

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

Bryan James McGeary

Bryan James McGeary, is News Editor, Pennsylvania Libraries: Research & Practice, mcgeary@psu.edu

Carnegie Mellon University and Elsevier Reach Transformative Deal

Pittsburgh, PA—Carnegie Mellon University and Elsevier, a global information analytics business specializing in science and health, announced on November 21, 2019, they have reached a transformative agreement that prioritizes free and public access to the university's research. Under the terms of the agreement, which is the first of its kind between Elsevier and a university in the United States, Carnegie Mellon scholars will have access to all Elsevier academic journals. Additionally, all articles with a corresponding CMU author published in Elsevier journals after January 1, 2020, will have the option to be published open access.

"Carnegie Mellon is committed to ensuring that our publicly funded research is accessible to the world," said Provost James H. Garrett, Jr. "Moving our research to an open-access platform is an important step to knowledge sharing and helps pave a path forward for our colleagues across academia."

Alongside this publishing partnership, CMU and Elsevier will collaborate on strategic scientific research projects that reflect both organizations' unique capabilities.

"Elsevier is committed to open access and is thrilled to have concluded our first transformative agreement in North America," said Elsevier's Executive Vice President Gino Ussi. "This agreement reflects the truly collaborative



Lights illuminate the exterior of Hunt Library at Carnegie Mellon University. Carnegie Mellon and publishing giant Elsevier announced a new agreement, the first of its kind for a university in the United States. (Image courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries)

and flexible way we have worked together with CMU to understand their needs and come to a mutually beneficial agreement.”

“This transformative deal is an important milestone in the university’s continued support for open access that marks a necessary evolution to support the changing needs of researchers,” said Dean of University Libraries and Director of Emerging and Integrative Media Initiatives Keith Webster. “As the first university to pilot this new model for academic publishing with Elsevier, we aim to prove its viability for other institutions.”

The University Libraries will be providing information to the Carnegie Mellon community to help scholars navigate this agreement and its impact on their work.

Submitted by Shannon Riffe, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Carnegie Mellon University Joins Universities in Open Access Deal with Association for Computing Machinery

Pittsburgh, PA—Carnegie Mellon University has joined three leading universities in entering into transformative open access agreements with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the world’s largest scientific and educational computing society.

Carnegie Mellon reached the agreement with some of ACM’s largest institutional customers, including the University of California (UC), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Iowa State University (ISU). CMU is the single biggest contributor to ACM.

The agreements, which run for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2020, cover both access to and open access publication in ACM’s journals, proceedings and magazines for these universities, and represent the first transformative open access agreements for ACM.

“This joint agreement shows our universities’ collective power to secure the widest possible readership for our research,” said Keith Webster, Carnegie Mellon’s dean of [University Libraries](#) and director of emerging and integrative media initiatives. “By doing so, scholars at Carnegie Mellon University and other institutions can more rapidly advance innovation and discoveries that benefit society. If we want to see real momentum in changing from restrictive, costly publishing models to those that provide open access to our scholarly work, libraries must work together to build the business models of the future.”

Under the new agreements, faculty and students of CMU, UC, MIT and ISU will continue to receive unlimited and unrestricted access to all articles in the ACM Digital Library during the three-year term. Beginning January 1, 2020, articles with corresponding authors from these institutions published during the period of the agreements in ACM journals, conference proceedings and magazines will be made openly available at the time of publication at no cost to the authors.

Additionally, ACM will make deposits into institutional repositories for all co-authors from these universities. The new agreement also expands the range of rights authors retain when publishing with ACM.

“This agreement brings to life a bold vision for how society publishers and universities can work together to make full open access a reality,” said Jeff MacKie-Mason, university librarian at UC Berkeley, co-chair of the team overseeing UC’s publisher negotiations and a member of ACM. “We can — and will — work with publishers of all sizes to navigate the transition to open access so that researchers and the public have free and immediate access to the world’s knowledge.”

This new transformative open access publishing model was developed in collaboration with CMU, UC, MIT and ISU.

“What began as a conversation at an open access workshop led to many long hours of truly collaborative work and has resulted in a model that we believe has the potential to transform ACM’s publications program,” said Scott Delman, ACM director of publications. “We believe that the new model, which we’re calling ACM OPEN, brings the computing community closer to a sustainable future where all scholarly articles are immediately open at the time of publication.”

