

2021

## Annual Report, 2020-2021

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries

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## University of Arkansas Libraries Annual Report FY21

*Significant achievements and changes of college or school and programs/departments, including progress related to strategic plans and university priorities such as the initiatives to support teaching and research, and results of college or school assessment of student learning.*

### **Buildings**

The majority of the work for [Phase I](#) of the Mullins Library renovation was completed during FY21. Levels 3 and 4 now have seating capacity for 1900 students and faculty compared to the previous 700 available seats. The reimagined spaces contain improved wi-fi and expanded access to power outlets. A variety of technology-equipped individual and group study rooms, two flex-space lecture rooms were created, and two seminar-sized classrooms are now available for library instruction sessions. Dedicated reading rooms for faculty and graduate students were added to Level 3, as well as 20 faculty carrels. This work also included the installation of a new fire suppression system for these spaces. The renovated floors opened for use in August 2021.

### **Agreements**

The University of Arkansas Libraries [negotiated an agreement](#) between the U of A System and publisher Elsevier that increased online access to nearly all of Elsevier's 2,650 published journals and cut costs by 13%. The breadth of research made available and cost savings to all U of A System member institution libraries is significant and that the negotiation was led by the University of Arkansas Libraries is a clear display of our leadership and stewardship in Fayetteville and throughout the state.

The Libraries entered into a [“read and publish” agreement](#) with Cambridge University Press (CUP) that allows U of A students, faculty and staff to publish articles in open access journals published by CUP without paying an article processing charge thus making this research available without cost to scholars and students worldwide.

### **Programs**

Fifteen faculty projects were chosen for Course Materials Conversion Program funding: [six](#) in the Fall 2020 semester and [nine](#) during the Spring 2021 semester. The program was created in collaboration with the Global Campus to reduce the cost of textbooks for students while allowing faculty to be more innovative and agile with their course materials.

The U of A Press and University Libraries announced a collaborative publishing initiative, [Arkansas Scholarly Editions](#), that amplifies the impact of Arkansas scholars by expanding access to their work (May 2021). Articles published through Arkansas Scholarly Editions are made available through the U of A's institutional repository, [ScholarWorks@UARK](#).

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Libraries staff participated in the campuswide program *OUCH! That Stereotype Hurts* with an overall completion of 74 percent. The Libraries' DEI committee hosted a town hall April 23 to facilitate the exchange of ideas and next steps related to the program.

The Libraries' DEI committee hosted two forums Sept. 21 and 24 to discuss the need for a more inclusive culture and organization.

A diversity banner was added to the Libraries' homepage to promote DEI terminology and continuing education to contribute to the adoption of a common DEI language.

The Libraries have developed several tools to assist in the promotion of DEI resources to advance the Libraries' workers and the campus DEI knowledge. Some of those resources are the research guides: Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Arkansas Libraries, LGBTQ+ Histories, and Marshallese Resources. Physical exhibits of books and multimedia items were displayed monthly in Mullins Library.

## **Events**

The Libraries collaborated with the Division of Research and Innovation and the Honors College to host virtual events for [Undergraduate Research Week](#) (April 19-23, 2021), including a [poster competition](#). Data Services Librarian Lora Lennertz offered two Research Week [instruction sessions](#): Your Data Management Plan and Using the Open Science Foundation.

The Libraries collaborated with the Global Campus to create a [slate of virtual events](#) for Open Education Week (March 1-5, 2021), including an Open Educational Resources Faculty Mingle, a [panel discussion](#) in which faculty members who had created Open Educational Resources shared their experiences, a 3D Open Educational Resources Petting Zoo, and two instruction sessions: Creative Commons 101, OER Assignments and Pressbook Tours for faculty and OER, Course Design and More for graduate assistants. The Libraries also co-sponsored the statewide event OE-ARkansas in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education. The Research Guide [Explore OER, DEI and Social Justice](#) was promoted during the week.

Data Services Librarian Lora Lennertz offered [two instruction sessions](#) during Fair Use Week (Feb. 22-26, 2021): The Basics of Copyright and Applying Fair Use in the Classroom.

Elaine Thornton, open education and distance learning librarian, offered an [Open Educational Resources office hour](#) on Tuesdays in September 2020.

