News Briefs from PA Libraries

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Pennsylvania Librarians Publish Book on Privacy Literacy

Congratulations to Sarah Hartman-Caverly and Alexandria Chisholm, reference and instruction librarians at Penn State Berks, whose edited book, Practicing Privacy Literacy in Academic Libraries: Theories, Methods, and Cases (tinyurl.com/ymfa46cn), was recently published by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)! The book is a trailblazing work that equips academic librarians to be the leaders of privacy literacy within American higher education.

As noted in the official description, their book “can help you teach privacy literacy, evolve the privacy practices at your institution, and re-center the individuals behind the data and the ethics behind library work.” The book includes four sections: 1. What is Privacy Literacy? 2. Protecting Privacy 3. Educating about Privacy 4. Advocating for Privacy.

Sarah and Alex also offer a rich array of other resources for fellow librarians seeking to become privacy instructors and advocates, including a Library Juice Academy course (tinyurl.com/5f9mzsmf), open-licensed teaching and learning materials (tinyurl.com/u2wh9tc8), and open access privacy literacy research available through Penn State’s institutional repository, ScholarSphere (tinyurl.com/4fw066da).

ACRL had previously bestowed the 2021 Instruction Section Innovation Award to Sarah and Alex for their Digital Shred Privacy Literacy Initiative (sites.psu.edu/digitalshred).

Additional contributing Pennsylvania librarians include Lori Lysiak, reference and instruction librarian at Penn State Altoona; Dr. Theresa McDevitt, government documents/outreach librarian at Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Paul McMonigle, engineering librarian at Penn State University; and Emily Mross, business librarian at Penn State Harrisburg. More information is available from PSU News (tinyurl.com/5upjxfcy) and ACRL Insider (tinyurl.com/5acevjxe).

Questions about the book can be directed to Sarah at smh767@psu.edu and Alex at aec67@psu.edu.

Submitted by Brett Spencer, Penn State University Libraries
Dr. Sara Baron Named Dean of Libraries at Duquesne University

The Gumberg Library at Duquesne University is thrilled to announce that Dr. Sara Baron has been named Dean of Libraries. She is the first person to hold this title at Duquesne. Dr. Baron became University Librarian in 2015. Since then, she has led Gumberg Library through a period of significant growth and development, including the planning and opening of the new Medical Library. She has overseen significant renovations to the library building, including new study and event spaces, a FlexTech classroom and an art exhibition space – with more projects to come.

Dr. Baron leads Gumberg Library’s team of faculty, staff, center directors, and student workers. During her tenure, Gumberg has increased print and digital collections, expanded access to its digital research through the Duquesne Scholarship Collection, and enhanced special collections in the Maureen Sullivan Curriculum Center, Silverman Phenomenology Center, and University Archives. The new title acknowledges the faculty’s expertise and skills of the Gumberg team in support of the academic mission of the university” said Baron. “I am proud to work with the talented members of Team Gumberg.”

Baron holds both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in speech communication from Texas State University and an M.S. in library science from the University of North Texas. She earned her doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Baron previously served for 10 years as dean of the university library at Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.

Baron’s professional leadership roles include serving as a board member (2017-2022) of PALCI, the Partnership for Academic Library Collaboration and Innovation, and PALCI Board President from 2020-2021. She served as president of the Catholic Library Association from 2013-2015. In 2016, she was elected to the board of directors of the Catholic Research Resources Alliance and chaired the board from 2017-2018.

Submitted by Alyssa Rein, Gumberg Library at Duquesne University
Students Launch Digital Exhibit Highlighting Library’s Distinctive Collections

With selections spanning from circa 2000 B.C. to 2017, from as far away as Sumatra and as near as State College, Pennsylvania, the books on view in the recently launched student-curated digital exhibition “Books Unbound” (sites.psu.edu/historyofthebook) defy categorization. What do these books have in common? All items on view are located within Penn State University Libraries’ Eberly Family Special Collections Library and are available to request for teaching or research.

A collaboration between Penn State’s History Department and the Eberly Family Special Collections Library, "HIST 255N: History of the Book,” taught by Kathlene Baldanza, associate professor of history and Asian studies, and Clara Drummond, lead curator and exhibitions coordinator, provides a hands-on, workshop-based approach to studying book history, material culture, preservation of the written word, and the role of the library. Examples of the workshops offered (tinyurl.com/bdetbbvf) include papermaking with Senior Book Conservator Bill Minter; ink-making with Professor Sarah Rich and the Center for Virtual/Material Studies; transcribing the letters of Frederick Douglass on Douglass Day; bookbinding with Lisa Baumgartner of Wandering Leaf Bindery; and zine-making with Clara Drummond.

For the final exhibition project, students were asked to choose one book or book-related item, describe why it is worthy of research and meaningful to them, and communicate these findings to a general audience. Some of these books are not finished, others are unique copies written by hand; some are not bound, some are not beautiful. They serve different purposes: to educate, to tell a story, to keep a record, to protest and inform, to teach, to mark time, to show off or to make you dance.

For the full news release or more information about “Books Unbound” visit the Penn State University Libraries News article (tinyurl.com/yc8c7f74).