

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

Bryan James McGeary

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PALCI Hosts First Annual Affordable Learning PA OER Summit



Affordable Learning PA OER Summit (Photo courtesy of PALCI)

University Park, PA—PALCI staff, along with the steering committee of the Affordable Learning PA (ALPa) project and Penn State University, hosted the first Open Educational Resources (OER) Summit earlier this month. The theme of the event was "Building Community," and more than 100 attended from across the state and beyond. The Summit allowed librarians, faculty, and others to collaborate on building a network dedicated to making higher education more accessible and affordable.

The day featured keynote presentations by Amy Hofer, Coordinator, Statewide Open Education Library Services for Oregon and Anne Osterman, Director of VIVA, as well as concurrent sessions, posters, and lightning talks by PA OER practitioners.

The agenda, session descriptions, attendees, as well as slides from presentations, along with other helpful documents and templates related to the project can be found at: palci.org/alpa-documents.

The ALPa community will continue to make progress throughout the year on the topics and work initiated at the summit. If you are interested in learning more about the ALPA project or in becoming involved, please visit palci.org/alpa-about.

Courtesy of PALCI

PA Library Association Honors Exemplary Service, Leadership, and Community Connections During Annual Statewide Conference

Mechanicsburg, PA—Each year, the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) honors the service of their members, as well as those community volunteers, who go above and beyond the call of duty to support the work of libraries throughout the commonwealth. And this year was no different. During their 2019 Annual Conference, the Association proudly recognized the following:

Library of the Year Award: This award is given to the Chester County Library. The recognition honors a library that demonstrates excellence in the following areas: service to the community, advancing staff development and leadership in and support of Association activities such as the Pennsylvania Library Association’s Academy of Leadership Studies (PALS) and the PA Forward initiative. Chester County Library is the second library to receive this honor.

Distinguished Service Award: This award is given annually to one person in recognition of exceptional meritorious service to libraries of the commonwealth. This year’s awardee is David G. Schappert with King’s College-PA. David is a past Pennsylvania Library Association President, member of the Association’s Legislative Committee, as well as the PA Forward Steering Committee and Training Team member.

Certificates of Merit: These are awarded to individuals making outstanding contributions during the last five years in Pennsylvania. This year’s winners are Sheli Pratt-McHugh, University of Scranton-Weinberg Memorial Library; Chris Snyder, Bucks County Free Library; Sylvia Orner, Scranton Public Library; Jennifer Knisely, Altoona Area Public Library; and Kimberly Hrivnak, Allegheny County Library Association.

Elected Official Award: This award may be given annually to an elected official or officials for exemplary support of library service in Pennsylvania. This year, the association was proud to award this deserving honor to Representative Stan Saylor, Chair Appropriations Committee, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 94th District. Rep. Saylor serves part of York County.

New Librarian Honors Award: Honors a librarian who has been in the profession fewer than six years. It recognizes the originality and inventive ability of a new librarian who devises new and improved methods in library service on a statewide or local level. The 2019 awardee is Emily Mross with Pennsylvania State University Libraries.

Trustee of the Year Award: Presented to a public library trustee in recognition of outstanding leadership and service to library development at the local, system, district and/or state level. This year’s recipient is Chester County Library’s Earl Baker.

“The Pennsylvania Library Association is able to do what we do thanks to the unwavering efforts of our volunteers and our members,” said Christi Buker, PaLA Executive Director. “These awards are just our small way of shining a light on what all librarians, library staffs and our volunteers do to continue promoting the value libraries bring to communities they serve. We are thankful for their support and engagement and are honored to be able to recognize their efforts. Congratulations to all of our 2019 winners.”

A committee composed of association members reviews the nominations, submitted in late summer, and selects winners for the listed categories. Awardees are then invited to attend the association’s annual conference where they are recognized among the membership, their peers, representing all library types and sizes from throughout Pennsylvania.

“It was my honor to serve as the Chair of the 2019 PaLA Awards Committee and to be a part of the process of shining the spotlight on so many library professionals and partners who work humbly behind the scenes not for the sake of recognition, but sincerely out of commitment to promoting and improving libraries in Pennsylvania.” Said Carrie Sturgill, Head of Youth Services, Radnor Memorial Library. “Congratulations to all the award winners and

thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination. It was incredibly rewarding to read about the innovative work that is happening all around the Commonwealth. Thank you for sharing your stories, and please keep it up!”

