Preparing for the Future: A Place Where Ideas are Created, Shared, and Shaped (WKU Libraries Annual Report FY2021)

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Preparing For The Future

A Place Where Ideas Are Created, Shared, & Shaped

WKU Libraries
Welcome!

I am proud to share the remarkable achievements and positive impacts of the Libraries during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Our amazing library faculty and staff have embraced the spirit to master innovation, resilience, and excellence during these trying times.

We are preparing for the future as we anticipate the opening of the Commons at Helm Library this coming year. The new library will be a natural space outside of classrooms, labs, and dorm rooms for people to gather, feel safe, and create a culture of curiosity for all to explore educational and research pursuits.

The libraries are indeed a place where ideas are created, shared, and shaped.

Thank you for your interest and support!

Kindest regards,

Susann deVries, Dean of University Libraries
Preparing For

The Future
& Celebrating the Past

Wholly Serviceable

After moving to the Hill in 1911, Western quickly realized that it needed places for members of the campus community to gather for special occasions such as social and cultural events as well as athletics. Growing rapidly after World War I, the new school hastily constructed a gymnasium that “would be wholly serviceable and fairly good in appearance.” Largely built with student labor, the Red Barn, as it became known, offered few conveniences and was heated by two large stoves. Always the optimist, President Henry Hardin Cherry declared the building would be a success except during cold weather. In addition to its role in campus sports, the Red Barn often provided temporary housing for students and occasionally for faculty members as well. The gymnasium seated about 250 people, and both men's and women's teams played there during the 1920s. The Red Barn was razed when the new Health & Physical Education Building opened in 1931.

A Portentious Building

On February 9, 1931, President Cherry proudly opened the doors of the Health & Physical Education Building, proclaiming it “one of the most portentious buildings on the campus.” The new building quickly became central to campus life. Its gymnasium seated 5000 people and hosted concerts and dances as well as athletic events, and the school also used the gymnasium for student registration. The building included twenty classrooms and special facilities for the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the school band. The most celebrated occupant of Health & Physical Education was Coach Ed Diddle. During his forty-two years as head coach of men’s basketball, he compiled a record of 759-302, and he was the winningest coach in NCAA history when he retired in 1964. Nearly half of those wins came in the raucous gymnasium of the Health and Physical Education Building where his teams played from 1931 to 1963. The new facility helped to launch Diddle and Western basketball to national prominence with the Hilltoppers winning at least 20 games every season between 1933-34 and 1942-43, including college basketball’s first 30 win season in 1937-38. Known for their up-tempo style of play and Diddle's animated coaching on the sidelines, the Hilltoppers were a popular attraction at New York's Madison Square Garden where the team finished second in the 1942 National Invitation Tourney.

Western changed dramatically in the years after World War II. Enrollment quadrupled between 1955 and 1965, and in 1966 Western achieved university status. Built in 1927, the school’s library was inadequate for a growing university. When the basketball program shifted to the newly opened Diddle Arena in 1963, Western decided to transfer the library to a renovated Health & Physical Education Building. The move opened new possibilities for the library, giving it a much larger and more central location on the expanding campus, tripling its available space, and providing seating for a thousand students. The new library, the university proudly announced, was “functional and modern in all respects.”

Renovations completed, the building reopened in 1965 and was named for Margie Helm in recognition of her distinguished service to Western. Her forty-five year career on the Hill began in 1920 when she was named Assistant Librarian and then Librarian in 1923. During her long career, she played a major role in developing library facilities. In the 1920s she worked with architect Brinton B. Davis on the construction of what is now Gordon Wilson Hall, Western’s first library building, and the move to the Health & Physical Education Building occurred just as she retired in 1965.

A Place Where Ideas are Created, Shared, & Shaped

At his investiture on April 27, 2018, President Timothy Caboni announced the transformation of the Helm Library into the Commons at Helm Library. This flexible and contemporary space serves as the intellectual hub of the campus, a gathering space where the members of the WKU community can share a meal or a cup of coffee while they study and collaborate in “a place where ideas are created, shared, and shaped.”

