THE LIBRARIES ARE HERE FOR YOU

Library staff, student employees, and Bucky worked throughout the summer to help keep the campus community connected to the Libraries.

On the cover: Ali Manzoor, student library employee, works in College Library.

#MaskUpUW

Nguvu pamoja!
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The Kohler Art Library celebrates 50 years! See pg. 14

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries are dedicated to the principles and practices of social justice, diversity, and equality among our staff, collections, and services. As part of the efforts to further and enable the opportunities for education, benefit the good of the public, and inform citizens, the Libraries commit ourselves to doing our part to end the many forms of discrimination that plague our society.
As we look forward to the last of 2020, the transformative journey we embarked upon in March continues. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries rose to the challenge presented by COVID-19 over the past eight months, meeting the demands of a new instructional landscape and ensuring the campus community could access vital research resources.

When we initially closed physical spaces and moved to a remote environment, we leaned on our already robust digital and virtual resources. Our effort to ramp up online services began immediately. In a matter of days, the Libraries broadened our Ask a Librarian service, increased materials scanning, partnered with campus technology leaders to expand laptop lending, and provided support to faculty in transitioning courses online. Simultaneously, we developed a framework for our return to in-person access. In reality, the Libraries never truly “closed.” We adapted — quickly.

Through the spring and summer — and under rapidly changing scenarios — the Libraries were leaders in campus reopening efforts. The incredible dedication of library staff allowed us to provide safe contact with materials and spaces for our users, and prepared us for what has become a fall semester unlike any other.

While our attention was understandably on the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, it wasn’t our only focus. Like others across our nation, Madison and the University face ongoing struggles of inequity and racism and this summer brought social unrest and introspection. Words cannot undo the centuries of trauma, hurt, and damage inflicted on the Black and Brown people in our country. What we say makes a difference — words have power. But action creates change. The Libraries continue to engage in critical efforts to address racism and discrimination and embrace the work we know is ahead of us.

As we prepare for another unusual spring semester, I am inspired by those around me. I am proud of the Libraries’ staff. Their innovation, resolve, and leadership exemplify the importance and value of libraries — more than ever. For that, I am grateful.

Be well, and On, Wisconsin!

Lisa R. Carter
Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian
Libraries Meeting the Need

How the Libraries’ Expertise and Leadership Helped Navigate COVID-19’s Impact on Campus Research Operations

BY NATASHA VEESE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, UW–MADISON LIBRARIES

Libraries are well acquainted with preserving, documenting, and sometimes even making history. As the COVID-19 pandemic halts everyday life, libraries find themselves in a unique place in a historic moment. In these extraordinary months, the Libraries have embraced a more visible role.

In March, as the impact of COVID-19 expanded, one after another, universities made the unprecedented decision to transition online. As UW–Madison immediately began navigating wide-spread closures, campus partners pulled together to ensure instruction continuity in the face of momentous odds.

Library staff were challenged to continue and broaden services — quickly, establishing a virtual “open” status. While remote access to campus libraries wasn’t new, the situation’s scale and magnitude were unprecedented.

Change is hard in the best of circumstances. But abrupt change? It is stressful and requires significant strength and collaboration. It is also an excellent opportunity to innovate, and that is precisely how the UW–Madison Libraries approached re-tooling their services for the pandemic.

With the health and well-being of staff and patrons at the forefront of our minds, detailing the last several months’ immense work would require multiple magazines. Here, the Libraries share a peek into our efforts to support our campus community, where we led the way, and how we continue to navigate this extraordinary situation.
Preparing Staff and Pivoting to Remote Instruction

- At our workstations, we rarely think about who is “behind the curtain” — until something goes awry. The emergence of COVID-19 and the rapid move to remote work created unique complications at the Libraries. But the Library Technology Group (LTG) Help Desk didn’t flinch — instead, they leaned in, taking their best day-to-day practices and making adjustments to meet new challenges. Many library employees who didn’t have laptops were given them by the Help Desk to begin remote work.

- The Libraries’ Teaching & Learning Programs Staff have been proactively preparing for the growth of online instruction at UW via fully online certificates and undergraduate and graduate degree programs for the past two years. These proactive efforts prepared library staff members to join the campus COVID-19 instructional continuity efforts. They were called upon as the campus moved thousands of courses online in just twelve days.