“I appreciate the willingness of ACM and the libraries to collaborate on a creative agreement that moves us toward an open access model for publishing,” said Hilary Seo, Iowa State University interim dean of Library Services. “This is what happens when libraries and publishers deviate from traditional models and build agreements with access, trust and innovation at the core.”

“This agreement with ACM is a model for new kinds of collaborations between research libraries and scholarly societies,” said Chris Bourg, director of Libraries at MIT. “We are especially pleased that it aligns with the [MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts](#), published in October 2019 and endorsed by over 100 libraries and consortia. When scholarly societies and libraries work together, we can forge sustainable paths to achieving immediate open access to scholarly research.”

These new agreements express ACM’s commitment to open access publication and its transition to full open access within the next several years. ACM is extending the principles of the new access model to universities throughout the world under the rubric ACM OPEN.

By Julie Mattera, Carnegie Mellon University

NEH Awards Falvey Memorial Library and Partner Institutions \$348,630 Grant to Support Ongoing Dime Novel Digitization Project

Villanova, PA—Villanova University’s Falvey Memorial Library has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for \$348,630 in order to continue digitizing out-of-print dime novels and papers. The grant will be shared between Villanova University’s Falvey Memorial Library, and four partner universities: Northern Illinois University, Stanford University, Oberlin College and Conservatory, and Bowling Green State University.

Dime novels, which were published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before the rise of pulp magazines, provided popular reading materials for a wide audience who often could not afford hardback books. They remained popular until around 1915. Falvey Memorial Library has a growing collection of print dime novels, and its staff has worked to preserve and make public these historical documents through digitization.



The newest grant supports Falvey Memorial Library’s digitization of publications including Street and Smith’s New York Weekly. (Image courtesy of Dime Novel and Popular Literature Collection, Digital Library@Villanova University)

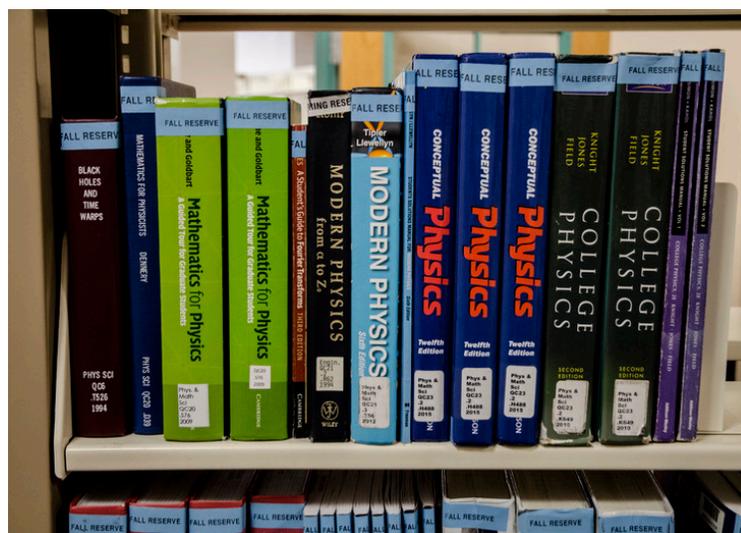
Falvey's dime novel collection, which was inspired by the [rediscovery of turn-of-the-century books](#) in the dusty depths of the library's basement, led to Falvey being awarded a [Council on Library Information Resources grant in 2017](#). The Library continues to be a recognized curator of these culturally significant texts, and this newest grant will support digitizing titles published by Street and Smith, a prolific dime novel publisher which made its mark on the field through offerings like long-running story paper *The New York Weekly* and *Tip Top Weekly*. As the market for dime novels dwindled, Street and Smith absorbed most of its competitors and reprinted many of their earlier releases.

"We have been approaching digitization projects one publisher at a time since it helps keep the scope to a manageable size. Having finished Beadle and Adams, which launched the dime novel boom, we're now looking to represent the end of the era through the lens of Street and Smith," says Demian Katz, Director of Library Technologies, who worked on the grant proposal.

"Dime novels provide an important glimpse into the evolution of popular culture and for-profit entertainment, as well as the popular attitudes and high-profile events of their day. By digitizing these books and making them available to historical researchers and popular culture enthusiasts, we are opening a time capsule that can fuel new and exciting research," adds Michael Foight, Director of Distinctive Collections and Digital Engagement.

