Letter from the Interim Co-Vice Provosts

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Libraries continue to be leaders in curating, preserving, and sharing knowledge - striving to deliver daily on the core of our mission. As the university continues advancing discovery and scholarship, the Libraries are a crucial partner in empowering research that directly impacts the lives of those around us - from our state, to the nation, and even the world.

Over this past year, the Libraries furthered our critical role in supporting UW-Madison’s strategic framework through the application of our extensive expertise in addressing the information needs of the campus community. We accomplished much and took on significant challenges along the way. We set clear strategic directions, secured preservation quality conditions for our amazing distinctive collections, and delivered exemplary services to UW-Madison researchers and scholars. We continued to adjust to various disruptions brought on by the pandemic, creating innovative solutions, and emerged as stronger campus and consortial partners and collaborators. UW-Madison also contributes to interdependent library networks to meet Wisconsin researchers’ needs and beyond.

As interim co-vice provosts, we are pleased to share the accomplishments of the Libraries as we continue to advance our strategic directions. We look forward to ensuring the Libraries reach and impact extend beyond campus as we continue supporting a broad community of researchers and scholars worldwide.

Lee Konrad & Lesley Moyo
Interim Co-Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian
Essential Support for the Public History Project

University Archives provided crucial support for the research, teaching, and exhibition produced by the Public History Project. All items on display came from the University Archives, which will add staff in the coming year to support the ongoing work of the Rebecca Blank Center for Campus History. Friends of the Libraries funding also allowed for hiring two students to partner with the Public History Project to research instances of exclusion and resistance that might have taken place in the Libraries.

Engaging Campus in Open Scholarship

The Libraries convened the Scholarly Communication Advisory Group, composed of faculty and staff representatives across disciplines and units. This group supports the Libraries in advancing sustainable and productive scholarly communication models that meet the needs of researchers as well as the long-term needs of the university. This group’s conversations are increasingly crucial as the Libraries prepare for the new federal funding agency policies in response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Nelson Memo. This advisory group is an essential conduit for communication with faculty about opportunities that arise in our collaboration with the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) to advance open scholarship.

Support of Researchers

In the past year, our Research Data Services and Public Access Compliance teams have made significant progress in supporting researchers, particularly concerning emerging National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines about open data. Through the dedicated efforts of our teams, we have actively engaged with the research community by providing informative presentations, workshops, and consultations on data management planning and repository services. Our staff experts have offered valuable guidance to faculty and researchers, focusing on best practices for data sharing, text and data mining, and data ethics. Together, these efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of effective data management, ethical research practices, and enhanced scholarly communication within our institution.

Advance Emerging Research

Advancing Support for LGBTQ+ Studies

A bequest of more than $660,000 from Dick Wagner created the R. Richard Wagner Pride Archives Fund, which will provide lasting support for the LGBTQ+ Archive in perpetuity. The LGBTQ+ Archive and the Libraries were essential partners in the two-part PBS Wisconsin documentary "Wisconsin Pride," based on Wagner’s work. Additionally, the James W. Jones Gay and Lesbian Literature Collection Fund has matured and has been used to acquire biographies, histories, novels, and short story collections.

Engaging Campus in Open Scholarship

The Libraries convened the Scholarly Communication Advisory Group, composed of faculty and staff representatives across disciplines and units. This group supports the Libraries in advancing sustainable and productive scholarly communication models that meet the needs of researchers as well as the long-term needs of the university. This group’s conversations are increasingly crucial as the Libraries prepare for the new federal funding agency policies in response to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Nelson Memo. This advisory group is an essential conduit for communication with faculty about opportunities that arise in our collaboration with the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) to advance open scholarship.

Support of Researchers

In the past year, our Research Data Services and Public Access Compliance teams have made significant progress in supporting researchers, particularly concerning emerging National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines about open data. Through the dedicated efforts of our teams, we have actively engaged with the research community by providing informative presentations, workshops, and consultations on data management planning and repository services. Our staff experts have offered valuable guidance to faculty and researchers, focusing on best practices for data sharing, text and data mining, and data ethics. Together, these efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of effective data management, ethical research practices, and enhanced scholarly communication within our institution.

