Fall 2018

WKU Libraries Annual Report 2017-2018

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Dr. Pamela Jukes, a professor in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, routinely uses the education library. The Beulah Winchel Education Library (BWEL), formerly known as the Educational Resources Center or ERC, is a specialized campus library, housed in Gary Ransdell Hall. It supports the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences.

“I conduct research for professional articles and course enhancement, obtain materials to use in class and bring in my students to find resources,” said Jukes. She says she regularly sends her students to the education library to find resources and materials that fit their specific content and grade level.

BWEL Coordinator Roxanne Spencer and long-time staffer Ellen Micheletti are very helpful and really know their collection, said Jukes. “Their assistance impacts K-6 learning in a meaningful way and Roxanne ensures that the (Ed Library) is an integral part of the STE (School of Teacher Education) learning community. The elementary education faculty thank Roxanne and her staff for their ongoing support to faculty and our students.”

WKU senior Eden Gasperetti gained insight into the publishing world as a library intern helping with the Southern Kentucky Book Fest. “I loved my internship,” said Gasperetti. “There is a lot of motivation when you are immersed in a community full of support and opportunities; I gained skills that will help me in my future career.”

According to Sara Volpi, the literary outreach coordinator for WKU Libraries, Gasperetti contributed crucial on-the-ground assistance during Book Fest and other literary events. “She researched potential speakers, generated ideas for engagement on and off campus, and shared social media campaigns along with countless other tasks,” said Volpi.

Dr. Angela Jones, coordinator of the English Department Internship Program, feels that internship experiences are extremely valuable. “Essentially, internships provide students with semester-long samples of possible careers and serve as a bridge between their previous coursework, employment and their future, professional selves,” said Jones.

Discover Success with
Library Experiences

English major learns practical skills with internship

Dr. Pamela Jukes
Professor, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Message from the Dean

On behalf of the WKU Libraries, I would like to extend a warm welcome to WKU students, faculty members, staff, and community members. We invite you to Discover Success with outstanding library resources, programs, and service to support your academic and personal goals.

In this annual report we celebrate our accomplishments of keeping the library responsive and vibrant. This past year we:

• Initiated the LibCal online scheduling module for individual librarian consultations
• Partnered with the Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning to create an active learning classroom in Cravens Library
• Redesigned our website for clear communication and intuitive navigation on all devices
• Created the newly endowed Connie Foster Student Scholarship
• Dedicated the Beulah Winchel Education Library
• Hosted seven student internships
• Connected with the community through the newly organized Young Adult Southern Book Con and the 20 years running annual Book Fest

In the coming years, WKU Libraries are thrilled to actualize President Caboni’s vision to create an intellectual and dining hub at the top of the hill. We will revitalize the libraries to become a place where ideas are created, shared and shaped in collaborative and adaptable spaces. I welcome your input and comments as we work together to create an exciting new WKU Commons.

Kindest regards,

Susann E. DeVries
Student intern gains life-changing experience

Coe Campbell received the Dr. Delroy & Patricia Hire Internship for 2018. Jonathan Jeffrey, the Department Head of Special Collections describes the internship: “The Dr. Delroy & Patricia Hire Internship was established in 2015 to provide students with professional experience working in a special collections library, specifically with material from Allen and Monroe counties in Kentucky and Macon County in Tennessee.”

“This internship opened the opportunity for me to work in the Department of Library of Special Collections at WKU,” said Campbell. “It was more than an academic opportunity; it was a life changing experience. While doing research and working here at the Library, I felt like I was discovering myself as well as preserving history. I have learned to value everything while interning here; Christmas cards, letters, old farm signs and even business cards are important. Behind every good textbook and history book there is a plethora of sources that no doubt came from a library. This internship has inspired me to put my history major to use by hopefully pursuing a MA in Library Science so one day I can help people reconnect to their past. I also want to help to preserve the history of common folk so future generations will know that everyone, regardless of their social or economic status, is important in the history of us all. History to me is more than dates and important people. History is a web of stories, personalities, and people all interconnected. I am thankful somewhere in that web of life; my own history will be found.”

