

Pennsylvania Libraries: *Research & Practice*

News

Noteworthy

News Briefs from PA Libraries

Jacob Gordon

Jacob Gordon is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Penn State Altoona, jeg6049@psu.edu

2025 Pennsylvania Library Association Award Winners

Library of the Year Award:

Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Allegheny County

Trustee of the Year Award:

Folasade (Sade) Olanipekun-Lewis, Philadelphia County

Elected Official Award:

Timothy DeFoor, Auditor General

New Professional Librarian Honors Award:

Jessica Serenti, Scranton Public Library

Certificate of Merit Award:

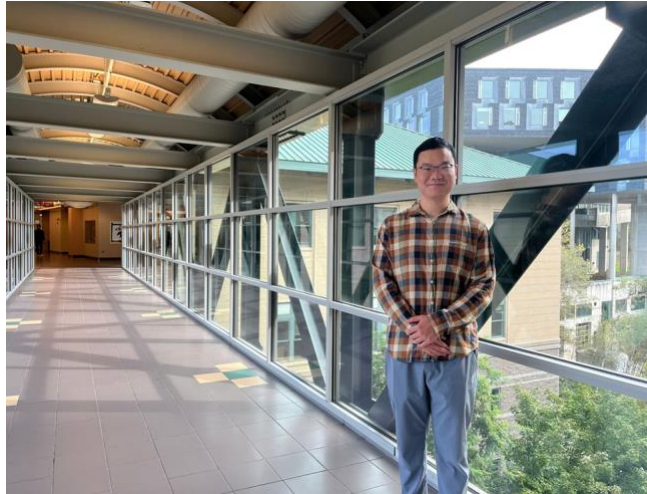
Rebecca Dzikowski, Weinberg Memorial Library at the University of Scranton

Dr. Roseanne Perkins, Kutztown University

Distinguished Service Award:

Kimberly Hrivnak, Allegheny County Library Association

Cultivating AI-Literate Researchers: Summer Course at Carnegie Mellon University Bridges Evidence Synthesis and Emerging Technologies



STEM Librarian Haoyong Lan

Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Research about AI literacy and its impact on education is an emerging area, and it's rapidly evolving. When Libraries AI specialist and STEM Librarian Haoyong Lan offered his first interdisciplinary research course in summer 2025, this was the topic he wanted to give his students the chance to explore.

"I designed my course to help undergraduates cultivate their identities as researchers, while encouraging them to develop the AI literacy skills they'll need to succeed in today's world," Lan explained. "Through conducting real-world, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research, I wanted students to learn to assess and contribute to a conversation that will be increasingly relevant to them both academically and professionally."

Each Wednesday of the nine-week course, 22 students met virtually to dive into existing research and think about the direction of their own investigations. For many, it marked the first time they had considered AI beyond its technical foundations, thinking about responsible use rather than writing code or building models.

After sharing the basics of AI literacy, Lan invited his class to begin developing their own relevant research questions. They identified topics like how generative AI affects academic integrity, how universities should craft policies around AI use, and what ethical considerations are missing from current undergraduate education.

"The course helped me understand that systematic reviews are very important for understanding gaps in certain topics," Rachel Quaye-Asamoah, who is majoring in Statistics & Machine Learning, explained. "This kind of scoping review was very, very fun for me, and I would love to do more in the field, especially topics that bridge the gap between something as technical as generative AI or computer engineering and the humanities, like children's education or maybe even history."

"Evidence synthesis is conclusive, comprehensive, and unbiased," Lan added. "It's used every day by policy makers, as well as researchers in social and health sciences — regardless of discipline, it's a very sought-after skill."

For the full news release visit the [Carnegie Mellon University Libraries News article](#).

Library Educator Part of Educators' Neighborhood 2025-2026 Cohort

Sharpsburg Community Library's Education and Engagement Coordinator, Alison Babusci is participating in the Educator's Neighborhood 2025-2026 cohort. Educators' Neighborhood is a community of educators who learn together inspired from the life and work of Fred Rogers. This year-long opportunity, from the Fred Rogers Institute, brings together a cohort of individuals from across the world who learn together, primarily through virtual meetings, and consider how to deepen their application of Fred Rogers' work and theory to their work with children. Alison received the Red Cardigan Scholarship available to one educator who serves in a community setting, such as a library, museum, or out-of-school learning programs. She is delighted to apply Fred Rogers' philosophies and

teachings in her library programs which serve all ages. Alison has been teaching for 33 years and is a champion for arts education.

New Hires at Penn State University Libraries

Eyal Ben-Yehuda was named Physical Sciences Librarian in Penn State University Libraries' Physical and Mathematical Sciences (PAMS) Library on the University Park campus. Ben-Yehuda is the subject specialist and liaison for the departments of Astronomy & Astrophysics, Chemistry, Physics, and Statistics. He comes to Penn State from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev where he was the Engineering and Science Librarian. Ben-Yehuda earned a Master's degree in Information Studies from the Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He has worked on outreach initiatives with students and teaching on topics of citation management tools and library research.

Melissa Correll joined Penn State Abington Library as a Research and Instruction Librarian on July 1. She has more than a decade of experience as an academic librarian, including working most recently as a Student Success Librarian at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa., and previously as an Instructional Services Librarian and Coordinator of Information Literacy and Outreach at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa. She received her MSLIS degree from Drexel University and an undergraduate degree in English from East Stroudsburg University.