Tailored Research Support

The Libraries delivered greater research support across the academic disciplines, including literature searches, systematic reviews, and research impact assessment. The Ebling Library and Science and Engineering Libraries have led the way in cultivating our emerging portfolio of evidence synthesis services. This has brought to the forefront the Libraries’ role as a catalyst in research and scholarship and underscores the vast talent and skills that UW-Madison Libraries’ staff possess to support the research enterprise.

Key Partnerships

The Libraries continue to coordinate the popular R & Python workshop series in collaboration with the Data Science Hub, allowing researchers to learn essential data analysis programming skills from campus experts across the disciplines and within the Libraries. Included this year was an R workshop for Spanish speakers.

The Libraries’ International & Area Studies was a crucial partner in creating reports for Title VI applications for nine area studies centers, eight successfully funded ($4M) as National Resource Centers (with a later addition of the Center for South Asia).

Studying, Understanding, and Responding to Researchers’ Needs

Integral to delivering tailored support to faculty and other researchers is the need to have a detailed understanding of their research, teaching, and publishing practices. The Libraries participated in a local instance of Ithaka S+R’s comprehensive survey of faculty research, teaching, and publishing practices. The study yielded robust data that informs the Libraries of faculty needs across disciplinary areas.

4 5
Impactful Public Events
The Friends of the UW-Madison Libraries hosted several popular events this year. For instance, Dr. Johanna Drucker (UCLA) delivered the annual Schewe Lecture, “Inventing the Alphabet,” to a spillover crowd of students, campus, and community members. Author Jason Steinhauer visited to lecture on “History, Disrupted: How Social Media and the World Wide Web Have Changed the Past.” These events (and others) added to the Madison community’s opportunities to engage with cutting-edge research and new ways of thinking about our past, present, and future.

Engage in Educational Innovation
The Libraries’ Teaching and Learning Programs (TLP) have led educational innovation on several fronts. They have facilitated an unprecedented pace of growth of the Libraries’ e-learning portfolio, including a Libraries hub in Canvas, the creation of a myriad of online modules and instructive guides, and the development of numerous micro-courses and guides that support various courses and areas of the curriculum. To enhance accessibility, discoverability, and learner experience, the micro-courses and tutorials are now accessible via a dedicated server.

TLP also saw the integration of an assessment model for online library instruction and the development of a dynamic dashboard reflecting various instructional data and information.

The Libraries continue to be a key partner in the fulfillment of Gen Ed Communications requirements.
Broaden and Deepen Access to Research Resources

Free Access to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal

The Libraries announced new institutional subscriptions for these essential newspapers. Campus community members with a NetID can now freely access the current NYT and WSJ online, anytime and anywhere.

Investments in Open Access

Through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), we joined two new open access agreements: Institute of Physics (IOP) Publishing and Microbiology Society. The BTAA also revised the agreement with Wiley, so eligible corresponding authors from participating institutions may publish OA at no cost to themselves in all OA journals participating in Wiley’s portfolio. Through the BTAA, we supported a multi-year pilot agreement for JSTOR Path to Open, a new sustainable publishing model for OA monographs and make them open access after three years.

Creating Access to Previously Hidden Collections

Although this work is still exploratory, our involvement ensures the requirements for shared technical infrastructure. While much has been accomplished in implementing Rapido, an innovative resource-sharing system created by one of our primary library vendors. Rapido has revolutionized the integration and efficiency of collection effort and resources, with the Libraries investing approximately $100,000 so far to facilitate the discovery and accessibility of these previously hidden collections. As a result, our holdings have been enriched with several thousand titles spanning various domains, including arts, humanities, social sciences, and international area studies. This achievement represents a significant stride in our mission to provide comprehensive resources to our patrons and support scholarly pursuits. Our Libraries have made remarkable progress in enhancing our digital library technologies, significantly improving access, discovery, and preservation of digital resources. We developed a state-of-the-art digital exhibition platform in collaboration with the Chazen Museum of Art, fulfilling our commitment to the Mellon Foundation, whose generous award enabled us to carry out this work.

