ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

ARE LIBRARIES THE MOST VALUABLE SPACES ON CAMPUS?

Narrating a Transition
Bringing African American History to Life
Year in Photos

We won! Learn more on page 16
ARE LIBRARIES THE MOST VALUABLE SPACES ON CAMPUS?  
A new study shows that University of Minnesota undergraduates who visit the library at least once during their first year are more likely to graduate on time. Magic? Hardly. Librarians share what they do to help students succeed.

NARRATING A TRANSITION  
The Transgender Oral History Project at the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies is documenting a pivotal time in our society’s understanding of gender.

BRINGING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TO LIFE  
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THE FACE OF OUR FRIENDS  
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YEAR IN PHOTOS  
The Friends Forum: A Series for Curious Minds brought writers and experts to campus including Elizabeth Kolbert, Bao Phi, Marlene Zuk, Gary Eichten, and Alan Page. We celebrated the launch of Umbra Search African American History with archival and community events. Noted children’s author and illustrator Raina Telgemeier joined us to launch her new book. These events and many more made 2016-2017 an academic year to remember!

More continuum online!  
Many of the stories in this issue reference websites, blogs, and other multimedia content. Access those web extras directly at continuum.umn.edu.
In July, the University Libraries was awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the highest honor given to museums and libraries. We were one of only five libraries and five museums to receive the Medal, and only the third research library in the award’s 23-year history to garner this recognition! The quote, from Dr. Hornbacher’s letter of nomination, captures the essence of the award: the University of Minnesota Libraries serves a large and cascading number of communities from campus to a global audience. Our reach and our impact are remarkable… and award-worthy!

The Medal is a wonderful honor and recognizes the innovative contributions of our talented staff. Whether it’s partnering with faculty to enrich the curriculum, preserving critical data in support of groundbreaking research, or sharing our distinctive collections with individuals around the state or around the world — the Libraries makes a notable difference in the lives of tens of thousands of students, faculty and scholars, and the general public.

This issue of continuum explores several exemplary Libraries’ programs, each illustrating the distinct impact recognized in the Medal. You’ll read about our work to enhance student success through our peer research consultants and SMART Learning Commons, as well as the compelling data about improved outcomes for undergraduate library users. The Transgender Oral History Project is ensuring that our Tretter Collection in GLBT studies captures the important archival record about transgender experiences in the United States. And the Umbra: Search African American History project offers a unique tool to explore digital resources dealing with the African American experience, culled from nearly 1,000 institutional partners across the country.

Grants and private philanthropy play a significant role, enhancing and leveraging University support to enable new initiatives. The Transgender Oral History Project is supported by a generous gift from TAWANI Foundation. And the Umbra Search project has had funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (the federal agency that sponsors the National Medal), supporting educational programming for other archives and to further use of Umbra Search in schools.

It has been gratifying to receive dozens of messages from near and far congratulating us on receiving the National Medal. Many have commented on the model programs we’ve launched. Others have noted the impact we’ve had within the library community, raising the profile and underscoring the value of research libraries. Alumni and friends have shared their pride in all that the Libraries does, particularly in serving Minnesotans and offering engaging public programs. One of my favorite communiques, however, offered a simple statement: “Wow, how cool is this?” That says it all.

I am a proud supporter of the University of Minnesota Libraries because of their passion to improve student achievement, the diversity of communities they touch, and the significant impact they make in the education of generations new and old across many disciplines and across many sectors.”

JUDY HORNBACKER,
Past President of Friends of the Libraries

WENDY PRADT LOUGEES
University Librarian
McKnight Presidential Professor
Librarian Kate Peterson provides information about the Libraries to a first-year student at Summer Orientation.

Photo by Paula Keller
A NEW STUDY SHOWS THAT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNDERGRADUATES WHO VISIT THE LIBRARY AT LEAST ONCE DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR ARE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE ON TIME. MAGIC?

HARDLY.

LIBRARIANS SHARE WHAT THEY DO TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED.

RISING SOPHOMORE KRISTA WIGEN, a marketing major, expected that she’d sail through the University of Minnesota academically. But then she got her final research assignment for her first-year writing course — a project worth 35 percent of her total grade — and she worried that she was in over her head.

The assignment required her to dig deep into the details of the 1922 Hall-Mills murder case, which was believed to inspire part of The Great Gatsby. “I was used to not having to ask for help for a class in high school,” Wigen says. “But I knew I had to do well on this assignment.”

Fortunately, she also knew she had options. She’d taken a Libraries tour not long after she’d arrived at the U, and she’d learned about Peer Research Consultants (PRCs) at several University libraries. These students — trained specifically to provide research help to fellow U of M undergrads — were available for one-on-one consultations for projects exactly like Wigen’s.

Wigen gathered her courage and went to Walter Library to speak with senior Akshina Banerjee, one of the University’s PRCs. Banerjee helped Wigen brainstorm thesis ideas and track down relevant 1920s newspaper articles. Wigen aced the paper, and says Banerjee was crucial to her success.

“I was hesitant to see a Peer Research Consultant at first, but I’m so glad I did,” she says. “It was so helpful.”

Wigen’s experience isn’t unusual. According to a study conducted by the University of Minnesota Library Data and Student Success Group, students who use the Libraries at least once during their first year are 40 percent more likely to graduate in four years than their peers who don’t visit the Libraries. That stunning statistic held even after controlling for other factors linked to student success, such as whether the students were eligible for Pell Grants or lived in the residence halls. (All data were de-identified.)
The study, which has tracked library use for more than 5,000 students since 2011, examined an array of different categories, such as checking out physical or electronic books, logging into library computer workstations, and meeting with a librarian.