The Association’s MLS or Master of Library Science degree scholarship was also awarded during the afternoon event. Three Pennsylvania Library Association MLS Scholarships are available to Association members who are working toward their Master’s degree in the Library Science field. Each recipient receives a \$1,500 scholarship and is required to complete a minimum of three credits toward the degree during the scholarship year. This year’s scholarship recipients are:

Danielle Gowen: Library Assistant Youth Services, Haverford Township Free Library

Jen Powell: Director, Tyrone-Snyder Public Library

Lisa Rand: Youth Services Coordinator, Boyertown Community Library

For more information about the scholarship, including application information, visit palibraries.org/page/Aid.

Founded in 1901, the Pennsylvania Library Association is the state’s oldest and most diverse professional library organization serving libraries, library employees, library trustees, and Friends of the Library groups.

PaLA represents more than 1,300 personal, institutional and commercial members affiliated with public, academic, special and school libraries throughout the commonwealth. The association represents the profession in Harrisburg with the state legislature and provides opportunities for professional growth, leadership development and continuing education for librarians.

For a listing of previous award winners, visit palibraries.org/page/Awards. For more information about the work of the Pennsylvania Library Association, visit palibraries.org.

By Rob Leshner, Pennsylvania Library Association

Penn State Harrisburg Library Awarded Gold Star for Library Excellence

Middletown, PA—The Penn State Harrisburg library was awarded a Gold Star by PA Forward and the Pennsylvania Library Association for the second quarter of 2019 for activities that promote five essential literacies: basic; civic and social; health; information; and financial. This makes the Penn State Harrisburg library one of five academic libraries and 30 libraries total in Pennsylvania that have been awarded a star.

“The Gold Star Award shows that the Penn State Harrisburg library is an outward-facing organization that is focused on connecting the library to people,” said Glenn McGuigan, Penn State Harrisburg library director and head librarian. “Thanks to the



Penn State Harrisburg Library. (Photo courtesy of Penn State Harrisburg)

work of Emily Mross, our business librarian and outreach coordinator, and the work of our other liaison librarians, this acknowledgment shows that the library is reaching out to the Penn State community. It shows the community that the library is a place of engagement for not only intellectual discovery, but also for fun events that bring people together.”

Libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program. Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis and the recognition is for the highest level attained at the time of the award.

“The PA Forward Star Library program spotlights libraries’ efforts to continue making intentional investments in literacy-aligned programs,” said Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association executive director. “Our libraries continue to be community pillars, meeting citizen needs, helping businesses, government organizations and others connect with local residents, and sharing resources and information which have the potential to positively impact multiple lives.”

PA Forward, which launched statewide in 2012, works within five literacy areas to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. In January 2017, to continue helping libraries use PA Forward to demonstrate all their libraries offer, the association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The recognition program offers support to libraries that participate and integrate PA Forward’s literacies in their programming activities. Program topics can include information such as retirement planning (financial literacy) to more physically active programs such as walking book club discussions (civic and social literacy and health literacy).

“The award is a significant recognition of our work, and our campus community,” said Mross. “Due to the success of last year’s events, we will continue to offer PA Forward programming, and have a full slate for this academic year.”

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Hosoi Named Penn State University Libraries Associate Dean for Collections, Research

University Park, PA—Penn State University Libraries has named Mihoko Hosoi as associate dean for collections, research and scholarly communications.

Hosoi joined the University Libraries on October 1 as a key member of its administrative team, where she will provide leadership, strategic direction and support for collections, acquisitions, scholarly communication, and the subject libraries encompassing the arts and humanities, business, earth and mineral sciences, engineering, life sciences, physical and mathematical sciences, social sciences and special collections.

“Mihoko brings a wealth of valuable experience to our organization, particularly regarding the licensing and management of digital collections, an area of significant focus today at public and academic libraries around the world,” said Barbara I. Dewey, dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications. “As Penn State prepares to enact its first open access policy for University-generated, peer-reviewed research, Mihoko’s expertise will be important in helping to guide our overall strategic direction. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Penn State this fall.”

Hosoi comes to Penn State from the University of California, California Digital Library, where she has served as



Mihoko Hosoi, associate dean for collections, research and scholarly communications, joined the Penn State University Libraries on Oct. 1 as a key member of its administrative team (Photo courtesy of Penn State)

assistant director for Systemwide Licensing and Collection Services. Previously, she was head of Collection Development and Strategy at the Graduate School of Business Library, Stanford University; head of Instruction and Research Services at the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration Nestle Library; and assistant librarian/library fellow at the University of California at Santa Barbara Davidson Library, among other positions in universities and the private sector.

Hosoi received an undergraduate degree in Spanish language and literature from Seisen University in Tokyo and began her career with university research libraries in technical services at Duke University, following her immigration to the United States. In 1998 she was selected as a member of the inaugural class of the American Library Association Spectrum Scholars and received a master of library science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She also holds a master of management in hospitality degree from the Cornell School of Hotel Administration.