By Shawn Proctor, Villanova University

Penn State Open, Affordable Textbook Efforts Save Students \$4.8 Million in Potential Costs



Penn State University Libraries' course reserves program, while not accounted for in cost savings by Penn State's Open and Affordable Educational Resources working group, is another initiative of the University Libraries to provide course materials to students at no additional cost to them. (Photo courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

materials for reducing students' overall cost of attending classes and transforming education across the commonwealth."

Funded primarily by Provost Nick Jones with support from Penn State World Campus, University Libraries, Teaching and Learning with Technology, and Barnes & Noble, the initial investment of approximately \$245,000 has

University Park, PA—Strategic efforts by Penn State University Libraries faculty and staff over the past three years to lower or eliminate the cost of textbooks and other course materials has paid off — nearly 20 times over — in potential savings for Penn State students.

"Penn State's novel, combined approach to lowering textbook costs through the use of both freely open and affordable, or low-cost, resources, is gaining notice in higher education nationwide," said Rebecca Miller Waltz, University Libraries head of Library Learning Services and co-chair of the University's Open and Affordable Educational Resources (OAER) Working Group. "However, even more impressive is the multifaceted breadth and depth of effort we are making across the University in growing open and affordable course

saved students \$4.8 million in potential expenses on textbooks and other course materials. The success from these initiatives has enabled an ambitious three-year plan to be extended to invest an additional \$600,000.

At the same time, faculty have greater access to open content online that they can revise and excerpt as they see fit to tailor their instructional content, giving them the flexibility to design lessons and assignments and embed content best suited to their teaching approach and environment. This adaptability of content has opened up the potential for new and cutting-edge approaches to instruction and learning.

What began as a 2016 [report](#) from an Open Educational Resources Task Force charged by the provost five years ago has evolved today into the OAER Working Group, co-chaired by Waltz and Ann Taylor, assistant dean for distance learning and director of the John A. Dutton E-Education Institute in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. The working group includes faculty, staff and student representatives from across the University.

The working group's efforts support Penn State's strategic foundational goal of [enabling access to education](#) by lowering the cost of overall attendance. Among several concurrent initiatives making the group's success possible:

- Faculty development through the [Affordable Course Transformation](#) (ACT), a grant-based program, led by University Libraries and [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#), helps support instructors in replacing high-cost published course material with "pedagogically sound open and affordable" content. ACT assists faculty in making materials available at no cost to students or for under \$50. The ACT program, which is about to launch its third round of projects, already has helped instructors of 30 courses across 15 campuses either author or adapt course materials for classes in 19 subjects. Once this material has been created, future instructors can access and adapt it for their own instructional needs and for students' access. An estimate of potential cost savings to students for this initiative alone exceeds \$1,177,700.
- A Libraries-licensed [e-textbook pilot program](#) for World Campus courses, initiated in fall 2017. Through the fall 2019 semester, 355 e-books replaced traditional textbooks and were made available for 296 World Campus courses for an overall online student potential cost savings of \$3,277,637. These e-books have been placed into the University Libraries' catalog for unlimited perpetual use, so [residential course instructors](#) and individual students also are able to access them, extending potential savings for additional students in the future.
- During the 2018-19 year, the e-textbook pilot expanded to include residential courses from the College of Information Sciences and Technology and the College of Engineering — the University's largest college by enrollment, exceeding 8,000 undergraduates. While the first pilot program among University Park campus engineering students alone included only 35 e-books among 13 courses, their impact was significant. The total potential savings those e-books provided to students exceeded \$266,560.

For more information about Open and Affordable Educational Resources at Penn State, visit [oer.psu.edu](#). To learn about additional Open at Penn State initiatives being led by the University Libraries and its partners, visit [open.psu.edu](#).

Penn State faculty interested in adding e-textbooks to their courses are encouraged to reach out to their subject liaison librarian or campus librarian. For a list of contacts, visit [libraries.psu.edu/about/libraries](#).

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Penn State Libraries Employees Receive National Award for Technology Innovation

Wyomissing, PA—Two Penn State University Libraries employees at [Berks Thun Library](#), Penn State Berks, have been awarded the American Library Association’s Emerging Technologies Section 2020 [Best Emerging Technology Application \(BETA\) Award](#), which recognizes a technology application that directly benefits library users.

Corey Wetherington, open and affordable course content coordinator, and Scott Wagner, a part-time staff member, were chosen for developing, testing, deploying and sharing an open-source stacks maintenance software program. The application, ShelfReader, improves patrons’ ability to browse effectively and locate specific call numbers.