There may be even more good news on the horizon. Researchers soon will have the data for 2017 graduates, which they'll use to track six-year graduation rates for the 2011 cohort of first-year students. Early indicators suggest the results will be compelling: at the four-year mark, library users were more likely than non-users to have remained enrolled, even if they hadn't yet graduated.

For Undergraduate Services Librarian Kate Peterson, the numbers are heartening. While she is careful to note that it is hard to prove that library visits led directly to higher graduation rates — correlation is not causation, as statisticians like to say — the best data that the Libraries can collect suggest they're making a difference.

"Like any other place on campus, libraries are asked to prove their impact," she says. "It’s not enough to say that a university must have libraries. It’s time for us to say, 'Here is our real effect on student success.'"

So far, so good. But what is it about libraries that gives student users an edge? We dug into the myriad services and support offered to undergraduates by the Libraries to find out what factors help lead students so efficiently to their diplomas.

SUPPORT TO GET TO THE FINISH LINE

Getting an undergraduate degree is a marathon, not a sprint. And it turns out that preparing for a 26.2-mile race might just be the right analogy for the role that the Libraries plays in that process. For example, while it’s technically true that anyone with a pair of running shoes can make it to a marathon finish line, someone who also has access to a gym full of equipment, a training plan, and a coach is far more likely to succeed. The same is true for students who use the Libraries as part of their academic plan. A student with only a laptop and an internet connection might be able to graduate, like that runner with a pair of sneakers. But library support and resources can help make the journey a far more successful one.

Librarians often find that their first job is to teach students how to navigate the internet more effectively. Even though today’s undergrads have grown up on the web, they still typically need to strengthen their critical thinking skills to separate good information from bad, says Claire Stewart, Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning.

"We have a deluge of information today, but students are actually less well equipped now than they used to be to deal with it," says Stewart. "Years ago, most of what students were encountering was high quality information that had been preselected for them. That’s not true today."

IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT A UNIVERSITY MUST HAVE LIBRARIES. IT’S TIME FOR US TO SAY, ‘HERE IS OUR REAL EFFECT ON STUDENT SUCCESS.’"
In other words, librarians help students unlearn their worst internet habits. “You actually can’t Google everything,” says Stewart. “In fact, the best and most high-quality information is usually the stuff that’s behind paywalls.”

That’s one of the many ways that the Libraries is essential for students: it maintains subscriptions to thousands of (often expensive) journals and databases that provide information that students can access in no other way.

Librarians also help students understand and develop critical thinking skills. For example, librarians frequently give talks to classes about scholarly research, finding sources, and evaluating information. They help students ask the right questions to determine whether the information they’re collecting and using is accurate and authoritative. Does the author have credentials, for example? Are data provided? Was the article peer reviewed by other researchers?

These presentations can feel like a firehose of information for some students. That’s why U librarians have developed and organized interactive online tutorials on the Libraries web page that cover each of these topics — and others — in depth. The goal, says Instructional Designer Lindsay Matts-Benson, is to give students the resources they need right when they need them.

“These tutorials are a way for students to learn new skills, or just refresh them.”

And while librarians may be teaching these research skills to help students succeed in a specific class, the skills themselves — choosing a research subject, understanding citation use, and using databases — are rarely course-specific. Students can take what they’ve learned and apply the key concepts over and over again in classes throughout their academic career — and even beyond the classroom.

“There are all sorts of non-traditional news sources these days, and [many charges of] fake news,” Matts-Benson says. “Understanding how to get credible information is necessary for students in their everyday lives.”
PERFECTLY TAILORED SPACE AND SUPPORT

When undergraduates arrive at the University, their preparation for the rigors of University-level work varies. That’s why the Libraries has come up with an array of different services to support students at whatever level they need. Sometimes, that’s simply providing an easy-to-follow calendar for research project scheduling. Sometimes, it’s helping students do some of the heavy lifting as they develop a final project in their major. Early in undergraduates’ academic careers, for example, time management is often a particularly thorny issue. To help students map out their schedule, the Libraries offers a web-based assignment calculator to plan the process of developing a speech, a research paper, a lab report, or video project. The calculator uses the student-provided deadlines to provide a personalized calendar, complete with the percentage of time to spend on each step and links to helpful resources at each stage of the process.

The library spaces themselves are designed to help students maximize their time. While most schools keep tutoring and academic support services in their own buildings, the University has chosen a distinctive and highly successful model that integrates many of these support services into the Libraries, says LeeAnn Melin, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Education.

For example, The SMART Learning Commons — physical spaces at Walter, Wilson, and Magrath Libraries — offer peer tutoring and support, including the Peer Research Consultant support that helped Wigen with her Gatsby-based paper. They provide “exam jams” for pre-final studying for specific courses and additional test preparation resources. Melin says keeping these resources in one place makes perfect sense for students.

“When you can make the experience for students seamless — when spaces are approachable, when students can get the help they need right when and where they need it — it helps them do their best work,” she says.

Even students who generally do their studying elsewhere find that libraries play an important role during the final weeks of a term. “During finals, the libraries are open 24 hours a day — they have private study spaces, they have group study spaces, they have coffee,” says Melin.

“Students can be there and focus on their learning and not have to worry about anything else that might distract them.”

And when students need help from a real pro? Librarians are around to help with nearly any question a student might have. They have plenty of drop-in hours, and for even more robust support, students can fill out an online form with their exact needs and schedule a time to go deep into a research topic with a librarian.

Just one of these services can help a
Librarians have long suspected there’s a link between library use and student success, but when the University of Minnesota Libraries’ Library Data and Student Success group began collecting data from thousands of students in 2011, they became the first to try to turn that hunch into real data.