The Commons at Helm represents the future of scholarship and creativity, a space that engages and connects the campus through a blend of individual and social learning linked with academic support spaces. The adaptive reuse of a time-honored building provides the setting and the inspiration to realize fully the library’s crucial role in stimulating learning and building community.
Preparing For

The Future

Through Collections, Instruction, and Service

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Acquisitions

WKU Libraries worked with the History Department to assess specific needs regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). WKU Libraries has acquired collections pertaining to DEI, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Papers, the Chicago Defender and the Pittsburgh Courier from the ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers, and Margaret Sanger Papers—Sanger was considered a lifelong leader of the American and international birth control movement.

The Margaret Sanger Papers covers every aspect of the birth control movement, and are part of the new digital collection at WKU Libraries. Providing significant research value to the fields of women’s history, social and intellectual history, medicine and public health, religion, and world economic development, among others.

In March, Professor Nancy Richey partnered with Professor Sandy Staebell and Tiffany Isselhardt from the Kentucky Museum and Dr. Carrie Cox from Fashion Merchandising to share highlights from our collections for the Costume Society of America’s (CSA) “Dress & Drinks” webinar series, hosted by Leon Wiebers, Associate Professor of Costume Design at Loyola Marymount University. Richey talked about our vast array of the primary resources that reflect on fashion over the years.

I needed a little bit of guidance on finding a particular document. I reached out to the library and was referred to Mrs. Carol Watwood…She is an OUTSTANDING resource not only this current nursing project but for any medical research projects. She is very knowledgeable (faculty) member. If you don’t mind, please spread the word to other students about this awesome resource…

Reha Reed, WKU Nursing Student

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The Robert Penn Warren Center collection at WKU was featured as a literary landmark for Kentucky in the June 2021 issue of the American Libraries Association.

The Beulah Winchel Education Library recently relocated to Cravens Library, providing a one-stop shop for students needing education materials. The children’s and youth literature are available on the ninth floor of Cravens and the print collection focusing on education will be integrated within the circulating collection.
In April, the Libraries offered a student needs assessment to all undergraduate students. We were pleased with a 16% response rate with 1,731 surveys completed. This page includes highlights from the assessment. Improvements will be identified and implemented the 2021-22 academic year.

**How did you learn about WKU Libraries?**

- 26% Faculty/staff
- 18% Personal visit
- 13% Other student
- 4% Social media
- 11% Word of mouth
- 8% WKU Libraries faculty or staff
- 20% WKU website

**Top 3 methods students prefer to learn about library services in the future**

1. From an email
2. From instructor/professor
3. From WKU website

**Top 5 services undergraduates deem important**

1. Online Services
2. Study Rooms
3. Research Guides
4. Reference
5. Library Instruction

**Student feedback!**

- 75% Find WKU Libraries website to be user friendly.
- 74% Agree that they can navigate WKU Libraries’ online resources.
- 71% Understand how to access and use WKU Libraries’ online resources from home or another off-campus location.
- 68% Agree that finding articles, eBooks, and other online resources is clear and intuitive.
- 41% Find there are too many steps to find the resources needed for research.
- 34% Feel lost or confused when researching with WKU Libraries.

**What are your main reasons for using the Library?**

- 32% study/work
- 21% technology
- 14% research assistance
- 12% physical library collection
- 7% use computers
- 2% law resources
- 2% children's library
- 11% primary resources

**83%** Are satisfied with online resources and databases off-campus!

**85%** Rated their Zoom session with a librarian above average!

I love the libraries. If it was not for the libraries, I would not be where I am today. The libraries gave me the space I need to complete work and focus on myself as a student. The staff are so friendly and helpful. It's the most underrated place on campus.