She has held leadership positions in the Special Libraries Association and the International Coalition of Library Consortia and is a member of the Digital Library Federation's Committee for Equity and Inclusion. Hosoi has presented and written on a wide range of topics, including collection development, open access, licensing and professional development.

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Penn State University Libraries Expansion Now Open

University Park, PA—Penn State University Libraries' newest space, a four-story expansion and ground-floor renovation known as the Collaboration Commons and Central Atrium, opened August 22 in Pattee Library and Paterno Library on Penn State's University Park campus.

"Today marks the culmination of a 14-month, two-phase construction project, years of visioning and planning, and countless hours seeking and considering students' input into the spaces and features they told us they most needed to support their productivity," said Barbara I. Dewey, dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications.

"We hope we have delivered, perhaps even exceeded, their expectations for effective academic study space, and we look forward to seeing students, faculty, staff, alumni and our many visitors using these four expanded levels of Pattee Library as we continue to evolve those spaces for improved student instruction, as well as advanced research, and data and publishing consultation services tailored to graduate students and faculty."

Open 24 hours, five days a week plus extended weekend hours whenever classes are in session, the new, modern spaces encompass a former outdoor courtyard and updated ground floor, southwest-facing entrance of the West Pattee Library portion of the building complex. The former ground floor News and Microforms Library — from



The Collaboration Commons and Central Atrium at the University Libraries is the culmination of Libraries 2020, a 14-month, two-phase construction project incorporating the spaces and features students wanted and needed most. (Photo by Steve Tressler)

which collections have been incorporated into the new Dr. Keiko Miwa Ross Global News Center and social sciences collections, found respectively on the first and second floors of Paterno Library — has been opened up entirely to form the new Collaboration Commons.

Its new exterior, leveled to offer a gentle sloping, accessible-friendly entrance into a larger ground-floor lobby, is known as the Dr. Keiko Miwa Ross Garden Terrace. It features deep-inset stone bench and lounge furniture seating, low-level landscaping, expanded Wi-Fi and black lighting towers encasing USB and grounded power ports. These features provide outdoor areas for online productivity and recharging capabilities for powered devices, as well as expansive views from the inside.

Past the ground-floor entrance doors, visitors are greeted with a staffed welcome desk, lounge seating and the first of four lush living walls, a popular feature in the existing Knowledge Commons. Immediately to the left is the entrance to the Collaboration Commons, which houses 16 enclosed group study rooms — which can be reserved at libraries.psu.edu/studyrooms — plus more than two dozen open groupings of moveable tables and chairs, all of which feature embedded or adjacent power ports. Lined along floor-to-ceiling windows, counter-height work spaces offer embedded power ports and new views of Sparks Building and West Halls. Near the middle is a large multipurpose room with configurable options ranging from a single 175-seat audience to dozens of small-group tables. The room itself has a collapsible rear glass wall and center dividers to further customize its use.

Throughout, mobile dry-erase whiteboards complement nearly all of the Collaboration Commons' fixed walls, which also feature whiteboards for group notations and brainstorming. For added convenience, coffee and snack vending machines are found to the left of the entrance, and in its northeastern-most corner is a dedicated lactation room.

Immediately to the right of the ground floor entrance is an eight-panel, 4K interactive touchscreen, a technology feature that can be reserved by students for showcasing their work. Beyond is the new two-level central atrium and its staircase leading to Pattee Library's first floor. Under and adjacent to the staircase are three more living walls plus a variety of seating areas, a new entrance leading to the ground-floor Donald W. Hamer Center for Maps and Geospatial Information, and the entrance to the future Center for Immersive Experiences, coming later this fall.

The central atrium's staircase leads to a hallway connecting Pattee Library's Knowledge Commons, Commons Services desk and Weltmann Lobby. The lobby's existing elevator has been expanded to reach the third floor of the former courtyard, which now houses the Libraries' Research Informatics and Publishing team. The second floor now centralizes the Library Learning Services department and provides a new glass staircase connecting the second and third floors of central Pattee Library.

Preparation for the construction project required the relocation of microfilm and microfiche collections to the social sciences collections on Paterno Library's second floor; newspaper and news periodical collections and the library's café to Paterno Library's first floor; and the Libraries' entire behind-the-scenes departments of acquisitions, cataloging and metadata teams to a nonpublic space on the ground floor of Paterno Library. These moves were completed in early 2018.

"I'm immensely proud of our entire Libraries community in their collective support of this significant effort and its many stages, which involved moving several departments and collections for improved efficiency and our employees' own opportunities for departmental and cross-disciplinary collaboration," Dewey said. "This effort was a massive undertaking that has accomplished much more than new student collaboration spaces and improved access across the building. I believe it has set the stage for even more innovations in academic and research support than we could imagine today, and I am excited to consider the added potential our Libraries and University communities have available to them as a result of this transformation."