Shelf reading, the process of checking for improperly shelved books, helps to maintain proper order in a library collection. It also helps patrons and staff find materials and reduces the likelihood that books will be tagged as missing.

“Frequent browsing can lead to a high number of lost and missing items, so shelf reading is an imperative,” Wetherington said. “Since there weren’t really any software aids available to help facilitate the process, we decided to figure out how we might design one.”

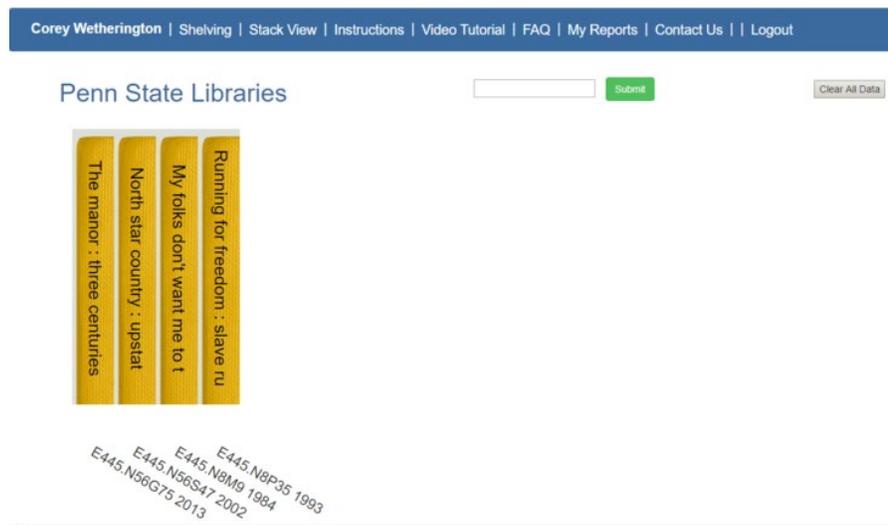
Wetherington and Wagner set out to design a web application that would solve two problems they identified: (1) improve shelf reading accuracy for collections with Library of Congress call numbers, and (2) help library employees identify metadata errors. They devised a comprehensive algorithm for sorting complex call numbers, which forms the basis for the software, then published a [journal article](#) on the topic in the journal *Information Technology and Libraries*.

The ShelfReader software was designed and coded to work interactively with the University Libraries systems to perform other inventory control tasks in addition to shelf reading.

“We’ve made it available for free via an open license to any other libraries who might wish to adapt it to their own collections,” Wetherington added. It is accessible at [shelfreader.com](#), with code available on [GitHub](#).

Now in its second year, the BETA Award, which includes a \$3,000 prize, is sponsored by Chatstaff and LibraryH3lp.

By Bev Molnar, Penn State University Libraries



A testing document shows the main application screen for ShelfReader, a software program developed by two Berks Thun Library employees that won the American Library Association 2020 Best Emerging Technology Application (BETA) Award. (Image courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

Penn State Berks Librarians Win ACRL College Libraries Section Innovation in College Librarianship Award



(From left) Brett Spencer, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, and Alexandria Chisholm received the 2020 Innovation in College Librarianship Award from the College Libraries Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries. (Photo by Mary Ann Mengel)

University Park, PA—Three Penn State University Libraries employees at Berks Thun Library, Penn State Berks, have received the 2020 Innovation in College Librarianship Award from the College Libraries Section (CLS) of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association.

Reference and instruction librarians Alexandria Chisholm, Sarah Hartman-Caverly and Brett Spencer were recognized for their work on creating the library's Discovery Lab, a learner-centered library space with complementary collections that facilitate exploration of information and knowledge building. The awards committee praised the Discovery Lab as "a great example of the ways in which library staff can support undergraduate research and scholarship, and beyond into a person's career."

"It's exciting to see the Discovery Lab recognized as an innovative way to engage undergraduates in research and inquiry," Hartman-Caverly said.

The idea for the Discovery Lab grew from a desire to repurpose space in the library's reading lounge using feature browsing collections as sources of inspiration, background information and access to emerging research methods. Six collections — Idea (ready reference), First Draft (current periodicals), Campus Portfolio (faculty and student publications), Ethics and Sustainability, Beyond Berks (career and postbaccalaureate transition information) and Engaged Scholarship (guides for research methods, service learning and publication styles) — were incorporated into guided exploration activities for programs like first-year experience and service-learning courses.

