years of service:

- Beth Anderson, Information Commons Evening
  Supervisor
- Ximena Chrisagis, Nursing, Chemistry, and Modern
  Languages Librarian

More about Beth and Ximena can be found in
our May 2022 Library News blog post.
Seven staff members representing 160 years of service were recognized in 2023:

30 years:
- Karen Wilhoit, University Librarian
- Marty Jenkins, Head of Content Acquisitions and Management

25 years:
- Leigh Duncan, Head of Library Technology Services
- Brian Olesko, Psychology and Social Sciences Librarian
- Edward Trentman, Library Associate

15 years:
- Barbara Conklin, Office Assistant

10 years:
- Lisa Rickey, Archivist and Collections Manager

More about these seven staff members can be found in our May 2023 Library News blog post.
Public Services Highlights—Focus on Engagement

The University Libraries joined the rest of the campus community during 2022-2023 to focus on recruitment, retention, and relationships. The libraries are uniquely placed to support students in all three areas. The library redeveloped its online presence, provided welcoming study spaces, actively engaged with student groups, and assisted with university-wide collaborations.

Extending our Online Presence
In August 2022, we launched our new website, developed in collaboration with the Office of Marketing, which features a modern design, improved functionality, and easier access to essential research services and resources.

The Research Toolkit workshops provide foundational information literacy for students in all programs, are freely available from the Libraries’ website, and have a demonstrated impact on student retention. We introduced a new module, the Information Cycle workshop, in Fall 2022. The module teaches students to identify different types of available information and to select the appropriate types to meet the research need.

A Welcoming Space
The Libraries hosted a number of events for students during the year. Our annual fall game night is popular with students as they return to campus. This year we added a new event, Family Game Night, during homecoming weekend. We again hosted DeStress for Success events during finals week in collaboration with Campus Recreation, Counseling and Wellness, and several student organizations. When students noted that their stress isn’t confined just to finals week, we created a permanent destress station in the group study room that offers students the opportunity to take a break whenever they need it.

Our collaboration with student organizations extended beyond the DeStress events. In February, we worked with the University Activities Board to do some matchmaking and connected students with a new book during Blind Date with a Book. Over the past year, we worked with student organizations including the Wright State Miracle Makers, the Social Work Club, Residence Life, Abilities and Kappa Delta to host activities and publicize their programs. We also turned over one of our bulletin boards to Student Involvement and Leadership for their use in publicizing student-led organizations and activities. Finally, we worked with Raider Food Pantry to set up a satellite food pantry location in our group study room, extending the hours
students experiencing food anxiety can access food pantry services.

**Moving Beyond Our Walls**

While we want students to visit the library and use our services, we do not sit back and wait for them to come to us. This year, library staff participated in campus-wide events geared toward students, including Fall Fest, Do the U and April Craze. We have a regular presence at Raider Open Houses, new student orientations, graduate student orientations, and UCIE orientations. In Spring 2023, we partnered with the Culture and Identity Centers to host a conversation with students in the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center. This conversation focused on resources, staff, and spaces available to support student success.

**Campus Collaboration**

In addition to the Dunbar 150 series outlined in the following article, the Libraries hosted several events in collaboration with the **College of Liberal Arts** (COLA). In February 2022, the Libraries’ second floor housed the **Undesign the Redline** exhibit. This exhibit demonstrated the impact of redlining, the historic discriminatory practice of denying housing loans in neighborhoods inhabited primarily by minorities, and was part of a program that included online lectures, docent-led tours, and class visits. In August of 2022, we were happy to provide a venue for the COLA retreat where faculty in the realigned college came together to plan for the upcoming year. In November, Dayton Literary Peace Price author Andrea Elliott gave a talk on her book, *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in an American City*, on the fourth floor. Finally, in February, we hosted a luncheon on the fourth floor for 45 faculty and clinicians participating in the High School Honor Band hosted by the School of Fine and Performing Arts.