The results are making libraries at other universities take note. Jan Fransen, Service Lead for Researcher and Discovery Systems and Krista Soria, an analyst for the Office of Institutional Research, have given talks about this work at Penn State. The team from the University of Minnesota also shared their findings with the University of Wisconsin.

Fransen says she’s thrilled about the attention the Libraries’ work is generating. “There’s interest across the country, and we hope that other libraries will not only build on what we’re doing but push us to do more,” she says. “It’s important that [libraries are] at the table when the rest of campus is talking about how to make the students’ experience better.”

*A five-year correlational study of 5,368 first-year undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota demonstrated that library use corresponds with a 40 percent increase in the odds of graduation (over withdrawing) in four years. See z.umn.edu/libgradrate.

Librarians are eager to sift through the next batch of data from the study; it’s likely to show that they’re on the right track. But in the meantime, they’re hard at work to find the best possible ways to support undergraduates as they move through their education.

For example, libraries are looking to strengthen the data collection on the tutoring programs they currently run to ensure that the help students are getting is making an impact. They hope to find ways to use the data they collect to nudge students to get to the library when it’s most useful to them, like during the planning stages of a research paper.

And while much of the work they’re focused on is about helping students succeed in a class or graduate on time, the real benefits go beyond these things. They teach students how to learn, think critically, and ask the right people for help when they need it. Those skills don’t just benefit students during their university years. They benefit them for a lifetime.
THE GENDER REVOLUTION IS HERE.

Andrea Jenkins sits beside her video camera and audio recording equipment. She has just finished interviewing Ash Scott about his experiences growing up and then joining the military. Ash’s narrative will be transcribed, sent back to him to review for accuracy, and then it will take its place online as a video accessible through the University Libraries website.

Jenkins is Project Lead for the Transgender Oral History Project, hired by the Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies specifically to recruit narrators like Ash, document their stories, and create the online archive of oral history videos. Jenkins benefits from 25 years of experience as an activist in the transgender community. And yet, even she finds her ideas about gender augmented by new insights as she records the stories of 200 individuals — the narrators — who share their perspectives with her for the project.

“They’ve been amazed and maybe somewhat surprised by the variety of gender identities out there that people name and claim as their own.”

Lisa Vecoli, Curator of the Tretter Collection, echoes that sentiment. “We are documenting a transitional moment. As we look back at those who transitioned decades ago — it was very much perceived as a binary; you started in one place and you moved to someplace else. There was a beginning and an ending. That’s not at all the way young people are viewing gender today.”
AN ARCHIVE AND ITS MISSION

The oral history project is one of many strategies Vecoli has implemented to prioritize the addition of missing voices, especially those from people of color, the Bi+ community, and trans/genderqueer communities. “While the entire Tretter Collection has material usually missing from history, within the broader GLBT community some voices dominate and we need to diversify our representations. This project adds trans/genderqueer voices and that is essential for an understanding of what individual and societal attitudes have been about gender and how dynamically they are changing.”

But a unique set of challenges exists when it comes to acquiring archival materials about transgender experiences in the United States.

“In our modern society, transgender people have been vilified, criminalized, and outcast,” says Jenkins. “Consequently, there hasn’t been a lot of documentation, organizational records, or artifacts that can be collected and included in an archive.”

Given these limitations, Vecoli identified oral history as a way to proceed. “My sense was that we had to be more reflective of transgender voices and that the way to do that was to allow people to describe their own authentic experience and then to bring that into the archive to make it available.”

Thanks to generous grant funding from TAWANI Foundation and local individuals, the project was able to go forward. In addition to recording oral histories from the transgender community in the Upper Midwest, another key project goal is to document the history of the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) at the University of Minnesota Medical School. PHS — an organization whose mission is to promote sexual health in the community through research, education, clinical service, and public policy advocacy — collaborates with the Tretter Collection on the Transgender Oral History Project.

A UNIVERSITY AND ITS HISTORY

The U of M was one of the first academic health centers to perform gender confirmation surgery — which had been called “sex change” surgery — beginning in the 1960s and continuing for about a decade. Several of the oral history project’s narrators are among the U of M’s first surgical patients.

Eli Coleman, Director of the Program in Human Sexuality, reflects on that time period, which looked very different from present day. “When we started to perform operations, this was rather controversial and really an experimental procedure. It evolved out of the fact that psychotherapy was not effective in changing people’s gender identity. The work of some of the pioneers suggested that a more efficacious approach was to align the body with the mind. This proved to be successful.”
Despite successes, the early days of medical intervention were not easy for everyone. Responsible professional practice required a deliberative approach; the development of rigorous clinical protocols was necessary within the establishment to minimize the chance of post-surgical regret. However, these early protocols could often be burdensome and alienating for patients.

Recording the accounts of that first wave of patients, from their own perspectives, is vital for PHS in its ongoing commitment to community collaboration.

“We learn from people’s real lives and that informs better care, but also we’ve always been concerned about community development,” says Coleman. “The oral history project was something that we felt was important — to record the history of the transgender movement as well as the experiences of so many patients that were treated through the U of M. The project is not only designed to help the transgender community, but the entire community to better understand, accept, and celebrate gender diversity.”

A COMMUNITY AND ITS ADVOCATES

Ash Scott heard about the Transgender Oral History Project directly from Jenkins. He was attending a film festival focusing on transgender men of color, where he had been invited to take part in a discussion group to share his perspective. Jenkins approached him and described the project.

