

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Support University Libraries' Collections, Services, and Programs

Financial donations by the Friends of Bracken Library to existing Ball State University Foundation accounts supporting University Libraries are always greatly appreciated, and we would like to thank all of our Friends. The following donors made contributions of \$100 or more in fiscal year 2022-2023.

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GIFTS-IN-KIND

Support Learning, Teaching, and Research

Muncie Action Plan donated the first addition of their archival records. This new collection will document the organization that promotes, supports, encourages, assists, and acts as an impartial catalyst and facilitator to implement the vision as embodied in the Muncie Strategic Investment Plan.

Mary Ann Bautch, a descendant of William Henry Younts, donated his autobiography that details the history of their family lineage, childhood, education, service in the American Civil War, politics, and travel. Later in life, Younts practiced law in Muncie and Eaton and was active in local politics. He passed away in 1904.

Deborah Myers Cook donated material created by and/or used by her mother, Ruth King Myers between 1910 and 2007. The material includes photographs, personal correspondence, diaries, and memorabilia. Myers was a graduate of Ball State University and spent many years as a teacher.

Becky Monroe donated 6 scrapbooks documenting the history of Marsh Supermarket store from the 1950s to the late 1960s. These scrapbooks are in good to excellent condition and provide a historical timeline for the company.

Andrew Dale and the Masterworks Chorale of Muncie donated a large addition of material including performance programs, audio recordings, and other supplemental materials ranging roughly from 1984 to 2016. The Masterworks Chorale, originally known as the East Central Indiana Community Singers, was formed in 1978 by several members of the Muncie Matinee Musicales who were interested in bringing high-quality choral performances to Muncie.

Alpha Center Day Services, Inc., through **Mary Lou Gentis**, donated material related to the Alpha Center Day Services in Muncie, Indiana. The material includes photographs, scrapbooks, historical documents, newsletters, and other material

documenting the center's operations. Closing in 2022, the center was one of the first adult daycare centers in Indiana. The center provided opportunities for people to age in place by providing them a day service where they can come and give caregivers a respite.

Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry transferred material documenting the seminars, students, faculty, community partners, and final seminar projects covering 14 years. Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry has served as a site for semester-long student-driven projects that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

Ashley Nagel donated the compositions of her father, Jody Nagel, which include PDFs of his scores and digital audio files. Jody Nagel was a professor of music theory and composition at Ball State University.

FRIENDS OF THE ALEXANDER M. BRACKEN LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER 2023



A Message from Executive Secretary Dr. Amy Petts



It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new Executive Secretary of the Friends of Alexander M. Bracken Library. In the summer of 2023, I assumed the role of Senior Manager of Assessment, Planning, and Outreach for University Libraries. I have been at University Libraries for roughly three years, and I have a Masters in Information and Library Science and a Ph.D. in Sociology. I am excited to serve you in this role and to build up the excellent work of my predecessor Michael Szajewski.

The 2023-2024 academic year is off to a tremendous start, with one of the highest freshman enrollments in Ball State history. You can feel the renewed energy on campus, and especially at Bracken and all the branch libraries. The start of the semester was particularly rewarding for University Libraries. The Libraries reignit-

ed the departmental liaison program and offered several Welcome Week events for students and outreach to departments and faculty. As a result of these efforts, the Libraries saw an 89% increase in the number of presentations offered in August compared to the previous year, and reached more students than in 2019 (pre-pandemic). The Libraries' gate count continues to rise and is slowly approaching pre-pandemic levels with the number of room reservations, reference questions, and consultations growing each year too. The Libraries is also excited to announce that Ball State and each of the academic departments approved a \$500,000 permanent increase to our materials budget. The Libraries is using assessment data to understand how to best invest these funds in the upcoming years to optimally support our students, faculty, and staff.

Relationships underpin all of these successes. The relationships that Libraries build with students, faculty, and the broader community are essential to furthering democracy, ensuring access to high-quality, curated resources, along with providing education about information literacy and support for research and teaching, including digital scholarship expertise. The Libraries continues to strive to innovate and advance our services and resources to best serve our community.

The work of relationship building and innovating derives successes that cannot be realized without you, the Friends of Bracken Library. Your generous support



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**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

University Libraries

FUNDRAISING Opportunities

Learning Commons: \$10 million

Higher education has become more collaborative, innovative, and interdisciplinary, resulting in better student outcomes. University Libraries must create state-of-the-art environments for learners that equal the innovative support of our librarians, archivists, and experts. As the ways students learn, exchange ideas, communicate academically, and publish scholarship grow increasingly complex, this need becomes even more urgent. Developing a Learning Commons would meet this demand.