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Penn State University Libraries appoints diversity resident librarians



Racine Amos has been appointed to the third cohort of the University Libraries Diversity Residency Program. (Photo courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

University Park, PA—Penn State University Libraries has welcomed Racine Amos and Danica White as new faculty for the third cohort of the University Libraries Diversity Residency Program. This three-year postgraduate appointment will provide Amos and White with transferable work experiences and career development in preparation for future leadership roles in the field.

As a member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Diversity Alliance, University Libraries demonstrates continued commitment to attract and develop early-career academic librarians from traditionally underrepresented groups within the field, said Barbara I. Dewey, dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications.

“An essential objective of the Diversity Residency Program is to enhance community dialogue to advance inclusive and equitable services, thus invigorating the organization with residents’ ideas and skills,” Dewey said. “The expertise and range of experiences that Amos and White bring to Penn State will benefit conversations around collections, research and student engagement. We will encourage and support them and connect them with leadership opportunities.”

During their residencies, Amos and White will work under the guidance of senior faculty during assignments and co-develop responsibilities, expectations and projects within Library Learning

Services. They will participate actively in Penn State and University Libraries committees, councils and task forces and become involved in relevant national, regional and state professional organizations.

A second-career librarian, Amos arrives at Penn State with 12 years of experience in student affairs, having served as the survivor advocate at several private and public institutions nationwide and as a part-time, gender and women's studies faculty member at the University of Rhode Island. Amos graduated in 2019 from Simmons University School of Library and Information Science with a master of science degree in library and information science (LIS) with a concentration in archives management. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in social work, with a minor in legal and policy studies, from Fordham University, and a master of social work degree with a concentration in research from Fordham Graduate School of Social Service. Amos's research interests include “whole person librarianship,” the application of social work concepts to inform and enhance user experience, instruction and library practice.

Amos is currently working on a chapter for Libraries Unlimited's upcoming “Underserved Patrons in Academic Libraries: Assisting Students Facing Trauma, Abuse and Discrimination” (J. Skinner and M. Gross, eds.). Her chapter focuses on the LIS



Danica White has been appointed to the third cohort of the University Libraries Diversity Residency Program. (Photo courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

underpinnings of information seeking, customer service and social justice in combination with praxis from the field of campus-based advocacy to develop a basic framework of support for patrons impacted by interpersonal violence. With additional interest in genealogical research, Amos is in the process of completing family historical projects for her genealogy certification portfolio.

White, a 2019 graduate of Emporia State University with a master of library science degree, is interested in research involving leadership, advocacy, diverse populations and student engagement. She earned a bachelor of science degree in history with a minor in ethnic and gender studies from Emporia State. While obtaining her graduate degree there, White was president of the student chapter of the American Library Association and a graduate representative in the Associated Student Government and served as a research assistant in the School of Library and Information Management.

White has presented her research at the American Library Association, the Kansas Library Association, and the Mountain Plains Library Association. She also co-authored an article, "University Program Rankings in the United States: Failures in Assessing Important Factors for Library and Information Science Students," in *Education for Information*, and is working on two more articles for publication this year. Her previous experience includes serving as a supervisor at the Emporia Public Library, curating an art exhibit for the Emporia State Special Collections and Archives, interning at Ellen Plumb's City Bookstore, and working as a student assistant to Emporia State's dean of University Libraries and Archives.

The Diversity Residency Program was launched in 2013 to help new professionals identify areas of interest and build knowledge in strategically central areas of the University Libraries to provide experience, career development, opportunities for research and publication and to help them prepare for leadership positions in the librarianship field.

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Pitt Publishes First-ever August Wilson Journal

Pittsburgh, PA—Famed late playwright and Pittsburgh native son August Wilson comes to life again in the collection of interviews, stage reviews and essays now available online in the inaugural edition of the August Wilson Journal.

Published by Pitt's University Library System (ULS), the journal is the first peer-reviewed, open-access publication that promotes the study, teaching, and performance of Wilson's work, including the series of 10 plays called *The Century Cycle*. The inaugural issue includes pieces by Laurence Glasco, Pitt associate professor of history and Chris Rawson, Department of English faculty member emeritus.

"We were excited the editors found us and came to us," said Lauren Collister, director of Scholarly Communications and Publishing at ULS. "August Wilson is so prominent in the fabric of our city. And the editors shared our value of open access and had an innovative spirit that matched with ours."

The journal is the brainchild of Michael J. Downing, an Erie native who is now professor of English at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, northwest of Philadelphia.