Ash opted in without hesitation. “I think hearing people’s stories and telling your story helps people with their journey,” he says. “Plus, I was starting my activism. I wanted to help out more and this was definitely a way to do it. One of my new models and hashtags is ‘open yourself to learn, but also open yourself to teach.’”

Ash’s willingness to participate is reflective of the broader trend.

“‘There’s a tremendous hunger within the community for people to be allowed to speak for themselves,” says Vecoli. “There’s a sense that people’s experiences have been misrepresented; that people are being stereotyped, dismissed, not understood, not allowed to speak for themselves, that popular media is not telling the story in an accurate and authentic way. So as soon as the announcement went out that we had gotten a grant, I started getting emails and phone calls from people saying, ‘I want to do it; I want to do it; I want to do it.’”

Jenkins’ interest in the role of Project Lead was driven by the same passion that has fueled her advocacy throughout the years. She knew she was the right person to make the project more than “a collection of interviews that sits at the bottom of Andersen Library,
She asked herself, “How do we make this beautiful, how do we make this accessible, how do we make this more broadly known in ways that people can actually relate to and learn from and utilize?”

The answer to that question is developing from the project’s foundational elements of authenticity and trust. Jenkins — deeply connected to and trusted by the transgender community to which she also belongs — has been able to recruit a truly diverse cohort of narrators whose identities are an authentic reflection of the Upper Midwest’s transgender community more broadly.

“I’ve been out for 25 plus years now,” says Jenkins. “I know a lot of trans identified people and I know that they come in every size, shape, ethnicity, background, and class. They have a trust that I am going to have extreme care with their stories and preserve them in ways that are really critical to creating that understanding.”

With 26 oral histories currently online, available at www.z.umn.edu/tohp, and more being added every day, the Transgender Oral History Project is building a collection of materials that can serve as a rich source of information for everyone. And it’s happening because of the University of Minnesota and TAWANI Foundation, because of Vecoli’s vision, Jenkins’s skill and knowledge as Project Lead, and because of narrators like Ash, who have made a commitment to learn, to grow, and to teach.

“This is us,” he says. “We’re people and we’re here and we deserve just as much as anybody. And there is hope out there for all those who are feeling oppressed in any type of way.”
MANY PEOPLE KNOW HISTORICAL FACTS about segregation in the United States — separate schools, bathrooms, pools, and professional sports teams. But that history truly comes to life when watching a 1920s film clip of a Negro Baseball League game or viewing 1960s photos of a man pouring acid in a pool to scare away African American swimmers.

While archives across the country have reams of illustrative materials like this, it’s difficult to find by happenstance or from a distance. Thanks to the University of Minnesota Libraries, students, researchers, artists, and scholars have a new way to gain access. The Libraries recently developed a new search tool and database called Umbra Search African American History — available at umbrasearch.org.

It’s chock full of 520,000 historical and cultural items from 1,000 archives, libraries, and museums, and it continues to grow. The Libraries started its Umbra Search effort in 2014 to pull together primary source materials from archives across the country. Whether it’s photos, videos, original materials like letters or marked-up manuscripts, users can easily search Umbra for items that support their research or open new avenues of thinking.

Officially launched in 2017 as a free online resource, Umbra Search is especially important because “accessing African American history through the archival record can be extremely challenging without the proper tools,” says Dorothy Berry, Metadata and Digitization Lead. Archives and institutions didn’t traditionally collect materials regarding African American culture and history because it wasn’t deemed important. Plus, many African Americans didn’t share their items with archives because of a lack of trust and relationships with such institutions.

“Given how African American materials have been collected historically, there is even less of these materials,” says Cecily Marcus, Umbra Search Director and Curator of the Libraries’ Givens Collection of African American Literature, the Performing Arts Archives, and the Upper Midwest Literary Archives.

“They are scattered all over, so building a national corpus of African American material seems like a useful effort that demonstrates the impact of the material and how it can be used for research by anyone. It’s an important body of work that has been underrepresented. We need more.”
The Libraries took the lead in developing Umbra Search, backed by funding from the University, the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and others. It’s uniquely suited to such a project because of its legacy of preserving African American materials like the Givens Collection, its Lou Bellamy Rare Book Collection, and Penumbra Theatre Company archive. The Libraries also offers a lengthy track record of large-scale technology projects that digitize and aggregate far-flung collections, such as work on the EthicShare website for bioethics and the Digital Public Library of America, Marcus says.

This expertise helped attract national partners like the Smithsonian Institution, Yale University, and Howard University. Then it took significant outreach, negotiations, and communication to encourage other partners to allow the University to digitize and aggregate their archives in the Umbra Search database.

These efforts were immediately fruitful. Users often profess how powerful it is to dig into Umbra Search. Catherine Squires, Ph.D., a professor of communication studies, has her students at the University and Gordon Parks High School in St. Paul use Umbra Search for research projects, and she’s witnessed many exclaim “Wow!” when they see the wealth of resources. “Many of these students haven’t worked with archives much at all, and they didn’t realize how much was available,” she notes.
‘MORE TO LIFE THAN A GOOGLE SEARCH’

Certainly, the students know about historical figures like Martin Luther King and Sojourner Truth. But their eyes open to the topic even more when they can see photos or videos of civil rights leaders giving speeches, or they read accounts of events or editorials from the African American press.

“With Umbra, we can show students that there is more to life than a Google search, and it’s important to know that they have a legacy that’s accessible,” Squires adds. “So many of the undergrads and high school students inevitably say, ‘Why don’t we get to learn more about these people and this kind of history?’ They are glad they have this tool, but it reminds them that the way we teach history is very unidimensional.”

History often is presented as a collection of dates and influential people, but students, artists, and researchers can deepen their knowledge by viewing pictures or pamphlets from the daily life of an era.