Providing Support—at a Distance—for the Campus Community

- With all campus library spaces initially closed, staff continued to provide laptop and materials pickups to faculty and students in order to ensure they could continue their work.

- Ask a Librarian chat and text service increased its hours and staffing levels. Anticipating an uptick in engagements, the UW–Madison Libraries worked tirelessly throughout spring break to broaden online reference professionals’ availability to monitor our chat service. Now multiple librarians are available seven days a week.

- The COVID-19 crisis put the physical collections of many research libraries, including UW–Madison, temporarily out of reach. On April 1, additional digital copies of items in our collection became available online, including copyright-protected materials, to UW–Madison students, faculty, and staff members. This Emergency Temporary Access Service was open to all HathiTrust members.

- The requesting process of physical books came to a halt in early March as health and safety considerations became paramount. Books could no longer be shared, yet remained essential for instruction. Overnight, the UW–Madison Libraries’ Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing unit’s behind-the-scenes services were thrust into the foreground, filling digital article and book chapter requests from patrons and other libraries.

- The staff at DesignLab were committed to providing expert advice despite not being physically open. Having already explored online video instruction, staff were able to handle the rest of their on-demand instruction remotely by the time students “returned” virtually to campus after spring break.
# COVID-19 AND THE LIBRARIES

## Visits to Libraries’ COVID-19 Pages
- **622** Virtual instructional lessons taught
- **46,974** Visits to Library by Appointment pages
- **1,526** Laptops loaned from library locations

## Study Space Appointments
- **1,982** Print/Scan Appointments
- **874** Collection Access Appointments
- **2,108** Computer Lab Appointments
- **152** Reading Room Appointments

## Study Space Appointments
- **13,689** Pick Up Appointments

## Chats
- **8,397**

## Emails
- **2,860**

## Virtual Consultations
- **1,148**

## Total Interlibrary Loan Requests
- **55,320**

## Additional Electronic Titles Accessible
- **355,676** Publications accessible to UW System faculty, staff & students
- **101,272** Additional electronic titles accessible

## Holdings Accessible via HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access
- **42%**

## Pages Scanned
- **342,105**

## Requests Filled, Received from Other Institutions’ Collections
- **22,574**

## Requests Filled for Other Universities from UW Collections
- **28,232**

*All data is from March—October, with exception of emails and virtual consultations, which are March—August.*
Reopening — Leading a Unique Process

- With health and safety as a priority but anticipating a growing need for research access to collections, the Libraries launched the Pickup by Appointment Service in June. Working in coordination with the campus, and after months of planning, Memorial Library offered a low-contact, health-conscious method of accessing some of our collections.

- Continuing to support the campus’ effort to reboot research, the Libraries expanded onsite access through our Library by Appointment service over the summer, allowing faculty and students the chance to review some of our physical materials.

- As Badgers started a fall semester like no other, the Library by Appointment system continued to provide access to onsite services, collections, and study spaces while making health a priority. More than ever, we emphasized access to librarians’ robust support and expertise via chat, email, text, and video appointment.

- Even while planning for in-person activities kept staff across campus busy through the summer, preparations for managing a pivot back to remote instruction, if necessary, were still in the works. Sure enough, a few days into the semester the campus moved to restrict in-person activities temporarily. This rapid shift was something the Libraries could now handle with aplomb. Libraries reverted to operations similar to their remote model.

The Libraries are Always Here for You

The UW–Madison Libraries staff got creative with video sharing and showing how the Libraries are ALWAYS here for you.
to the summer, continuing pickup by appointment and onsite access to graduate students and faculty. After campus lifted restrictions, the Libraries were again able to shift back to the more expanded Library by Appointment offerings for all of campus.

Sharing Expertise

- The launch of the free website and mobile app, COVID-19 Wisconsin Connect (CWC), highlighted the collaborative nature of the services offered by the UW–Madison Libraries. Peggy Smith, Reference and Data Librarian in the Business Learning Commons, lent her expertise in research and data analysis to the project, led by the Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies (CHESS).

