

# Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

## Noteworthy

*News Briefs from PA Libraries*

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### CMU Libraries Exhibit Examines Gaps in Archives Collections

Pittsburgh, PA -- In the aftermath of the George Floyd killing, Black Lives Matter protests, and racial unrest across the country, the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries is taking steps to look inward with a critical eye at its own collections. "What We Don't Have: Confronting the Absence of Diversity in the University Archives" is a new virtual exhibit from Carnegie Mellon University Libraries that explores the absence of diversity in the University Archives' collections, while serving as a call to action to create a more inclusive archive reflective of the Carnegie Mellon University community.

This virtual exhibit is unique in that it focuses on the items that CMU Libraries does not have – such as records of the LGBTQ+ experience on campus, records of the Asian Student Association, and the papers of George Corrin, the first Black School of Drama student – while giving a revealing look into the archival process. "What We Don't Have: Confronting the Absence of Diversity in the University Archives" is on view at <http://cmu.is/whatwedonthave> and will run indefinitely.

*Submitted by Shannon Riffe, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries*

### Sloan Foundation Awards Carnegie Mellon University Libraries Funds for a Robot Archive

Pittsburgh, PA -- [The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has awarded \\$150,000 to the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries](#) to fund the research into the creation of [the Robot Archive](#), a multi-phase, multi-year program to create the preeminent archive dedicated to the preservation and curation of the history of robotics.

In partnership with the [Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science](#), cross-campus partners, and a multidisciplinary team of archivists and information professionals, the Libraries will investigate the research ecosystem of robotics and create a model for preserving this complex, dynamic field of scientific inquiry. Associate Dean for Innovation, Preservation and Access [Brian Mathews](#) is principal investigator and Archivist and Oral Historian [Katherine Barbera](#) is co-principal investigator for the award.

The Sloan Foundation award will support the first year of this effort, allowing the Libraries to create key positions and lay essential groundwork for the archive and a future robotics collection. This crucial work will allow archivists to provide public access to material and objects from the history of robotics, much of it for the very first time. The program has received additional funds from CMU donors.

“Archivists make crucial decisions about what to keep and what to discard, ultimately deciding what information is incorporated into the historical record and public knowledge,” said Barbera. “Archival documentation – such as emails and videos – and documentary activity – such as oral history – is crucial to contextualizing robots and comprehending the societal impact of the field. “

The Robot Archive is a flagship program for the Libraries’ initiative to preserve and promote the history of science, technology, and information at Carnegie Mellon.

“With the support of the Sloan Foundation, we have an exciting opportunity to establish a new model for archiving multi-modal technology collections that will have applications for other fields of science,” said Dean of Libraries and Director of Emerging and Integrative Media Initiatives [Keith Webster](#). “The potential impact is incalculable.”

The program acquired its first collection in December with an effort to retrieve more than 20 robotic artifacts, prototypes, and parts— and an array of commercial robots, toys, and robot kitsch — from the collection of Robotics Professor Chris Atkeson in CMU’s Newell-Simon Hall.

Highlights from the Atkeson collection include the Home Exploring Robotic Butler (HERB), which was the brainchild of Siddhartha Srinivasa, founder of the CMU Personal Robotics Lab, currently at the University of Washington and Amazon. Now in an incomplete state, HERB is best known for the [Oreo commercial](#) in which it separated Oreo cookies.

The collection also includes parts from a hydraulic walking machine designed by Ivan Sutherland, who is a vanguard of computer graphics, known as the [Trojan Cockroach](#).

The acquisition of the Atkeson collection and the research funded by the Sloan grant are the first steps towards the ultimate creation of a comprehensive robotics collection that would be the first of its kind in the world: a collection born from the archive that marries documentation with the products of innovation and brings new light to a field of scientific inquiry.

*Courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries*

## Carnegie Mellon University and Cambridge University Press Agreement

Pittsburgh, PA -- Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and [Cambridge University Press](#) have entered into a [three-year read and publish agreement](#) that allows researchers to publish in Cambridge's suite of journals without incurring article processing charges (APC). This agreement will extend the benefits of open access to CMU faculty who are publishing in Cambridge journals and help remove access barriers to research worldwide.