The Libraries partnered with the **Center for Faculty Excellence** to present two workshops for faculty in the past year. The first, **Selected Works: Faculty Profiles that Maximize Scholarly Impact**, explained how faculty members can partner with the University Libraries to build an online scholarly presence that is reputable, sustainable, and complete. The second, **Open Access vs. Predatory Publishers**, aimed to help faculty learn the signs of “predatory” venues compared to legitimate open access publishers, identify how to benefit from OhioLINK open access deals, and develop strategies to check publisher reputations to feel more confident about where to publish. Librarians also participated in faculty/librarian panels on research and teaching at the 2022 new faculty orientation and presented sessions during the **Teaching for Success Student Symposium**.

Working with the **Office of the Provost**, the Libraries implemented an annual program to recognize newly tenured and promoted faculty. Each faculty member was asked to select a book important to them for the Libraries to purchase and add to the collection. The faculty members were honored at a reception in October. We also began a program to highlight faculty publications on our social media.
Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of the first African American literary figures to gain national critical acclaim. On May 2, 1992, Wright State University’s main library was renamed in recognition of Dunbar’s significant literary contributions, importance to Dayton, and friendship with Wilbur and Orville Wright, for whom the university is named. In 2022, we joined with the National Parks Service and local organizations in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Dunbar’s birth.

The University Libraries and the Friends of the Libraries hosted several events to commemorate the anniversary. These events offered an opportunity to explore the history, work, and legacy of this influential author.
Paul Laurence Dunbar: Beyond the Mask: Documentary screening and discussion with filmmaker Frederick Lewis, February 17, 2022

In recognition of Black History Month and as part of the Dunbar 150 Celebrations, the University Libraries presented Paul Laurence Dunbar: Beyond the Mask, a documentary on the life and legacy of the first African American to achieve national fame as a writer, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, Frederick Lewis. Read more details.

Book Club: The Sport of the Gods, March 8, 2022

The University Libraries Book Club, sponsored by the Friends of the Libraries, Wright State Alumni Association, and Wright State Retirees Association, continued the 2021-2022 season with one of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s four novels. The Sport of the Gods tells the story of Berry Hamilton, an emancipated Black man working for a white employer, and the ripple effects on his family and those around them when Berry is accused of stealing money from his employer’s safe. We were joined by National Park Service ranger Angela Stewart of the Dunbar House, who provided historical context to the novel.

Visions of Dunbar, April 15, 2022

Paul Laurence Dunbar’s legacy continues to be seen in modern poetry, art, and literature. Perhaps the most well-known is Maya Angelou’s book I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, whose title uses the last line of Dunbar’s 1899 poem Sympathy. To continue the legacy of work inspired by Dunbar, the Friends of the Libraries and the University Libraries invited students from Wright State and area high schools (grades 9-12) to submit original poetry or visual art inspired by the work of Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Student submissions were shared at an April 15 reception at Dunbar Library. The event featured presentations from the Northmont High School Drama Club and selections from Wright State School of Music students.

Friends of the Libraries Virtual “Lunch-In,” April 20, 2022

The Friends of the Wright State Libraries presented Paul Laurence Dunbar: A Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of His Birth, featuring Herbert Woodward Martin, Professor Emeritus, University of Dayton. This dramatic presentation and discussion honored the 150th anniversary of Paul Laurence Dunbar’s birth. Read more details.
Between January 2022 and June 2023, Special Collections and Archives (SCA) engaged with Wright State staff and students and community members from the Miami Valley region, Ohio, across the country, and internationally. We assisted a wide range of researchers, both in-person and virtually, with nearly 4,000 requests. We also hosted special guests who toured the Archives to learn about our rich aviation and local history collections. Some noteworthy guests included groups from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, members of the Le Mans Sarthe Wright Committee, and former leaders of the Berry Corporation.