(Left) Girl with Blue Hair, from The New York Public Library

(Right) Yellow Rocker, from The New York Public Library

Junauda Petrus and Erin Sharkey, co-founders of Free Black Dirt, worked closely with Umbra Search materials as Coffee House Press Artists-In-Residence at the Given Collection.

Photo by Gerardo Dominguez, Media Active, a Program of Intermedia Arts
Lou Bellamy, Penumbra founder and a long-time theater professor at the U, sees value in using a tool like Umbra Search as the theater starts to stage a play. He often wants to know, “What would the women be doing at this time?” — a question not as easily answered before Umbra Search.

Bellamy believes Umbra Search is especially meaningful for artistic venues.

“With an ephemeral thing like theater, it’s here, and then it’s gone,” he says. “In the 40 years we’ve been doing work at Penumbra, we’ve learned some things about the way to produce this work in a historically correct, culturally responsible way. I want to share that in as wide an arena as I can. Umbra is certainly the way to do it.”

Erin Sharkey, a writer, educator, and co-founder of Free Black Dirt, an experimental arts production company, pitched in on the development of Umbra Search along with her artistic partner Junauda Petrus. During a 2015 Givens Collection residency, Petrus and Sharkey used it for research and consulted with the team to shape what the tool could and should offer users.

Sharkey delights in being able to get access to primary source material that fuels her work, all without having to travel far and wide to see the items in person. Currently she’s interested in her ancestral home region of Mississippi, as well as the intersection of gardening and food and how it opens windows onto family histories.

“I’m really inspired by research in my own creative practice. I think it changes the way I think about myself as an artist, and now I’m thinking as an archivist,” Sharkey says. “Umbra is really fruitful in my own personal work and I find it really exciting to introduce the project to other people. They are surprised about this resource and they are really excited about it.”

The Umbra Search team intends for the tool to enrich African American history for all, helping people go beyond Black History Month and familiar figures to the hidden people and places that shaped America.
The University of Minnesota Libraries became only the third academic library in history to win the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, when University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee accepted the National Medal on July 17 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Lougee was joined by U of M professor Jennifer Gunn and Margaret Telfer of the Friends of the Libraries, which nominated the Libraries for this prestigious award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For 23 years, the award has celebrated institutions that respond to societal needs in innovative ways, making a difference for individuals, families, and their communities. Each year only five libraries — out of 123,000 libraries in the United States — win the award. The University Libraries was recognized for being a trailblazing service provider and problem solver for a diverse and expansive number of communities.

In honor of winning the medal, Gov. Mark Dayton proclaimed Monday, July 17, as University of Minnesota Libraries Day in Minnesota, and that same day a Star Tribune editorial affirmed the comprehensive and vital role the Libraries plays in providing the “fundamental infrastructure for our information-based economy.”

Lougee said that the award “affirms and recognizes the importance and impact of our work” with students, faculty, and staff — as well as Minnesota residents and a global community of scholars.

Read more at www.z.umn.edu/nationalmedal.
TRETTER COLLECTION WINS NATIONAL DIVERSITY AWARD

The Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies is a 2017 recipient of the Diversity Award given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The award recognizes outstanding contributions in advancing diversity within the archives profession, SAA, or the archival record.

Tretter was honored for its dedication to filling in the gaps of the GLBT archival record and for striving to include marginalized voices from within the GLBT community. The SAA, in particular, noted the Tretter Transgender Oral History Project (see page 8).

The SAA Awards Committee members noted that they were “especially impressed by how the Tretter Collection staff brings the collection’s diverse contents out of the archive and into the community through teaching, exhibits, and presentations, as well as by its strong relationships with the community. The Tretter Collection serves as an excellent model for other institutions interested in connecting with their local LGBTQ+ communities.”

Read more about the diversity award at www.z.umn.edu/saa-award

WILSON STUDIO NOW OPEN

The Wilson Research Collaboration Studio, which opened in July, is a destination for collaboration and consultation with librarians and other experts in digital scholarship, publishing, geospatial data, entrepreneurship, and learning innovation.

Wilson Studio is designed for scholars at all levels — undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty — and in all disciplines.

Users can devise seating and working configurations for small project teams, group seminars, and consultations with information specialists. Portions of the Studio may be booked in advance. While open and welcoming to users of all types and levels, the Studio is not designed for quiet, individual or general purpose study or computer use.

Learn more about Wilson Studio at lib.umn.edu/wilsonstudio
UMBRA SEARCH WINS AWARD FOR ACCESS

Umbra Search African American History has won the 2017 Award for Access from the Center for Research Libraries. Umbra Search, developed at the University of Minnesota Libraries, contains a widely diverse selection of special collections materials delivered simultaneously by numerous institutions, serving their own content within their own interfaces.

These research materials are from thousands of collections, including Yale University, the Smithsonian, and founding partner the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), which provides over half of the materials found in Umbra Search.

Umbra Search provides access to collection materials and promotes teaching and research in three ways:

1. Through a free embeddable widget and search tool, umbrasearch.org, that aggregates over 500,000 digitized materials (photographs, manuscripts, video, audio, etc.) from more than 1,000 U.S. libraries and archives;

2. By digitizing African American history materials from across University of Minnesota collections; and

3. By providing support for students, scholars, artists, and the public through residencies, workshops, and events around the country.

