From the Dean of University Libraries
Matthew C. Shaw, M.L.S., M.A.

Greetings, Friends! This is an exciting time to be a part of the Ball State University Libraries as we continue to successfully meet and anticipate the research and learning needs of our students and faculty. In August, President Geoffrey Mearns announced an organizational move for University Libraries from the Division of Information Technology to the Division of Academic Affairs, recognizing that “...the activities within the University Libraries primarily support [Ball State’s] core mission of teaching and scholarship.” This change acknowledges the enduring value of the Libraries to the academic enterprise at Ball State and deepens our capacity to impact student learning outcomes, to support faculty research agendas and scholarship, and to introduce expanded services to produce new forms of scholarly communications.

Recently, I have been considering the role of the academic library while re-reading a classic text by S.R. Ranganathan titled *The Five Laws of Library Science* (1931) in which the eminent librarian eloquently, even poetically, presents principles of universal access to libraries and their information as the cornerstone of education, human enlightenment, and social civility. Has this need ever been greater as we prepare students to become informed and engaged global citizens and impactful leaders? Libraries are not mere repositories of information but centers for the development of evaluative skills that allow learners to transform information into new knowledge—a place to cultivate curiosity, encounter ideas, and acquire a broader understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of the human experience.

The Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library are valued participants in this mission. Your generosity, support, and engagement inform and propel our work to expand access to scholarly resources, knowledgeable librarians and information professionals, and creative and collaborative learning environments. Thank you for sharing our conviction that libraries matter and our vision for a more just and peaceful future led by avid readers, focused researchers, voracious learners, and innovative thinkers.

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Remembering Martin D. Schwartz, 1917-2017

On June 20, 2017, the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library lost a dedicated friend and gracious benefactor with the passing of Martin D. Schwartz at the age of 100. Martin Schwartz devoted great energy and generosity in life to causes he supported passionately and to values with which he deeply identified. He was a lifelong supporter of intellectual pursuits—of books and of learning and of scholarship—and his gracious spirit of giving left an indelible mark on numerous community organizations in Muncie and Delaware County and in the region at large.

Martin’s contributions to Ball State University Libraries were numerous. He gave funds to support major projects including the digitization of historic photographs from Muncie newspaper columnist Dick Greene and the translation and digitization of the Felsenstein Family Papers, which document the lives of a German Jewish family during the Holocaust and Second World War.

Perhaps most notably, Martin Schwartz contributed financial support for the creation of the Helen B. and Martin D. Schwartz Special Collections and Digital Complex (pictured below). Opened in August 2009, the Schwartz Digital Complex has provided a flexible and innovative environment to support collaborative student learning and research at Ball State University. Active learning spaces like these are vital in providing today’s learners with the necessary tools for inquiry, innovative research, and knowledge creation in a technologically-evolving information economy, preparing them for a wide variety of academic and professional pursuits that require advanced digital literacy and information literacy skills and experience.

The Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken library mourn the passing of Martin D. Schwartz and reflect graciously on his legacy of forward-thinking support and generosity.

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Dear Friends of Bracken Library,

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new Executive Secretary of the Friends of the Alexander M. Bracken Library. In May 2017, I assumed the role of Assistant Dean of Digital Scholarship and Special Collections, succeeding John Straw who headed Archives and Special Collections from 1998 to 2016 and served as Executive Secretary from 2000 to 2016. I look forward to building upon the excellent work and enduring passion that John brought to this position and that Brandon Pieczko continued in serving as interim Executive Secretary this past year.

An engaged community is the hallmark of a successful library. The relationships librarians forge with students, faculty, the local community, alumni, and donors are the lifeblood of Ball State University Libraries, ensuring the realization of the ongoing mission of the Libraries to serve as a place of innovative knowledge creation and scholarly inquiry.

In today’s rapidly-evolving information landscape, libraries must proactively maintain these strong relationships by innovating to meet ever-changing user needs. Throughout this newsletter, you’ll see examples of the University Libraries developing new services, building new collections, and employing new technologies to actively meet the needs of users and community.

These evolving needs underscore the increasing significance of generous and visionary support from our library friends. More than ever, contributions and gifts-in-kind from the Friends of Bracken Library are critical in supporting Ball State University Libraries in their mission to maintain and strengthen our relationships with our user communities.