SCA hosted students from the Miami Valley School for their immersion exploration program and undergraduate and graduate students researching in history, archeology, and public history. To help guide future archivists, SCA allowed a number of students to shadow our archivists throughout the year and presented at the Graduate Student Open House to encourage potential public history students to enroll at Wright State.

SCA created exhibits for on- and off-campus events. We collaborated with the Air Force Museum Foundation, participating in their After Dark event “Space and Spirits” and providing an exhibit highlighting space materials from our collections. We created an exhibit for the Friends of the Libraries luncheon focused on the 50th anniversary of Dunbar Library. We also worked with the Wright State Marketing Club to have a station at Wright Brothers Day where we quizzed attendees on Wright Brothers facts through an exhibit on their work and lives.

SCA staff collaborated with the Wright State Magazine to research, write, and provide photographs for articles focused on Wright
State’s manuscript collections and university history. We were featured on Fox 45 News after the tragic fire at the Wright Factory. We also were highlighted in the Wright State newsroom on stories about our grants from the Library Services and Technology Act and the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board.

**Grants**

SCA received three grants that preserved content and made deteriorated and obsolete formats accessible again. The first grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board ($4,200) funded digitization of 71 U-matic videotapes in the Dr. Arthur E. Thomas Collection. The second grant from the Friends of the Libraries ($2,000) funded the creation of silver master preservation microfilm and use copies of heavily deteriorated microfilm of Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical Engine Drawings. The third grant is a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Conservation Grant ($4,999) funding conservation treatment to stabilize 11 Paul Laurence Dunbar first edition books gifted to Dunbar Library by the grandson of Dr. H.A. Tobey, Dunbar’s personal friend and supporter.

**New Collections**

SCA collaborates with organizations in the region to serve as the repository for their records. We processed and made available several of these collections, including the records of the United Way of Greater Dayton Area, the Montgomery County Medical Society Alliance, and the Dayton Performing Art Alliance. We also serve as the repository for individuals who have served our region including the papers of Dr. Arthur E. Thomas, former head of Wright State’s Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center and president emeritus of Central State University, and photographic negatives of the architectural works of Louis Lott. Two recent noteworthy acquisitions are the Katharine Wright Haskell papers that include the correspondence of Katharine to her future husband, Henry Haskell, and a generous donation from the Fort Wayne Art Museum of photographs of the Wright Brothers by William Preston Mayfield.
New Materials in CORE Scholar

Paul Laurence Dunbar Exhibit

Born in Dayton on June 27, 1872, Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of the first African American literary figures to garner critical acclaim on a national scale. Although he lived just 33 years, Dunbar’s contributions in a variety of genres left a legacy that endures today. The exhibit includes a biography, full text of his poetry books, a photo gallery, a timeline, and selected resources.

Con la pluma entre dos mundos

This magazine is authored and edited by students in Damaris Serrano’s Spanish classes at Wright State. It showcases student work from Composition I, II, and III to seminars on special topics in Spanish, which include culture and literature.
Louis Lott Architecture Negatives

HOME DESIGNED BY LOUIS LOTT AT 450 KRAMER ROAD, OAKWOOD, OHIO

Louis Lott (1872-1934) was a renowned Dayton architect. He practiced architecture in Dayton, 1901-1904; New York City, 1904-1909; studied in Paris, 1909-1911; and returned to Dayton in 1911. He is perhaps best remembered as the “master architect” of the Schantz Park neighborhood in Oakwood, where he designed no less than 16 homes. This online digital collection includes a selection of over 100 photographs from Lott’s work in Dayton and his travels in Europe.

Dayton Daily News Photographs – Air Force History

PILOTS STAND IN FRONT OF A FAIRCHILD PT-26 CORNELL

A selection of photographs from the Dayton Daily News showcasing photographs of events, pilots, and airplanes at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.
The Friends of the Libraries support the mission of the University Libraries: Providing exceptional research services and resources to faculty and student success by fostering innovation and lifelong learning in our diverse community. The funds they raise through memberships directly support Wright State students and Libraries staff through programs that include a book club, scholarships, grants, and materials for checkout.