Principal Investigator Cecily Marcus said her goal for Umbra Search was to offer students, faculty, and local community members access to histories and experiences that are often silenced, marginalized, or otherwise left in the shadows of history. Marcus is also Curator of the Archie Givens, Sr., Collection of African American Literature at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Read more about Umbra Search’s award at www.z.umn.edu/umbra-award
WALLIN CENTER TO OPEN IN EARLY 2018

Students, scholars, and users from across the globe will benefit from enhanced technology, contemporary classroom space, and access to rare and special collections thanks to a $1.5 million gift from the Wallin Foundation, a leader in advancing education.

The gift honors Maxine Wallin, a librarian, a lover of books, a former Friends of the University Libraries Board member, an alumna of the U of M Library School, and a longstanding supporter of the Libraries. Wallin — a descendant of the Houghton family, whose philanthropy has created libraries and benefited education — earned degrees in international relations and library science and began her career at the University’s Walter Library. She advanced to a cataloging role with rare collections, which included work with many non-English language texts.

A new public space for scholars, students, and the community will be created on the ground floor of Elmer L. Andersen Library and named the Maxine Houghton Wallin Special Collections Research Center. The Center will enhance traditional approaches to learning and research by providing a wide range of individual user stations and technology-enhanced seminar space, while boosting digitization capacities to increase online access to materials. It will provide a transformative research experience to diverse users — including scholars from around the world, authors, documentary film producers, high school students, and students and faculty from the University of Minnesota.

“Libraries record the history of mankind and I am delighted to support new technologies and methods so that more students and researchers can access the outstanding University collections and promote global understanding and education,” Wallin said.

Read more about the Wallin Center at www.z.umn.edu/wallin-center

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Stay informed on Libraries news, events, and exhibits by subscribing to our weekly newsletter, continuum. All you have to do is go to z.umn.edu/continuum and leave us your preferred email address.
NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

JOHN R. BORCHERT MAP LIBRARY

1 1857 Sectional Map of Minnesota
A “sectional” map shows areas that had been surveyed by the U.S. General Land Office. Because the survey served as the legal record for real estate, this process allowed the land to be partitioned and sold. This particular map is one of only four copies held at libraries throughout the country and includes an illustration of the Fuller House in St. Paul, which is where some accounts allege Joseph Rolette hid during a curious episode of Minnesota history that resulted in keeping St. Paul as the capital of Minnesota.

CHILDREN’S LITERATURE RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

2 Handwritten draft of My Father’s Dragon
The handwritten first draft of My Father’s Dragon was donated by the author, Ruth Stiles Gannett. My Father’s Dragon was published in 1948, and was illustrated by the author’s stepmother, Ruth Chrisman Gannett. The book earned a Newbery Honor in 1948 and remains in print to this day.

GIVENS COLLECTION

3 Ezra Hyland Collection of Black Radical Press
Educator and community activist Ezra Hyland’s collection includes rare pamphlets, newspapers, and other ephemera that document the Black Power Movement, the Black Panthers, and other aspects of African American activism.

4 Autographs for Freedom, Vols. 1 and 2 (1853, 1854), edited by Julia Griffiths Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society
A historic collection of anti-slavery essays and poems. The first volume includes the only fiction published by Frederick Douglass, the story “The Heroic Slave.” The second volume carries the very rare signature of Frederick Douglass.

GORMAN RARE ART BOOK COLLECTION

5 Southern Landscapes
This new acquisition is a fine press artists’ book on photography published by 21st Editions. The collection of 14 photographs by Sally Mann is one of a limited edition of 58 copies, printed by letterpress and masterfully bound by hand with carefully selected materials sympathetic to the artist’s sensibility. Southern Landscapes is a beautiful work on the study of photography, the photographer Sally Mann, printmaking, and bookmaking. This acquisition adds to a growing collection of rare photography books.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER ARCHIVES

6 Lorraine M. Lees collection of FBI Files on Yugoslav American Ethnic Organizations
These redacted Federal Bureau of Investigation documents, gathered by historian Lorraine M. Lees through a series of Freedom of Information Act requests, reveal mid-20th century FBI activity on three Yugoslav American ethnic organizations: the American Slav Congress, the Serbian National Defense Council, and the United Committee of South-Slavic Americans. Surveillance was on grounds of internal security due to their actual or suspected ties to foreign nationals and governments.
PERFORMING ARTS ARCHIVES

7 Desmond Heeley papers

Designer Desmond Heeley is remembered for his vision and mastery in stage and costume design. From the finest fabrics to the most mundane objects, Heeley dazzled audiences with his ability to transform ordinary objects into magical productions, creating beautiful worlds on stage. His archives contain models, design sketches, photographs, notebooks, and correspondence.

SOCIAL WELFARE HISTORY ARCHIVES

8 Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota records

This new acquisition includes over 50 linear feet of photographs, minutes, correspondence, newsletters, promotional materials, reports, and other records documenting more than 100 years of Lutheran Welfare Society and Lutheran Social Service history. A generous gift will support the cost of arranging the records, preserving them, and creating an inventory of the files.

9 Minnesota Public Health Association records

The Minnesota Public Health Association archived over 30 linear feet of minutes, administrative records, newsletters, and publicity materials as well as recordings of the Public Health Journal television program. The records are a significant resource on the history of public health and document specific health topics as well as decades of programs, advocacy, and education.

10 Domestic Abuse Project records

The Domestic Abuse Project, archived seven linear feet of records. Founded in 1979, the Domestic Abuse Project provides advocacy for and emergency services to survivors of intimate partner violence as well as therapy and prevention programs.