- Open Educational Resources (OER) continued to support the campus community’s access to knowledge by providing courses, materials, modules, streaming videos, tests, software, and other tools. Kristin Lansdown, an Open Educational Resources Librarian, detailed how her work and that of her colleagues helped the Libraries’ efforts to support instructional continuity.

Capturing This Moment

The global impact of COVID-19 has been profound. While it’s difficult to focus too far into the future, it’s essential to capture our experience right now so others may learn and understand what occurred. Recognizing this, the University Archives launched the Documenting COVID-19 Project to hear from the University of Wisconsin–Madison community about their experiences during this pandemic. The Archives created a webpage with essential information about the Documenting COVID-19 Project, including a link to the submission form. The team is looking to collect content that documents life through journal and diary entries, emails, photographs, videos, voice memos and audio recordings, digital art, etc. Whether it’s detailing the shift to remote instruction and studying and working from home, working at on-campus and off-campus jobs, sharing the impact of closing residence halls and other campus services, or sharing ways friends and families are staying in touch during this period of physical distancing and self-quarantine, every story is important. The Archives team encourages you to document your own experiences and reflect on how you are living this extraordinary moment.
Recent months have shown a spotlight on the trauma, hurt, and damage inflicted on the Black and Brown people in our country for centuries. Cities across the country have experienced turmoil and unrest. While words cannot undo the pain, now more than ever, we must take action to create change. Breaking the systemic, structural racism in this country requires White people to commit to and do the work.

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries stands in solidarity with our BIPOC students, staff, faculty, colleagues, and community members. We unequivocally reject the racism, bias, and hatred that has permeated our society.

We know addressing inequities in our organization, and our profession, requires more than words. To effect change, we must start with personal work and the willingness of those of us in positions of privilege to hold ourselves and each other accountable. Educate ourselves. Use our voices to make a tangible difference. It is incumbent upon those of us with privilege to not require additional emotional labor or cause more trauma by expecting those suffering under systemic racism to do the work we need to do.

The Libraries take seriously the work that must be done and are engaged in multiple efforts across campus. There is a deep desire to do work that creates meaningful change.
The UW–Madison Libraries are committed to creating and achieving work that advances our diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice values.

Our colleagues at the Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement continue to provide information and platforms to engage and learn. We utilized these resources as our own Libraries’ Equity and Diversity Committee developed a diversity strategic plan and supported a cultural cataloging group.

During the periods of unrest, we provided resources complementary to those from campus, such as a list from our Social Work Library of anti-racism websites. Additionally, during this time of limited resources, we reinforce our commitment to the Association of College & Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Diversity Alliance by ensuring our diversity resident librarian program remains a priority.

Change will not be easy and requires continual reflection on personal and organizational shortcomings, biases, and assumptions. It will be uncomfortable. However, the time to address structural inequities is long overdue and we must commit to meaningful action now. The UW–Madison Libraries are committed to doing the work that advances our diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice values.

These times may be unsettling. What can we do? We can do the work.

Our Shared Future Initiative

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries had the honor of participating in several learning opportunities through the campus Our Shared Future initiative. Along with hosting the Our Shared Future marker, collaborating on several presentations that provided significant learning opportunities about Native Nations culture, and the creation of various exhibits, the Libraries embraced making an impact through the initiative. Through the partnerships related to Our Shared Future, the Libraries received the suggestion of creating a new courtesy borrowing card, specifically for Wisconsin’s Native Nations. With guidance from partners in the Ho-Chunk community, the UW–Madison Libraries recently expanded community borrowing card options with the introduction of the Native Nations Courtesy Card.

For more information on the Our Shared Future initiative, visit: Oursharedfuture.wisc.edu
This year, the Libraries had the honor to announce that the Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement (DDEEA) awarded Kristin Lansdown, Open Educational Resources Librarian, a $5,000 grant for a UW Student Voices Reader Open Publishing project. The project will create an anthology of student-written essays focused on their experiences at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and how their marginalized identities inform them.

