

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

From Text to Artifact: Teaching the Constitution in the Renovated Posner Center



A rare printing of the U.S. Bill of Rights sits in a vitrine in the foreground while in the background, Duquesne University President and Professor of Law, Ken Gormley speaks to Professor Scott Sandage's "U.S. Constitution and the Presidency" class in the Posner Center. Credit: Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries.

For several years now, Associate Professor of History Scott Sandage has used the resources in the special collections — specifically a rare printing of the U.S. Bill of Rights, one of only five extant copies — as a tool to help

students engage more deeply in his course “U.S. Constitution and the Presidency.” Sandage’s class examines specific powers granted to the president by the Constitution, and how presidents like Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt expanded the powers of the presidency.

With the reopening of the newly renovated Posner Center in Fall 2025, the experience of teaching — and learning — with Special Collections has taken on new depth. The updated space enabled Sandage to build a layered, immersive experience — one that brought students back multiple times to learn from experts, examine rare materials up close, and actively debate the Constitution’s meaning.

As he scheduled his first class session in the refreshed Posner Center, Sandage decided to invite Duquesne University President and Professor of Law Ken Gormley, a renowned constitutional scholar, to deliver a lecture in the space.

“Honestly, the visit was just really impressive,” said Dietrich College junior Zach Berger. “I loved getting to see such a talented lecturer utilize the new space.”

After Gormley’s lecture, Sandage’s class returned to the Posner Center a second time — this time, to take a closer look at the document itself. Now, rather than focusing on the text they learned about over the course of the semester, they had a chance to examine the physical object and the clues it reveals about the past.

“The Posner Center had been a mystery to me, since it was under construction the entirety of my freshman year. When Professor Sandage said we were going to have a class there and see a copy of the Bill of Rights, to say I was excited would be an understatement,” said Dietrich College sophomore Hannah Na.

For the full News release or information about visiting the Posner Center for Special Collections visit [the Carnegie Mellon University Libraries News article](#).

Courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Penn Libraries joins Google Books Library Project

The Penn Libraries has joined the Google Books Library Project, a global partnership of 70 leading libraries working to make books, journals, and other printed library materials available to readers and researchers worldwide. Since its launch in 2004, the project has digitized over 40 million volumes in more than 500 languages, bringing distinctive collections — many otherwise accessible only in physical form — to a global audience.

“Libraries exist not only to preserve knowledge, but to share it. By digitizing materials that once were accessible only in print, we are expanding access to Penn’s collections around the world,” says Brigitte Weinstein, H. Carton Rogers III Vice Provost and Director of the Penn Libraries. “Our partnership with Google Books makes it easier for scholars, students, and curious readers everywhere to discover and engage with trusted knowledge throughout their lives.”

Participation in the Google Books initiative enables the Penn Libraries to advance a number of strategic goals. Preserving materials through high-quality digital surrogates ensures the longevity and integrity of scholarly and cultural assets. The project also enhances the accessibility and utility of library collections, providing searchable, machine-readable content that supports scholarship and enriches teaching.

The 350,000 items that the Penn Libraries and Google selected for scanning include many historical titles connected specifically to the Penn community and the Philadelphia region; for example: a Penn handbook from 1920 and a volume of paintings from the Gimbel Pennsylvania Art Collection, exhibited at Penn in 1959.

Once Penn Libraries items are digitized by Google, they will be made available through Google Books, the HathiTrust repository, and the Penn Libraries catalog. The initial batch of 350,000 items is expected to be available by fall 2028. Additional shipments and scanning will be ongoing.

For the full News release please visit [the Penn Libraries News Article](#).

Courtesy of University Pennsylvania Libraries

Faculty Team's New Resources for U.S. Privacy Education Aim to Protect Consumers

Academic librarians in particular are uniquely positioned to equip students with the knowledge of how to manage personal information in the digital world. According to two Penn State University Libraries faculty members — Sarah Hartman-Caverly and Alexandria Chisholm, reference and instruction librarians at Berks Thun Library, Penn State Berks, and the editors of *Practicing Privacy Literacy in Academic Libraries* (2023).

Privacy literacy involves a combination of factual knowledge about data protection and legal practices — the risks of sharing data, how it's collected and used, and how to protect it — as well as the procedural knowledge to apply strategies for personal privacy and make informed decisions about information sharing. A growing area of instruction and programming in educational library services, privacy literacy emphasizes making informed choices about managing one's personal information and understanding its role in the information ecosystem.

