

2022

Annual Report, 2021-2022

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Libraries. (2022). Annual Report, 2021-2022. *University Libraries Annual Report*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/libar/15>

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University Libraries Annual Report FY22

Section I: 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.

The most impactful and exciting part of FY22 for the University of Arkansas Libraries was undoubtedly the progress made on the Mullins Library renovation. Levels 3 and 4 were [completely renewed](#) and opened in August 2021, and preparations were made for the renovation of Levels 1 and 2. In addition to physical upgrades, the Libraries also migrated to a [new library management system](#) that provides enhanced search features for users as well as additional capabilities behind the scenes for Libraries personnel. A team created [instructional videos](#) to help users get acquainted with the new search tool.

To expand holdings for users and access to professional development for personnel, the Libraries joined the [Association of Southeastern Research Libraries \(ASERL\)](#), [HathiTrust](#), and the [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#) during FY22. ASERL member institutions voted unanimously to admit the University of Arkansas Libraries as the first new member to the organization since 2011. We join 11 of our SEC peers along with outstanding research libraries at Emory, Johns Hopkins, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Virginia.

The Libraries offered several programs and initiatives to support academic achievement at the U of A and beyond, including the [Open Access Publishing Fund](#) and other [author support programs](#), the [Open Educational Resources Course Materials Conversion Program](#), the [Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Statewide Apprenticeship Program](#), a [cost-reducing initiative](#) in collaboration with the Student Success Center, a statewide Community Scholars Program offered in [Pocahontas](#) and [Fayetteville](#), and an [Arkansas Folklife Web Series](#).

The Libraries partnered with several campus units to provide new discipline-specific technology and resources. The Multimedia Department worked with the Department of Music to create a [Music Lab](#) in Mullins Library, and [Arduino kits](#) were purchased and made available for checkout to enhance support for Engineering students. The Office for Scholarly Communications hosted open house events during the [Fall 2021](#) and [Spring 2022](#) semesters for Honors students to provide information and answer questions about the institutional repository. The Libraries also partnered with the Office of Title IX to promote resources for [Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#) in April.

Libraries personnel created a new [Promo/Tenure Website](#) to celebrate faculty achievements.

The Libraries observed [Open Access Week](#), [Archives Month](#), [Undergraduate Research Week](#), and [Love Data Week](#) and offered workshops and information for each. Additionally, virtual, and in-person instruction sessions were offered for a variety of topics, including data management and security, DataPlanet, EndNote Web, Git, HathiTrust, R, and Unix.

Additional Libraries events during FY22 include a virtual lecture with Grammy-nominated Americana and Northern Roots musician [Tim Eriksen](#) and a webinar on [Accessibility for Cultural Programs](#), both hosted by the Libraries' Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Department.

The Digital Services Unit made available two new digital collections on the [Fulbright Program](#) and U of A [campus buildings](#).

Special Collections curated the exhibits [Centuries of 'The Good Fight:' Women Authors in the Rare Books Collection](#); [Illuminating Dante](#), an exhibit in collaboration with the department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; an exhibit for the U of A's [sesquicentennial](#), curated with input from a campus committee; and [A History of the University of Arkansas Library](#).

Personnel in Multimedia Services, the Children's Literature Collection, and User Services created monthly book and multimedia displays to highlight resources that focused largely on diversity. Themes included [Appreciate Diversity Month](#), [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), [Native American Heritage Month](#), [Black History Month](#), [Women's History Month](#), [Parkinson's Awareness Month](#), Sexual Assault Awareness Month, [Inclusion in Children's Literature](#), [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#), and [Pride Month](#).

The Libraries Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee arranged for a two-part [Race in the South](#) training from the U of A IDEALS Institute.

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

Stephanie Guenther, Multimedia Services supervisor, was accepted into the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute's [2022 cohort](#).

Beth Juhl, web services librarian, received the [Innovative Users Group's 2022 Beacon Award](#). The award was created "to honor exceptional service to the Innovative Users Community through presentations, collaboration, selfless dedication to libraries as a whole and sage advice to others."

In June 2022, the University Libraries' Scholarly Communications team gave the virtual presentation "[The Handy IR Manager: A Toolkit for Recruitment, Intake, and Promotion](#)" at the North American Serials Interest Group 2022 conference. This presentation drew on the team's success in building the U of A institutional repository, ScholarWorks@UARK, and the recording and presentation slides are now available in the repository.

Research Services, led by Emily Ward and Casiday Long, welcomed researchers from 18 countries to conduct research in Special Collections this year. Researchers used materials from 3,445 top containers in the reading room. The papers of J. William Fulbright remained the most

frequently requested collection from our holdings, followed by [the papers of Arkansas poet Edsel Ford](#) (MS F75), the [Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Historical Collection](#) (MC 468), and the [Florence Price papers](#) (MC 988, MC 988a, and MC 988b).

Joshua Youngblood and Dr. Trish Starks, Director of the Humanities Program, were awarded a Chancellor's Innovation grant to bring together interdisciplinary scholars from across Arkansas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the first National River within the National Park Service. The project includes six public programs and the creation of content for digital archives; learn more at the project website, [digitalbuffalo.uark.edu](#).

Special Collections personnel also served on various regional and national committees this year. Kara Flynn served as Editor for the Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies. Melanie Griffin served as chair of the Budget & Development Committee for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries. Katrina Windon served as the chair of the Chair of the Society of American Archivists' Privacy and Confidentiality Section, a member of the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group, and a grant review for the National Historical Publications and Records Committee. Joshua Youngblood served as a grant reviewer for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and as a reviewer for the Society of American Archivists' Case Studies on Teaching with Primary Sources.

Section III: Achievements of students and alumni or former students, especially those of national, regional, or statewide significance.

During FY22, the Special Collections Division hosted [Neba Evans](#), [Liz Alspach](#), [Whitney King](#), and [Rachel Whitaker](#) as part of the Graduate Student Speaker Program. The division also hosted a graduate student panel discussion on [proxy research](#), which recently increased as a result of the pandemic.

Interlibrary Loan employee [Carroll Bentley](#) graduated from the U of A and was accepted into medical school at UAMS.

Students were invited to contribute to a [time capsule](#) during a sesquicentennial event, Binding it All Together, held outside Mullins Library.

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

New hires during FY22 included [Jason Battles](#), dean of Libraries, and Marina Narvaez, business librarian. Casiday Long joined Special Collections as Research Services Specialist in October 2021. Emily Ward began serving as Research Services Coordinator in January 2022. Sam Ownbey joined Special Collections as the Assistant University Archivist in April 2022. Associate

Dean Lori Birrell departed the University of Arkansas in July 2022, and Melanie Griffin was named Interim Associate Dean for Special Collections.

Geosciences chair Christopher Liner [donated](#) several rare books to Special Collections.

The Libraries held the first in-person Dean's Advisory Council gathering on campus in late April. More than 20 donors from across the country participated in facility tours, an educational business meeting, and a social reception.

An anonymous donor, who pledged \$600,000 of current use funds, also committed to provide for two endowed chairs for the University Libraries in their estate. These two chairs—the dean's chair and the associate dean for Special Collections—will be the first of their kind for the University Libraries, adding them to a short list of SEC schools that have received similar support for their libraries faculty. The combined \$5.1M total of the gifts makes it the [single largest contribution](#) given by individuals to the University Libraries.

The [Malone Family Endowed Award](#), the first ever student award for the University Libraries, was created to support diverse undergraduates with financial need. The donors plan to increase this award to the scholarship level (\$50,000) over the next few years.