



# LIBRARIES



## **A Critical Partnership: COVID-19 Researchers and Librarians —**

How Libraries provided key support to researchers seeking answers

## **Keeping Up with Friends, Even From Afar —**

The Friends of the Libraries help keep community connections

## **Undergraduate Research Awards —**

Providing valuable support for research excellence





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**Spring 2021**

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*Vice Provost for Libraries  
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## Content Spring 2021



Jeff Miller

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the impact  
of Libraries  
on COVID-19  
research! Pg. 6

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**On the Cover:**  
*Diversity is Our  
Strength* mural by  
Madison Artist, Mike  
Lroy.

For more on the State  
Street Mural project,  
visit [pbswisconsin.org](http://pbswisconsin.org)

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.



# YOU CAN'T STOP A BADGER LIBRARIES EDITION

Reflecting on a year of unique circumstances and looking forward to fall.

Unprecedented. Physical distancing. Masks. Frontline workers. P.P.E. Social Justice. Zoom fatigue. Remote working and learning. Stress.

Many phrases sum up the challenges we've experienced over the last 14+ months. However, I've found strength in words that signify how we leaned in and relied on each other to navigate this unusual period.

Collaboration. Teamwork. Expertise. Ingenuity. Patience. Agility. Technology solutions. Virtual hangouts. Patience. Compassion. Perseverance.

The extraordinary work of each UW–Madison Libraries staff person over the last year is truly remarkable. Through countless hours of planning, reworking, problem-solving, and more planning, the Libraries were able to continue to provide the critical resources students, faculty, researchers, and staff need to pursue their scholarly endeavors. While the Libraries are used to full spaces and high activity throughout the academic year, our reduced onsite capacity gave a different feel to this year.

We found other ways to ensure our users could connect — both onsite and remotely. We expanded our Ask a Librarian online reference service, worked constantly to expand and improve our new Library by Appointment system, and helped campus transition hundreds of courses to remote environments. We dramatically increased the amount of material made available through interlibrary loan. We held outstanding virtual events that drew large audiences from around the world. Throughout, our Libraries showed versatility and dedication.



I couldn't be more thankful to and proud of our staff, students, and the campus community for working together to ensure a successful completion of the 2020–2021 academic year in the face of overwhelming disruption.

We are already deep into fall preparations and looking forward to a dynamic return to campus life. The Libraries are ready to engage. We will continue to ensure our community can enjoy and access our amazing resources, services, and collections in a safe and healthy environment.

Above all, we will be ready to power the exceptional scholarship synonymous with the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

As you read the following pages, I hope you'll enjoy the stories and information that highlight our accomplishments during this time — and how we are looking forward to the 2021–2022 year.

The Libraries have shown: You can't stop a Badger.

On, Wisconsin!

**Lisa R. Carter**  
Vice Provost for Libraries  
and University Librarian

## COVID-19 AND THE LIBRARIES

BY THE  
NUMBERS



**1,397**

Virtual  
instructional  
lessons taught



**183,521**

Views of Library  
by Appointment  
pages



**3,768**

Laptops loaned from  
library locations

**63,461**  
VIEWS OF LIBRARIES'  
COVID-19 PAGES



**14,368** Chats



**10,814** Emails



**1,461** Virtual  
consultations

**42%**  
Holdings  
accessible  
via HathiTrust  
Emergency  
Temporary  
Access

**355,676**

Publications accessible to UW  
System faculty, staff & students

**101,272**

Additional electronic  
titles accessible

**113,305**  
TOTAL INTERLIBRARY  
LOAN REQUESTS

**584,955**

pages scanned

+

**47,103**

requests filled, received from  
other institutions' collections

+

**55,967**

requests filled for  
other universities from  
UW collections

**61,143** STUDY SPACE  
APPOINTMENTS

**17,645** PICK UP  
APPOINTMENTS



**7,982**

Computer Lab  
Appointments

**388**

Reading Room  
Appointments

**9,892**

Print/Scan  
Appointments

**2,846**

Collection Access  
Appointments

**54,768** TOTAL  
LOANS

**24,358** Staff, **19,661** Graduate, **9,071**  
Undergraduate, **1,126** Community, **515** Affiliate

\*Data represents March 2020–April 2021

# A Critical Partnership:

## How Libraries Played a Key Role in COVID-19 Research & Response

By **Natasha Veaser** *Director of Communications*

As 2019 came to a close, the world was awakening to the troubling presence of COVID-19. By the first months of 2020, the United States felt the pressures of a virus that would soon turn lives upside down.