The agreement is implemented from January 1st, 2021. Under the agreement, Carnegie Mellon's corresponding author will have an opportunity to publish their research open access in Cambridge University Press journals over these three years and will not be charged any APC. The University Libraries will be charged an annual fixed flat rate over the three-year term.

This effort, which follows similar agreements with Elsevier, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and PLOS in recent years, will advance CMU's commitment to making research available open access.

Cambridge University Press publishes more than 380 peer-reviewed academic journals covering subjects across the humanities, social sciences, and science, technology, and medicine. More information on Cambridge Open Access publications can be found at [Cambridge Core](#).

*Courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries*

## Pennsylvania Libraries Rise to the Challenge and Continue to Increase Literacy in their Communities

Mechanicsburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Library Association has announced the 2020 fourth quarter PA Forward® Star Library awardees.

As libraries continue to reinstate services which are in high demand by the public, they have been provided with evolving safety guidelines provided by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and Pennsylvania Department of Health. Libraries are developing processes and procedures to provide physical library service based upon their unique building circumstances, staffing levels, and ability to maintain safe practices.

Many libraries continue to focus on the offering of 24/7 digital resources, virtual programming, and reference services via chat or email. Because of this, we believe “Libraries move PA Forward®” and should be recognized for these outstanding contributions to their communities.

Even though many libraries were not allowed to have regular activity in their buildings, 15 libraries from throughout the state earned their star status and are being recognized by the Association for their efforts.

“Libraries are community focused entities. During these challenging times, each library has worked to make the best decisions for their library and the communities they serve,” explains Christi Buker, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Library Association. “Whether it is curbside/pick-up services, restructured hours and access, and expanded digital resources and virtual programming, libraries have continued to serve all year long! For those libraries that have continued to work on encouraging literacy activities, resources, and programs, it is just fantastic that you have reached new PA Forward® Star status levels during these last few months. We are honored to recognize these amazing organizations and their dedicated staffs!”

For a full listing of PA Forward® Star Libraries, visit <http://paforwardstarlibraries.org/star-status/>. The next round of awards will be announced after April 1, 2021.

The list of awardees, by county, follows:

### Allegheny County

Carnegie Library of Homestead – Silver, 3

Community Library of Allegheny Valley – Gold

### Berks County

Boyertown Community Library – Silver, 5

### Blair County

Hollidaysburg Area Public Library – Maintained Gold

### Cambria County

Carrolltown Public Library – Silver, 1

### Centre County

Centre County Library and Historical Museum - Bronze

### Chester County

Atglen Public Library – Silver, 2

Delaware County

Yeadon Public Library – Silver, 5

Erie County

McCord Memorial Library – Silver, 2

Montgomery County

Huntingdon Valley Library – Gold

Indian Valley Public Library - Gold

Swedenborg Library, Bryn Athyn College – Silver, 4

Lackawanna County

Scranton Public Library, Albright Memorial Library – Maintained Gold

Somerset County

Mary S. Biesecker Public Library – Bronze

York County

Mason-Dixon Public Library - Bronze

*Courtesy of Rob Leshner, Pennsylvania Library Association*

## Four Penn State University Librarians Receive National Awards for Achievement, Distinguished Service

University Park, PA -- Four Penn State University Libraries faculty librarians — Alexandria Chisholm, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, Hailley Fargo and Helen Smith — have been named 2021 co-recipients among three honors conferred by the Association of College & Research Libraries' (ACRL) 2021 Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards.

Chisholm and Hartman-Caverly, reference and instruction librarians at Penn State Berks Thun Library, share the 2021 [Instruction Section Innovation Award](#) for their Digital Shred Privacy Literacy Initiative project. Their project demonstrated a high level of innovation with particular focus on privacy literacy and includes lesson plans that may be adapted at other institutions. The initiative includes their [Digital Shred Privacy Literacy Toolkit](#), Creative Commons licensed [Privacy Workshop Series](#), and [ongoing scholarship](#).