In March of this year, Hartman-Caverly and Chisholm joined forces with Priya Kumar, PNC Career Development Assistant Professor in the College of Information Sciences and Technology, on a collaborative effort to develop consensus national standards and competencies for privacy literacy work in libraries. The result was *Libraries Stand for Privacy*, a national project team that convened at University Park and virtually through a National Forum on Privacy Literacy Standards and Competencies.

"Practitioners need consensus standards and frameworks to guide the creation and assessment of privacy literacy learning experiences," according to a fact sheet produced by the project team. "The library profession needs consensus professional competencies in privacy literacy to develop a workforce that can meet this growing societal need."

Following the March forum, a working group of participants developed learner standards and practitioner competencies in a framework for privacy literacy, a roadmap for implementing privacy literacy programming, and other self-study materials for educators and advocates of privacy literacy. The complete suite of materials and resources is [available online](#).

For the full News release visit [the Penn State University Libraries News article](#).

Submitted by Jill Shockey, Penn State University Libraries

Berks Libraries Recognized by System and State Legislators in Latest Award Ceremony



Carol Donahue (left), director of the Village Library of Morgantown, receives a certificate from Steve Howe, Constituent Specialist to Senator Martin. Carol was selected as the 2025 Outstanding Library Director by the Berks County Public Libraries Advisory Board. Photo credit: Berks County Public

On March 4, Berks County Public Libraries honored leadership and service excellence during its 23rd Annual Awards Celebration. Presented at the Library System headquarters in front of an audience of 70 attendees, the event recognized individuals and organizations for their support and contributions to public libraries in Berks County.

The evening's distinguished guests included State Representative Jacklyn Rusnock, State Representative Eric Weaknecht, and Steve Howe, Constituent Specialist to State Senator Scott Martin. Representative Rusnock offered opening remarks to the crowd, noting, "libraries are truly community hubs, and they are welcoming, supportive environments that strengthen the fabric of our neighborhoods."

Howe later presented a certificate to Director Carol Donahue for her win of the Outstanding Library Director award, while the Brandywine Community Library and Boyertown Community Library each received a citation from the Office of State Senator Tracy Pennycuik.

The full list of award recipients from the 23rd annual awards celebration are as follows:

- Outstanding Elected Official – Mayor David Reimer Sr., Borough of Leesport
- Outstanding Local Business – Castaneda's Mexican Restaurant, Robesonia
- Outstanding Community Organization – Hamburg Grange, Hamburg
- Outstanding Library Director – Carol Donahue, Village Library of Morgantown
- Outstanding Library Volunteer – Marsha Olivia, Kutztown Community Library
- Outstanding Library Staff Member – Kellee Wood, Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library
- Outstanding Fundraising Effort – 75th Anniversary, Kutztown Community Library
- Outstanding Youth Program – Children's 12 Days of Crafting, Reading Public Library
- Outstanding Teen Program – Youth-Led Humanities Grant (Teen Reading Lounge), Brandywine Community Library
- Outstanding Adult Program – Bestsellers & Baked Goods, Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library
- Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations Award – Boyertown Community Library
- Dreisbach Award for Exemplary Service – Berks Book Bonanza Volunteers

Submitted by Emily Montagna, Berks County Public Libraries

Jazz Artist and Scholar Bill Cole Donates Archive to the University of Pittsburgh Library System

The University of Pittsburgh Library System is pleased to announce the acquisition of the archive of Bill Cole, a jazz musician, ethnomusicologist, educator, author, and composer known for his use of non-western instruments. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Cole was one of the first students to graduate from Pitt's Jazz Studies program (BA 1967; MA 1970) under academic advisor Nathan Davis. Cole received a PhD in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University in 1974, where his advisor, Clifford Thornton, gave him his first double reed horns, and where he first met and performed with jazz artist Sam Rivers.

Cole is a pioneering African American writer on jazz. His dissertation on Miles Davis became the basis of his first book, *Miles Davis: A Musical Biography* (1974). Two years later he wrote the biography of another jazz great, *John Coltrane* (1976). He is also a prolific music reviewer who wrote for *Downbeat Magazine* and other publications.