“I’ve always been interested in connecting student success, retention, and graduation, particularly for students of color at PWIs, to librarianship,” Lansdown says. “For me, librarianship doesn’t exist in a vacuum apart from the work that student affairs professionals do in support of college student development. With the incident that happened last year with the UW Homecoming video and subsequent formation of the Student Inclusion Coalition, I wanted to take that opportunity to amplify the voices of students of color. Through the publishing of a reader that can be used in campus courses, workshops, or professional development settings, people can truly grasp the realities of their peers’ experiences.”

Marginalized students’ voices are often silenced, and their experiences are pushed aside and minimized. Lansdown says she hopes the project will amplify work to create a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment.

An Open Pedagogical framework informs this project. Robin DeRosa and Rajiv Jhangiani (2017) write that “‘Open Pedagogy,’ as we engage with it, is a site of praxis, a place where theories about learning, teaching, technology, and social justice enter into a conversation with each other and advise the development of educational practices and structures.”

The uncertainty of the fall semester created new challenges. Lansdown had conversations with the Writing Center about providing narrative storytelling workshops for student writers.
Before COVID-19, she also considered racial healing activities with a trained facilitator.

“Another complication that may arise from this project is the possibility of backlash, race-based and gender harassment which librarians of color face when doing diversity work,” she notes.

However, Lansdown is looking forward to the possibilities this project brings to so many. Some of the project outcomes include:

- **Seeking to replace the** traditional textbook in the classroom, providing a freely available resource that can interrupt the current high-cost of textbooks. Many textbooks, written in large part by White authors and editors, fail to include diverse images, examples, and other representations that reflect marginalized students’ lives. This reader does the opposite.

- **Encouraging students from** marginalized backgrounds to participate in a peer-review process that mirrors that of traditional scholarly publishing. For students who may be considering masters level or doctoral programs, this is a safe space to navigate the publishing process. It also allows students to explore new avenues for scholarship and challenges the societal notion of scholarly work.

- **Providing insight into** best practices for narrative writing and storytelling techniques through a targeted Writing Center workshop can empower students to tell their truths and trust their voice.

- **Through writing, students** can experience narrative healing. Additionally, there is an optional Racial Healing Circle for participants to help address racism’s pain and trauma on campus.

The project aligns with the UW-Madison Libraries’ Strategic Direction of “Engage in Educational Innovation,” specifically around developing affordable instructional content. The Libraries look forward to the exceptional work Lansdown will accomplish with this grant. She hopes these stories can help build a more inclusive and welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff.
Celebrating 50 Years

Kohler Art Library
1970-2020

Empowering the community through scholastic endeavor within the arts.

art50.library.wisc.edu
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Celebrating the Kohler Art Library: Early Days to 50th Anniversary

BY LYN KORENIC, DIRECTOR, KOHLER ART LIBRARY

The Kohler Art Library has evolved into a large, specialized library with a robust capacity to support the teaching and research needs of faculty and students, both undergraduate and graduate, in the departments of Art, Art History, and Design Studies; the distinctive collections of the Chazen Museum of Art; and a broad range of art-related pursuits on campus and throughout the state. This brief history recognizes key events and a few of the staff associated with this campus jewel.

Sharing space with the Elvehjem Art Center and Department of Art History, the Kohler Art Library opened in September 1970 in the Conrad A. Elvehjem Building, designed by Chicago architect Harry Weese. This grouping was the dream of Art History Professor James Watrous, who recognized its potential for scholarly and creative collaboration. Serving on the fundraising committee with Watrous, Herbert V. Kohler, Sr., donated money from the Kohler Foundation and Kohler Company for the library.

In 1966, music Librarian William C. Bunce was tasked with building the art library collection by University Librarian Louis Kaplan. The initial Kohler Art Library collection of 47,000 volumes was composed of books moved from Memorial Library (classified in the Library of Congress N class and Cutter W class). Also included were books from Professor Oskar Hagen’s library and the Department of Art History, established in 1925. By the time Bunce retired in 1999, he had built one of the largest public, academic art libraries in the country, numbering 140,000 volumes.

