

University Libraries
Prepared for Challenges
of Ball State’s Next Century



On 30 July 1918, the Muncie Evening Press reported that Hazel Armstrong, first librarian of the newly-opened Indiana State Normal School, Eastern Division (the future Ball State University), was working to expand a small collection of books, periodicals, and newspapers and installing a card catalog of the newly-classified materials to serve the institution's inaugural class. With just over 1,500 items, the modest library was housed in a room on the 2nd floor of what is now the Frank Bracken Administration Building, and students were responsible for charging out their own materials, ostensibly to “acquire a knowledge of library work that will be valuable to them if they ever have small school libraries under their supervision” (p. 7). Hazel Armstrong and her students could not possibly have imagined the changes a century would bring to the collections, facilities, and technologies of their fledgling library!

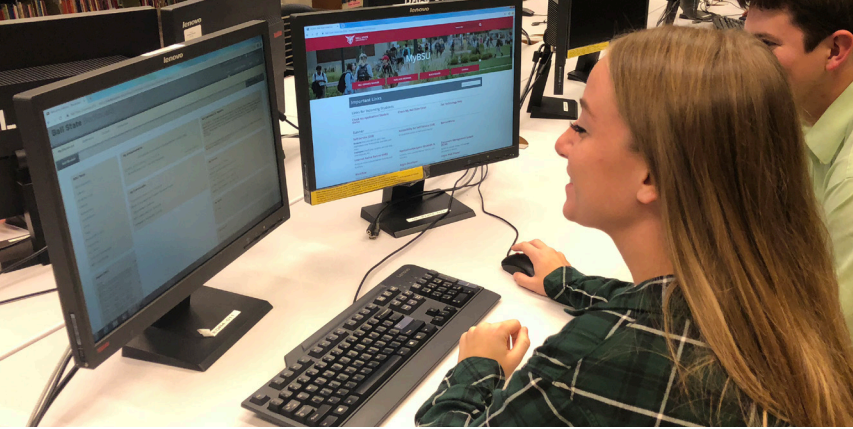
Today, the University Libraries contain over 1.1 million titles and annually welcomes over 1.4 million visitors to Bracken Library and branches in Architecture and Cooper Science. In addition to our robust physical collections, dedicated study spaces, and excellent learning technologies, the Libraries provide 24/7/365, global electronic access to millions of articles, e-books, pamphlets, newspapers, images, archival materials, and streaming videos. Our physical spaces are vibrant, and our virtual collections are available to learners wherever they are.

Through the work of our dedicated staff, the Libraries are significantly advancing the teaching, learning, and service mission of Ball State University. In this newsletter, you will learn about the many ways in which the Libraries are invested in our campus and community. From our work as teaching partners with our faculty to develop the sophisticated information and digital literacy skills of our students to our community engagement efforts, making a difference in Muncie and beyond, the University Libraries are committed to creating learning opportunities and enhanced knowledge environments for those we serve.

As Ball State University celebrates its proud past and anticipates its bright future during this centennial year, the Libraries reflect on a century of growth and impact—we have been there from the beginning. But today our reach has expanded well beyond a small collection of books and periodicals to include expansive access to scholarly resources, knowledgeable staff, and innovative services and spaces. With the support of the Friends, the Libraries are prepared to address the challenges of our next century of service, improving and innovating to advance student success, faculty productivity, and the ambitious mission of Ball State University.

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

www.bsu.edu/library



Alma Platform Adopted, Increases
Efficient Access to Libraries Resources

Throughout the 2017-2018 academic year, librarians at Ball State University tirelessly applied their expertise and knowledge to implement the Alma cloud-based integrated library services platform developed by the Ex Libris Group library software company. The adoption of Alma provides access to innovative management tools that have greatly enhanced the acquisition and description of print and electronic library resources at Ball State University Libraries.

Bringing together a plethora of formerly separate service platforms, this new system will also greatly improve our patrons’ experiences searching for print and digital research materials in the Libraries’ newly-branded integrated OneSearch/CardCat discovery tool. These improvements will empower students, faculty, and community members to more efficiently find the scholarly resources they need to support research and creative projects, leveraging tools that are both sophisticated and simple to use.

Alma also provides Ball State University’s librarians with advanced data regarding trends and patterns in patron’s use and discovery of electronic databases and online subscription journals. This information will equip Libraries with a large bank of data to inform decisions regarding the purchase and acquisition of resources that are most useful in supporting research and teaching at Ball State.



FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN LIBRARY
NEWSLETTER
2018



Dear Friends of Bracken Library,

An exciting year is upon us at Ball State University as 2018-2019 marks the centennial anniversary of the University’s founding as a public institution of higher education. The centennial celebration’s theme, “Beneficence: Proud Past. Bright Future” embraces a bold vision rooted in a steadfast commitment to transformative education while celebrating a proud history of innovation and philanthropy.

An examination of the University’s history and its transformation from a regional branch of a teachers college born through the generosity of the Ball Brothers to a world-class research institution reveals the unique and remarkable degree to which community engagement and philanthropy have propelled Ball State to extraordinary success. Ambitious fundraising efforts and magnanimous gifts have repeated transformed the growth of the University’s campus. Contributions from donors and friends have provided for vast, invaluable cultural resources on the campus. And alumni and community members have routinely served with dedication on numerous advisory boards and committees. “Better Together” is not merely a slogan frequently invoked at the University but rather a long-upheld truism that has defined Ball State’s successful century.

At Ball State University Libraries, this spirit of community engagement and philanthropy continues to be crucial to sustaining programs, resources, and services to advance meaningful scholarly and creative work by our students and faculty. Contributions and gifts in kind provide invaluable resources for our students, faculty, and community members who use library resources to create new knowledge through scholarship and engage in real-world projects that improve the quality of life in their communities.

My colleagues and I thank you earnestly and sincerely for your ongoing support of our work here at Ball State University Libraries. I look forward with gratitude to your continuing contributions this centennial year. The University has planned an exciting lineup of enriching and engaging programming for our centennial year—I invite you all to join us on campus to celebrate our successes, our legacy, and our promising future.

Sincerely,
Michael Szajewski
Executive Secretary



FRIENDS OF THE
ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN
LIBRARY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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STUDENT MEMBER

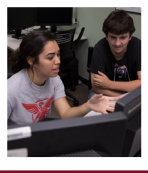
Allison Akers

EX-OFFICIO

- Cheri O’Neill
- Matthew Shaw
- Michael Szajewski

KEEP UP TO DATE with the Friends of Bracken Library news on the web!
www.bsu.edu/library/friends

CHECK OUT the Ball State University Digital Media Repository for photographs, videos, and more!
libx.bsu.edu/



BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY
University Libraries

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 \$11,000. The following donors made contributions of \$100 or more in fiscal year 2017-2018.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Terri Rojahn | Kay Conklin | Janie and Todd Murray |
| Joan and Stefan Anderson | Marilyn and Thomas DeWeese | Harold Norman |
| Dale Basham | Jo Drudge | Akilah Nosakhare |
| Jane and John Beekman | Beatrice Emens Wolper and Richard Emens | Alexis Olson-Brandt |
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| Phoebe and Henry Carter | Judith and Robert Koor | Tina and Bruce Venable |
| Mavis Catalfio | Doris Lawhead | Sue and Donald Whitaker |
| Jennifer Chiriboga | Betty McMichael | Carol Zuck |
| | Barbara and Jon Moll | |

University Libraries Commits Time, Expertise to Community Initiatives

Through the “Better Together” initiative, Ball State University has doubled down on its commitment to partner creatively and innovatively with the Muncie and Delaware County community to improve quality of life and place in the region. Students, faculty, and staff prioritize seeking and fulfilling these mutually-enriching opportunities through research, learning, professional service, and volunteerism.

Ball State University Libraries has undertaken several major projects this past year that contributed valuably to this initiative. Through the Muncie Community Schools Barcoding Initiative, over 10 University Libraries staff members committed over 540 volunteer hours to community elementary school libraries to apply barcodes that improved inventories of collections of books and media. Distributing their time between West View, North View, Longfellow, and Grissom Elementary Schools, these library staff members applied their expertise to make library collections more accessible and usable for K-12 students in Muncie.



Library personnel have also leant their time, expertise, and services to the **Muncie BY5** initiative, a community-wide collaborative effort to develop and promote high-quality and accessible early childhood development programs for children from birth to age five. By improving educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for children in this age range, program leaders seek to address issues including low educational achievement, poor health, and poverty in the community. As part of their involvement in this initiative, Libraries employees developed and hosted a suite of educational games and activities for the Muncie BY5's Pre-K Splash Day at Tuhey Pool, utilizing educational resources from the Libraries’ Educational Technology and Resources Collection.

In addition to these initiatives, University Libraries regularly advances community education initiatives in its work providing programming and access to information resources. The Libraries Public Services units hosted over 290 students from 8 K-12 schools in East Central Indiana during the 2017-2018 academic year, providing access to scholarly resources and instruction on searching databases, conducting academic research, and creatively using collection resources.