Zhaohui Liu joined Penn State University Libraries in July as Librarian for Asian Studies, where she plays a key role as the liaison for Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts, particularly for the Department of Asian Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature. Most recently, she was an Associate Professor of History and Head of the Teaching and Research Section in the Department of Ideological and Political Theory at China Women's University. She also was a visiting scholar in the Department of History at Dartmouth College and served as Research Project Manager for the National Committee for the Compilation of Qing History. She holds a Ph.D. in history, focusing on ancient Chinese history from Renmin University.

Submitted by Jill Shockey, Penn State University Libraries

How the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries Give Damaged Books a Second Life



Arts and Humanities Librarian Jill Chisnell with the University Libraries' Zine Cart.

Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries.

Over time, some library books become too damaged or outdated to remain on the shelves. One option for these discarded books is to recycle them — but for Arts and Humanities Librarian Jill Chisnell at CMU Libraries, they present an untapped opportunity for hands-on creativity and innovation. As an avid ephemera collector, zine enthusiast, and producer of the libraries' zine cart, Chisnell recognizes that many old art journals and magazines are filled with beautiful colors, rich papers, and whimsical midcentury designs. For several years now, she's been adding pages from these damaged books to her ephemera collection.

“Weeding is emotional, even though the books can no longer be used for their original purpose,” she said. “I feel better giving these materials one final chance to be made into art — a last hurrah.”

In May of 2025, Chisnell attended the 53rd annual Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) conference, a virtual gathering of art information professionals. During a social break session hosted by the Stimulating Creativity in Practice (SCIP) special interest group, she connected with other librarians dedicated to making time for artistic practice and fostering creativity in others.

Chisnell introduced her collection of salvaged materials to the group and offered to share. When librarians began reaching out to request ephemera for their own projects, Chisnell knew she had a chance to distribute these treasures across the continent and spread the joy of making them to other institutions.

For the full news release visit the [Carnegie Mellon University Libraries News](#) article.

Pike County Public Hires Programs & Outreach Coordinator

Sabrina Llewellyn was recently promoted to the newly created Programs and Community Outreach Coordinator position at Pike County Public Library. Llewellyn has four years of library experience and brings a strong background in public service, community engagement, and program development to her work at Pike County Public Library. Sabrina has led a wide range of initiatives designed to connect the library more deeply with the community through outreach, fostering inclusive learning environments, and promoting access to enriching programs for all ages. Sabrina is currently pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, with certificates in both youth services and nonprofit studies. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Human Resources from the University of Scranton and a Business Administration degree with a concentration in marketing from Lycoming College. In addition to her formal education, she brings hands-on experience through extensive volunteer work. She is an active member of the American Library Association, Pennsylvania Library Association, and Library and Information Science Student Association; and she continuously engages in professional development to stay ahead of emerging trends in outreach, literacy, and equitable access.



Portrait of Sabrina Llewellyn

Image provided by Sabrina Llewellyn

Submitted by Sabrina Llewellyn, Pike County Public Library.

New Executive Director at Pike County Public Library

The Pike County Public Library (PCPL) is under new leadership. Nicole Heyer was recently promoted to Executive Director. Heyer brings over seven years of dedicated service to PCPL, having held various positions including Circulation Clerk, Dingmans Branch Manager, and Interlibrary Loan Assistant. Most recently, she served as the Technical Services Manager, overseeing cataloging, collection development, and materials processing for both library branches. Since 2020, she has also led key community-focused initiatives aimed at improving access and engagement across the county.

Currently pursuing her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri, Heyer is an active member of the Pennsylvania Library Association and the American Library Association. She has presented at state-level conferences on inclusive library cataloging and the evolving role of libraries in rural communities—demonstrating her passion for equitable access to information and innovation in public library service.



Nicole Heyer, Executive Director of Pike County Public Library

Submitted by Sabrina Llewellyn, Pike County Public Library.

Photo provided by Sabrina Llewellyn

New Logo, Branding, and Website



The new logo for the Free Library of Northampton Township

Image provided by Wayne R. Lahr

Free Library of Northampton Township, located in Richboro (Bucks County), is proud to present its new logo and branding for its new modern and accessible website. We publicly launched both to our community on Thursday, September 11, 2025.

Submitted by Wayne R. Lahr, Free Library of Northampton Township

[illegible]

Image courtesy of Drexel University Libraries

The Drexel University Archives invites the community to discover life at Drexel through its latest exhibit, *Beyond the Rules: The Hidden Life within Student Handbooks*, on display now through December 2025. Featuring handbooks published between 1944 and 2005, the exhibit explores the surprising ways these unique publications reflect the evolving identity of the university and the lives of its students.

The exhibition was researched and curated by Erin White, the University Archives' spring/summer 2025 co-op student and a fourth-year history major. Charged with creating an exhibit that featured the archives' collection of D-Books, White discovered that the handbooks did far more than establish standards of conduct. They preserved snapshots of student life, campus traditions, and even social expectations across the decades.

"As a history major, one of the things I enjoy most is seeing how society has evolved over time," White explained. "While going through the student handbooks for the exhibition, I got an interesting perspective on how both the university and society have changed over the years."

For the full news release or additional information about the exhibit, visit the [Drexel Libraries News & Events](#) article.

Courtesy of Drexel University Libraries