Along with Director Bill Bunce, the original staff included Art Reference Librarian Louise Henning, Library Assistant Barbara Unertl (now Erdman, 1970–1973), and Secretary Paula Tannenbaum. Staff and users enjoyed an elegant library of oak-paneled shelving, wool carpet, a built-in circulation desk, and a library card catalog that served as the focal point under the coffered ceiling. Erdman notes: “Bill Bunce was meticulous about the appearance of the library. He chose colors, fabrics, and furniture with special oak card catalogs designed with slanting tops so materials could not be set on the top to clutter the clean look of the library’s design. Each morning before opening, the staff placed the

ABOVE: Director William Bunce, Art Reference Librarian Louise Henning, and staff Mary Byrne; OPPOSITE: Kohler Art Library 50th anniversary commemorative poster design by Art 346 student Tiffany Laxton.
furniture in the designated place, and we measured with rulers to be sure the spacing was exact.”


Limited budgets, coupled with brisk departmental and museum growth, led Bunce to seek funding from the Brittingham Foundation (1979–1982) and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation (1966–1981). With in-depth bibliographic knowledge, he enhanced the collection with out-of-print/rare books, reprints, microforms, catalogs of major art and architecture libraries, illuminated manuscript facsimiles, and exhibition catalogs. The library also received vital collection support from the Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries.

Bunce fostered cordial relationships with donors, including Beth Kubly and her father. She relates an encounter that led in 1997 to the Vincent F. Kubly Memorial Fund that honors her brother with its ongoing collection support:

“When the Kohler Art Library opened, Professor Harold Kubly appeared in the office of the Director, Bill Bunce, and asked: ‘Let me know if there is any way I can help you.’ Although Kubly was on the School of Commerce faculty, he was very interested in the arts. The two men became great friends, and that friendship grew to include the extended Kubly family.”

Additional donors bestowed significant largesse to support distinctive collections: the Leonora G. Bernstein Artists’ Book Endowment Fund (2001), the Oscar N. and Ethel K. Allen Memorial Endowment Fund for the Kohler Art Library (2007), the Steven N. Orso Fund for the Kohler Art Library (2019), and the Nene Humphrey Women in Art Fund (2019), which also supports research and programming for women artists. With this semicentennial milestone, it is hoped that others will be inspired to invest in Kohler’s future.

The collection has notable depth in the areas of 19th–20th century German and Austrian art, Medieval art and architecture, illuminated manuscript facsimiles, African art, outsider art, artists’ sketchbook facsimiles, Frank Lloyd Wright, decorative arts, graphic arts, and artists’ books; as well as excellent holdings on Chinese and Japanese art. Significant gifts-in-kind from Arthur J. Frank, Jules Prown, Frank Horlbeck, Barbara Kaerwer, Richard Ellsworth Brock, Richard Askey, D. Frederick Baker, Simon and Rosemary Chen, Tom Gombar, and Henry Drewal have enriched the library.
FROM TOP RIGHT: Art graduate student, Maeve Leslie, looks at hand papermaking portfolios: "It's a wonderful opportunity to have so many different papers and techniques in front of you at once;" Yarn installation woven into wire door created by Luisa Fernanda Garcia-Gomez (MFA, Design Studies Department); Students in Jonathan Senchyne’s LIS 350 (History and Future of the Book) class explore artists’ books in the library’s new teaching space, room 110; Early photo of Kohler Art Library periodicals reading area; Lyn Korenic with artists’ books and other special collections; Christo and Jeanne-Claude: 75. Köln. Germany: Taschen, 2010. AP 399/410. Signed by Christo. This large and weighty tome is a gift of Thomas H. Garver in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Kohler Art Library.
Recurrent space problems were mitigated by the installation of compact shelving in 1980, 1991, and 2005. A playful curiosity to users, movable shelving was crucial, noted Bunce, to address books piling up on tables with “increasing damage to tempers and tomes.” In 2018, 30,000 volumes were transferred to Verona Shelving Facility, providing space for the current 175,000 volumes onsite.

As Director since 1999, I have focused on access and preservation, facility upgrades, and collection promotion through eye-popping exhibits. I have diversified collections with e-publications and art by underrepresented groups and supported programmatic growth in areas such as Islamic Art and Architecture. In 2018, Design Studies (Textiles/Fashion and Interior Architecture) joined our liaison profile and prompted “Reimagining the Kohler Art Library,” a project of visionary architectural renderings by Roberto Rengel’s design students.