Sponsored by EBSCO Information Services, the Innovation Award and its \$3,000 prize honor librarians who have implemented innovative approaches to information literacy at their respective institutions or in their communities.

Chisholm and Hartman-Caverly also were 2020 recipients, along with their Thun Library colleague and reference and instruction librarian Brett Spencer, of the [Innovation in College Librarianship Award](#) from the College Libraries Section (CLS) of ACRL. [Their 2020 award](#) recognized their creation of the library's Discovery Lab, a learner-centered library space with complementary collections that facilitate exploration of information and knowledge building.

Smith, Penn State's agricultural sciences librarian, shares the 2021 STS Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural or Natural Sciences with Jen Kirk, government information librarian at Utah State University, for their work "[An Inventory of Published Soil Surveys of the United States.](#)" This work makes soil surveys, which provide rich

historical data, easily discoverable to researchers and general users. It is available online in ScholarSphere, Penn State's institutional repository.

Established in 1923, the Oberly Award is presented biennially in odd-numbered years for the best English-language bibliography in the field of agriculture or a related science. It includes a cash award and a plaque, funded by an endowment created by individuals and vendor contributions, including the U.S. Agricultural Information Network, the Agway Foundation, Associates of the National Agricultural Library, the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, and the Cargill Information Center.

Smith was part of a Penn State team honored with the 2013 Oberly Award and the 2013 Partnership Award for Effective and Efficient Use of Resources from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Both awards acknowledged the team's development of the 4-H Youth Development and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program research databases.

Fargo, student engagement coordinator with the Libraries' Library Learning Services department, shares the 2021 [ULS Outstanding Professional Development Award](#) as one of the four members of the editorial team for the library professional development blog [The Librarian Parlor](#). The team was selected for their efforts to create and promote an online community of practice for librarians.

Sponsored by Library Juice Academy, the Outstanding Professional Development Award and its \$1,000 prize recognize librarians, archivists or curators whose contributions to providing professional development opportunities for librarians have been especially noteworthy or influential.

Fargo also is a [2020-22 scholar](#) of the [Penn State Student Engagement Network](#) Engagement Academy, selected for her project "Keeping Students at the Center: Expanding Our Understanding of Student Engagement." Her two-year scholar role builds on her previous year named among the Student Engagement Network's faculty fellows. In addition, Fargo leads [Penn State Libraries Short Stories'](#) Short Edition student editorial board and helps to coordinate the Libraries' University-wide [Undergraduate Research Award: Excellence in Information Literacy](#) presented to Penn State students at all undergraduate Penn State campuses.

*Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations*

## Penn State University Libraries Virtual Exhibit Explores How Pandemics Affect Architecture



*Rush Tuberculosis Hospital and Sanatorium Construction, 1911. (Image Credit: Thomas Spees Carrington)*

University Park, Pa. — [Penn State University Libraries' Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library](#) has launched a virtual display, [Pandemic Spaces \(1918 Edition\)](#), to explore how architecture related to the devastating influenza epidemic of 1918. The exhibit was introduced early this month for public viewing, notably for individuals interested in the intersection between architecture and history.

As current global quarantines have shown, a pandemic requires expanded hospital space and restrictions on gathering spaces, and prompts

reconsiderations of future building needs. The exhibit includes buildings from hospitals to housing, showing how approaches to space during the 1918 flu made use of existing structures and reinforced changes already afoot in architecture. The website explores challenges unique to the early 20th century, including World War I, as well as themes reoccurring today, such as the value of fresh air.

Selections from local newspapers and examples of Pennsylvania buildings connect the happenings of Centre County and the surrounding area to global events.

"The exhibit helps us to see how international approaches to structures and ventilation intertwine with local circumstances," said Laurin Goad Davis, information specialist, Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library, Penn State University Libraries.

Further suggestions for reading accompany each section. Visit "[Pandemic Spaces \(1918 Edition\)](#)" [at this link](#).

For more information about the virtual exhibit, contact Laurin Goad Davis at 814-865-3614 or [lcg135@psu.edu](mailto:lcg135@psu.edu).

*Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations*

## Penn State University Libraries Launches Open-Access Penn State Journal of Medicine

University Park, Pa. — Penn State University Libraries' Open Publishing unit recently published the first issue of the [Penn State Journal of Medicine](#). All of the content in the peer-reviewed journal is edited by medical students in the Penn State College of Medicine and published open access, meaning it is freely available under a Creative Commons license.

The journal's mission is to provide "a means for publication of clinical and medical-based research completed by students enrolled at the Penn State College of Medicine," as well as "an avenue for students to display their work on a peer-reviewed platform (and receive) the feedback they need to improve the quality of their work in a learning environment," according to its mission statement.

"The goal in creating this journal has always been twofold," said Adeel Ahmad, one of four College of Medicine students who serve as founding editors. "We wanted to create an avenue for students to publish peer-reviewed scientific works and, at the same time, develop an environment where our student population can learn firsthand about peer-reviewed clinical research."

The Penn State Journal of Medicine marks the first medical student-run journal published by the College of Medicine as well as the first supported by the University Libraries' Open Publishing program. All of the content is free to access and reuse, according to the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license used by the journal.

Having the content available without barriers was important for the journal editors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when access to medical information has been more important than ever.

"In the developing stages of the journal, it was important to us that it be easily accessible to Penn State students and faculty as well as the greater scientific community," said Rahul Gupta, another founding editor. "At its core, we believe it can and should be used as a tool for medical education."

"We're proud to support such an important publication, and especially proud to publish it open-access," said Ally Laird, open publishing program coordinator at the University Libraries. "We look forward to seeing its impact on medicine and for students in the College of Medicine."

Arshjot Khokhar and Anuj Mehta complete the team of founding editors for the journal, which is advised by Ira Ropson, assistant dean for medical student research at the College of Medicine.

“If we have learned anything from this experience, it’s that we can learn so much from our fellow classmates,” said Mehta. “In the first issue alone, we learned about topics ranging from rare neurological disorders to aspects of residency training. It’s the reason we created this journal in the first place — we wanted to hear what our peers were working on. We hope we can continue this exchange of information with submissions that inspire future classes of medical students.”

“We hope the journal brings a shared academic connection between our students and the rest of the faculty serving this institution,” said Khokar. “Our goal is for it to be an enduring establishment that allows our students to push the boundaries of innovative and scholarly scientific discoveries.”

The [Penn State Journal of Medicine](#) is accepting submissions until May 1 for the second issue, to be published in September. Visit the website for more information about the journal and the submission and peer review processes.

Libraries Open Publishing, the University Libraries’ Open Access imprint, is a unit within the [Research Informatics and Publishing](#) department. Libraries Open Publishing provides tools and support for Penn State-affiliated authors and groups to publish full-featured electronic scholarly journals, searchable annotated bibliographies, monographs and topical web portals using a variety of digital platforms. All publications are free to view online and download. Copyright is retained by the individual authors, where possible, or by the journals or sponsoring entity. Almost all are licensed for use under a Creative Commons license.

For more information about the program, visit [openpublishing.psu.edu](http://openpublishing.psu.edu) or contact Ally Laird at [alaird@psu.edu](mailto:alaird@psu.edu).

*Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations*

## Access to Penn State Scholarly Research Expands through Two New Agreements

University Park, PA -- As part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance ([BTAA](#)), Penn State University Libraries recently entered into two agreements that will help to expand access to scholarly content, promote open access (OA) publishing and increase visibility of Penn State research.

The [Cambridge University Press \(CUP\) OA read and publish journal agreement](#) covers OA publishing charges for Penn State corresponding authors publishing in CUP journals with an OA option, which encompasses 92 percent of the journals in the CUP portfolio. Those articles will be immediately open access on the publisher’s platform. In addition, the agreement expands subscription access for Penn State users to all CUP research journals — currently more than 400 titles — more than doubling the number of CUP research journals Penn State users can access. Furthermore, the agreement reduces costs for the University Libraries when compared with the previous subscription-only agreement.