System Advancements

Additionally, we implemented a robust digital preservation platform to safeguard our valuable digital archival and collection resources long-term. As development partners, we were pivotal in implementing Rapido, an innovative resource-sharing system created by one of our primary library vendors. Rapido has revolutionized the integration and efficiency of our collection discovery and resource-sharing processes, leading to a more coherent user experience. These technological advancements have benefited our campus community and strengthened our partnerships with museums and libraries nationwide. Our enhanced technology infrastructure has empowered us to acquire, manage, and preserve resources effectively, facilitating their long-term discovery, access, and preservation. In collaboration with our UW System Library colleagues, we implemented a new Acquisitions system called Rialto. This system provides an integrated set of workflows for our collection development and acquisitions staff. One of its key features is enabling evidence-based selection decisions based on profiles established by our Libraries. It has proven beneficial in acquiring domestic collections materials, streamlining processes, and enhancing efficiency.

BTAA Big Collection Initiative

The Libraries actively participate in the BTAA Big Collection Initiative, which aims to provide access to physical collection materials to individuals across the entire BTAA network. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering interdependence and leveraging longstanding collaborations among BTAA libraries. Over the past year, our libraries and library technologists have played vital roles in various Big Collection efforts. Our staff has contributed to pilot project teams, participated in the steering committee, and focused on resource sharing, interlibrary loan (ILL), building University Press and Library E-book collections, developing shared print retention strategies, and gathering requirements for shared technical infrastructure. While much of this work is still exploratory, our involvement ensures the progressive realization of the grand vision. We strive to enhance the discovery, access, and preservation of library resources for the benefit of all stakeholders, promoting collaborative and interdependent practices over time. With USC and UCLA joining the BTAA, collectively, the BTAA’s “Big Collection” will serve as the third-largest print collection in the world.

Enhanced Access to Research Resources for the First Nations

A Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums (TLAM) support group engaged two Masters students in the iSchool to create a specialized Research Guide that curates resources for students, instructors, and researchers interested in TLAM. In particular, the guide provides enhanced access to resources for Information School (iSchool) students taking LIS 640 and participating in the TLAM student group.

Diverse Collections to Support Teaching and Learning

We invested substantially in online archives, primary source collections, and interdisciplinary collections, allowing students, faculty, and staff to access materials from anywhere and without travel. Significant acquisitions this year include ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Black Newspapers (we now own all titles available in this series), the LGBT Magazine Archive, and the Periodicals Archive Online (international journals in the humanities and social sciences). We also grew our investment in streaming video by adding the Film Platform collection, CNN Video, Quest TV, and Kanopy Base subscription.
Advancing the Libraries Collections Preservation Facility (LCPF)

Library staff worked closely with architectural firm HGA throughout the year to design the new $36M remote shelving facility, keeping collections stewardship and sustainability at the forefront of the design and planning process. The Libraries engaged in a strategic communications campaign, meeting with shared governance groups and several academic departments to discuss the facility. We have undertaken initial work to prepare collections for transfer into the facility, including hiring project staff, preparing archival collections, and improving the discoverability of microform collections. This work will continue and be a significant focus in the coming academic year. Groundbreaking is expected in March 2024.

Revitalize Spaces to Enable Research and Learning

Improved Access to Physical Research Collections

We completed a $1M project to upgrade the electronic components on the compact shelving in Memorial Library and are funding additional upgrades to shelving in Kohler Art Library and University Archives. These improvements allow us to provide essential access to physical research collections across the disciplines.

