

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Newsworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

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Jennie Levine Knies Named Penn State University Libraries' First Associate Dean for Commonwealth Campus Libraries

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Jennie Levine Knies, Penn State University Libraries' interim co-director of Commonwealth Campus Libraries and head librarian of the Penn State Scranton Library and Nesbitt Library at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus, has been selected to serve as the University Libraries' inaugural associate dean for Commonwealth Campus Libraries, effective Dec. 1, 2022.



Jennie Levine Knies has been named the inaugural associate dean for Commonwealth Campus Libraries, effective Dec. 1, 2022. Credit: Todd Douty for Penn State University Libraries / Penn State. Creative Commons

"Jennie Knies' extensive academic librarian and leadership experience at Penn State University Libraries locations and elsewhere in the Big Ten have given her the background she needs to serve our organization well in this new role. I'm thrilled to welcome her as a permanent member of the University Libraries leadership team and look forward to her contributions on behalf of all our Commonwealth Campus libraries, which are a vital and highly valued component of the University Libraries in its entirety," said Faye A. Chadwell, dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications. "Jennie's intimate understanding of Penn State's Commonwealth Campus libraries, along with her significant experience in digital and special collections, as well as

instruction and research support, have prepared her well to support excellence in Penn State learning and research and to strengthen service to Pennsylvania communities across all our locations.”

As an associate dean, Knies will formally join the University Libraries administrative leadership team and will directly oversee the position of senior director of Commonwealth Campus Libraries, currently vacant, as well as the head librarians at Robert B. Eiche Library at Penn State Altoona, Dubois Campus Library at Penn State DuBois, John M. Lilley Library at Penn State Behrend, Berks Thun Library at Penn State Berks, and Madlyn L. Hanes Library at Penn State Harrisburg. The senior director of Commonwealth Campus Libraries will have direct oversight of library heads serving all other Penn State Commonwealth Campuses. In this Libraries-wide capacity, Knies will be responsible for providing leadership, direction, and oversight of all Commonwealth Campus libraries to advance student learning, faculty productivity and community engagement, and fostering collaborations at all Penn State campuses.

Knies has served the University Libraries with tenure as associate librarian since arriving at Penn State in 2015, initially serving as head librarian of Nesbitt Library on Penn State’s Wilkes-Barre campus. In this position, she coordinated and co-conceived the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Celebration of Scholarship and the campus undergraduate research fair, among other achievements. Her role expanded in October 2017 to lead the Penn State Scranton Library, and in July 2021 she was named interim co-director of Commonwealth Campus Libraries along with Jennifer Gilley, head librarian of the Elisabeth S. Blissell Library at Penn State New Kensington.

Prior to joining Penn State, Knies served the University of Maryland Libraries for 15 years, holding the titles of manager of digital programs and initiative in the Digital Systems and Stewardship Division; manager of digital collections in the Collection Management and Special Collections Division; and curator for the Historical Manuscripts, Archives and Manuscripts Department. Prior to her academic career she was director of operations for Integrated Systems Research Corporation in Baltimore, Maryland.

An active member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Knies served as its elected chair in 2020-21 and twice has been elected to its Distinguished Service Award Committee, among several other roles. She also was elected chair of the Encoded Archival Description Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists in 2007-08 and remains active in the American Library Association and Pennsylvania Library Association.

Knies earned her undergraduate degree in Russian area studies and a master of library science degree, both from the University of Maryland, College Park. In 1996-97, she was selected as a Western Fellow of the Open Society Archives, a center for research and education within the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. There she had curatorial responsibilities and completed the processing of the Soviet “Red” Archives, including the creation of an online finding aid in both Russian and English.

“Each Commonwealth Campus library is unique, but together, they are a powerful network. As associate dean for Commonwealth Campus Libraries, it will be my priority to build a sense of belonging across the Commonwealth Campus libraries, so that we can, as a group, identify priorities, set goals, and make decisions that both fit within the strategic visions of the University Libraries and the Commonwealth Campuses, while maintaining our own unique spirit,” Knies said. “I am excited by the prospect of shaping a new administrative era at Penn State University Libraries.”

Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries

Rebecca Waltz Named Penn State University Libraries Associate Dean for Learning and Engagement

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Rebecca Miller Waltz has been named associate dean for Learning and Engagement with responsibility for a newly aligned portfolio focused on the Libraries’ role in providing a transformative learning experience for Penn State students. Her appointment begins on Dec. 1. Waltz has been serving as the interim associate dean for Learning and Undergraduate Services since August 2021.

“Rebecca Waltz understands and values the instructional and outreach roles that the University Libraries plays for all Penn State students. Her expertise and experience in the fields of both library science and education are an ideal combination for leadership of the Libraries’ teaching, learning and student engagement responsibilities,” said Faye A. Chadwell, dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications. “Rebecca has done an outstanding job as head of Library Learning Services and as interim associate dean. I look forward to working with her to implement the Libraries’ vision for implementing and enhancing student-centered academic library services, spaces and events in support of students’ success and sense of belonging across Penn State’s libraries.”



Rebecca Miller Waltz has been named associate dean for Learning and Engagement at Penn State University Libraries, effective Dec. 1. Credit: Megan Brenneman, All Rights Reserved

As an associate dean, Waltz will formally join the University Libraries administrative leadership team and will directly oversee the departments of Access Services, Global Engagement Initiatives, Library Learning Services and Media and Technology Support Services. The position will lead the assessment of evolving user needs and collaborative development of plans to enhance, adapt and/or expand the impact of the Libraries’ curriculum and pedagogy, and also will aim to provide a transformative learning experience for Penn State undergraduates; to collaborate across the Libraries to develop and implement a shared vision of student-focused services, instruction and engagement; and to advance the development of the Libraries’ global engagement initiatives.

Waltz came to Penn State in October 2015 with tenure as associate librarian and head of the University Libraries’ Library Learning Services unit. This department prioritizes foundational-level information literacy instruction, programming for outreach and student engagement, open and affordable educational resources, and teaching and learning expertise and learning spaces. Waltz earned an academic promotion to full librarian in 2020 and was named interim associate dean in August 2021.

Prior to arriving at Penn State, Waltz served as associate director of Library Learning Services at Virginia Tech, where she also served as college librarian for science, life sciences and engineering. Waltz received a presidential

citation from the Virginia Library Association in 2012. From 2008 to 2010, she served as digital technologies and information literacy librarian at Louisiana State University.

In July, Waltz joined the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Board of Directors, elected as a director-at-large for a four-year term. Waltz served the American Library Association Council as an elected councilor-at-large from 2016-2019. She has served as an ACRL Information Literacy Immersion Program instructor since 2017. Since 2018, Waltz has served as a part-time instructor with Syracuse University's School of Information Sciences, an institution that grants degrees supporting the field of librarianship.

Waltz received a master's degree in education focusing on instructional design and technology from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in library sciences from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and undergraduate degrees in English and religion from the College of William and Mary. Currently, she is updating her 2016 book co-authored with Candice Benjes-Small, "The New Instruction Librarian: A Workbook for Trainers and Learners," with the second edition expected to be published in 2023 by ALA Editions.

"I joined Penn State University Libraries in 2015 because of the Libraries' strong reputation for student-centered services and transformative approaches to teaching and learning. During my time at Penn State, I have been amazed by the incredible potential to impact communities within and beyond the commonwealth and to advance affordability and accessibility of higher education through strategic and collaborative efforts," Waltz said. "I am thrilled to be stepping into the associate dean for Learning and Engagement role and I look forward to working with colleagues to support equitable student success through new and existing partnerships, innovative services and spaces, and a commitment to wellness and inclusion."

Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries

Penn Libraries Dedicates Holman Biotech Commons

PHILADELPHIA, Pa – A \$5 million gift from Penn Libraries Board of Advisors member Wendy Commins Holman, W'97, her husband Wayne Holman, and their family will name the recently renovated [Holman Biotech Commons](#).

The naming gift from the Holman family will ensure this dynamic space continues to meet the evolving needs of scholars who rely on the Penn Libraries' services, resources, and expertise as they work to impact and improve human life.