Libraries personnel offered open instruction sessions for campus on the [Unix Shell](#) (May/June 2021), EndNote Web, [scholarly metrics](#) (March/April 2021), fair use, Your Data Management Plan, Using the Open Science Foundation,

The Libraries cut costs by [ending the campus subscription](#) to the RefWorks citation manager. Instruction sessions on EndNote Web, a more affordable option, were offered in [Feb. 2021](#), [March 2021](#),

Special Collections collaborated with the U of A Press to bring in author Elizabeth Findley Shores on March 4, 2021, for a [presentation](#) on her book, *Shared Secrets: The Queer World of Newbery Medalist Charles J. Finger*, published by the U of A Press.

The Special Collections Division's Graduate Student Speaker Series included:

- ["The Fight for Home and Fatherland: a look inside the women of the James H. Berry chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy"](#) by Katie Powell, graduate student in the Rhetoric and Composition Program within the Department of English and associate director of student success with the Honors College (Sept. 2020)
- ["Shifting Landscape: an Ecological Blend of the Virtual and Physical"](#) by Acadia Kandora, Master of Fine Arts candidate (Nov. 2020)
- "'Otherwise You Will Have to Suffer the Consequences:' The Catcher Race Riot of 1923" by [Michael Anthony](#), history doctoral candidate (March 2021)

Special Collections also hosted the panel discussions [A Confederate Star: Arkansas' Flag and the Lost Cause](#) (Oct. 2020) and [Confronting Our Inherent Biases: Their Impact on Collections, Research and Scholarship](#) (Oct. 2020).

The Libraries Office of Scholarly Communications collaborated with the Honors College to provide [four virtual Open House events](#) with information on how to submit an honors thesis to the university's institutional repository (April 2021).

### **Digital Initiatives**

An online [Seat Reservation System](#) was implemented in Mullins Library during the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed students to reserve individual study tables (Feb. 2021).

The Libraries Digital Services Department published the [University of Arkansas Photo Collection](#) - the largest collection of U of A photos to date comprising over 1,300 individual scans.

Other new digital collections include the [Razorback Yearbooks](#), [Selections from Special Collections and Archives](#), and the [Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station's Mimeograph Series](#),

U of A Department of Music's [2012-2016 concert recordings](#) were added to the institutional repository.

The Libraries and Global Campus collaborated to create a new video series for faculty: [Open Educational Resources in the Disciplines](#).

*Achievements in teaching, professional performance, research, scholarship, and public service, especially those of national, regional, or statewide significance.*

Martha Anderson, head of the Digital Services department for University Libraries, was appointed to a two-year term on the American Library Association's (ALA) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Assembly. The purpose of the assembly is to provide a forum for all groups within ALA and ALA-affiliated organizations working on initiatives related to equity, diversity, and inclusion to discuss their activities, identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination, and explore new initiatives related to the association's strategic direction for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Martha Anderson also participated in the Association of Research Libraries' 2020-2021 [Leadership and Career Development program](#), which is designed to address the need for greater representation of people of color in leadership of research libraries and archives.

Sherryl Faulkner-Robinson received a 30-year service award from the University of Arkansas, 2020.

Beth Juhl received the Crystal Award from the Innovative Users Group, 2020. Juhl was also invited to join the inaugural Library Advisory Board for theIPRegistry.org.

*Productivity measures such as: the numbers of grants, dollars, student growth, new faculty, new administrators, and awards/honors (as appropriate for your college/school).*

[Adriana Gonzalez was hired](#) as associate dean for research and learning (Aug. 1, 2020).

[Angie Ohler was hired](#) as associate dean for content and digital initiatives (Oct. 1, 2020).

[Lynda Coon was appointed](#) as Interim Dean of Libraries (Jan. 1, 2021).

[Lauren Willette was hired](#) as Folk Arts Survey coordinator for Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts (Feb. 2021) to build a network of Arkansas artists, tradition bearers and organizations by meeting with and interviewing stakeholders. The new position was made possible by a partnership with the Mid-America Arts Alliance.

[Jason Battles was hired](#) as the new Dean of Libraries (Aug. 16, 2021) after a national search with assistance from the firm Jack Farrell and Associates.

Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts received a [\\$25,000 grant](#) from the National Endowment for the Arts (June 2021).