Pulliam’s thesis was downloaded over 30,000 times from across the globe

WKU alum Daniel Pulliam shares thesis results globally through TopSCHOLAR®

Every year, WKU graduate students’ theses are published on TopSCHOLAR®, WKU’s open access database which contains scholarly materials from faculty and faculty-led students. Last Spring, WKU graduate Daniel Pulliam presented his thesis, which was submitted to TopSCHOLAR® for worldwide access. Since publication, Daniel’s work has been downloaded over 30,000 times globally. Pulliam recalls a researcher from Yogyakarta, Indonesia contacting him about his thesis, which he found in TopSCHOLAR® and was interested in using the questionnaires from his study.

While working with Professor Steve Wininger, Head of WKU’s Psychology Department, Pulliam came up with his thesis topic, Effect of Student Classroom Cell Phone Usage on Teachers, noting some trends in the research. “After looking at all of the research, we noticed that there was not a lot, if any, dealing with how cell phone usage affected teachers; instead, it focused on how it affected the students,” said Pulliam. “With that being the case, we wanted to almost start from the basics and just determine whether or not teachers feel like they are distracted by cell phone use and compare that to student belief if they feel like their cell phone use is distracting to teachers.”

The databases in the library were a main source for preliminary information. “I used the Interlibrary Loan service, which was an amazing resource that I wish I would have known about earlier, quite often to get specific articles that weren’t readily available in the databases or Google Scholar,” said Pulliam.

Pulliam currently serves as a school psychologist in Indianapolis, Indiana, and credits the WKU School Psychology graduate program with fully preparing him for his career. Pulliam says “[the thesis research process] has definitely refined my research skills in my profession now when I complete my own research.” For more information on TopSCHOLAR or Pulliam’s thesis, go to digitalcommons.wku.edu.
A new active-learning classroom enhances student learning/faculty instruction

WKU Libraries have partnered with the Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning (CITL) to create an active-learning classroom available for faculty use. Active-learning classrooms are designed to get students working together in small groups to work on collaborative projects, case studies, and group activities. The new active-learning classroom is located in Cravens Library – Room 212 within the Visual & Performing Arts Library. The classroom has a capacity of 42 students and has white boards on every wall, portable white boards at each table, a large touch-screen computer/tv, and a standard podium computer with projector. This space gives faculty the opportunity to experiment with active- and project-based learning with their students. Go to https://www.wku.edu/citl/innovation/activelearning/ for more information.

Spaces transformed for fresh look, comfort, and convenience

The windows on all nine floors of Cravens Library are in the process of being replaced with new, modern, floor-to-ceiling windows. The ground and ninth floors of Cravens have been renovated for additional classroom and study space. Three new Brody chairs, designed to provide high-performance comfort in a private setting, were purchased and placed on the second floor of Helm Library and several areas received additional whiteboards to enhance learning. For students’ convenience, two new laptops are available to check out at the circulation desk in Cravens.

Research Guides

Any faculty, staff, and students researching a topic have access to the online research guides, also known as LibGuides, found on the libraries’ website. There are 187 subject-specific research guides available to assist with any discipline on campus. Last year, the research guides were viewed 28,038 times which was slightly higher than the previous year.

Individual Consultations

Faculty and students are encouraged to meet with library faculty on an individual basis for research assistance. The LibCal scheduling module was recently purchased to allow library faculty to post available hours for independent consultations, allowing students to schedule appointments with subject specialists online.

Library Tours

Classes and new faculty are welcome to request library tours, particularly those involved with new students. Last year, several classes took advantage of learning the library system and buildings with a library personnel-led guide.

I can’t thank Carol enough for helping me (with my capstone project). Without her help I would still be stressing on finding research articles.

Tracy Tabor
MSN (’18) and WKU alum

Library Faculty
(Clockwise from Top): Carol Watwood, Roxanne Spencer, Rosemary Meszaros, Jonathan Jeffrey

Discover Success with
Improved Learning Spaces

Discover Success with
Research Enhancement
The Department of Library Special Collections (DLSC) continues to expand its holdings and its online presence. Amongst its regular archival deposits, WKU Archives acquired two special collections this past year: the records of FACET, the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching as well as decades of attractive Theater & Dance Department posters. Last year WKU Archives also digitized issues of the College Heights Herald from 1976 to 1988 and deposited them into TopSCHOLAR®. In a campus-wide initiative, WKU Archives with financial assistance from the Dean, had all the WKU theses from 1932 to 1993 digitized. For those granting permission, the Archives staff is now posting those online in TopSCHOLAR.