TRETTER COLLECTION IN GLBT STUDIES

11 Charlee Hoyt Papers

From 1983 to 1984, Minneapolis was the center of a heated controversy over pornography. Minneapolis Council Member Charlee Hoyt, working with Andrea Dworkin and Catherine McKinnon, authored an ordinance that proposed treating pornography as a civil rights issue and allowing women harmed by pornography to seek damages in the civil court system. The ordinance was vetoed in Minneapolis but a similar ordinance passed in Indianapolis where it was challenged in court and found unconstitutional. This collection documents the testimony before the Minneapolis city council, correspondence with supporters and opponents, reports on the impact of pornography, and efforts to organize community support for the ordinance.
Representative Karen Clark Papers
Karen Clark was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives as an out lesbian in 1980. Her website states that she is the longest serving openly lesbian legislator in the country. These materials are related mostly to her recent legislative work including the constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage and legislation to legalize marriage equality. The Tretter Collection hopes to add material about her community organizing and environmental work in the future.

Pam Mindt (Colonel, Retired) Papers
In 1992 Pam Mindt became one of the first targets under the military policy “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” She was a captain when she told her commanding officer that she was a lesbian and proceedings were started to withdraw her federal recognition. A Board of Officers recommended that she be discharged, but proceedings were stopped and she continued to serve until her retirement as a full colonel in June 2015. The collection includes publicity about her community organizing and environmental work in the future.

Bi+ Stories Collection
The Bisexual Organizing Project (BOP) collected both surveys and short video interviews with dozens of members of the Bi+ community. These have now been donated to the Tretter Collection to be preserved and made accessible. Because bisexual voices are the least represented in the archive and there is little in the way of bi focused oral history available anywhere, the Collection’s goal is to make the materials as widely available as permissions allow. This content dramatically increases the material in the Tretter Collection documenting the Bi+ experience.

Mount Zion Temple Mendelsohn papers
Mount Zion Temple recently added to their collection by donating two boxes of materials related to the construction of their synagogue by internationally recognized architect Erich Mendelsohn. Located on Summit Avenue in St. Paul, Mount Zion’s stunning building brought the Jewish faith to “the avenue of churches” when it opened in 1954. These new materials include photographs, blueprints, sketches, and correspondence between architects, staff, and rabbis, and document this new phase for Mount Zion, the oldest Jewish congregation in Minnesota.

Talmud Torah of St. Paul photographs
In anticipation of their 60th anniversary, Talmud Torah of St. Paul donated a large number of photographs documenting their history of Jewish education in Highland Park. These new materials doubled the collection from Talmud Torah that the archives held previously. The photographs include special events, classroom education, and graduation for children and young adult education programs, and date between 1946 and the present.

Jewish Fellowship Club records
This new collection documents the history of the Jewish Fellowship Club, a social club that began in the 1930s whose purpose was “to promote and foster good will and sociability among the Jewish men of Duluth and vicinity; to foster and support Jewish culture and education; and to establish a Jewish center in Duluth.” They also published a monthly newspaper, the Jewish Fellowship News, which became the designated publication of the organized Jewish community of Duluth and Superior. The materials donated include club meeting minutes,
community events and fundraisers, materials documenting the Jewish Social Service Agency, scrapbooks with newspaper clippings, and copies of the Jewish Fellowship News.

UPPER MIDWEST LITERARY ARCHIVES

Robert Hedin papers

Robert Hedin’s career as an artist and supporter of the arts is well-documented in the poet’s archives. Correspondence, published works, and translations form the bulk of the collection. Hedin’s archives also include documents from the Anderson Center at Tower View, Red Wing, which offers residences and resources to artists working in myriad disciplines.

John Rezmerski papers

John Rezmerski’s archives illustrate the poet’s expansive interests and reach within the literary community in Minnesota. The collection includes numerous subject files kept by Rezmerski – including his research on ravens – but also covering anything from local writers, to politics, to UFOs. Rezmerski’s archives also demonstrate his passion for teaching and nurturing young writers, and his work as an editor and storyteller.

Roseann Lloyd papers

Her work described as “unflinching” and “achingly beautiful,” Minneapolis-based writer Roseann Lloyd is known for her stunning poems as well as her writing about grief and healing. Her poetry collection, War Baby Express, won the Minnesota Book Award for Poetry in 1997, and her collaborations with Hazelden Press and Deborah Keenan have resulted in works that remind us of the power of the written word in telling difficult stories. Her archives illustrate her work as a poet and teacher.

WANGENSTEEN HISTORICAL LIBRARY OF BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Illustrations of Dissections of Male and Female Monkeys (En shiyu kaibo zu)

This finely illustrated, vividly colored, detailed scroll was compiled by Ryozo Endo and illustrated by Hisashi in 1813. Produced from actual observation, the 29 foot by 10.5 inch scene-by-scene handscroll was a visual account of late Edo medical knowledge as Japan was opening to the West. Composed of sheets of paper joined horizontally and rolled around a dowel, viewers unfurl one segment with the left hand as the right-hand re-rolls the scroll.

Lettuce and Its Uses (Archidipno; overe, Dell’insalata, e dell’uso di essa, trattato nuovo, curioso, e non mai più dato in luce)

This 1627 book by Salvatore Massonio and Alessandro Maganza is the first printed book in the history of gastronomic literature dedicated exclusively to salad. The book discusses the properties of every ingredient that can go into a salad (endive, truffles, capers), and how the quality of ingredients differs according to social class.

OTHER

Arte Publico Hispanic Historical Collections

The University Libraries acquired the digital archives Arte Publico Hispanic Historical Collections: Series 1 and Arte Publico Hispanic Historical Collections: Series 2. These archives present a digital collection of historical content pertaining to Hispanic history, literature, political commentary, and culture in the United States. They support research at the Department of Chicano/Latino Studies, as well as research on the Hispanic population and culture of the U.S. by faculty and students in the departments of American Studies, History, and Spanish & Portuguese Studies.
Best-selling author and illustrator Raina Telgemeier launched her graphic novel *Ghosts*, last September. The event and book signing was sponsored by the Children’s Literature Research Collections at the Libraries and by Red Balloon Bookshop.