Student Comment
Preparing For The Future

With The Affordable Textbooks Initiative

$94,000 IN STUDENT SAVINGS & IMPACTING 768 STUDENTS

WKU Libraries was a recipient of a $15,500 WKU Sisterhood grant for the 2020 Affordable Textbook Initiative. Laura DeLancey, Library Public Services Chair and the initiative’s organizer, explains the goal is to incentivize faculty to adopt library-licensed or Open Educational Resources in place of traditional textbooks, bringing cost savings to students. In March 2020, ten WKU faculty from varied disciplines were selected through a competitive process to receive a $1,500 grant in an effort to provide cost-free materials to their students for their fall 2020 courses. As a result of this initiative, there was approximately $94,000 in student savings, impacting 768 students.

Motivations
I sought out Open Educational Resources (OER) for my course History 241: U.S. History Since 1865 because it is required for the History and Social Studies major and of interest to others as well, and is offered in multiple sections every semester. The Affordable Textbook Initiative came at a perfect time for me as I revised my course from the ground up, with attention to both updated scholarship and affordability.

Supplementary Materials and Impact
Revising a course around OER prompted me not only to replace the main textbook (the largest prior expense) but also to seek out other open-access materials. For instance, a newly available reader on race in U.S. history, edited by a star scholar in the field and published by Harvard University Press, turned out to be free for download the summer before I taught the course, and allowed me easily to assign cutting-edge recent essays on a crucial subject. Students were quite enthusiastic about the (additional open-access) choices, about the ways in which our course often connected history to current events, and about the use of such materials.

Student Reception and Faculty Experience
The textbook that became the core of the class, The American Yawp, is a crowd-sourced textbook created with the involvement of historians I respect, and came with several features of great value to my students. Though I’d had some trepidation about using an online textbook, particularly as I prefer not to teach through a textbook narrative, my worries turned out to be unfounded. The textbook itself was strong, and not having had students pay a large amount for the book freed me to use it as much or as little as seemed appropriate for each subject, and to assign other readings in places where I wanted more emphasis on a subject. Overall, the OER textbook was a resounding success.

Conclusions
I would wholeheartedly recommend the Affordable Textbook Initiative to any faculty member concerned with affordability, and anyone seeking to refresh a longstanding course or building a new one. Not a single student had a negative thing to say about the materials, student engagement and success were much higher than I expected for a course unexpectedly taught online during an extraordinarily stressful and disrupted time. Numerous students reported that it was their favorite course that semester, hardly what I had expected from a required survey class and a course being taught in its first iteration.

Due to the success from the first year, WKU is organizing a second initiative for the 2021-22 academic year, sponsored by WKU Libraries, the Kelly M. Burch Institute for Transformative Practices in Higher Education, and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning.

For more information on the initiative or resources for coursework, go to https://libguides.wku.edu/ATI/OER.
TopSCHOLAR® is an online, open access repository containing the research and creative activity of the Western Kentucky University scholarly community. Researchers from all over the world (see map on right) downloaded over a million works from TopSCHOLAR this past year; this was a 45% increase over the previous year.

Collections

Additional funds have been allocated to heavily support electronic resources such as ebooks, articles, and streaming videos. This proved beneficial during the pandemic.

- Total Books (electronic & print) ...................... 552,416
- Total Journals (electronic & print) .................. 73,485
- Streaming Videos (number of licensed videos) ....... 321
- Media (physical) ............................................. 21,060
- Manuscripts & Archives (linear feet) .................. 7,196

Usage

Though Cravens Library was open during the pandemic year, many of our resources and services were accessed online such as the 24/7 chat, zoom instruction, interlibrary loan, and document delivery.

- Circulated Materials (digital and physical) ............. 623,499
- Online Catalog Searches .................................. 224,867
- Website Visits .............................................. 190,927
- KenCat Page Views (Online Special Collections) ........ 212,621
- KenCat Downloads .......................................... 63,933
- KenCat Uploads by Library ................................... 2,188
- Interlibrary Loan ............................................. 2,196
- Google Searches for WKU Libraries .................... 94,980
- Streaming Video Plays .................................. 9,401
- Chat Transactions ........................................... 1,882

Expenditures

- Acquisitions ............................................ 2,700,261
- Personnel & Other .............................. 3,849, 140
- Total Expenditures .................. $6,549,401

System-wide view for all research guides

Increase in streaming video plays compared to last year!
Internationally recognized American quilt expert Shelly Zegart has been an avid collector, exhibition curator, author, lecturer and appraiser of quilts for more than three decades. Zegart recently gifted hundreds of books and related publications from her quilt research library to the WKU Library Special Collections. “Her collection is extensive and quite rich in variety,” said WKU Libraries Dean Susann deVries. “This will be a nice offering for quilt researchers in the years to come.”