**Manuscripts**

Two outstanding manuscript collections accessioned this year include correspondence, documents, and photographs related to the Weir family of Muhlenberg County and three letters written in 1836-1837 from Noah Pond, a Connecticut native visiting Trigg County.

In one letter, Pond decries Kentucky weather saying: “The weather is so changeable here that it will freeze a man to death one minute and roast him the next…go to bed at night half froze and before morning you will be hot enough to roast eggs.”

This past year Manuscripts was able to complete a year-long project of scanning its 7,000 Warren County marriage bonds/certificates and posting those online. This year Manuscripts & Folklife Archives was accredited as a sound recording repository by the Kentucky Oral History Commission, a major long-term goal.

**Acquisitions**

The Library acquired from the estate of Dr. Kenneth Hafendorfer, his personal research files used for his Kentucky Civil War history books as well as a seventy-volume set of *The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States War Papers*, which includes many first-hand accounts of Union Civil War veterans. The estate of W. Ray Scott, international travel writer and photographer, donated some 20,000 images representing a large portion of his life’s work, including at least half relating to Kentucky parks and monuments with significant concentration on Mammoth Cave and other caves in the region. Another fascinating acquisition with Kentucky ties was a copy of the Henry Clay Almanac, published in Philadelphia in 1844. Besides a biography of the iconic Kentuckian, the pamphlet includes campaign songs and anecdotes related to him. The Robert Penn Warren Library acquired a rare set of broadsides titled “For Robert Penn Warren”; it is one of only 75 produced with each broadside including a poem signed by the poet.

**On-Campus Learning**

DLSC hosted six interns this past year, which kept them busy with projects. These hands-on, intensive projects provide students with practical experience in library, archives, and public history work. DLSC mounted a significant exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War I titled “Kentuckians and the Great War: The Commonwealth and World War I.” In addition to the exhibit, DLSC hosted three programs related to the war effort which were well attended. In the Spring, the department hosted an appearance by Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, a Kentucky suffragist portrayed by Kelly Brengleman.
Discover Success
By the Numbers

183,951 KenCat Page Views

88,153 Computer Lab Log-ins

12,845 Reference Inquiries

471,624 Gate Count

471,624 Circulated Materials

1,628 Study Room Uses

10,964 Interlibrary Loan Transactions

398,360 Online Primo Searches FY18

122,011 Electronic Resources (eBooks & eJournals)

699,738 TopSCHOLAR® FY18 Downloads

5,071 Research Instruction Session Participants

884,983 Volumes

$380,230 Donations

10,964
Interlibrary Loan Transactions

$380,230
Donations
Discover Success

In the Spotlight

Student Spotlight

Undergraduate Library Research Award Recipients

- Meghan Rice
  - Manchester, KY
  - Fall 2017

- Amanda Poole
  - Bowling Green, KY
  - Fall 2017

- Alex Huntsman
  - Bowling Green, Kentucky
  - Spring 2018

- Tradesha Chatman
  - Franklin, Kentucky
  - Fall 2017

- Aquilah AlSadiq
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Spring 2018

Liberal Faculty

Library Student Assistant Scholarship

- Madeline Marita
  - Florence, Kentucky

Personnel

- Library Faculty: 21
- Staff: 36
- Part-time staff: 20
- Professional staff & Administration: 8

Budget

- Total budget: $8,067,359
- Personnel: $4,790,371
- Acquisitions: $3,005,738
- Operating: $271,250

Faculty Spotlight

- Carol Watwood
  - Associate professor of Library Public Services
  - Library Public Service Award for University Libraries

- Sean Kinder
  - Associate professor of Library Public Services
  - Library Research Award for University Libraries

- Rosemary Meszaros
  - Professor, coordinator of Government Documents & Law
  - ProQuest/GODORT/ALA “Documents of the People” award from American Library Association’s Government Documents Round Table award and Sara Tyler Merit Award

- Nancy Richey
  - Image Librarian in Library Special Collections
  - Special Librarian of the Year from Kentucky Library Association

- Dr. Mary Bennett
  - Director of WKU School of Nursing
  - WKU Libraries Open Access Hall of Fame Inductee

Retirements

Several longtime faculty and staff retired this year. Their tireless efforts and commitment to WKU Libraries will be missed. We wish them all the best in their next chapters.
Website Redesign

In September 2017, WKU Libraries began redesigning the library website with the intent to help improve our patrons’ experience with our online resources through clarifying services and optimizing mobile devices.