Cole's academic career led him to music professorships at Amherst College (1974), Dartmouth College (1974-1990), and five years as a professor of African American studies at Syracuse University (2005-2010) from which he retired as Professor Emeritus in 2010.

Cole specializes in non-Western wind instruments, especially double reed horns, including Chinese *sonas*, Korean *hojok* and *piri*, and Indian *nagaswarm* and *shenai*, as well as the Australian *didgeridoo* and Ghanaian *atenteben*. His music is improvisational, involving a constant dialog between the performers involved.

His archive is a rich collection of his scholarly writings, including research for both of his books; reviews that he wrote, and which were written about his work; newspaper articles; programs; video and audio recordings of performances, rehearsals, and recitals; as well as records from his well-publicized efforts to overcome racism as a Black scholar at Dartmouth.

For the full News release visit [the University of Pittsburgh Library System news article](#).

Courtesy of University of Pittsburgh Library System

Drexel Libraries Welcome New Staff & Co-op Students

Erin Halovanic, Acquisitions Librarian

Erin comes to Drexel with an extensive background in library leadership, public service and statewide resource development. Most recently, she served as Director of Library Services at Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting, where she supported libraries across Pennsylvania and helped guide the development of POWER Library services.

Justine Osterman, Health Sciences Librarian

Prior to coming to Drexel, Justine spent four years as a Health Sciences Librarian with St. Joseph's Health in Paterson, New Jersey, where she supported a diverse community of medical students, clinicians, and hospital staff. Her work has focused on delivering expert literature searches, instruction and research support using key health sciences databases, as well as contributing to outreach and educational initiatives across the organization.

Elizabeth Anastasio, Archives Assistant (spring/summer co-op)

Anastasio is a history major at Drexel University with experience in archival research, data organization, and digital communications. She currently volunteers as an indexing assistant at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia and works as a social media advertising coordinator. Her academic and project work focuses on archival analysis and improving access to historical materials.

Max Haney, Marketing & Communications Assistant (spring/summer co-op)

Max has supported large-scale events and campaigns through roles with Community Enrichment Fitness Network and the YMCA, where he worked to increase participation and engagement, as well as to secure sponsorship funding. Max is interested in building collaborative communication skills with a focus on impactful, community-oriented outreach.

Joseph Schindler, Library Integrated Technology Systems Assistant (spring/summer co-op)

Joseph is a Computer Engineering student at Drexel with a strong interest in how computers work and hands-on experience in engineering environments. He has completed internships with Ecosave and Kupper Engineering, where he supported technical projects and developed skills in tools such as Python, AutoCAD, and SKM PowerTools.

Courtesy of Drexel University Libraries

New Hires at Penn State University Libraries

Elizabeth “Liz” Call, recently named head of Penn State University Libraries' Eberly Family Special Collections Library, also has been named the Dorothy Foehr Huck Chair for Special Collections. Call had served in her previous role as university archivist at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) since August 2019. Among highlights of her tenure there are the launch of a student-centered exhibition program and the establishment of an inclusive oral history initiative that reshaped how RIT documents its past. Under her leadership, RIT Archives became a visible, collaborative hub for research, storytelling, and community connection.

Lauren Reiter, Penn State University Libraries faculty business librarian, has been named head of the William and Joan Schreyer Business Library and appointed the Louis and Virginia Benzak Business Librarian. She has served the library profession through leadership roles in the American Library Association (ALA), its Reference and User Service Association (RUSA), and Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS), as well as the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA) and its 21st Century Literacies Initiative, PA Forward. Recently, she has edited books on the topics of business information literacy and the future of reference and authored articles in widely read publications including the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, *College & Undergraduate Research Libraries*, and *portal: Libraries and the Academy*.

Cassandra Florian has accepted the role of Processing Archivist in Penn State University Libraries' Eberly Family Special Collections Library. As processing archivist, Florian will set priorities for archival processing projects, working closely with selectors and her Collection Services Team colleagues to identify under-processed collections that require additional arrangement and description to increase their accessibility for researchers and to prepare them for inclusion in the University Libraries' digital collections program. She will prepare processing plans for newly accessioned archival materials and will play an important role in continuing to build the Special Collections Library's digital archiving program.

Full announcements for [Elizabeth Call](#) and [Lauren Reiter](#) are available from Penn State University Libraries News.

Submitted by Jill Shockey, Penn State University Libraries