Additionally, Archives and Special Collections has advanced a number of community projects this year by preserving and providing access to unique historical records. The Drawings and Documents Archive has supplied historic architectural drawings to over 20 individuals and firms within the region to support historic. And the Stoeckel Archives preserved and celebrated Muncie-area history by collecting or exhibiting 11 unique local organizations’ records.

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 examples of the gifts-in-kind received from Library Friends in the past year.



Michele Chiuini donated over 6,000 film slides of architectural sites in Europe, South America, Japan, and the United States.

Frank Felsenstein donated a large collection of research materials including manuscripts regarding Tobias Smollett’s Travels Through France and Italy, anti-Semitic stereotypes in English literature, the Inkle and Yarico story, and the What Middletown Read research project.

Jay Gillette donated over 180 books on telecommunication and communication sciences.

Michelle Glowacki-Dudka donated over 180 books and media items pertaining to higher education and children’s literature.

Mohinder S. Jarial donated over 200 books on biology, medicine, and the culture and history of India.

Lee Lewellen donated over 1,600 images of historic buildings in Indiana including municipal buildings, commercial sites, and monuments.

Norman Morford donated an archival collection of correspondence from the Morford Family of Muncie including correspondence between Chaplain Elbert S. Morford and his wife Harriet Morford during Elbert’s service during World War II.

Paul Sampson donated 650 books and periodicals on topics including fashion design, merchandising, textiles, apparel, and sewing.

The David and Mary Jane Sursa Family donated an archival collection of 72 diaries written by Mary Jane Sursa from 1947 to 2018 chronicling her life in Muncie, IN.

Sheryl A. Swingley donated a collection of archival materials including publications and magazines documenting her career in journalism from the 1960s to present.

The Family of J.L. Sosenheimer, Ft. Wayne, IN architect of the firm Mox Pohlmeier & Associates, donated a collection of architectural records documenting over 280 building projects in northeast Indiana including hospitals, schools, and commercial buildings.

N. William and Bebe Weinstein donated over 250 books on topics pertaining to Jewish history, religion, and culture.

Qing Zhang donated over 165 books and periodicals pertaining to the culture, history, and language of China.

University Libraries Advances Immersive Learning Courses

Immersive Learning is one of the hallmarks of a Ball State University education. These innovative courses bring together interdisciplinary, student-driven teams led by faculty mentors to create meaningful, community-engaged learning experiences for Ball State students. Through immersive learning, students receive course credit for working collaboratively with local external partners in the community to address challenges and improve quality of life, learning and applying subject knowledge in impactful ways.

This past year, Ball State University Libraries worked to advance numerous immersive learning projects across campus, providing added value to further enrich these educational experiences and community outcomes. Architecture Librarian **Amy Trendler** worked as an embedded librarian with the **Book Arts Collaborative** course led by Rai Peterson, Associate Professor of English. The Collaborative, located in downtown Muncie’s Madjax Building, is a student-run creative press and book bindery that annually publishes an artist’s press book and hosts participatory programming events and workshops. Amy Trendler utilized her knowledge of design and book culture to provide innovative instruction and mentorship to students in the course.



An interdisciplinary team of students guided by Elizabeth Agnew, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, created the **Muslims in Muncie Oral History Project** in spring 2018. The students in this course documented personal and communal histories and contemporary experiences of members of Muslim community of Muncie by conducting and recording oral history interviews with Muslim community members. These students developed a strong foundational understanding of local history and the history of Muslims in the U.S. through significant research through the Libraries’ collections of print books, online journal articles, and archival records after several Libraries-lead instruction sessions that taught research methodologies and strategies. In addition, the Libraries will be preserving and publishing the oral history video recordings and transcripts for global online access in its Digital Media Repository.

A course of master’s degree students in the Emerging Media Design and Development degree program in the Department of Journalism also worked closely and repeatedly with Archives and Special Collections to research and develop a plan for a **David Letterman Learning Experience**. This proposed interactive experience and learning environment will meaningfully advance creative student work on the Ball State University campus by using archives and memorabilia from the David Letterman Archives at Ball State University Libraries. Students embarked on substantial historical research using the collection in the Archives, culminating in a proposal for this innovative concept to David Letterman during a special campus visit in May of 2018.

These examples are just a few cases that demonstrate the vast utility in Libraries’ collections, services, and expertise in advancing creative, community-engaged student scholarship and service learning. The Libraries’ eagerly anticipates continued opportunities in the 2018-2019 academic year to enable meaningful immersive experiences for students at Ball State University.