A YEAR IN PHOTOS

Last fall the James Ford Bell Library hosted Celebrating Venice, a multi-event series focused on Venice and the Eastern Mediterranean. As part of the series, Elizabeth Ross, Associate Professor and Head of Art History at the University of Florida, presented the Annual Carl Sheppard Lecture in Medieval Art History in October.

Friends Forum: Joseph Ellis, one of the nation’s leading scholars of American history, was the featured speaker at the Paul and Joan Nagel Lecture. His lecture, *The Second Founding: Four Men Who Created a Country*, focused on a crucial period in American history — the years between the end of the Revolution and the formation of the federal government.

The Twin Cities Book Festival took place on a beautiful Saturday in October and Libraries staff members, including Lisa Von Drasek, were there to share information about our collections.

Alumni of the Library School attended the third annual reception hosted by the Libraries during Homecoming Week. The event took place at the Upson Room in Walter Library. Pictured above: Coreen Blau, Carol Urness, Connie Hendrick, and Eileen Quam.

Donors to the Creative Heritage Initiative gathered at Elmer L. Andersen Library for a festive lunch to learn about progress made in collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of the Twin Cities’ cultural community. Pictured above, Marcia Pankake, Margaret Telfer.

Friends Forum: Food writer Beth Dooley and novelist J. Ryan Stradal treated Kirschner Lecture guests to a delightful conversation about today’s food scene with stories of farmers, cheese makers, butchers, home cooks, chefs, sommeliers, and restaurateurs. Pictured with Megan Kocher, Food Science and Nutrition Librarian and Curator of the Kirschner Cookbook Collection.

The Global Gopher Fair for incoming international students took place in January.
Friends Forum: At this year’s A Feast of Words, award-winning author and U of M Professor Erika Lee told the forgotten history of the first global “immigration crisis” when Asian immigration sparked international debates, race riots, and new restriction laws around the world.

The _Penumbra at 40_ exhibit opening reception took place at the Minnesota History Center. From left: Stephen Elliott, CEO, Minnesota Historical Society; Cecily Marcus, Curator, Givens Collection, U of M; Phyllis Rawls Goff, President, MHS Governing Board; Lou Bellamy, Founder, Penumbra Theatre; and Sarah Bellamy, Artistic Director, Penumbra Theatre. Pictured right: Austene Van.

The Givens Collection hosted an open house in February that allowed guests to view rare materials and enjoy remarks by local artists and scholars who have worked with the Givens Collection. Pictured below: Sara Robertson and John Wright; Cecily Marcus, Archie Givens, Jr., and Wendy Lougee.
The exhibit Engraved in Copper: The Art of Mapping Minnesota featured the engraved copper plates used to print topographic maps of Minnesota in the early 1900s. Guests at the exhibit opening celebration heard from speakers Edie Overturf, U of M Department of Art, and Ron Wencel, United States Geological Survey.


Friends Forum: Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, drew a crowd of more than 2,000 to Northrop for her talk about environmental devastation.
Friends Forum: Bao Phi, spoken word artist, writer, and activist, read his work at the 2017 Pankake Poetry Reading.

Registered therapy animals from Boynton Health’s Pet Away Worry and Stress (PAWS) Program visited Wilson Library in December and April to help students de-stress before final exams.

Performances and artist presentations were part of the exhibit celebration for Protest Publishing and Art: From the Copy Machine to the Internet. This exhibition at Wilson Library integrated zines and other counter culture materials from the Gorman Rare Art Book Collection with student, faculty, and community art work.

John Coy was the 2017 recipient of the Kerlan Award, which is given out each April by the Children’s Literature Research Collections.
At the annual Rutherford Aris Memorial Lecture in Medieval Communication Technologies, Emma Cayley, Associate Professor of Medieval French, University of Exeter, presented *Mediating Medieval Materialities: Text, Fabric, Screen.*

College of Science and Engineering students put their knowledge to the test at Science Quiz Bowl, hosted by Walter Library.

Friends Forum: Alan Page, NFL Hall of Famer and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, discussed his extraordinary career trajectory in conversation with MPR’s Gary Eichten at the Friends of the Libraries Annual Celebration. Pictured above and left: Gary Eichten and Alan Page.

In a conversation facilitated by Junauda Petrus and Erin Sharkey of Free Black Dirt, local artists Mankwe Ndosi, Beverly Cottman, Tish Jones, Keno Evol, and Nimo Farrah shared their insights. The event, *Black Memory and Imagination: A Conversation on Archiving Black Arts,* took place at Intermedia Arts and was co-sponsored by the Libraries’ Umbra Search project. Pictured left: Erin Sharkey.
Amma Ghartey-Tagoe Kootin, Ph.D.
Performing the Archive: “At Buffalo,”
The Creation of a New Musical
Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Coffman Memorial Union, Coffman Theater

Curator Tim Johnson and Author Larry Millett
The Singular Case of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota
Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
Elmer L. Andersen Library

Ann Waltner
Performing History: A Personal View
Thursday, January 25, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
Coffman Memorial Union, Campus Club, West Wing

Anatoly Liberman
A Russian in Love: An Afternoon of Romantic Russian Poetry
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Walter Library, Arthur Upson Room

Margaret Hasse
Selected Poems
Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Elmer L. Andersen Library

Joseph Haj: A Conversation
Wednesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.
McNamara Alumni Center

Crete to Discover