With healthcare workers scrambling to attend to spiking patient counts, researchers worked frantically behind the scenes trying to learn more. Countless hours were spent gathering every possible bit of literature and research that could lend itself to answers – with doctors often leaning on a quiet yet critical partner: libraries.

“We have never experienced anything like this, with the volume of the pre-prints out there,” says [Nasia Safdar](#), MD, Ph.D., Medical Director of Infection Control at UW Hospital and a leader in UW Health’s response to COVID-19. “The assistance from the libraries in making this a manageable process was essential. We could not have done it without them.”

At UW–Madison’s Ebling Library, librarians frequently worked with Dr. Safdar’s research groups before the COVID-19 pandemic. Once COVID-19 research became the priority, the Libraries quickly answered the demand for research assistance.

“There was so much information coming out from articles. It was like drinking from a fire hose,”



**Dr. Nasia Safdar, MD, Ph.D., Medical Director of Infection Control, UW Hospital, Leader in UW Health’s COVID-19 response**

explains Safdar. “We needed to have a process for a focused review of articles so we could answer clinically relevant questions.”

Librarians conducted systematic reviews and collated literature to give researchers and doctors concrete guidance to move forward. As Dr. Safdar explains, the goal is to disseminate information through traditional means like journals and publications. The preprint process has opened

**Opposite: A UW–Madison student dispenses viral transport media for COVID-19 test kits.**

*“Once COVID-19 research became the priority, the Libraries quickly answered the demand for research assistance.”*



Bryce Richter





**Lesley Christiansen, Health Sciences Librarian — Ebling Library**

up the opportunity to post information that gives a better sense of findings. That information can be passed to health systems to consider data and make adjustments.

The task of gathering supporting information to develop these pieces carries significant weight in providing information that ultimately guides critical decision-making.

"A systematic review comes with tremendous responsibility," says Safdar. "You have to demonstrate that you truly have found everything that is of relevance, and you have evaluated it and left no stone unturned. If we were to do that ourselves, we might do a cursory search. However, there would be a high risk of missing important literature because we do not have the same expertise of librarians in conducting a comprehensive search for information."

So, precisely what roles did librarians take on in research teams needing information on COVID-19? From developing exhaustive search strategies to obtaining articles through library subscriptions and Interlibrary Loan (ILL), librarians



**Lia Vellardita, Health Sciences Librarian — Ebling Library**

assisted researchers with many aspects of the systematic review process.

"Clinically, the one question that came up was how often do you find influenza with COVID. That was immediately clinically relevant because if it was happening commonly, then we needed to treat people with influenza before we knew they had it. If it was rare, then we did not need to."

Clinical Librarian Leslie Christensen, MA, worked closely with Jackson Musuuza, MPH, MS, Ph.D., a member of Dr. Safdar's team, on upper airway anti-sepsis research in conjunction with COVID-19 as well as the prevalence and outcomes of co-infection and superinfection with SARS-CoV-2 and other pathogens.

"We found that the prevalence of influenza was very low in patients with COVID," says Safdar. "What that did was reassure our institution and others that you did not have to treat for influenza necessarily."

This practical, actionable advice that could be provided in a relatively rapid manner was critical