Innovative and Educational Exhibitions

The Libraries enriched the campus experience by installing several exhibitions of library collections and campus-produced research, including "Press Play: Recorded Sound from Groove to Stream" (a survey of historical recording technologies) and "Third Dimension," which transformed the Kohler Art Library into a site-specific installation space for over 20 neon pieces created by students in the art course "Neon: Light as Sculpture." The Libraries loaned rare or unique collections for exhibitions both on and off campus, such as "Questioning Things: A Quarter Century of Material Culture Studies at the UW-Madison," organized by the Center for Design and Material Culture, and "J.R.R. Tolkien: The Art of the Manuscript" at Marquette University’s Haggerty Museum of Art.

Enhancing Spaces

The Libraries continue to enhance spaces to support evolving user needs and pedagogical approaches. For example, new spaces, such as the College Library recording booth, support student learning in new ways. The Libraries leveraged the campus Lab Modernization grant to make space and technology upgrades in Memorial, College, and Steenbock library classrooms.
Develop Organizational Strength

Leadership for UW System Records Management Efforts
The Records Management team completed significant work in the ongoing effort to standardize records schedules and develop records management processes for Records Officers across UW System. The Madison team was the lead author to consolidate the Legal Affairs, Parking, and Transportation schedules and for the development of the new system-wide Youth schedules, plus those which accompanied the adoption of the State Administrative schedule across the UW System.

Developing Leaders
The Libraries set a policy mandating new supervisors attend Principles of Supervision and Management within the first 18 months of their position. We also implemented a baseline diversity training for all new employees.

Values
The Libraries are in the second iteration of its Diversity Strategic Plan. The roadmap provides a framework embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our mission and elevates our social justice practices across staff, collections, and services. This new plan sets out a path for the Libraries through 2025. Current action items include all supervisors acting on the results of the Libraries Workplace Climate Survey, including Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Antiracism (EDIA) goals in all annual staff evaluations and assisting staff in the professional development of their EDIA goals through an inclusiveness skills mapping document. This document maps existing campus training opportunities to the GLS Inclusiveness Principles of Cultural Intelligence, A Welcoming Environment, Self-Reflection, Intersectionality, Commitment to Diversity in Staffing, and Respectful Dialogue.

Fundraising & Outreach
WE RECEIVED FUNDS FROM:

Shirley E. Cherkasky and Jessie M. Christensen
Special Collections Fund
Klaus and Ursula Pohl Fund

Strategic Pursuit of Our Mission
The focus of the Libraries’ future is clear. We aim to vigorously empower UW-Madison research, teaching, and learning through library services and expertise while improving access to and discovery of our remarkable collections. We will articulate a focus on scholarly communications efforts and pursue partnerships to leverage our networks and maximize our impact. As always, our greatest asset is the talent and expertise of our library staff. Cultivating their development and organizational improvement will result in more significant outcomes for the faculty, staff, and students that make up our world-class university.

1. Partnered with the Wisconsin Book Festival to sponsor Ruth Curry, author of NL2024: How an American Crisis Brought Together Midwestern Dairy Farmers and Mexican Workers.
2. Supported the Public History Project by hosting a panel discussion on Architectural Research and the University of Wisconsin Public History Project, which included staff from the Public History Project and Archives.
3. The Friends of the Libraries provided a $2,000 grant to support the efforts and work of the Glessner Library support group.

The UW-Madison Libraries are one of the largest student employe rs on campus.

THE UW-MADISON LIBRARIES WORKING 157,959 HOURS
= 56 FTE
INFY 23

20% OF THE GLS INCLUSIVENESS ARE NEW HIRES
39 HIRES DEC 2021
15 HIRES JAN 2022
STAGES OF RECRUITMENT

$7,000

$7,000

39% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
34% INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

0

$0

$0

10

10

0

2021

2022

2021

2022

DOLLARS RAISED

NUMBER OF DONORS

Outreach
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON LIBRARIES

Points of Pride
2022-2023

12,041
Pick up appointments

45,978
Study space appointments

13,000+
Laptops loaned

2.7 million
Libraries website page views

69,783
Pages scanned

1.8 million
UW Digital Collection session visits

2.7 million
UW Digital Collections website page views

1,571
Access to Databases

= 1,750 pages

Data from 2022-23