Project Support

A Learning Commons at Bracken Library will be an inclusive space optimized to serve student needs in the

21st century. Students will be able to access the latest software, expanded digital technology, green screens, and expert library support as they collaborate to create content.

A Flexible and Sustainable Space

Bracken Library's size and central location make it an ideal building to house a large, comprehensive academic success center that would span multiple floors. Because education is always changing, University Libraries will incorporate a sustainable and flexible design that enables us to update and refresh technologies and environments as needed.

The Commons' flexible floor plan will enable library administrators to experiment with the space to best address student needs and to adapt as those needs evolve and as new partnerships present themselves.

Research and Writing Studio: \$2 million

Since research and writing remain critical to any project, digital or otherwise, University Libraries will partner with the Department of English to host a Research and Writing Studio within the Learning Commons.

Integrating research and writing support centers inside main libraries has become a best practice for universities. Institutions who have integrated writing centers inside their main libraries have doubled the number of students they support.

Preserving History: \$100,000

Our Archives and Special Collections are the primary source for materials on the histories of Ball State, Muncie, and Hoosier architecture, and we manage a large collection of rare books and manuscripts. In a typical year, more than 230,000 visitors access our digital archives to view about 800,000 items.

Our limited budget has led to a backlog of collections that remain in need of preservation and inaccessible to the public. Furthermore, those same constraints prevent us from expanding our holdings



Bracken Library is where students learn to research and interpret information.

There are so many different services there, and they play a huge role in our lives. When you support the library, your generosity touches the life of each and every student at Ball State."

QAMILLE ARMOUR, '24
Art education major



to adequately preserve the diversity of our communities. Establishing an endowment will help fund the storage, preservation, and long-term care of invaluable materials.

Rewarding Research: \$50,000

University Libraries will establish annual awards to incentivize and recognize undergraduate research papers or projects that incorporate exceptional library research.

Encouraging our learners to develop and apply research, information, and digital literacy skills is critical to scholarship, career success, and lifelong learning. Furthermore, it is at the core of the University Libraries' mission. This competition will empower undergraduates to examine challenging issues, formulate probing questions, discover new information, and articulate bold thinking informed by library research.

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STRONG LIBRARIES CREATE Strong Students

Large Collection

Users have access to more than one million physical books, serials, and periodicals; more than 500,000 e-books and e-journals; and more than 250,000 digitized resources.

High Visitorship

University Libraries welcomes more than one million visitors per year.

Journal Publication

University Libraries publishes open-access journals managed and developed by Ball State undergraduate and graduate students.

Research & Innovation

Library personnel have created hundreds of online research guides, subject guides, and other cutting-edge resources, and users access them over 78,000 times a year.

Community Engagement

University Libraries supports information and literacy instruction in local schools, community education programs, and the preservation of community websites, cultural records, and artifacts.

A Message from Dean Matthew Shaw

The Ball State University Libraries is a vital research and teaching partner. We provide those who teach and learn on our campus with excellent scholarly resources, cutting-edge technologies, flexible study and learning spaces, and specialized expertise from information professionals. The Libraries is at the very heart of the student learning experience, and we are continually evolving to deliver access and services to advance learning and skill development outside of the classroom.

To this end, the University Libraries identified and adopted specific information literacy student learning outcomes to ensure that library and archival instruction programs are successfully developing competencies in our students related to the creation, discovery, evaluation, and proper use of reliable and factual scholarly resources. Learning assessments have been developed to measure this progress, and the results demonstrate positive outcomes with direct relationship to student success, academic persistence, and the capacity for lifelong learning.

When students assessed their own growth, at least 80% indicated they were better able to evaluate the authority and credibility of information with a critical

mindset as a result of library instruction. Seventy percent reported being better equipped to effectively discover resources for their academic work. Two-thirds of students who completed library instruction reported having better awareness of the scholarly research process as it relates to their area of study. Finally, above and beyond this growth in specific information literacy skills, 90% of students reported that participation in library instruction improved their ability to complete coursework.

The Libraries continues to use these successes to build and scale deeper relationships with faculty through our library liaison program, which pairs Research and Teaching Services Librarians with each academic department. Additionally, functional liaisons with specialized expertise in areas such as Geospatial Information Systems, Digital Scholarship, Collections Development, Archives and Special Collections, and Copyright directly support work with faculty to advance teaching, learning, research, and scholarly communications.

The University Libraries is successfully demonstrating our value to the campus and community through programs like these, and our work is made possible



Matthew C. Shaw

MATTHEW C. SHAW
Dean of University Libraries