“This agreement is the result of open conversation with CUP, careful analysis and collaboration among BTAA institutions,” said Mihoko Hosoi, University Libraries associate dean for collections, research and scholarly communications. “We want to make it easier for Penn State authors to publish OA and for users to find those articles. We are excited about this new agreement because OA publishing increases visibility and impact of Penn State research.”

Terms of publication for journal articles as well as a complete list of journals accessible through the agreement are available at the [BTAA](#) and [Cambridge University Press](#) websites. The agreement runs from 2021 to 2023.

The second agreement, the Public Library of Science ([PLOS](#)) Community Action Publishing (CAP) pilot agreement, will allow BTAA corresponding authors to publish in [PLOS Biology](#) and [PLOS Medicine](#) without incurring fees. BTAA and PLOS will also collaborate on data, metrics and tools for institutions to evaluate OA publishing

agreements. Further information is available on the [BTAA website](#) and the [PLOS Community Action Publishing website](#). The agreement is also from 2021 to 2023.

*Courtesy of Penn State University News and Media Relations*

## Ann Snowman, Penn State University Libraries, Retires

Ann Snowman, Head of Access Services at Penn State University Libraries, retired in December 2020 after 18 years at the university.

In her role, Ann provided direction to six units, including adaptive technology services, annexes, collection maintenance, course reserves, lending services, and interlibrary loan. She also provided leadership to the user services training program, and created Discovery Day, the Libraries' annual in-service day. Many innovations occurred during Ann's tenure, including the creation of the Libraries' floating collection, the establishment of the office delivery service, and Penn State's participation in the Google Books scanning project.

In 2015, Ann received the Distinguished Achievement in Access Services Award in recognition of her work at Penn State and beyond. In addition to her responsibilities as Head of Access Services, Ann was dedicated to establishing meaningful library relationships and partnerships beyond the walls of Penn State, serving as coordinator for statewide outreach.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Ann worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of all Libraries staff, serving as chair of the Libraries Safe Return to Work committee. Ann worked with Access Services managers and stakeholders around the libraries to adapt on-site services to meet user needs while maintaining staff safety.

Leo Lo, Associate Dean for Learning, Undergraduate Services and Commonwealth Campus Libraries, said, "During COVID-19, Ann's qualities as a leader really shone through. She cared about, trusted, and empowered her staff. Her empathy was clear to see. With a compassionate leader like that, our users were well taken care of as well."

The University Libraries would like to thank Ann for her many years of service, and for her unwavering support and leadership. Wishing you all the best in retirement, Ann!

*Submitted by Meg Massey, Penn State University Libraries*



*Ann Snowman retired from Penn State University Libraries after 18 years. (Image Credit: Penn State University Libraries)*

## Pennsylvania Grants for Open and Affordable Learning (PA GOAL) Lowers Textbook Costs for Students Across the State

Harrisburg, PA -- PA GOAL addresses the exorbitant cost of higher education by offering educators mini-grants to design textbook alternatives. Grants are awarded to a diverse range of institutions across Pennsylvania.

Funding comes from the [Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund \(GEER\)](#) through the state Department of Education (PDE) and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) and managed by [PALCI](#). The program seeks to increase adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) and other zero-cost textbook alternatives in Pennsylvania. The funded projects will reduce out-of-pocket student costs and contribute to building a community of practice among educators.

Grants are awarded to faculty and academic staff in three projects categories. Course Development grants will support redesigning courses to use OER or other zero-cost textbook alternatives. OER Development grants will result in the creation and publication of openly-licensed textbooks or other educational resources. Library Licensed Materials grants will support library acquisition of commercially-produced materials to eliminate student textbook costs.

An initial funding cycle was awarded in May. A second cycle of funding is planned for projects with start dates in fall 2021. Cycle 2 applications open in July with grants awarded in August. Priority is given to projects that affect classes scheduled for the 2021-22 school year, those that are multidisciplinary, and projects that are multi-institutional collaborations.

Complete details are available on the program website at [pagoal.org](http://pagoal.org). To stay up to date about the program, including the Cycle 2 launch, sign up for the [PA GOAL Mailing List](#).

*Courtesy of PALCI*

## 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](http://bit.ly/1rkSdcR)

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