Linda Duychak (2002–2016) filled the long-vacant position of Art Reference and Instruction Librarian. She began the library’s website, created UW Digital Collections’ renowned Digital Library for Decorative Arts funded by the Chipstone Foundation, and bolstered course-related instruction, leading to a dedicated teaching space in 2016 where students enjoy hands-on access to materials. Art Reference and Instruction Librarian, Anna Simon, designs tailored instruction, manages outreach and social media and engages with Art graduate students in their studios. Other dedicated staff providing vital services include Soren Schoff and Kelly Tourdot.

Since 2006, the Artists’ Book Collection database has enhanced access to that acclaimed collection, Bunce’s greatest legacy. The Bernstein Book Arts Lecture has, since 2015, invited distinguished artists to campus to give a public talk and student workshop. Artists’ books were recently spotlighted in the Chazen exhibition, Speaking of Book Arts: Oral Histories from UW–Madison, which Tracy Honn and I co-curated. That collaboration, which included the Oral History Program, followed Kohler’s alliance with the Chazen and the Art Department to create Niche 11, a nifty museum reading area.

And for the next 50 years? The beloved Kohler Art Library will evolve to remain relevant as it “asks questions and answers them” about how it can continue to best serve the campus and community.

“The Kohler Art Library and the Artists’ Book Collection is a true gem on campus and a national resource for book artists around the country.”

—JIM ESCALANTE, EMERITUS PROFESSOR, ART
How does one distill the essence of an art library into a graphic representation? This was the challenge given to Art 346, a graphic design class taught by Henrique Nardi in 2019. Students were asked to design a 50th-anniversary poster for the Kohler Art Library and select library collections for their inspiration. Using one of the following areas as the departure point for their designs — African art, artists' books, Islamic art, pop-up books, or sketchbook facsimiles — students were asked to visually communicate why an art library is an essential resource for today's student.

To become familiar with the Kohler Art Library and its history, three ART 346 sections visited the library for an information session with me. Students toured the library, learned about the history of the Elvehjem Building and its Brutalist design by architect Harry Weese, and discussed the art library's role on campus, both historically and in the future. Finally, students were introduced to various special collections such as the Artists' Book Collection and a whimsical pop-up book collection, which was gifted to the library.

Over several weeks each student developed dozens of manual concept sketches, distilling these ideas into six digital poster iterations. After several rounds of peer critiques and feedback from Nardi and I, students submitted their final posters. Students embraced this design challenge. They were able to show how the art library continues to inspire its users — and in turn, they inspired me as a librarian.

In January 2020, the Elvehjem Curatorial Lab displayed a selection of posters, and eight were chosen as the official Kohler Art Library 50th anniversary commemorative posters.

If you would like a KAL 50th anniversary commemorative poster, please reach out via library.wisc.edu/art!
BY JOSHUA CALHOUN, PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE UW–MADISON LIBRARIES

I recently watched a YouTube video of a young child sounding out words in a copy of Dr. Seuss’s Hop on Pop. “Ssss-Aaaaa-D. Ss-Aa-D. SAD,” then, turning to the camera with a gasp of excitement, “SAD! The Pop is sad!” And suddenly, her young mind has access to a story about a character’s life and emotions (“Dad is sad.”).

I can relate—both to the character and to the young reader. I’m a dad, and I get sad when I can’t pop into UW–Madison Libraries on a research whim. But like everyone else, I’m learning new modes of literacy amid this global pandemic. We may no longer need to sound out words like “sad,” but how many times have we had to do the technological equivalent in the last few months? “Zzzz-Oooo-Mmmm. Zz-Oo-Mm. Zoom!” And suddenly, we have a Zoom room full of Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries Board Members conducting business as usual.

We’re doing our best to improve our digital literacy in this time of social distancing. We’re Zooming into meetings. We’re regularly updating our website and sharing stories on Facebook and Instagram. We’re supporting the Wisconsin Book Festival in this year of virtual events. We’re pleased to have introduced Kiese Laymon and Nikki Giovanni to nearly 1,000 viewers from all over the globe. Finally, after a lot of collective sounding-out (“Uuuuuu-Toooo-B. YouTube!”), we gained the digital literacy to create a Friends YouTube Channel and to host our very first YouTube Live event, with more to come.