Downing first discovered Wilson's work while living in Pittsburgh some 30 years ago. That was the era in which a lot of Wilson's plays were being staged locally. In 1992, Downing bought a ticket to "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," and was hooked.

Wilson's writing resonated with Downing, who grew up in a racially mixed, lower-income neighborhood in Erie.



Muralist Kyle Holbrook created this homage to August Wilson in the Hill District, the Pittsburgh neighborhood where both he and Wilson grew up and where Wilson based his plays. A new journal dedicated solely to the study of Wilson and his plays is being published by Pitt's University Library System. (Photo courtesy of the University of Pittsburgh)

"The language in the August Wilson plays was the language that was familiar to me," he said. "I thought, 'Wow, this is real.'"

Downing appreciated the humanity of the characters, their stories, all told in the vernacular of Pittsburgh's Hill District. He liked how Wilson "converts the mundane into the sacred," as when Wilson refers to his mother's pantry as "worthy of art" in the Note from the Playwright at the beginning of "Seven Guitars."

"He converts everything, he overturns every stone to find all of it," said Downing.

Working on a PhD at Indiana University of Pennsylvania at the time, Downing wrote his dissertation on Wilson's first five plays of *The Century Cycle*, the only ones that had been published at the time. Thus began a long and intense interest in the respected playwright and a labor of love to create the journal available today.

Downing first launched an August Wilson website, then an August Wilson blog, all designed to "educate people about the plays, the sensibilities, and politics that informed Mr. Wilson's life." Soon he was cultivating scholarly essays about Wilson and was looking for a home for them. He and managing editor David Anderson eventually approached the ULS, and the *August Wilson Journal* was born.

Glasco thinks the journal will be "a major force in extending our understanding and appreciation of Wilson and his contributions to American theater," adding that the more one learns about Wilson, the more one understands "how he was able to take aspects of ordinary life and transform them into very profound observations about people and society."

Collister likes how the publication features the writings of scholars alongside those of performers, reviewers, artists and others. "This is part of the promise of open access — to democratize scholarship and to bring more people into the conversation by reducing the barriers for participation," she said.

According to Collister, there's only one other ULS-published journal that is dedicated to a single individual — *Études Ricoeuriennes/Ricoeur Studies* on 20th-century French philosopher Paul Ricoeur.

Downing said, “Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller both have journals dedicated to them. Now August Wilson has his.”

By Sharon S. Blake, University of Pittsburgh Office of University Communications

Libraries Blazing Star-Aligned Trails Throughout Pennsylvania

Mechanicsburg, PA—The Pennsylvania Library Association announced the 2019 second quarter PA Forward™ Star Library awardees. More than 30 libraries throughout the state earned their star status and are being recognized by the Association for their efforts to provide patrons with educational resources and opportunities.

“The PA Forward™ Star Library program spotlights libraries’ efforts to continue making intentional investments in literacy-aligned programs,” said Christi Buker, Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director. “Our libraries continue to be community pillars, meeting citizen needs, helping businesses, government organizations and others connect with local residents, sharing resources and information which have the potential to positively impact multiple lives.”

“Yes, you can go to your local library and check out books, but these agile institutions demonstrate day in and day out they offer more than books,” Buker added. “Libraries offer the world to those who enter their doors. It is an honor to highlight those efforts with the PA Forward™ Star Library designation. Congratulations to all of our participating Star Libraries.”

PA Forward™, which launched statewide in 2012, works through five key literacies – Basic, Information, Civic & Social, Health and Financial – to assist individuals in enhancing their overall quality of life. To continue helping libraries use PA Forward™ to demonstrate all their libraries offer, in January 2017, the Association kicked off the Star Library program statewide. The Star Library recognition offers support to libraries who participate and integrate PA Forward’s literacies in their programming activities. Program topics can include information such as retirement planning (financial literacy) to more physically active programs such as walking book club discussions (civic and social literacy and health literacy).

Libraries are recognized for meeting benchmarks within the bronze, silver and gold star levels of the program. While one star is awarded for both the bronze and gold levels, a total of five stars are awarded in the silver category – one silver star for each of the five literacies of PA Forward™. For each silver star award, a number appears denoting the number of silver stars obtained to date.

Stars are awarded on a quarterly basis in the calendar year and the recognition is for the highest level attained in the program at the time of the award. The libraries noted below are those that earned a first-time star or a new star level between July 1 and September 30, 2019. For a full listing of PA Forward™ Star Libraries, visit paforwardstarlibraries.org/star-status. The next round of awards will be announced after December 15, 2019.