On June 5, 2018, the new look was launched. The new website’s efficient, clean design is now easier to navigate and understand on all devices. The One-Search Catalog is now front and center on the library homepage and the updated search results pages offer the same mobile-focused, easy-to-use design. Quick links take you directly to the resources, services, and information you need for student academic research or to support faculty in the classroom. Library locations and hours are easier than ever to find.

Digital Assets

TopSCHOLAR® is an online, open access repository containing the research and creative activity of the WKU scholarly community launched in 2007. This past year, 7,305 items were added, bringing the total number to more than 33,000. There were 699,738 total downloads in the past fiscal year. This is a significant number considering it makes up roughly 20% of the all-time download total of 3,459,269.

Our complete digital collection offers 77,319 electronic books and 44,692 electronic journals. In the 2017 calendar year, 543,744 full-text electronic journals were downloaded, and 48,587 full-text electronic books were downloaded, a 64% increase from 2015. A number of our search tools increased utilization from 2016, such as:

- One-Search tool: 398,360 (up 6%)
- A-Z journal list searches: 31,132 (up 26%)
- Research Guide uses: 20,996 (up 8%)
WKU Libraries reached more than 10,000 individuals this past year through numerous campus and community outreach programs.

Jay Asher, bestselling author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*, was the featured keynote speaker at the inaugural Young Adult Southern Book Con (YAS Book Con). Asher’s book brought great discussion on the topic of suicide to both campus and the Bowling Green community with a panel of mental health experts offering opinions, comments, and advice in regard to the book and the topic.

International bestselling author Ann Patchett gave a talk at the Knicely Center to a full room of fans during the fall semester, and as part of the International Year of Bosnia, the Libraries partnered with the International Office to bring Kenan Trebincevic to town. Trebincevic gave insight into his life as a youth when war broke out in his native land of Bosnia.

The Far Away Places series featured six speakers with topics from cycling in Spain to reflecting on 20 years after the Bosnian genocide to murder in Paris. WKU Biologist Nancy Rice talked about “The Magic, Mystery, and Misfortune of Modern Kenya,” and WKU Associate Professor of Political Science Soleiman Kiasatpour spoke on his faculty-led trips to Morocco. Dr. Theresa Rajack-Talley from the University of Louisville discussed her book, *Poverty is a Person: Human Agency, Women and Caribbean Households*.

The Faraway Flix International Film Series offered monthly film screenings in Cherry Hall and faculty-led discussions featuring Bosnia, Poland, Australia, Austria, Pakistan, and Colombia.

The Kentucky Live! speaker series brings in experts to discuss themes related to Kentucky and the surrounding region. This year's topics included American whiskey, political cartooning, a Kentucky murder in the 1930s, and preserving Civil War battlefields. Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel discussed how the growth of Nashville’s universities impacted the region and well-known musician J.D. Wilkes read from his novel, *The Vine That Ate the South*.
New scholarship endowment fund aids students, honors retired dean

A new student scholarship endowment fund has been created to aid WKU students. The fund is named the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment to help students at WKU, with priority to those students working in the university libraries.

To honor 41 years of service, Foster’s friends, colleagues, and the WKU Library Advisory Council endorsed the creation of a scholarship endowment in her name to ensure students will have scholarship funds perpetually. Through the generosity of WKU Friends of the Libraries, a matching gift was made to jump start the endowment. For every donation made to the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment, the library will match it, up to $5,000. By the end of 2017, there were enough funds in the account to create the endowment.

"We were thrilled with the rapid response and support given for this scholarship," said Library Dean Susann deVries. “The donors’ generous gifts will help our students succeed here at WKU.”

From left: 2017 Scholarship Recipient Madeline Marita, Current Dean Susann deVries, Former Dean Connie Foster, 2017 Scholarship Recipient Charlotte Briggs

How to Support WKU Libraries
Contact Susann deVries
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270.745.2904, susann.devries@wku.edu

Thank you to our donors

Every gift, regardless of the size, is valuable to the university libraries. We appreciate all the individuals who supported the libraries with financial and in-kind gifts this past year.

Dedication ceremony for B. Winchel Education Library

Honoring the late Beulah Winchel

The former Educational Resources Center was renamed the Beulah Winchel Education Library in honor of Winchel, WKU alumna and librarian from Breckinridge County. Ms. Winchel generously donated more than 2.5 million of her estate to the university libraries.

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