**Chris Hooper-Lane, MA, AHIP Director, Distinguished Academic Librarian — Ebling Library**

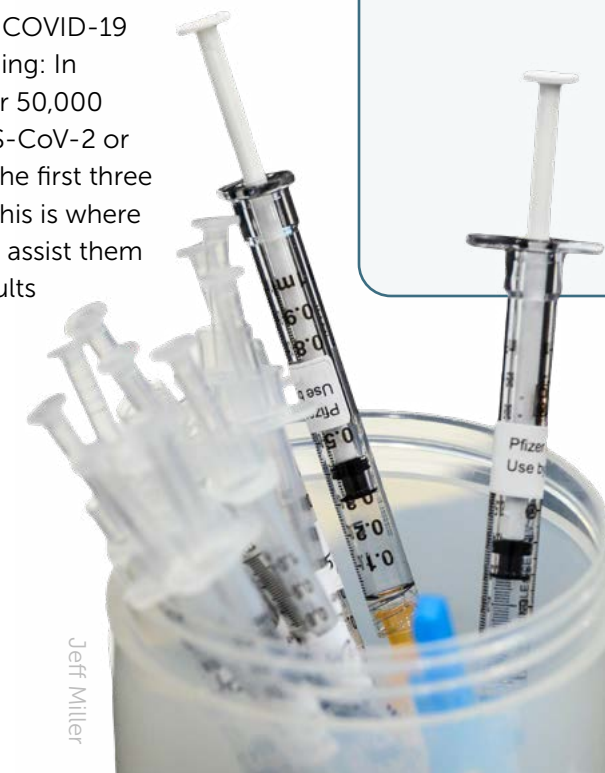
as doctors continued to navigate treating COVID-19 patients.

"Researchers and clinicians are often required to track down and manage the current research on any health topic," says Christensen. "This has been particularly challenging with COVID-19. The pace and growth of COVID-19 publications are astounding: In PubMed, there were over 50,000 articles referencing SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 published in the first three months of 2021 alone. This is where our search expertise can assist them in retrieving relevant results for their research."

Health Sciences Librarian Lia Vellardita, MA, provided guidance for a graduate student in Dr. Safdar's lab on the impact of COVID-19 on publications and grant submissions. She also

### Additional COVID-19 work the UW–Madison Libraries have assisted with include:

- Kinesiology: Caregiver perspective/ burden/experiences of elderly during COVID-19
- Medicine: COVID-19 and NIOSH/CDC hierarchy of control
- Nursing: Increasing adherence to 2nd dose of COVID19 vaccine
- Pediatrics: Adolescent care with COVID-19 patient
- Pediatrics: Neurological complications of COVID-19
- Pharmacy: Adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines
- Physical Therapy: COVID-19 and dementia in nursing homes
- School of Medicine and Public Health: Ebola/COVID-19/Pandemic of 1918
- School of Medicine and Public Health: Anatomical dissection during COVID-19



**Left: A container of syringes with pre-measured shot doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.**





Jeff Miller

**Above: Researchers process small vials of saliva collected from volunteers as part of a trial of the COVID-19 saliva test on August 4th, 2020.**

worked with Ashley Kates, Ph.D., Post-Doc, on research around how long SARS-CoV-2 remains detectable in respiratory samples via RT-PCR following COVID-19 symptom onset.

"It is always a pleasure working with Dr. Safdar and her research team," says Vellardita. "Working alongside top researchers, who understand that library expertise is essential in the development, distribution, and awareness of research findings makes the librarian-researcher collaboration very productive. It is wonderful to see a continuing connection between our library and Dr. Safdar's team."

Ebling Library Director Christopher Hooper-Lane, MA, AHIP, who has assisted Dr. Safdar on a recent Infectious Diseases Society of America guideline and co-authored a paper with Dr. Safdar on fomites in the clinic, says the expertise the Libraries bring in sifting through countless resources is nothing new. However, the critical nature of research has experienced a more prevalent spotlight in recent months.

"From bench to bedside, a phrase often heard in the health community, describes the flow of information from the results in the laboratory to patient care," says Hooper-Lane. "Our librarians

### Work the UW–Madison Libraries have assisted with before COVID-19 with Dr. Safdar's Group:

- Haun N, **Hooper-Lane C**, Safdar N. Healthcare Personnel Attire and Devices as Fomites: A Systematic Review. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2016 Nov;37(11):1367-1373
- Pop-Vicas A, **Johnson S**, Safdar N. Cefazolin as surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis in hysterectomy: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2019 Feb;40(2):142-149.
- Musuuza JS, Barker A, Ngam C, **Vellardita L**, Safdar N. Assessment of Fidelity in Interventions to Improve Hand Hygiene of Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2016 May;37(5):567-75.
- Current development of a new Infectious Diseases Society of America Guideline: IV catheter-related infections.

are involved all along that path, and the expertise we bring is essential during times like these when the immediate need for the best evidence is critical for our care of our community."