But what about the Friends’ Book Sales? We miss them as much as you do, but access to campus buildings remains restricted to essential personnel for now. That means one of the new challenges we’re facing is how to accept book donations. We know many of you have been binge-watching Marie Kondo, clearing the clutter in your own homes, and setting aside books.
you would like to donate to the Friends. We would love to add you to our growing list of folks waiting to donate books. If you send an inquiry to friends@library.wisc.edu, we promise to keep you updated, and you’ll be the first to know when it is safe for us to help give your books a new home. Although we had to cancel both our spring and fall 2020 book sales, we remain hopeful we will host a Friends Super Sale Book Bash Extravaganza on April 14-17, 2021.

I’m delighted, though completely unsurprised, by the versatility and generosity of UW-Madison Libraries during this unique challenge. As you’re reading in this issue, the Libraries are stepping up in countless ways to provide vital academic services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They led efforts to redesign physically distant workspaces and were early implementers of health and safety procedures, all while helping faculty and students navigate to newly online instruction. They scanned page after page of material pulled from the shelves of the libraries. They answered thousands of questions via chat and email. They checked out books and bagged them for quick pick-up, and provided extended access to databases.

As difficult times continue, the Friends want to recognize the extraordinary efforts being made by Libraries employees.

It’s clear the University will suffer significant funding cuts in the months to come. While experiencing loss of income due to canceled book sales, the Friends expect to respond generously with assistance when requested by the General Library System. Though we can’t offset the impending cuts, we hope to soften the edges. If you’re reading this, you have probably given to the Libraries or the Friends. Your gift is always highly valued and carefully utilized. This may be an occasion when your gift could be especially meaningful, an occasion when your generosity might, to borrow a rhyme from Dr. Suess, bring some much-needed gladness to the sadness.

“We gained the digital literacy to create a Friends YouTube Channel and to host our very first YouTube Live event, with more to come.”
The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries are thrilled to be a part of a statewide, multi-campus team honored with three awards. *The Lands We Share* traveling exhibition, which was part of the Wisconsin Farms Oral History Project, recently won the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Board of Curators 2020 Public Program Award, an award for excellence from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in Tennessee, and the Mason Multi-Media Award through the Oral History Association (OHA).

The awards highlight the impact of the project’s work, which focused on the intersection of farming, land, race, and ethnicity. Organized by the UW–Whitewater Department of History and Associate Professor James Levy, the project set out to bring people from diverse backgrounds together; people often separated despite living and working in the same towns or regions.

Four UW campuses (Whitewater, Oshkosh, Milwaukee, and Madison) collaborated to develop *The Lands We Share*. With the information gathered over countless hours, the team created a traveling exhibit that featured the stories, histories, artifacts, images, and sounds of six culturally and regionally distinct farms. Most of the nine stops on the exhibit’s tour lasted three weeks, and five included a community engagement event with farm-to-table dinners and conversations. Interviews gathered will be archived and made available to the general public. The project’s leaders aimed to connect people across the state by highlighting their relationships with farming and the land throughout history.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the nation’s most prestigious competition for recognizing achievement in state and local history. The team notes it’s an honor to be part of a group that received recognition from WHS and AASLH. An awards reception is usually held for these honors, but due to the impact of COVID-19, in-person receptions are currently on hold.
GO BIG READ
Dave Cullen spent ten years writing and researching Columbine, a book about the school shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado that left fifteen people dead and twenty-four injured. Now he has written Parkland: Birth of a Movement, the story of another shooting, which took the lives of seventeen people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Cullen’s book is the 2020–21 selection for Go Big Read, UW–Madison’s common reading program.

In Parkland, Cullen refuses to name the killer and instead focuses on the response by students. After the shooting, Parkland students organized the largest single-day protest against gun violence in history. March for Our Lives now has hundreds of chapters across the country, all with students leading the charge for change. The organization has been active in encouraging young people to vote and work with elected officials and communities to reduce gun violence.