I eagerly look forward to working with you, our dedicated Friends of Bracken Library, alongside Matthew Shaw, Dean of University Libraries, the Friends Board of Directors, and the staff of Ball State University Libraries to continue the momentum and success of our institution. I am grateful for your steadfast generosity and your commitment to supporting innovative library services and resources here at Ball State University.

Sincerely,
Michael Szaiejewski
Executive Secretary

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Thanks to Brandon Pieczko for his service as interim Executive Secretary of the Friends of Bracken Library.

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Financial Donations Support the University Libraries' Collections, Services, and Programs

Financial donations by the Library Friends to existing Ball State University Foundation accounts supporting the University Libraries totaled more than $18,000. The following donors made contributions of $100 or more in fiscal year 2016-2017.

Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. David Bahlimann
Dr. and Mrs. John Beekeeman
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bell
Mrs. Carole K. Benson
Mr. Walter Burris
Mr. John K. Carmichael Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carter
Mrs. Davis D. Catalfio
Dr. Jennifer A. Chiriboga
Mr. Philip L. Corklin
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Dr. Jane C. Duckworth
Beatrice Emens Wolper and J. Richard Emens
Ms. Mary K. Emmrich
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Murray
Mr. and Mrs. David Fowler
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Dr. Charles P. Hampel
David Hinshaw and Linda S. Barb
Ms. Phyllis Hower Scholp
Mr. Kevin J. Hoy
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koor
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Dr. and Mrs. B. Thomas Lowe
Mrs. Betty J. McMichael
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Mull
Bonne and James Mong
Mrs. Dale and Tonya Flesher
Mr. Mark D. Fowler
Ms. Mary M. Hail
Dr. Charles P. Hampel
David Hinshaw and Linda S. Barb
Ms. Phyllis Hower Scholp
Mr. Kevin J. Hoy
Ms. Lorraine Hubrich
Mr. Gregory A. Huffman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koor
Ms. Norma J. Lasley
Dr. and Mrs. B. Thomas Lowe
Mrs. Betty J. McMichael
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Mr. and Mrs. Todd Murray
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Dr. Emerita S. Schulte
Mr. Kenneth C. Seward
Mr. Matthew C. Shaw
Mr. Dubois M. Shirell
Dr. L. George Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Warren Vander Hill
Ms. Anna J. Weiser
Dr. Ronald and Sue Whitaker
Mrs. Marjorie P. Zeigler
Mrs. Carol A. Zuck

Gifts-In-Kind Support Learning, Teaching, and Research

In addition to their generous financial gifts, Friends helped strengthen our collections by donating hundreds of books, DVDs, journals, manuscripts, archival collections, and other materials that support the educational, instructional, and research needs of Ball State students and faculty. The following are just a few of the examples of the gifts-in-kind received from Library Friends in the past year.

Monique Armstrong donated a collection of student projects and organizational records on behalf of Munroe’s Motivate Our Minds youth education and enrichment organization dating from 1987 to 2016.

Steve Bell donated archival papers, photographs, and film and video recordings documenting his career as a journalist, television host, and professor emeritus of telecommunications at Ball State University.

Donna Bookout donated records from Munce-area organizations including the Prevent Child Abuse Council, International Friends of Gettysburg United Methodist Church, Youth Empowerment Initiative, Planned Parenthood, and the Indiana Coalition for Public Education.

Marilyn Buck donated nearly 900 volumes of textbooks, journal issues, and conference programs pertaining to physical education.

Reid Griner, professor emeritus of art at Ball State University, donated archival records including photographs (right) and research documenting the history of Albany, Indiana and the history of art in Delaware County, Indiana.

Mark Johnson donated over 50 issues of the Indiana Gospel Trumpet from the 1990s to 2000s documenting the activities of the United Pentecostal Church International, Indiana District.

Renée Mackey donated over 1,200 publications relating to topics including ancient, medieval, and European world history, English literature, politics, religion, and art.

The family of J. Allan “Al” Rent donated a collection of historical photographs and marketing campaign materials documenting Rent’s career at Ball State University as Director of Relationship Marketing and Community Relationships and as owner of the Allan Rent Advertising firm.

The family of James Ruelle, late Dean of the Honors College at Ball State University, donated over 1,200 records documenting Ruelle’s career as a classics educator, scholar and university administrator.

The family of Martin D. and Helen B. Schwartz donated a significant addition of archival records including family photographs and correspondence, speech transcripts, event programs, and architectural drawings ranging in date from 1950 to 2010.