The list of awardees, by county, follows:

- ***Allegheny County:*** Carnegie Library of Homestead (Bronze), Brentwood Library (Silver, 2), Oakmont Carnegie Library (Silver, 3), Plum Borough Community Library (Silver, 3)
- ***Armstrong County:*** Ford City Public Library (Gold), Worthington West Franklin Public Community Library (Bronze)
- ***Berks County:*** Exeter Community Library (Gold), Boyertown Public Library (Bronze), Oley Valley Community Library (Gold)
- ***Butler County:*** Butler Area Public Library (Gold)
- ***Cambria County:*** Cambria County Library (Silver, 5)
- ***Chester County:*** Tredyffrin Public Library (Gold)

- ***Cumberland County:*** Bosler Memorial Library (Silver, 1)
- ***Delaware County:*** Haverford Township Free Library (Silver, 5)
- ***Elk County:*** Wilcox Public Library (Bronze)
- ***Lancaster County:*** Ephrata Public Library (Bronze), Manheim Community Library (Silver, 2), Adamstown Area Library (Silver, 1)
- ***Lawrence County:*** New Castle Public Library (Silver, 4)
- ***Luzerne County:*** Hazleton Public Library (Silver, 5)
- ***Montgomery County:*** Belmont Hills Public Library (Bronze), Horsham Township Library (Silver, 3), Huntingdon Valley Library (Bronze)
- ***Northampton County:*** Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity (Silver, 5)
- ***Somerset County:*** Somerset County Library (Gold)
- ***Warren County:*** Warren Library Association (Gold)
- ***Westmoreland County:*** Mount Pleasant Public Library (Silver, 1)
- ***York County:*** Red Land Community Library (Gold)

Beginning January 2020, once a library achieves the Gold level of the PA Forward™ Star Library program, libraries will now be able to take steps to maintain their PA Forward™ Gold Star status. More information about that process, can be found at paforwardstarlibraries.org under the Getting Started tab.

By Rob Lesher, Pennsylvania Library Association

Library Benefits from Successful Funding Referendum in Hatboro

Hatboro, PA—On May 21, 2019, The Union Library of Hatboro was the subject of a successful electoral campaign for a funding increase. The funding measure passed with 733 voting Yes to 287 voting against the measure. The voter turnout of 1,020 was greater than double the average participation for a primary election in this borough.

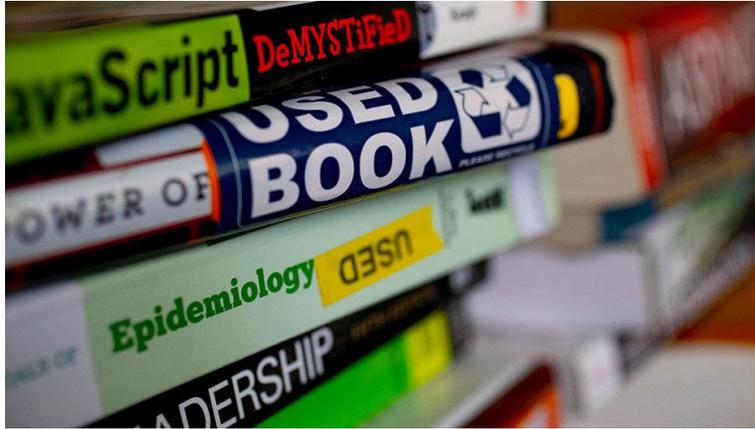
The library's 2019 funding was about .21 mills; this will increase to .55 mills beginning in 2020. The library's local funding had previously been entirely through discretionary means. Thus, as well as an increase in the funding level, the referendum increased the stability of the library's future. The third oldest library in the Commonwealth, Union Library was founded in 1755 and became a public library in 1984. The 2019 campaign was the first time it was ever subject to a funding referendum.



Union Library of Hatboro. (Photo by Union Library Company of Hatboro)

Submitted by Michael Celec, Union Library Company of Hatboro

Two Digital Scholarship Programs Help Temple Throw the Book at Big Textbook Expenses



Temple's Textbook Affordability Project has saved students more than \$1 million on educational resources since the program's launch in 2011. (Photo by Ryan S. Brandenburg, Temple University)

Philadelphia, PA—As a new academic year approaches, students will soon begin purchasing textbooks for their courses—or contemplating alternative means for acquiring them.

Temple University's Textbook Affordability Project helps manage the financial obstacles between students and learning. Since its 2011 launch, the Temple program has worked with 86 Temple faculty members across multiple disciplines. The goal? To help faculty either adopt an existing open educational resource (OER) for use in their courses, adapt their syllabi to include learning materials that are freely

available through the Temple University Libraries system, or create a new OER for use by students at Temple and elsewhere.