Safdar says the ability to lean on librarians who have the suitable backgrounds and expertise to collaborate on clinical questions and develop the best method for retrieving literature is not just about saving precious time. It is also about avoiding costly errors.

"Sometimes we make a mistake early on trying to do everything ourselves," says Safdar. "We want to avoid a scenario where we did not conduct the most comprehensive search possible."

As the pandemic shifts, more answers are found, and even more questions surface; researchers and doctors note the importance of having structures in place to efficiently assist

***"It is important to connect with the right expertise and background in the library early on, we truly cannot take for granted the critical support the libraries provide."***

with conducting comprehensive searches to the countless inquiries developed. Libraries will continue to serve as an essential partner to those looking for answers on healthcare's front lines.

"It is important to connect with the right expertise and background in the library early on," says Safdar. "We truly cannot take for granted the critical support the libraries provide."

**Below: A UW–Madison student assembles COVID-19 viral testing kits with a swab and viral transport media into a specimen bag.**



Byce Richter



# Student Historians In Residence: A Closer Look

By Jessica Sayer

Administrative Assistant to the Vice Provost



**Each year, the University Archives Student Historians take on amazing research projects, and this year is no different!**

**Sophia Abrams (top left)**, a junior studying Journalism and [Afro-American Studies](#), settled on an [oral history project about Black artists' experiences on campus](#). Inspired by the [State Street murals](#), she hopes to investigate the intersection of Blackness and art.

**T.J. Braxton (bottom left)**, a Political Science and Afro-American Studies major, started researching the UW–Madison Department of Afro-American Studies and became intrigued by references to The Madison Plan and Plan 2008, which led him to [his ultimate topic](#), UW–Madison's three diversity initiatives: The Madison Plan, Plan 2008, and the R.E.E.L. Model for Diversity & Inclusion.

Since 2018, four undergraduate students have had the opportunity to participate in the [Student Historian in Residence program](#). Focused on uncovering stories from traditionally marginalized communities on campus, this program simultaneously helps Archives expand their collections to include underrepresented histories while also giving undergraduate students valuable experience conducting original archival research.



*Diversity is Our Strength mural by Madison Artist, Mike Lroy. For more on the State Street Mural project, visit [pbswisconsin.org](https://pbswisconsin.org)*

Despite the extraordinary circumstances faced this year, the Archives staff not only committed to continuing this project but expanded it by hiring two students instead of one. This was made possible in part by funding from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty through a [Kemper K. Knapp grant](#). Both projects will make meaningful contributions to the Archives' mission of documenting and understanding the history of the UW–Madison community. Oral history is an essential complement to traditional archival research, and Sophia's topic will help fill a gap in stories from a historically underrepresented group on campus. T.J. has recognized that recent history is as influential and significant to our campus community as stories from fifty or a hundred years ago.

While each student's experience in the program is unique, they are encouraged to brainstorm and research topics of interest to them as long as it gives a voice to groups whose stories are underrepresented. Final projects have taken various forms, including a teaching kit, an oral history, and traditional research papers. As the

program continues to evolve, Archives staff have built in more support for outreach opportunities, including peer-to-peer outreach to involve more undergraduates in archives and archival research.

As student historians, the participants gain important research skills and learn how to analyze and understand primary sources. They come away from the program equipped with professional skills they will use long after leaving UW–Madison.

T.J. and Sophia had the opportunity to present and reflect on their work for the year at a [virtual event on April 19, 2021](#). They both summarized the process and their findings thus far and expressed their hopes for how the histories they've uncovered will be helpful in the future.

As a guest speaker, [UW–Madison Public History Project](#) Director Kacie Lucchini Butcher said at the event, Sophia and T.J. demonstrated “why it's so powerful for students to research the history of this institution. And who better to research it than students who are here now, who are having similar experiences, and who are passionate about it.”