"The integration of curated print browsing collections, pop-up instruction space and passive engagement programming is designed to provide students with a number of on-ramps into scholarly communication and the academic community, from piquing their curiosity, to highlighting emerging research methods, to identifying potential faculty research advisers," said Hartman-Caverly.

The library staff plans to expand learning activities once on-campus learning resumes.

"While we look forward to returning to campus and reengaging students in this dynamic and interactive space, we are also in the process of building a virtual Discovery Lab experience," Hartman-Caverly added.

Sponsored by the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC), the \$1,000 award honors librarians who demonstrate a capacity for innovation in working with or serving undergraduates or instructors in the areas of programs, services and operations or creating innovations for library colleagues that facilitate their ability to better serve the library's community.

By Bev Molnar, Penn State University Libraries

Cole Receives Reference and User Services Association Emerging Technology Section Achievement Award

University Park, PA—Carmen Cole, the Sally W. Kalin Librarian for Learning Innovations and Information Sciences and Business Liaison Librarian at Penn State University, has been selected as the ALA Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) ETS Achievement Award for 2020. Carmen has been an integral member of RUSA and RUSA's Emerging Technology Section (ETS) since 2016. As member and Chair of the popular ETS Hot Topics Committee Carmen facilitated sessions attended to capacity at ALA Midwinter and Annual. A sampling of these hot topics sessions include discussions surrounding GoPros, Pokemon Go, Oculus, Google Cardboard; issues around Fake News, Alternative Facts, and Clickbait; Artificial Intelligence and Reference Services; and Apps used in the library. Carmen also has played an important role in helping ETS to define what is unique about this section. A webinar proposed and developed by Carmen titled "Virtual Video Reference: Connecting with Patrons at a Distance," attracted 55 participants.



Carmen Cole, the Sally W. Kalin Librarian for Learning Innovations and Information Sciences and Business Liaison Librarian, Penn State University. (Photo courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

On more than one occasion Carmen has stepped up to fill important roles in ETS. In the spring of 2019 ETS had an unexpected vacancy of for the Members at Large position of Membership Director. Carmen volunteered to fill this role for the remainder of the term. Included in this position was the oversight of the ETS member survey that was conducted in April 2019. Carmen has attended all ETS Executive Committee meetings in her roles of committee chair and member at large and has just been elected to the ETS Member At Large Professional Development Director position.

Carmen is an outstanding representative of ETS. Carmen is passionate about providing the ETS membership with quality, timely, and fun learning experiences, and looks forward to her time with section members at the ALA conferences. Carmen is a model member of RUSA and ALA and it is with great pleasure that ETS awards her with the 2020 ETS Achievement Award.

The Achievement Award selection committee includes Geoffrey Morse, Chair; Shannon D. Jones; Jessica R. Cerny; Jason Matthew Coleman; and Chad J. Pearson.

Courtesy of RUSA Emerging Technology Section Achievement Award Selection Committee

Penn State University Archives' COVID-19 Experience Project Seeks Community Engagement

University Park, PA—The global efforts underway to stop the pandemic spread of the novel coronavirus have dramatically altered daily life, impacting the lives and experiences of the Penn State community and others in unprecedented, historically significant ways. With this in mind, the Penn State University Libraries' University Archives, part of the [Eberly Family Special Collections Library](#), has begun work to document this significant and unique period for preservation and future research use.

Its official curatorial program, the [Penn State COVID-19 Experience Project](#), invites Penn State students, staff, faculty and alumni to document and share their personal experiences for submission toward a new special collection

for the University Archives. Participants are encouraged to submit written journals or diaries, photo essays, video or audio recordings, zines or any other creative means of documentation.

“The COVID-19 Experience Project provides us with the unique opportunity to document our experience as we are living it,” said Jennifer Meehan, head of the Eberly Family Special Collections Library. “We already understand how deeply COVID-19 will impact our Penn State community, and the University Archives is committed to preserving this lived history for the benefit of future generations.”

Participants may document their experiences in one day, maintain a daily diary for several weeks, or create a reflective weekly journal, at the discretion of the individual and in whatever medium they choose. The project seeks to document how the Penn State community is carrying on with studies, research, work and life — both physically and emotionally.