Last year, the Textbook Affordability Project celebrated a critical milestone when it crossed the \$1 million threshold for dollars it has saved Temple students on the cost of required course materials like textbooks.

"In higher education, administrators and educators seldom discuss textbooks and their prohibitive costs," said Steven Bell, Temple's associate university librarian. "Our Textbook Affordability Project was the first of its kind in Pennsylvania. It has spurred wider discussion on the subject, as well as the creation of a statewide initiative called Affordable Learning Pennsylvania, to bring together the libraries at colleges and universities statewide to implement similar programs at their institutions."

Bell describes textbook costliness as "a higher education crisis." Data validates his claim. Seven out of 10 college students nationally have at least once decided against purchasing the required text for a course in which they were enrolled because they could not afford it, according to 2014 data from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. The organization also discovered an 812 percent increase in the cost of textbooks over the last four decades, a figure that has grown at more than three times the rate of inflation.

Whether in the Commonwealth or across the country, Temple is a leading advocate for textbook affordability. The university launched North Broad Press in Fall 2018, becoming the first university in the nation to bridge its university press and its university library system to help faculty draft and publish open textbooks that will be freely available to their students and others around the globe.

North Broad Press projects are peer-reviewed by at least two independent reviewers, and then undergo rounds of professional copyediting, said Temple University Press director Mary Rose Muccie. North Broad Press' inaugural call for submissions yielded 19 submissions for Temple faculty-led projects. The OERs span disciplines like economics and engineering, to criminal justice, physics, and social work—all with varying expected dates of completion. Four of the 19 submissions earned acceptance, receiving \$5,000 awards from Temple Libraries. The awards, however, are tertiary to faculty.

“It’s not about the money. The faculty members who participate are most concerned with accessibility and affordability of course materials for students,” said Annie Johnson, the publishing and scholarly communications specialist for Temple University Libraries and Temple University Press.

Johnson said North Broad Press has the capacity to take on additional projects and will put out another call for submissions in Spring 2020.

Programs like Temple’s Textbook Affordability Project are helpful for students like Nicholas Carmack, a junior sociology major looking each semester to make ends meet. He transferred to Temple from Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon, where he had served as president of the honors society and the student body. Carmack’s roles enabled him to organize a forum with students to discuss textbook affordability and honor faculty members who had adopted OERs in their courses.

The results of those conversations with students, he said, “were astonishing and saddening.”

“Although tuition is the largest line item when budgeting for college, there are many other expenses, and all financial issues are interrelated,” said Carmack, a native of Salt Lake City.

Understanding these constraints upon their students, Temple faculty have begun adapting the course materials they utilize.

Jacqueline Phillips, an assistant professor of kinesiology, previously asked her students if they had purchased her course’s \$300 text. Only 10 percent said they had. That’s when Phillips sought to implement an existing OER in her class. Along the way, she took note of a student who had been struggling. Phillips learned the student had borrowed a book from her local library, but it wasn’t the exact text her classmates had been using.

“This \$300 textbook I was asking students to buy had created a barrier to their learning,” Phillips said. “Now I use an OER that was created by professors at another university. I can customize it, manipulate it, and mold it to my students’ needs. I have become an advocate for this in my department. I don’t think all faculty know these resources are available through Temple Libraries.”

While students employ inventive means of acquiring textbooks, none is ideal, Johnson said. “When students don’t have full or even temporary access to the textbook, their grades suffer,” she said.

Isabelle Chang, an assistant professor of psychology, recently analyzed the performance of her students in a Fall 2018 section, for which an OER was used as the primary learning material, and a prior section, which had relied upon a traditional textbook.

This study compared student performance, engagement and attendance in OER and textbook classes. Results show no differences in final grades between classes. Students in the textbook class had higher page views in Canvas, whereas those in the OER class had higher attendance and no difference in on-time assignment submissions. Attendance was a strong predictor of grades, and the on-time assignment submissions were significantly correlated with grades and attendance for both classes, Chang said. Her study shows a correlation between OER and student academic success.

Chang is unabashed in her support of OERs and Temple’s Textbook Affordability Project.

“I think every faculty member at the university should adopt them,” she said.