Andrew Seager donated a collection of archival records dating from 1946 to 2015 documenting his career as a professor of architecture at Ball State University and his research regarding the synagogue in the ancient city of Sardis, Turkey.

Mindy Zhang donated over 325 books, DVDs, and learning objects on the subjects of Chinese culture, history, and language studies.

Embedded Instruction Transforms Libraries’ Support for Student Learning

Embedded library instruction refers to a model in which librarians work collaboratively and repeatedly with faculty members to shape and deliver a program of library instruction for a college course, engaging in pedagogical decision making and evaluating student learning.

Traditionally, university students may have had one opportunity during a semester to learn critical skills related to scholarly resource discovery, search strategy development, and information evaluation from a librarian. Through an embedded instruction model however, librarians can offer multiple instruction sessions, consultation opportunities, and ongoing participation in online discourse throughout the semester to more strategically teach information literacy skills and support student learning outcomes. Thus, students, faculty members, and librarians become collaborative partners in the learning and knowledge creation process.

Laura Mulligan and Stephen Duercher of Information Services provided multiple course-integrated information literacy sessions for a Principles of Business undergraduate course, supporting a case problem assignment in which groups of students researched how to solve a legal problem using Indiana law. They communicated with students via Blackboard announcements to share links to a customized online guide which houses homegrown video tutorials and links highlighting strategies for locating credible information on Indiana law.

Michael Szajewski and Brandon Pieczko of Archives and Special Collections provided ongoing instruction regarding archival research and oral history transcription to support the work of students in professor Michael Doyle’s Honors College course conducting oral history interviews with African American alumni of Ball State University. Archives and Special Collections is collaborating with the Libraries’ Metadata and Digital Initiatives department to publish the collection of interviews online in the Digital Media Repository.

Jennifer Sebai, Head of Information Literacy Programs, created a digital suite of tutorial presentations to teach database searching skills to students in the Introduction to Educational Leadership online graduate course. Additionally, she created a shared video lecture with course faculty to further highlight information literacy skills relevant to library research in the field of education.

These efforts have provided Ball State University students with an increasingly enriched learning environment, extending the resources of University Libraries to support scholarly and creative inquiry in innovative ways. Ball State University’s librarians look forward to exploring new embedded opportunities in the coming academic year.

University Libraries, Academic Affairs Launch Digital Scholarship Lab

In 2016, the Ball State University Libraries and Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs jointly announced the founding the Ball State University Libraries Digital Scholarship Lab pictured below) housed in Bracken Library. This new initiative sets as a unified campus hub providing organized support for Ball State’s digital scholarship, seeking to boost the capacity of our faculty to produce innovative works of digital scholarship that break new ground in their respective fields.

Digital scholarship is a form of scholarly inquiry that uses applications of digital technology to analyze or present research data in innovative and unique ways beyond the capabilities of traditional text-based publication. Creating interactive timelines, developing custom-built databases, and producing dynamic layered maps are just a few of the ways that scholars at Ball State are using digital scholarship techniques to represent data in engaging new forms.

The Digital Scholarship Lab supports these activities initially by providing startup grant funding to assist faculty in developing pilot digital scholarship projects that can secure major funding from large granting institutions. Secondly, the Lab organizes and hosts educational programming including lectures, workshops, and brown bag lunches that provide a platform for collaborative learning. Thirdly, the Lab provides access to the skills and services of Ball State University librarians, technologists, and researchers with expertise and resources to support the planning and execution of digital scholarship activities. Such skills and services include data management planning, database design, information visualization, and copyright consultation.

For the 2017-2018 academic year, the Lab has provided startup funding for the following University faculty members to support digital inquiry:

• Patrick Collier, Professor of English
• Jennifer DeSilva, Associate Professor of History
• Chad Kinsella, Associate Professor of Political Science
• Serena Shim, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology
• Youfa Wang, John and Janice Fisher Endowed Chair in Wellness
• Chad Kinsella, Associate Professor of Political Science
• Jennifer DeSilva, Associate Professor of History

The University Libraries is thrilled to collaborate with these innovative scholars this year through our role as collaborative partners in the Digital Scholarship Lab. Much thanks is owed to the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Office of Information Technology, and our friends and benefactors whose ongoing support is critical as we explore this new collaborative, interdisciplinary effort to support the work of our talented and visionary faculty here at Ball State University.