The Friends Board of Directors welcomed two new members and appointed two officers in 2022. Catherine Queener was appointed president and Penny Profitt vice president. Sharon Lynette Jones was elected faculty representative and Bette Sydelko community representative.
In 2023, the board welcomed five new members and appointed a secretary. Peggy Bott was appointed Wright State University Retirees Association representative; Emily Mancuso student representative; Lynn Hartzler member-at-large/faculty representative; Ellen Reinsch Friese community representative; and Evan Mason staff representative. Kathi Herick was appointed board secretary.

The Friends said goodbye to outgoing board members Gary Barlow, Natalie DeHorn, Stephanie Dickey, Glenn Graham, Sharon Lynette Jones, and Christian Sanders. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service.

In calendar year 2022 and fiscal year 2023, the Friends awarded $4000 in scholarships to eight Library Student Assistant Award recipients. The recipients included Ciara McCarthy and Megan O’Connor (Spring 2022); Mikai Dixon, DeLia Hill, and Julie Murphy (Fall 2022); and Avery Brock, Anna Jones, and Ciara McCarthy (Spring 2023).

Each April, top undergraduate students are honored as the Top Scholar for their college. Honorees are selected by the deans from each college and the Lake Campus. Recipients are presented a certificate and book in their honor. The book becomes a permanent part of the Libraries collection and contains a bookplate with the student’s name, major, and award. Over the past 29 years, more than 180 books have been purchased and added to the collections in honor of the Top Scholar recipients.

The 2022 recipients included Ryan Slater, College of Engineering and Computer Science; Melissa Kaufmann, College of Health, Education, and Human Services; Whitney White, College of Science and Mathematics; Patrick Lockhart, Raj Soin College of Business; Hallie Whitten, Lake Campus; and Margaret Musco, College of Liberal Arts.
The 2023 recipients included Christopher Broach, Raj Soin College of Business; Samantha Baxter, College of Liberal Arts; Kyah Rowley, Boonshoft School of Medicine; Cassandra Poeppelman, College of Science and Mathematics; Lisabeth Jones, College of Health, Education, and Human Services; Celeste Hicks, College of Engineering and Computer Science; and Devin Siefring, Lake Campus.

As mentioned in the Dunbar 150 article, the Friends hosted their 2022 Annual Virtual Lunch-In, *Paul Laurence Dunbar, a Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of His Birth*, April 20 featuring Herbert Woodward Martin, professor emeritus at the University of Dayton. He performed a dramatic presentation and discussion on the writings of Paul Laurence Dunbar.

On April 26, 2023, the Friends hosted their first in-person luncheon since 2019 and welcomed keynote speaker Erin Flanagan, author and Wright State English professor as she presented, *Why Creativity Matters* and shared her experiences.

Each year the Friends provide an annual staff grant award through income generated from memberships. A total of $2,000 may be allocated for the FOL Board to select a project or projects based on proposals received from...
Libraries staff for projects and programs based on specific criteria. Funding is available on a fiscal year basis. For fiscal year 2023, the Friends awarded Special Collections and Archives the full $2,000 for preservation of the Curtiss-Wright engine drawings on microfilm in the requested amount of $918. SCA were awarded additional funding up to the $2,000 total award for other archival needs.

The 2022-2023 Book Club sponsored by the Friends, Wright State Alumni Association, and Wright State Retirees Association, continued to host discussions virtually. Four book discussions take place each academic year with the first session held in September and the last in March. The March discussion features the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction.

On June 15, 2023, the Friends co-sponsored with the Wright State Retirees Association The Genius of the Wright Brothers and the Construction of the 1903 Flyer, where Rubin Battino shared a brief history of powered flight, including a discussion on the Wright Brothers’ 1903 flight, the first machine to achieve controlled powered flight.

More about the Friends and information on how you can join us in supporting great causes like these can be found on the Friends of the Libraries webpage.