The University Archives will accept all relevant materials, both physical and digital, as donations and for review for inclusion in the Penn State COVID-19 Experience Project Collection. To contribute, participants are asked to please complete [this Qualtrics form](https://www.tinyurl.com/PSUcov19project) (tinyurl.com/PSUcov19project). With the help of the entire Penn State community, the University Archives can help preserve this experience for future scholars.

Additional information about the Penn State COVID-19 Experience Project, as well as prompts for individuals to consider as they begin to record their experiences, can be found at libraries.psu.edu/about/libraries/special-collections-library/covid-19-experience-project. For questions about the project, please email University Archivist Angel Diaz at madiaz@psu.edu.

Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations

Penn State Law Librarian Elected 2021 Chair of National Law Library Organization



Rebecca Mattson. (Image courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

University Park, PA— Rebecca Mattson, head of faculty and research services for the H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library, Penn State University Libraries, and professor of legal research at Penn State Law at University Park, has been elected vice chair/chair elect of the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Beginning in July, she will serve a three-year term, moving to chair in 2021 and immediate past chair in 2022.

In addition to her leadership within the Montague Law Library, Mattson manages the Penn State Law eLibrary and the law school’s Legal Research Paper Series, and provides enhanced support for faculty scholarship and research. As professor of legal research, she teaches Legal Research Tools and Strategies, a first-year legal research course, and Researching Administrative Law, an upper-level research course.

An AALL member since 2011, Mattson was chosen as an AALL Leadership Academy Fellow in 2016. From 2016 to 2019, she co-chaired the task force for the inaugural “Teaching the Teachers” Conference, a unique experience to enhance law librarians’ knowledge of pedagogical issues and best practices specific to legal research instruction. She is vice chair of the RIPS-SIS Grants Committee and has served on several other sub-committees, including the Legal Research Competency Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Membership Task Force and the Teach-In Kit Committee.

Prior to joining Penn State Law in 2015, Mattson served as a librarian at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, a research librarian at Harris Beach, PLLC, and an attorney editor at West/Thomson Reuters. She holds juris doctor (J.D.) and master of library science (M.L.S.) degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

AALL advances the profession of law librarianship and legal information and supports the professional growth of its members through leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy. The mission of RIPS-SIS is to organize programs relating to research instruction and services provided to library users, including reference, research instruction, circulation, interlibrary loan and the impact of technology and electronic resources.

By Bev Molnar, Penn State University Libraries

Librarian at Penn State Harrisburg Elected to Third Term Leading National Group

University Park, PA—Bernadette Lear, Penn State University Libraries behavioral sciences and education librarian and coordinator of library instruction at the Penn State Harrisburg Library, has been elected vice chair/chair elect of the Library History Round Table (LHRT), a membership group of the American Library Association (ALA). In addition to her leadership within the Montague Law Library, Mattson manages the Penn State Law eLibrary and the law school's Legal Research Paper Series, and provides enhanced support for faculty scholarship and research. As professor of legal research, she teaches Legal Research Tools and Strategies, a first-year legal research course, and Researching Administrative Law, an upper-level research course.

Lear has more than two decades of experience working in libraries, including the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., and the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. She is co-editor of the scholarly journal *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*, published by Penn State University Press. She previously served as LHRT chair in 2009–10 and 2013–14. She also served as chair of the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (2015–16) and chair of the Archives and History Committee of the Pennsylvania Library Association (2008 to 2017).

Lear holds a master of arts degree in American studies from Penn State and a master of library science degree from Rutgers University.

ALA, the oldest and largest library association in the world, provides leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the librarianship profession to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. The mission of LHRT is to encourage research and publication on library history and promote awareness and discussion of historical issues in librarianship.



Bernadette Lear is the behavioral sciences and education librarian and coordinator of library instruction at Penn State Harrisburg Library. (Image courtesy of Penn State University Libraries)

By Bev Molnar, Penn State University Libraries

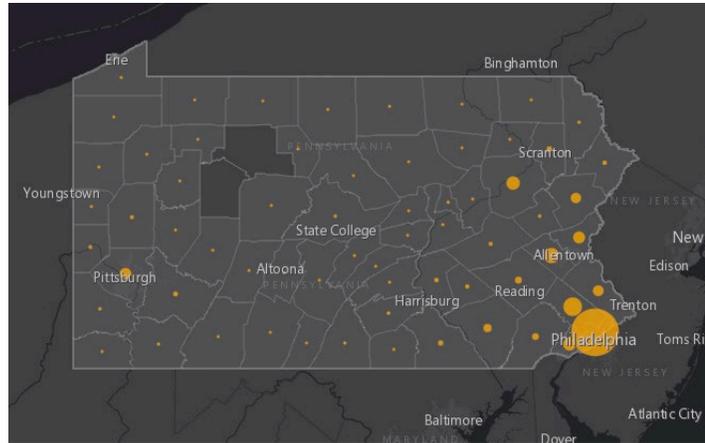
Penn State Libraries Researchers Create Online Dashboard Enabling COVID-19 Tracking by Pennsylvania County