***Both projects will make meaningful contributions to the Archives' mission of documenting and understanding the history of the UW–Madison community.***

This is an incredibly valuable program, both for the opportunities it affords our undergraduate students and for the unique perspectives, energy, and creativity the students bring to their projects that will be preserved for access by future generations. It's wonderful to see how this important program has grown over the past three years, and we look forward to seeing what our student historians do next!



# Undergraduate Research Award—*Aaron Kinard*

By **Pamela O'Donnell** *Communications Librarian, College Library*

On Friday, April 23, 2021, the Undergraduate Research Award team hosted its second [virtual reception and award ceremony](#). Despite the uncertainty wrought by the pandemic, the committee received sixteen strong applications in 2020. After much deliberation, the committee, made up of [Raina Bloom](#) (chair), [Kelli Hughes](#), [Jessica Newman](#), and [Carly Sentieri](#) (along with assistance from UW Archives staff [Cat Phan](#) and [Katie Nash](#) and [Cynthia Bachhuber](#) from the Wisconsin Historical Society), selected the excellent work of Aaron Kinard to receive this year's award.

Undergraduate students who intend to make creative and intensive use of library resources as part of a semester or year-long research project are encouraged to apply for this research award. The selected student receives \$2,000 upon completion of the award's requirements, which includes structured library support and a final presentation to library staff.

At the outset, Aaron's study, *Examining Blackness and Rurality: Understanding Racialized Experiences in Predominantly White, Rural Schools*, sought to capture the experiences of Black students navigating rural, predominantly white institutions. He reported, "Through semi-structured interviews, I hoped to explore how the former students described the racial climate of their former high schools, how racialized experiences in and outside of school impacted their sense of belonging at their former school,

and how their experiences shaped their perceptions of Blackness." The historical analysis for this study examined Wisconsin from the antebellum period to the 1960s. Then participants from 18 to 24 years of age (thus, likely attending high school between 2012-2020) provided qualitative data. For the study, Aaron followed the definition of rural that the WiRSA (Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance) follows, which is based upon a map of rural Wisconsin completed by the [Applied Population Lab](#) at UW–Madison.

As the study continued, its focus evolved. According to Raina Bloom, "Working with Aaron this year has been an absolute pleasure. Due to external pressures, the pandemic being one of them, Aaron's project has evolved considerably since he submitted his application." The team was impressed with how Aaron rethought and revised his project in response to these external pressures. Bloom goes on, "It is a sign of real maturity and skill in a scholar to be flexible, even when it means having to change your plans and approach to a project. Aaron has demonstrated that level of intellectual honesty and sophistication in his meetings with our team, time and time again."

When sharing his presentation on his research with Libraries staff, Aaron noted his desire to continue his current research focus, even as he prepares for a new chapter in his academic journey. "The Midwest doesn't necessarily get

## Aaron's research project abstract:

For years, educational researchers have long overlooked rural schools even though one-third of America's public schools are defined as rural, and those rural schools serve approximately one-fifth of America's students. In discussions of rurality, many associate rural with "white" despite the reality that racial and ethnic diversity has been increasing across rural America. The common association between rurality and whiteness has created a scenario in which non-white individuals are automatically "othered." It has created and perpetuated the idea that race does not matter in rural areas. Yet, as the racial and ethnic demographics continue to increase, it is important to think about how the construction of whiteness and race shapes the lives and educational experiences of students of color in rural, predominantly white schools. Specifically, it is important to think about how whiteness functions and is shaped within rural schools and communities in contrast to Blackness. This impacts Black students navigating rural, predominantly white schools in states with high white populations, such as in the Midwest. We review the current literature on this topic by analyzing key themes:

- African Americans in predominantly white schools
- African Americans in rural schools
- African Americans in the Midwest
- Whiteness, rurality, and the politics of the Midwest
- White supremacy, racism, and microaggressions

Lastly, we finish by summarizing future areas of inquiry intended to expand scholarship analyzing Black experiences in predominantly rural schools.



**Aaron Kinard,**  
**Undergraduate**  
**Research Award**  
**Winner**

enough attention when looking at issues of race. The north doesn't either. We chalk it up to being only a southern issue," Aaron noted in his presentation. "I want to continue looking at the Midwest." He will have the opportunity to continue his research while pursuing a PhD in sociology at the University of Virginia next year.