While the campus usually welcomes authors to UW–Madison for a series of discussions and engagements, COVID-19 altered those plans. Instead, Cullen and one of the students involved in the March for Our Lives, Jaclyn Corin, discussed the book and the March for Our Lives movement in a virtual keynote.

The Go Big Read program is an initiative of the Office of the Chancellor which is implemented with the assistance of the Libraries. It engages members of the campus community and beyond in a shared, academically-focused reading experience.

Circulating Sounds
Libraries, records, and radio shows? Tom Caw and Nate Gibson from the UW–Madison Libraries’ Mills Music Library spiced up WSUM’s airwaves this spring with their new show, Circulating Sounds. A “smorgasbord” of music with a new theme every week, Circulating Sounds delivers samples of the wide array of music held by Mills Music Library.

Both Caw and Gibson are college radio veterans, participating in shows as undergraduates. The idea for a Mills Music Library-focused radio show has been brewing in Caw’s head for years. He and Gibson discussed pitching it as a way to promote the library’s vast collection of music. With more recorded sound than one could listen to in 5,000 lifetimes, they have quite the assortment for the world to hear.

“It’s part of the joy and challenge of doing something like this,” notes Caw, referencing the ability to curate sounds.

This spring, Circulating Sounds became part of the schedule on WSUM 91.7 FM Madison (aka Snake on the Lake), the University’s student-run community radio station.

In March, putting together a show took on a different meaning, as the COVID-19 pandemic turned everyday life upside down. Caw and Gibson now record episodes and submit them to the WSUM Program Director, who adds the station IDs and Public Service Announcements before they hit the air.

Shows have sampled the Wisconsin-based Cuca Records, the Mills Circulating LP collection, UW–Madison faculty recordings from the Mead Witter School of Music, and much more.

Tune in to Circulating Sounds on 91.7 FM from noon – 1 pm every Thursday or stream live at WSUM.org.
The CARES Act

BY FRANCES STEINER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many alumni, donors, and friends have reached out wondering how they can help the UW–Madison Libraries provide the resources that campus requires. Charitable gifts are critical to the Libraries’ mission of supporting excellence in teaching, research, and learning by providing resources, services, and (physically-distanced) spaces that ensure our students’, faculty’s, and staff’s success. For those considering donating to the UW–Madison Libraries in 2020, it is essential to assess recent changes to the philanthropic landscape.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES Act, was signed into law in March 2020. In addition to funding health care changes and providing economic relief for businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic, this legislation also includes several provisions encouraging charitable giving.

- **Are you planning to take the standard deduction?**
  The CARES Act allows non-itemizers to take an “above-the-line” deduction of up to $300 for their philanthropic giving. This means an individual can take the standard deduction and an additional deduction of up to $300. Importantly, this deduction does not apply for gifts made to Donor Advised Funds or supporting organizations, only to public charities like the Wisconsin Foundation & Alumni Association.

- **Are you planning to itemize your taxes?**
  In the past, itemizers could only deduct their charitable giving up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. In 2020, the CARES Act will allow individuals to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. Like the above-the-line deduction for non-itemizers, this modification only pertains to donations to public charities.

- **Are you a senior with an IRA or other qualified retirement plan?**
  The SECURE Act, passed in December 2019, raised the age of Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from an IRA from 70 to 72. The age for making a tax-free transfer from an IRA to a public charity (Qualified Charitable Distributions) remains the same at 70. There are no Required Minimum Distributions in 2020 for IRA account holders, regardless of age, under the CARES Act. It does not prevent individuals from making a qualified charitable distribution to the public charity of their choice, and the limit on these gifts remains up to $100,000.

The UW–Madison Libraries and the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association always recommend consulting with a tax professional or other financial professionals about specific questions and situations. To make a gift to the Libraries, visit library.wisc.edu/giving or contact the Libraries Development Director, Frances Steiner, at Frances.Steiner@supportuw.org, with questions. Donations to the Libraries are made through the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association, the official fundraising and gift-receiving organization for the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In this season of gratitude, the Libraries remain thankful for those who have made gifts and those considering donating. We rely on you to make so much possible.
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