University Park, PA—Residents of Pennsylvania can monitor the spread of COVID-19 across the commonwealth with an [online dashboard](#) created by researchers at Penn State. The dashboard, which has been available since March 12, provides a map of the state with the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases represented by county.

Updated daily, the dashboard also presents graphics that help to visualize this spread, including ways to look for a “flattening of the curve” that would indicate that our efforts to slow the spread of the virus are working.

“We wanted to help people in Pennsylvania understand what is happening in the state,” said Brittany Waltemate, a maps and GIS assistant supported by the Sally W. Kalin Endowment for Technological Innovations, to work in the [Donald W. Hamer Center for Maps and Geospatial Information](#). The center is part of the Penn State University Libraries [Department of Research Informatics and Publishing](#).

Working in partnership with [Nathan Piekielek](#), the geospatial services librarian and assistant professor of geography, Waltemate said the dashboard is evolving as new data becomes available.



Researchers at Penn State have created an online dashboard showing the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania by county. (Image courtesy of Penn State)

By Sara LaJeunesse, Penn State Office of Strategic Communications

Berks County Public Libraries Honored with Award for Partnership with 2020 Census



Amy Resh, System Administrator of Berks County Public Libraries. (Photo courtesy of the Compendium)

Reading, PA—On Wednesday, January 15, the [Berks County Public Libraries](#) were honored with an award for innovative programming and outreach in support of the 2020 Census in Berks County.

The award was presented at the official opening of the Reading Area Census Office by Berks County Commissioner, Kevin Barnhardt, Chair of the Berks County Complete Count Committee.

The Berks County Public Libraries have created counting themed Story Time kits that will be circulated to libraries throughout the county in addition to information materials created in-house that are available in English and Spanish. The 19 system member libraries will also feature the link to complete the Census on their website and directly on desktop computers for easy access.

“We recognize that the Census is a vitally important community project that will have far reaching impacts for the next 10 years” said Amy Resh, System Administrator of Berks County Public Libraries. “The Berks County Public Libraries are positioned to serve the community as central reference points for the 2020 Census. People seeking information about the Census and those wanting to respond electronically can turn to their local library for help.”

Courtesy of the Compendium

Save the Date—Upcoming PA Library Workshops

PaLA CRD Spring Workshop Scheduled for June 22, 2020

Middletown, PA— Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Pennsylvania Library Association College and Research Division (CRD) Spring Workshop is rescheduled and will be offered virtually on **Monday, June 22** to ensure your access to quality professional development even as we work remotely. This workshop, featuring two keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and a book discussion, is FREE for all CRD personal members. Your registration also includes a copy of the book discussion title, shipped to you at no cost. Non-members are welcome to register and attend for just \$20.

Though we will be online, our programming will remain the same. This year's theme is *Pennsylvania Academic Libraries: Powering Progress with Essential Literacies*. The day-long program will include two keynote speakers on student civic engagement and libraries: **Ilana Stonebraker** of Indiana University, and **Abby Kiesa** of CIRCLE, The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, at Tufts University. PA Forward Gold Star Academic libraries will share their journeys to gold, and other Pennsylvania academic library colleagues will present breakout sessions on essential literacy programming and resources in a college/university environment.

For planning purposes, advance registration is required. Because we will order and ship books to you ahead of the Workshop, registration will close on June 1. Please visit <https://www.palibraries.org/event/2020CRDWorkshop> to register. Be sure to provide your current mailing address in order to receive your book.

Our call for breakout session proposals is open! What have you learned about teaching information literacy (or any other literacies) online since we went remote? What great programs were you offering on campus before? Have a great session that was canceled at another conference? We want to hear about it! Please submit your proposal by May 18 here: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eER4RjN2FcdJNb.

Share news about your PA library!

Have news you would like to share in our next issue? Submit your news items via our online form: bit.ly/1rkSdcR

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