"The Holman Biotech Commons has emerged as a hub for collaboration across the University and a launching pad for innovative study in the health sciences," says Penn President Liz Magill. "We are extraordinarily grateful to Wendy and Wayne Holman for this commitment, which provides the Penn community with access to information using the latest tools and technologies to connect and explore across disciplines."

"This vibrant space proudly bears the name of the Holman family, and we at the Penn Libraries are deeply grateful to Wendy and Wayne for their enduring commitment to Penn, to the Libraries, and to the biomedical community," says Constantia Constantinou, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries. "Spaces like this demonstrate the essential infrastructure that the Penn Libraries provides. The Holmans' support ensures that we will continue to answer vital needs and provide an extraordinary user experience to every member of our community who visits the Biotech Commons."

The Holman Biotech Commons' innovative design is the result of an \$11.5 million renovation, completed in fall 2021, which was informed by input from library users, researchers, partners in the Perelman School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, facilities experts, and the Penn Libraries' staff and subject specialists. Situated at the heart

of biomedical activity on campus, the Biotech Commons facilitates relationships among the many interdisciplinary groups that surround it, including graduate and undergraduate students, clinicians, faculty, and researchers.

Wendy Holman, the CEO and co-founder of Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, has a passion for global health and healthcare equality. In addition to serving on the Penn Libraries Board of Advisors, she is a member of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

"Most of my work focus – as a philanthropist, volunteer and as a CEO – has a common thread: to have a tangible positive effect on health and human suffering," says Wendy Holman. "Penn's researchers, scientists, and scholars have done an incredible job leading the world in biomedical research, and our planet is a safer, better, and healthier place as a result. Penn's libraries are not only a place to house our tremendous collections; they are centers of research excellence which continue to keep Penn at the forefront of innovation."

Holman believes in the mission of the Penn Libraries because "the libraries support all of the Schools and all of our students. They continue to be the great equalizer on campus while also serving as great research and development hubs."

Wayne Holman adds, "Wendy and I have dedicated our lives to advancing and harnessing healthcare innovation to address both unmet needs and underserved areas. We are confident the Holman Biotech Commons will be a place of learning, discovery, and collaboration that further advances the great contributions the University of Pennsylvania has already made to treating and curing human disease. We are honored and proud of our long-term partnership in advancing many common goals we share with the entire Penn community."

The Holmans previously supported the Biotech Commons renovation project by funding the centrally located Wendy and Wayne Holman Reading Room, which serves as both an independent study area and a multipurpose event space with movable furniture to accommodate a variety of activities such as lecture-style events, book talks, and conferences.

Additional highlights of the facility include the Bollinger Digital Fabrication Lab, which offers 3D printing and poster printing services to aid academic, clinical, and research projects; the Anatomage Table, which allows for the virtual dissection and review of life-size virtual cadavers outside of clinical lab coursework; and a Relaxation Room, a vital space for stress relief to support students in high-stress medical education programs.

"The Holman Biotech Commons is a reflection of the Holmans' commitment to the Penn Libraries and to supporting our biomedical community," says Hannah Rutledge, the library's director. "It's an honor to work in such a welcoming, light-filled, and inspiring space that encourages innovation and collaboration among faculty, students, and our expert staff and librarians."

"As problems grow in complexity, the need for diversity of thought and experience becomes more and more important," says Wendy Holman. "Collaboration requires space to work together. My hope is that the Holman Biotech Commons helps to fill that need."

About the Penn Libraries

The Penn Libraries provides a network of information resources and knowledge services that are vital to teaching, research, and learning at the University of Pennsylvania. This network includes 19 physical libraries, recognized for their collections, and a digital library known for innovation and richness of content. Through exhibitions and lectures, and through the acquisition and preservation of literary and artistic artifacts, the Penn Libraries documents a wealth of social and historical periods, bringing scholarship to life at the University and in the various communities it serves.

About the University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania, founded in 1740, is an Ivy League institution with a distinctive past. Its twelve undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools are located in Philadelphia on an attractive urban campus that serves a diverse community of more than 20,000 students from throughout the nation and around the world. Ranked consistently among the top universities in the nation, Penn has a longstanding reputation for excellence in graduate and professional education.

Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries

Drexel Researchers Shine Spotlight on the Benefits of Open Access Publishing

PHILADELPHIA, Pa -- Drexel Libraries joined universities and researchers around the world for the [11th annual International Open Access \(OA\) Week](#), held October 24 - 30. The theme for OA Week 2022 was "Open for Climate Justice" and provided an opportunity for members of the global research community to "come together, take action and raise awareness around how open access can be a means for climate justice."

The Drexel Libraries held a mix of virtual and hybrid events throughout OA Week, including four researcher table talks and one keynote session. More than 75 Drexel faculty, staff, and students attended the five events, all of which showcased the benefits of free, open access to information. Hybrid events were held in-person in the W. W. Hagerty Library and online via Zoom for those who couldn't participate on campus.

Open for Climate Justice

During the Libraries' keynote presentation, [Drexel Associate Professor of Politics Gwen Ottinger, PhD](#), addressed the importance of making environmental research—particularly environmental data—openly available.

"Getting published research out from behind paywalls is important, but here I'm talking about the data with which one can create knowledge," explained Professor Ottinger during her keynote session. "For access to be meaningful, you need to be able to ask questions that the originators of the data hadn't thought of. You want to be able to create new knowledge. And that requires infrastructure—software and hardware and collaboration across disciplines."

She went on to describe her team's research and their work to create [RefineryAirWatch.org](#), a database designed to make refinery fence-line monitoring data openly available, easy to access, and easy to download for any researchers and communities who want to know what they are breathing.

"We are trying to build infrastructure and a cross-sector collaboration to see where we can tackle issues of findability, accessibility, interoperability," Ottinger said. "How can you take public data that exists out there and make it accessible in a way that can advance our knowledge of environmental issues—and hopefully—our action on it? If all the knowledge about environmental issues is sitting with regulatory agencies, then it helps regulatory agendas. If you have activist organizations with access to that [information], then different agendas can emerge."

Increasing Access to Drexel Research

The Libraries' OA Week activities also included four 30-minute researcher table talks, which featured Drexel faculty and post-graduate researchers who recently published their articles in open access journals using funding

provided by the Drexel Libraries' [Open Access Publishing Pilot Fund](#). During each 30-minute session, a different Drexel researcher spoke about their work and how they have benefited from the OA publishing model.

"Science is built upon the mountains of past work, and having access to it allows me to learn from the research of past scientists," said Liangyu Tao, a PhD student and research assistant in the School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems, during his table talk. "I want to focus on two main benefits of open access. First, [authors retain the copyright to their papers under open access]. And second, open access [articles] are freely available to the general public and to institutions who do not have access to [subscription-based] publications... These advantages allow for the democratization of the dissemination of information... and it increases the reach and impact of research."

Other OA Week speakers included Loni Tabb, PhD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Dornsife School of Public Health; Bahrad Sokhansanj, PhD, Assistant Research Professor, College of Engineering; and Pratusha Reddy, Research & Teaching Assistant, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science & Health Systems.

[Missed the Libraries' OA Week events? Watch the event recordings on the Libraries' YouTube Channel.](#)

Courtesy of Drexel University Libraries

Libby Reading App Now Provides Free Access to Penn State University Libraries' E-Books and Audiobooks

Award-winning app allows students, staff and faculty to read leisure titles anytime, anywhere

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa -- [Penn State University Libraries](#) is expanding access to a wide variety of digital books for curriculum support or leisure reading. Now, students, faculty and staff can borrow and read the school's growing collection of e-books and audiobooks for free through the [Libby app](#).

Libby offers convenient and safe access to hundreds of popular and educational e-books and digital audiobooks from the Libraries' leisure reading collection. Using the app is easy and gives readers the freedom to read across devices, download to read or stream offline, inside the classroom, at home and anywhere at any time.

The Libby app is available for Penn State students, faculty, and staff to download through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store on phones and tablets, and on Chromebooks that support the Google Play Store. The digital collection can also be accessed in web browsers at <https://libbyapp.com>, without the app. Through Libby, readers can also enjoy digital books on their Kindle devices [U.S. only]. All titles automatically expire at the end of the lending period and there are no late fees. Readers can also download titles onto Libby for offline use.

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Courtesy of Penn State University Libraries

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<http://bit.ly/1rkSdcR>

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