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars program funded Aaron's research study. He was mentored by Dr. Linn Posey-Maddox and Dr. Walter Stern of the [Department of Educational Policy Studies](#) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In addition to meeting with members of the selection committee for regular check-ins, Aaron consulted several UW librarians and archivists, including [Tom Durkin](#) (Social Science), and [Troy Reeves](#) (Oral History). Aaron gave a heartfelt thanks to all his mentors and the Undergraduate Research Award Team, who, as he notes, "were so incredibly supportive of my research throughout this challenging year. I cannot thank you enough."

**For more information on the Undergraduate Research Award, visit the [website](#).**



# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS *Even from afar*

## A New Look For Friends Events

During this unusual year, the Friends provided four entirely virtual events, attracting over 1,250 viewers live and asynchronously via recordings. In Friends' events this spring, scholars spoke about their work in Special Collections and University Archives, illuminating urgent, ongoing issues related to social justice and racial inequities. The Friends worked closely with campus partners, including the UW–Madison Public History Project and the UW Division of Diversity, Equity & Educational Achievement, to host and promote these events to a wide viewership. As our country continues to reckon with racial inequities, it is critical to understand the role of higher education in perpetuating barriers for people of color and other historically marginalized communities. Catch these discussions on our [YouTube channel](#), or [read more about them](#).

### "Black Woman Professor – White University" Nellie Y. McKay at UW–Madison

In her biography of UW–Madison professor and scholar, Dr. Nellie Y. McKay, **Dr. Shanna Greene Benjamin (top left)** examined Dr. McKay's strategies for succeeding professionally while navigating the white-dominated academy.

Despite gaining recognition in her academic life, Dr. McKay chose to hide details about her personal life from her colleagues. Dr. Benjamin's research demonstrates that this secrecy was a strategy McKay deemed necessary for her professional success. Dr. Benjamin's book, *Half In Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Nellie Y. McKay* (UNC

Press, April 2021), lays bare the social climate in which Dr. McKay lived, the academic atmosphere in which she worked, and the strategies she employed to succeed in the white academy.

### Digging for Higher Insights: The Campus Color Line

For **Dr. Eddie R. Cole (bottom left)**, the past can contribute to conversations in the present. In his new book, *The Campus Color Line: College Presidents and the Struggle for Black Freedom* (Princeton 2020), Cole maps the role of college presidents in shaping national conversations around racial equity in the mid-century. "As opposed to previous histories that have rightfully focused on the student activists, my book focuses on the messages these students regularly heard from college presidents," Cole explains. This includes messages from UW–Madison administrators.

### Book Sale, Where Art Thou?

For many years, the Friends of the UW–Madison Libraries has sponsored a used book sale twice a year, which draws hundreds of shoppers and redistributes thousands of books. The bustling scene of happy shoppers is one that has been sorely missed these past eighteen months. But with the availability of vaccines and campus leadership looking toward in-person classes in the fall, the Friends are gearing up for a spectacular sale. Tentatively scheduled for **October 20–23** and with additional health precautions in place, plans are being made to expand the sale space within Memorial Library. Though donations were not accepted during much of the pandemic and volunteer sorters were not available, there are thousands of volumes awaiting discovery with more arriving all the time. "Because things shut down just before our spring sale in 2020, we have a tremendous backlog of books," explains Michael Chaim, who chairs the book sale committee. Book lovers beware: you won't be able to resist!



Spotlight on John Neu

Few collections at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries are as beloved and encompassing as The History of Science collection, housed in Special Collections. Its holdings include an assemblage of resources in fields like alchemy, natural history, chemistry, and technology, covering both the internal development of the diverse subjects as well as the wider, cultural contexts in which they existed. For forty years, John Neu served as the History of Science Bibliographer, where his stewardship brought the collection a vitality scholars still enjoy today.

"When you think of early science, you think of the big figures like Newton and Boyle, Lavoisier, Galileo, and Copernicus...if you think at all about early science, they are the people you think of. But, there's a whole galaxy of people under them that were important in the field, because these people — these big names — don't come out of the blue, they interact with a lot of other people. And that's a lot of what Historians of Science study," Neu reflected. Read more about this influential Friend and librarian [here](#).







# HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Frances Steiner *Director of Development*

As described throughout this publication, the UW–Madison Libraries are integral to academic success at UW–Madison. The entire campus community counts on the informational resources, services, and spaces the Libraries provide. A common refrain I hear from Badgers and friends of the University is, “**The Libraries are so important to UW–Madison. I wish I could do more to help!**” Many think the only way to make a gift in support of the Libraries is by writing a check or using their credit card. Most are surprised to learn there are several additional methods facilitated by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association that will allow them to amplify their desired philanthropic impact. Some of these giving vehicles can be found below. By working with the Libraries’ Development Officer, you can learn more about these strategies and what might make sense for you and your family.

- If you are 70½ or older, you can donate simply by **giving directly from your IRA** by instructing your IRA administrator to make a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$100,000 in one year. Since you, as the donor, do not receive the funds at any point in the transfer, the distribution amount is not included in your gross income. If you are 72 or older, a qualified charitable distribution can satisfy a portion or all of your required mandatory distribution.
- **Gifts of appreciated stocks and securities** are often considered a “best value” in charitable giving. There are multiple benefits to making a gift of this type. In addition to a charitable contribution tax deduction, you generally can avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the assets, maximizing your support.
- An easy way to make a profound long-term impact without amending your will or living trust can be to **name the Wisconsin Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement account**. Due to recent changes under 2019’s SECURE Act, most IRA beneficiaries (except spouses) must withdraw

all funds from the account within ten years of the account holder’s death and are required to pay income taxes on any distributions they receive from the account. However, the Wisconsin Foundation, as a 501c3 non-profit organization, can withdraw assets from your retirement account without needing to pay income taxes on the funds.

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. The Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association always recommend consulting with a tax professional or other financial advisors about your financial circumstances. As the Director of Development for the UW–Madison Libraries, I welcome conversations with you about the benefits and logistics of these and other philanthropic strategies and the impact that your giving will have on the Libraries and the UW–Madison campus. You can contact me directly at [Frances.Steiner@supportuw.org](mailto:Frances.Steiner@supportuw.org). The Libraries are incredibly grateful for their support from alumni and friends and what they make possible for the campus community.



## FAST FUN FACTS

WITH THE UW-MADISON LIBRARIES

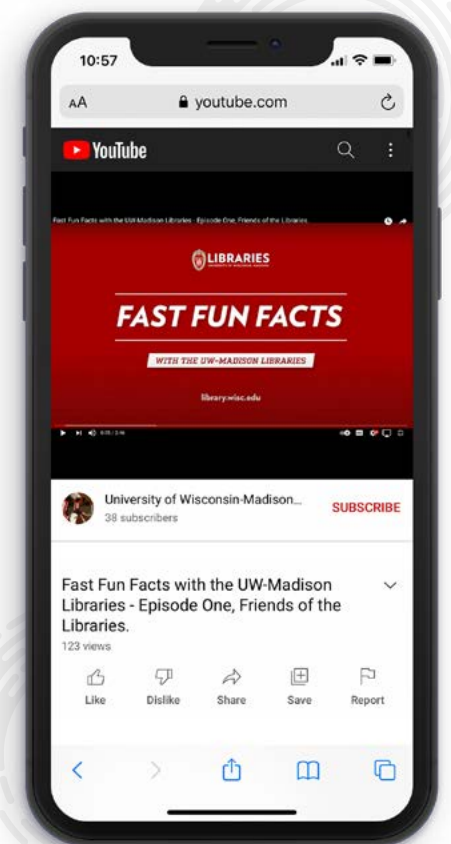


Check out our new video series: *Fast Fun Facts with the UW–Madison Libraries!*

In our first episode, we sit down with Friends Administrator, **Libby Theune**, to give you a glimpse into the Friends of UW–Madison Libraries and all that they do.

Visit [go.wisc.edu/LibraryFastFunFacts](https://go.wisc.edu/LibraryFastFunFacts) to read more, or subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to stay up-to-date on all things Libraries!

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