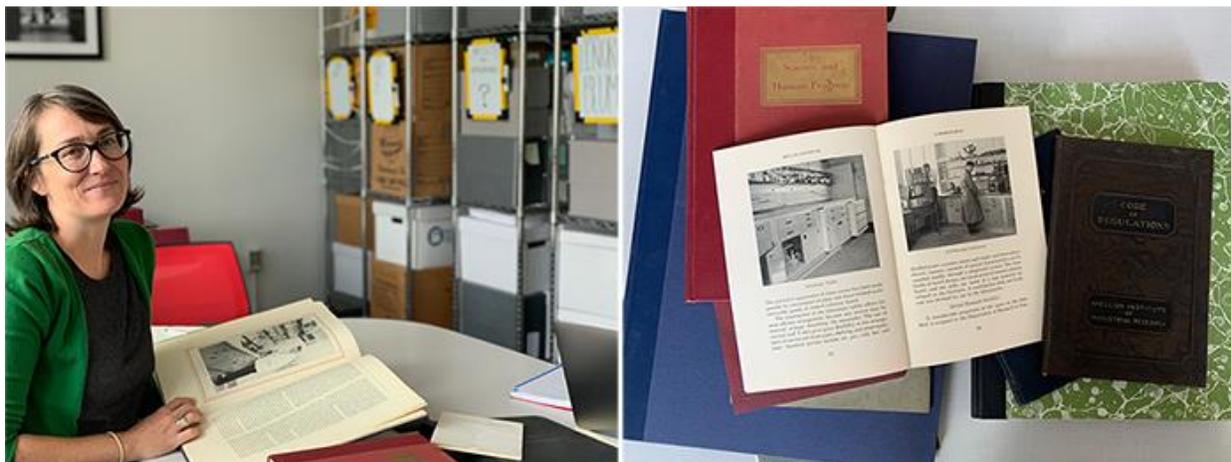
By Christopher A. Vito, Temple University

Carnegie Mellon University Archives Digitize Decades of Mellon Institute Records

Pittsburgh, PA—The Carnegie Mellon University Libraries have organized and preserved 347 boxes of records from the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, one of the nation’s premier independent research centers, making the records more widely discoverable and available to researchers.

For decades, companies without in-house “research and development” laboratories relied on the scientists and engineers of Pittsburgh’s Mellon Institute of Industrial Research to conduct cutting-edge scientific experimentation on their behalf. The building is now home to the Carnegie Mellon University Mellon College of Science.

Since its inception in 1913, through its dissolution in 2002, the Mellon Institute engaged the brightest scientific minds of its time to develop, test, and refine new chemical, biological, and materials science innovations on behalf of its corporate partners. In the process, the Institute defined the profession of sponsored research, spun off successful companies such as the Dow Corning and Union Carbide corporations, and developed industry-changing technologies. It also prepared hundreds of new scientists for careers in industrial research.



Archivist Emily Davis in the University Archives with books from the Mellon Institute. (Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries)

Over 650 novel processes and products were invented or developed as a result of the Institute’s industrial fellowship program. Through this program – created by chemist and professor Robert Kennedy Duncan and financially supported by Pittsburgh financiers Andrew W. Mellon and Richard B. Mellon – the Institute solved the immediate needs of industry by employing trained scientists to investigate its problems.

The resulting products made their way into common consumer items such as breakfast cereals, fertilizers, glues, inks, skinless hot dogs, frozen orange juice, razor blades, and fluoride, as well as groundbreaking developments such as gas masks used in World War I. The fellows also conducted numerous studies into Pittsburgh’s air quality issues and concerns surrounding the occupational health of lab and factory workers. Four researchers associated with the Mellon Institute have been awarded Nobel Prizes.

Project Archivist Emily Davis worked with colleagues in the Library’s Digitization Projects Division to scan and create metadata for two bodies of materials that tell the story of the Institute: Annual Reports from the years 1914-1967 and the Institute’s newsletters, “Toot-Toot” (1916 - 1917), “R.K.D. Bulletin” (1918 - 1919), “Mellon Institute News” (1937 - 1971), “RKD Club Columns” (1972-1974), and “Mellon Columns” 1975-1980. To make the content searchable, which enhances findability and improves accessibility, the Digitization Projects team also ran optical character recognition (OCR) software on all 26,800 pages to convert the printed text into digital text.

Both bodies of materials will give new insight into the operations of the Institute. The Annual Reports outline which companies sponsored the research and summarize the activities and accomplishments of each fellowship, while the newsletters provide a unique window into the culture of the Mellon Institute, containing information such as hirings, retirements, and rankings for the bowling and basketball teams, as well as updates from former scientists on marriages, deaths, and conference presentations. The first newsletter was published during World War I to keep members who were enlisted connected to the institute.

“No one has written a comprehensive history on the Mellon Institute, how it factored into the larger industrial research ecosystem or its contributions to science,” Davis said. “With the breadth of scientific and cultural news that are captured in these pages, these documents will be of interest to historians as well as people who want to learn about family members who worked there.”

The newly scanned materials are available on the University Archives digital collections site – digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu.

Courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

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We look forward to making your Pennsylvania library accomplishments, experiences, events, and news part of the *PaLRaP* conversation.