Preparing For
The Future
With Our Supporters

SHELLY ZEGART
QUILT COLLECTION

Zegart, a recipient of the 2020 Governor’s Awards in the Arts for Folk Heritage, is known for leading the Kentucky Quilt Project (KQP) and was a source of inspiration to other states and countries to document their respective quilt traditions. The donated books include collections inspired from all over the world, particularly American quilts. There are numerous volumes from the annual journal Uncoverings from the American Quilt Study Group, offering quilt information from eclectic regions across the country. Several books come from the famed Mary Lee Bendolph, well-known for her quilts from her hometown of Gee’s Bend, Alabama, which showcase the unique, bold, modern art designs Bendolph incorporated from her influences of her predominantly African American community. Upon processing, books and materials from the Shelly Zegart Collection will be available to the public.

CONNIE FOSTER
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

WKU students Meredith Cherry and Grace Alexieff were the recipients of the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment for the 2020-2021 academic year. At the time of receiving the award, Cherry was a junior from Lexington, Kentucky, majoring in nursing, and Alexieff was a sophomore from Bowling Green, Kentucky, majoring in history and minoring in philosophy and political science.

WKU Libraries Dean Susann deVries says this is the fourth time awarding the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment. The financial assistance is offered to students who have excelled in the classroom, illustrated service to the university, and demonstrated a financial need. “We are very appreciative of the support from our donors. This endowment allows our students the opportunity to receive scholarship money every year,” said deVries.

Go to https://www.wku.edu/chf/conniefoster/index.php for more information on the endowment.

DAY OF CARING

On April 15, WKU Libraries participated in a university-wide “Day of Caring” and shared a minute long video across various social media platforms asking the audience “How do you reach success?” and concluding with “WKU Libraries is here to help you succeed, regardless of where you are.”

Meredith Cherry
Grace Alexieff

Each year, student library assistants are awarded the Connie Foster Student Scholarship Endowment at WKU Libraries to help with their college expenses. To honor the work she has done at WKU and to further her legacy within the libraries, friends, colleagues, and the WKU Library Advisory Council created a scholarship endowment in her name to ensure students will have scholarship funds perpetually.

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Staff Recipients

John Sarkozi
Senior Acquisitions Assistant / Receiving and Orders
Department of Library Technical Services
35 years of service

Linda White
Senior Acquisitions Assistant
35 years of service

Brenda Wood
Senior Continuing Resources Associate
Department of Library Technical Services
32 years of service

Sue Lynn McDonald
Professor
Special Collections Librarian
Department of Library Special Collections
30 years of service

Michael Franklin
Media & Reserves Specialist
Department of Library Public Services
27 years of service

Jack Montgomery
Professor
Coordinator of Acquisitions and Collection Services
Department of Library Technical Services
23 years of service

Promotion

2020-21 College Faculty Award Winner
Anthony Paganelli
Faculty Award for Excellence in Service

2020-21 College Faculty Award Winner
Laura Bohuski and Joseph Shankweiler were promoted to associate professor and received tenure.

Student Recipients

Haiwang Yuan
Professor
Library Public Services Librarian
Department of Library Public Services
23 years of service

Roxanne Spencer
Associate Professor
Coordinator of Beulah Winchel Education Library
Department of Library Public Services
20 years of service

Katherine Pennavaria
Professor
Coordinator of Visual and Performing Arts Library
Department of Library Public Services
20 years of service

Lesley Montgomery
Senior Catalog Assistant
Department of Library Technical Services
20 years of service

Margie Helm Award

Faculty Recipients

Andrew McDermott
Hannah Nafziger
Matthew Brewer
Nick McDermott

PreParing For & RECOgnizing aCHIEVEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS