



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

University
Libraries

2023-2024 Annual Report





Jason J. Battles

The 2023-2024 academic year was an exciting time of growth and innovation at the University of Arkansas Libraries. Phase II of the Mullins Library renovation continues, and we're providing more resources and services than ever before. And even through this time of change, we hold true to our original mission. The University Libraries are welcoming spaces for everyone, providing vital information and services to our campus, the state of Arkansas, and researchers across the globe.

Our knowledgeable librarians and excellent staff are here to connect students with the resources, spaces, and expertise they need to learn, collaborate, and succeed in their academic pursuits. We offer free workshops and seminars for students throughout the academic year to provide guidance on topics ranging from library basics to discipline-specific resources. We are spearheading campus initiatives to reduce the burden of textbook costs on students through our Open Education programs. These programs provide faculty with the assistance, know-how, and funding they need to utilize or modify existing open resources for their classrooms, or even to publish their own textbooks and make them available worldwide at little to no cost.

Our librarians are also active in the classroom, and faculty are encouraged to enlist their support for in-class, in-library, or virtual instruction.

Faculty are the facilitators of higher education, and the University Libraries are here to help them provide students with a learning experience of the highest quality. We offer research consultations, locate and acquire needed resources, provide publishing support, and even assist with grant writing. Our negotiated agreements with various journals and publishers allow us to provide funds to reduce or eliminate faculty open access publishing costs.

In the coming academic year, we look forward to providing enhanced spaces and new technologies that the entire campus community can use at the conclusion of the Mullins Library renovation. This will include a lab for virtual and augmented reality, a recording studio suite, and a makerspace where students can get hands-on experience that will benefit them as they transition into the workforce. A 2,500-square-foot event space will be available for all of campus to use, as will a new café with healthy food and beverage options. Our enhanced Special Collections spaces will include a classroom and exhibit gallery, where our unique and rare materials will be displayed for all to see.

As we reflect on the previous year and look forward to what's coming, I'd like to thank our generous donors, Dean's Advisory Council, and partners across campus. We couldn't be the foundation for research excellence at the University of Arkansas without extensive support from our key stakeholders.

Thank you, and Go Hogs!

Jason J. Battles
Dean of Libraries
University of Arkansas



ADMIN TEAM

Jessica Morales / Associate Dean for Collections and Open Initiatives

Jason Battles / Dean of Libraries

Kelsey Lovewell / Director of Public Relations

Joshua Youngblood / Interim Associate Dean for Special Collections

Hannah Lee / Director of Development

Adriana Gonzalez / Senior Associate Dean for Research and Learning

Marco De Prosperis / Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration

Martha Guiri-Phillips / Executive Assistant to the Dean (not pictured)





Sara Barclay
Exhibits and Engagement
Archivist



Kariah Brust
Agricultural Librarian



Marsailles Childress
User Services Evening
Specialist



Leah Johnson
Library Specialist



Anna Clymer
Business and
Entrepreneurship Librarian



Diedre Gryzmala
Library Supervisor



Jered Guist
Computer Support Technician



Nathaniel Guttenberg
Assistant University Archivist



Cody Hackett
Electronic Resources
Librarian



Conrad Hester
Technology Specialist



Hannah King
Humanities and Social
Sciences Librarian



Jessica Morales
Associate Dean for Collections
and Open Initiatives



Kath Rees
Special Collections
Cataloging Specialist



Christine Rickabaugh
Open Education Librarian



Megan York
Education Librarian



Kelsey Zuech
User Services Student
Employee & Hourly Supervisor

2,103

Research
Consultations



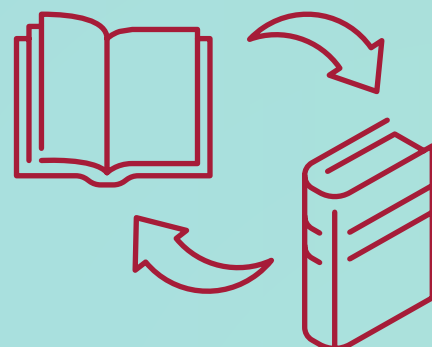
492

In-person Visits to the
Special Collections
Reading Room



2,361,880

eBooks



1,149,279

Physical Books



1,018,070

eCheckouts

28,229

Interlibrary Loans

UA Libraries
By the Numbers



387

Instruction
Sessions

for

7,523

Participants





4,662

Reference Questions Answered

5,012

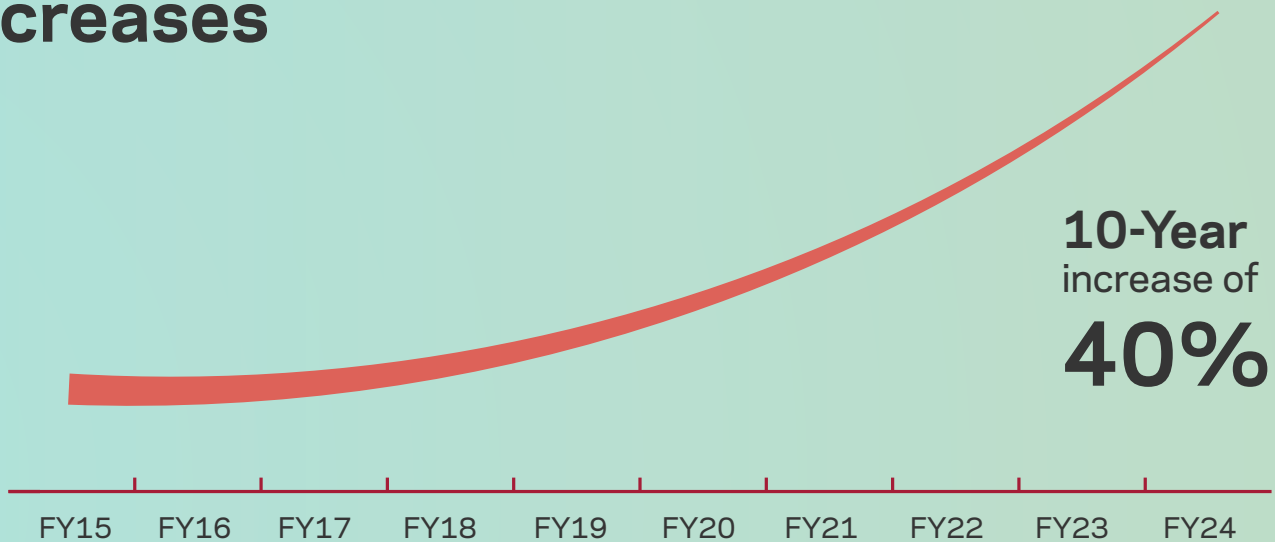
Patrons Reserved Mullins Library Study Rooms

27,201
Total Times

60,114
Total Hours



Resource Expenditure Increases



153,649

Searches



13,015

Offsite Storage Requests Fulfilled



460

Databases



Branch Libraries

Physics Library

In 1929, the University of Arkansas Physics Library began as a small collection of books and journals purchased by the department. This collection was located in two bookshelves in Dr. Paul Shara's office in the basement of Old Main.

Today, the Physics Library is housed in Room 221 of the Physics Building on Dickson Street. It's home to 5,422 physical items and 13 computer workstations, as well as printers, copiers, scanners, and a makerspace. It is the hub of the Physics Building, where Teaching Assistants hold office hours and test review sessions and the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence hosts its annual Physics poster competition.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the Physics Library was upgraded with new mobile tables and chairs and computer desks with built-in power. Its technology offerings have also expanded, with Arduino and Raspberry Pi kits to help students learn and practice computer programming.

Chemistry & Biochemistry Library

Use of the Chemistry & Biochemistry Library, located in Room 225 of the Chemistry Building, continues to increase year after year. During the 2023-2024 academic year, 1,897 physical items were checked out from the branch, and it was a common occurrence for every seat to be taken.

In addition to providing physical materials and study spaces, Chemistry and Biochemistry Library personnel offered 111 in-person, remote and asynchronous instruction sessions this year, which were attended by a total of 2,167 undergraduate and graduate students.

The Chemistry & Biochemistry Library also serves faculty by housing the University of Arkansas' Patents Database and the Chemistry and Biochemistry Faculty Publications Database. Library personnel began working on a new initiative this year to create the Biological Sciences Faculty Publications Database.

To assist faculty and graduate students in understanding their departments' research productivity, the Chemistry & Biochemistry Library compiled and posted snapshots

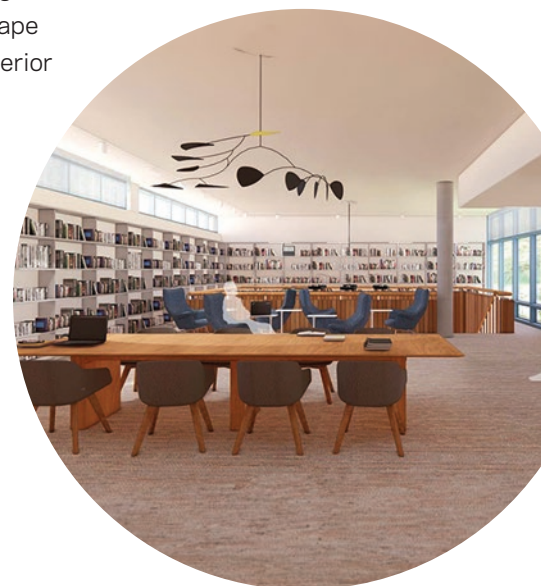
of faculty research for a four-year period, highlighting the number of publications, the Journal Citation Reports ranking of their publications, faculty-student cooperation, and more.

Fine Arts Library

The Fine Arts Center, home to the Fine Arts Library, was designed by renowned architect, Fayetteville native and University of Arkansas alumnus Edward Durell Stone, who also designed the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. When the Fine Arts Center opened in 1950, it was the first academic building in the nation to house all of a university's fine arts programs.

The Fine Arts Library nearly doubled in size in 1980 with the addition of approximately 2,000 square feet. The Fine Arts Center is currently undergoing a historic restoration which will result in even more dedicated library space, for a total of 5,300 square feet. In addition to more shelf space for physical collections, the renewed library will have additional study space and a new group study room when it reopens.

Fine Arts Library personnel continued to serve students and faculty during the 2023-2024 academic year, even as the library itself was closed. Physical items were moved into Mullins Library and the Library Annex to accommodate the closure and remained available for checkout. Electronic resources supporting the art, architecture, landscape architecture, and interior architecture and design programs continue to be accessible online.





Open Education

Overview

Since 2017, the University Libraries and Global Campus have collaborated on a program designed to help faculty improve the materials used in their courses while simultaneously reducing the cost of materials for students. During the 2023-2024 academic year, 9,237 students across 35 courses saved a combined \$672,018 as a result of the Open Educational Resources Course Materials Conversion program.

Open resources created by U of A faculty are available online worldwide at little to no cost and are currently being used by more than 250 institutions. Students retain access to the materials even after they graduate.

Because the materials are hosted online, instructors can include videos or links and review data on which sections of their textbooks are being the most heavily utilized. The materials can also be continuously updated as new information becomes available. And for those who prefer hard copies, the materials can be printed.

"The University of Arkansas Libraries are committed to improving affordability for the students we serve," said Dean Battles. "Open educational resources are a vehicle for us to meaningfully impact the financial burden of higher education while also improving the quality and efficacy of the materials used by our faculty."

No-Cost Textbook List

The University Libraries partnered with the Associate Student Government in the last fiscal year to provide a list of courses utilizing no-cost materials in lieu of traditional textbooks. This virtual list is updated each semester.

"It is so important for the student body to be aware of these resources so they are able to make informed decisions as they register for classes," said Brooke Williard, Director of Open Access Resources for the Associated Student Government.



9,237
students across
35 participating
courses saved
a total of
\$672,018

OE-AR+ Symposium

The University Libraries partnered with Northwest Arkansas Community College to host the OE-AR+ Symposium: Bringing the Public Back in October 2023. This free, virtual seminar featured 23 speakers from nine colleges and universities and was attended by 146 participants. Topics covered included Open Educational Resources basics, creating a strategic plan, vetting open educational resources, using artificial intelligence to enhance open educational resources, imagining a statewide consortium and more.

"Open Education is founded on collaboration and the sharing of resources," said Christine Rickabaugh, Open Education Librarian. "It was a rewarding experience to be able to share our knowledge with colleagues."

Pressbooks

In order to store the growing number of open textbooks created by U of A faculty in one place, the Libraries created a website with Pressbooks. There are currently 22 resources on the site, six of which were added during the 2023-2024 academic year. Many of these textbooks have broad applications that can be useful to just about anyone, such as Building a Professional Portfolio by Lynn Meade and Journalistic Skills for Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation by Dave Bostwick. Laurie M. Apple's Introduction to Apparel Production Workbook includes basic sewing patterns for beginners. We encourage you to take a look at our faculty's impressive and growing catalog of open resources at uark.pressbooks.pub.

"This has been an incredible year of growth and renewal for the Open Education Program at the U of A," said Rickabaugh. "I'm consistently impressed and amazed by the innovative, creative resources our faculty create for our students and learners around the world."



Publishing Support

As a Research 1 institution, the University of Arkansas is dedicated to facilitating discoveries that lead to a better world. Publishing this research is an essential part of that mission. At the University Libraries, we're committed to easing the financial barriers that might stand in the way of this vital research being published.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the University Libraries negotiated four new agreements with publishers to help cover article processing charges. We maintained four existing agreements with publishers, as well as our Open Access Publishing Fund. Faculty published more than 200 articles and saved a total of \$216,828.60 through these initiatives.

Each of these agreements requires the articles to be published in an open access journal, which ensures that there is no charge to readers. Through publishing open access, the University's research is disseminated as widely as possible.

"Our publishing support programs at the University Libraries help University of Arkansas - Fayetteville researchers share their groundbreaking work," said Jessica Morales, Associate Dean for Collections and Open Initiatives. "Through our commitment to open access publishing, we expand the reach of their discoveries, contributing to a future where accessible knowledge drives global progress."

New Initiatives

Wiley

Wiley, one of the world's largest publishers and a global leader in research and learning, publishes nearly 2,000 scholarly journals across a range of disciplines. Thanks to negotiations between the University Libraries and Wiley, any faculty, staff, postdoc, or student affiliated with our Fayetteville campus can submit their peer-reviewed articles to Wiley's open access journals without paying a publishing charge.

"The University Libraries have negotiated a handful of such transformative agreements with other publishers, but this is our first with a major commercial publisher," said Melody Herr, Scholarly Communication Librarian. "We've heard so many requests for an agreement with Wiley - and this new deal has already benefited University of Arkansas - Fayetteville researchers. The agreement also benefits the broader community because open access makes UAF research freely available on the web."

Springer Nature

Springer Nature publishes articles on the subjects of science, technology, medicine, and social sciences. Through the University Libraries' membership in the Lyris consortium, any researcher on our campus is now eligible to publish in a selection of Springer Nature journals without paying a fee.

American Chemical Society

Another exciting new partnership forged during the 2023-2024 academic year is between the University Libraries and the American Chemical Society.

"U of A STEM faculty and researchers from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture have published over 175 peer-reviewed papers in the ACS journals since 2020," said Luti Salisbury, Director of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Library. "Publishing our papers open access in these high-ranking journals provides increased visibility for our University and of the research that is being conducted here."

Thanks to this agreement, researchers can publish articles in American Chemical Society journals free of charge.

Royal Society of Chemistry

Through the University Libraries' membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance, there is now no charge for any researcher affiliated with the University of Arkansas to publish in Royal Society of Chemistry Journals.

Continuing Support

Open Access Publishing Fund

The Open Access Publishing Fund was created in 2021 by the University Libraries with support from seven colleges and campus units. Since that time, authors who do not have another source of funding have been able to apply for up to \$2,000 to cover publishing costs for an open access journal article or monograph.

Existing Agreements

The University Libraries have also maintained previous agreements with Cambridge University Press, The Company of Biologists, MDPI, and Microbiology Society.



Research & Learning / Student Engagement

Razorback Researcher Seminar Series

The Razorback Researcher Seminar Series was initiated during the Fall 2023 semester when Research and Instruction librarians collaborated to determine what information was most needed and would be most useful to each segment of the campus community. Nine seminars were offered, and that number grew to 12 during the Spring 2024 semester. Topics ranged from library basics, to how to manage citations for your research paper, to the ethical use of artificial intelligence.

"It has been exciting to watch the Razorback Researcher workshop series grow and reach more students," said Kim Larsen, Undergraduate Engagement Librarian. "The series addresses a need on this campus for more in-depth exploration into information literacy topics that aren't always covered during traditional library instruction or classroom time."

Undergraduate Research Week

The Libraries once again collaborated with the Honors College and the Office of Undergraduate Research to plan and host Undergraduate Research Week on campus during the Spring 2024 semester. The highlight of the week was the annual research poster competition. Undergraduate students from all disciplines were invited to submit an abstract in one of seven research categories. In each category, a \$100 prize was awarded for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place. A total of 91 students participated in the competition, up from 50 the previous year.

In addition to the poster competition, 16 seminars were offered throughout the week, with librarians teaching on subjects including library resources, an introduction to the computer programming language Python, how to identify a faculty mentor for your thesis or capstone project, mastering the literature review, and how to submit your research to the University of Arkansas' institutional repository, ScholarWorks@UARK, which is maintained by the University Libraries.

"This partnership continues to yield stronger and deeper connections with our collaborators, within the Libraries, and across campus, in support of our shared goals of student support and investment in undergraduate research activities," said Ellen R. Urton, Director of Research and Instruction Services. "As we refine and adjust our approach, we can incorporate more creative and innovative approaches to inclusive representation of the varied products of research and student learning."

Razorbook Club

The Razorbook Club, created by Undergraduate Engagement Librarian Kim Larsen, is in its third year and currently has 228 members. Students read one book per month during the academic year and have two discussion sessions per book. The books are selected and voted on by the members.

Providing Opportunities

During the 2023-2024 academic year, the University Libraries provided jobs for seven graduate assistants and two Honors student interns:

Ashton Payne

Honors Intern for Special Collections

Bekah Olson

Library Engagement and Instruction Graduate Assistant

Brennan Fincher

User Services Graduate Assistant

Danna Camila Jaimes Fajardo

Chemistry and Biochemistry Library Graduate Assistant

Kyra Sampaio Resende

Education Graduate Assistant

Meerim Seiitova

Open Education, Data, and Publishing Services Graduate Assistant

Reza Taghavi

Data Services Graduate Assistant

Seyram Wisdom Kwame

Emerging Technologies Graduate Assistant

Sophie Collins

Honors Intern for Special Collections





Resource Sharing & Interlibrary Loan

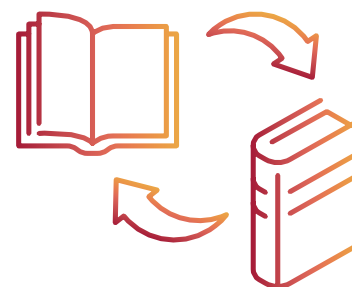
At the University Libraries, we're proud to offer access to millions of resources: books, journals, databases, manuscripts, and myriad online materials. But it simply isn't possible for us to own every single resource in existence, and that's where Interlibrary Loan comes in.

When a researcher can't find a specific item they need in our collections, our team of Interlibrary Loan specialists works with other libraries and institutions worldwide to borrow that item for them. This service is usually free to our patrons because the University Libraries cover almost all of the associated costs. Our Interlibrary Loan team assists these other institutions in the same way, lending out copies of our materials for their researchers who need them.

"ILL is crucial for scholarship and publication. Faculty and graduate students research obscure, specific topics and need materials from around the globe. We establish partnerships and foster cooperation with various research institutes. Reciprocity is very important. The rarity of some of the items we are asked for is amazing. Items can be one of a kind, others there are only a handful of copies in the world."

The work done in ILL is tangible. You can see the output and track the success through numerous theses and dissertations each year and the many faculty publications. Open them, turn to the acknowledgments, and you will see how many 'thank you' notes the Libraries and specifically Interlibrary Loan receives. Many of these publications would not be possible without the research materials tracked down by the Interlibrary Loan detectives. It is very rewarding work, both in terms of the satisfaction felt by the ILL staff in filling these requests, but also in the good publicity for the University when these award-winning books go out into the world."

- Robin Roggio, Director of Resource Sharing and Interlibrary Loan



During the
2023-2024
 academic year,
 interlibrary loan provided
955
unique users
 with
10,883 items
 they requested. The
 University Libraries
 spent approximately
\$12,500
 to make these
 transactions happen.





Global Usage



● Open Educational Resources

● Institutional Repository

● Interlibrary Loan

● Special Collections



Special Collections

The University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Division is home to manuscripts, university archives, rare books, photographs, digital collections, and the Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts program. This division serves the University of Arkansas campus community and researchers worldwide. There's no limit to the subjects documented in our collections, but we pride ourselves on robust collections documenting Arkansas history.

NWA National History Day

In February 2024, Special Collections worked with the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History and Culture to host the Northwest Arkansas National History Day contest on the University of Arkansas campus for the first time. At this regional affiliate contest for the State of Arkansas, nearly 80 students from area middle and high schools competed, and 5 students from Northwest Arkansas went on to the national competition.

"One of the great privileges we have in Special Collections is to be part of life-changing moments of learning through archives and other primary sources experienced by students of all ages," said Joshua Youngblood, Interim Associate Dean for Special Collections. "Partnering with the Shiloh Museum to make History Day available to Arkansas K-12 students, like our countless relationships with U of A students, illustrates the power of documents, artifacts, and the wide array of historical resources to impact lifelong learning."

Geleve Grice Collection

Born in Tamo in 1922, Geleve Grice was one of the most significant Black photographers in Arkansas' history. After spending his teenage years in Little Rock and graduating from Dunbar High School, Grice served in the United States Navy during World War II. After the war, Grice attended and graduated from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College in Pine Bluff, now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. While studying at Arkansas AM&N, Grice first established a relationship with the school as a campus photographer. Already operating a photography studio in Pine Bluff when he graduated in 1950, Grice spent the rest of his life documenting daily life in southeastern Arkansas, particularly within its Black community. The Grice Papers were fully processed and opened for researchers in May 2024.

One major project undertaken by Special Collections during the 2023-2024 academic year was to digitize roughly 7,000 photographic negatives from our Geleve Grice

Photograph Collection. Public figures featured in these photographs include Muhammad Ali, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dionne Warwick, Maya Angelou, Wiley Branton, Edith Irby Jones, Ida Rowland Bellegard, Raymond Miller, Lawrence A. Davis, Martin Luther King Jr., and Silas Hunt. We have plans to digitize even more items from this collection in the coming year.

G. David Gearhart Papers

When materials are acquired by Special Collections, our staff work diligently to process the collection, creating a record of each item and where it is located before making it available to the public. The G. David Gearhart Papers, which offer a unique glimpse into the life and times of former U of A Chancellor David Gearhart as well as the significant contributions of his wife, Jane Gearhart, comprise more than 127 boxes of material. Special Collections finished processing this collection and made it available to the public during the Fall 2023 semester.

"When I became chancellor, Special Collections at Mullins Library asked me to save everything to be archived with them," said David. "When I wrote my last book, Confessions of a Chancellor, having all those materials helped me recall so much that I included in the book. I'm very proud and pleased that the materials are in Special Collections and most grateful to the staff for cataloging everything."

As chancellor, David Gearhart established an annual report of Providing Transparency and Accountability to the People of Arkansas, created the first commission of women for the campus, implemented a tuition freeze for the 2009-2010 academic year, created a climate action plan and oversaw more than \$400 million and 1.5 million square feet of building expansions and renovations.

Jane began working with the U of A's Volunteer Action Center and students on the newly established Full Circle Campus Food Pantry in 2011. The Board of Trustees voted to rename it the Jane B. Gearhart Full Circle Campus Food Pantry in 2015. That same year, Ozark Hall was renamed Gearhart Hall in David's honor.

In addition to documenting David and Jane's work at the U of A, the collection also includes personal and office records from David's time with Westminster College, Hendrix College, Pennsylvania State University, and Grenzebach Glier & Associates. Materials include personal and professional correspondence, speeches, administrative records, photographs, and more.



Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts

Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts, established in 2018 through a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, is a statewide program of the University of Arkansas Libraries dedicated to our state's living traditional arts and cultural heritage. The unit sponsors apprenticeship programs, gives tradition bearers a platform through its webinar series, and offers training sessions in counties throughout Arkansas, showing locals how to document, present, and sustain their stories and traditions, themselves.

"Folklore is, at its heart, knowledge shared between friends, family, and community," said Virginia Siegel, Director for Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts and State Folklorist of Arkansas.

Pat Johnson

Lauren Willette, Folk Arts Fieldwork Coordinator, successfully nominated Pat Johnson of Pocahontas, Arkansas, to receive the National Endowment for the Arts' Bess Lomax Hawes National Heritage Fellowship, presented in recognition of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage.

Lauren met Pat when she was doing fieldwork for Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts in Pocahontas and learned that, after retiring from the Arkansas Health Department and the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Pat had become a full-time community activist. She founded the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pocahontas, which served as the location for the first cohort of the Community Scholars Program. The Eddie Mae Herron Center's mission is to help individuals, communities, and organizations identify, protect, preserve history, and foster widespread appreciation of and respect for African American culture. The University Libraries hosted a reception at the center in honor of Pat's prestigious award.

"I am thrilled to have successfully nominated Pat Johnson for a National Heritage Fellowship," said Lauren. "She is deserving not only because of her dedication to preserving Arkansas heritage and history but because she does it creatively and with a community-centered approach."





Apprenticeship Program

In 2021, Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts began supporting the tradition of apprenticeship in our state by providing funds to pairs of mentor and apprentice artists. This program is sponsored in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arkansas Arts Council. Since the program's onset, 15 awards have been given to mentor artists to help them pass along their skills, which include glassblowing, jewelry making, Irish dance, bladesmithing, musicianship, and more.

The program received 10 applications for the 2023-2024 academic year, and five mentor artists were selected to work with seven apprentices. Teams are required to develop a work plan for the upcoming project year, meet with each other regularly over the course of the year, and finally, share their experience with their communities at the culmination of the project.

Community Scholars Program

The Community Scholars Program is a free series of training sessions that began in 2022 thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The program's goal is to teach participants in communities across Arkansas how to document, sustain, and preserve their own local traditions and customs. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the program was hosted at the Independence County Library in Batesville and the Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. An online session was also offered in partnership with Missouri Folk Arts. The program is booked out for the next two years and has a waitlist of organizations wanting to co-sponsor it in the future.



A Smithsonian Summer

The University Libraries, Honors College, and Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences collaborated in the summer of 2023 to co-sponsor the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Personnel from our Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts department were involved with festival planning, preparations, and presentations.

Virginia Siegel served on the curatorial team for the Ozarks program and was a member of the 'Craftspeople and Makers' committee in preparation for the festival. She also introduced various speakers, including chef Rob Connoley and herbalist and food writer Susan Belsinger.

Lauren Willette worked with chefs, herbalists, gardeners, and artists who shared their unique foodways and cooking traditions. She helped with a hog butchering demonstration put on by personnel from the Eddie Mae Herron Center in Pochahontas.

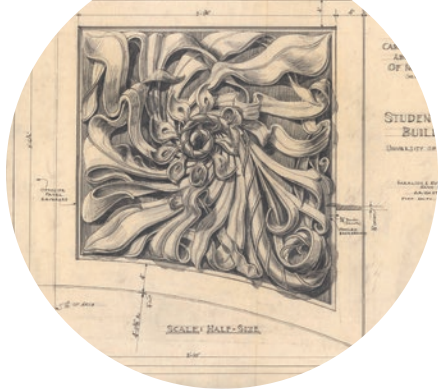
"Through folklife people are able to better connect with their history, describe who they are and where they come from, and what values they hold dear," Lauren said. "This exploration of the new and emerging as well as the traditional allows people to form deeper connections with the people and places they encounter in all aspects of life."

Lauren also worked with a group from Santuario Arco Iris, a 500-acre land sanctuary in Boxley Valley, on demonstrations with a spiritual focus. She moderated a panel discussion between curanderas – healers who use folk remedies – and introduced one of the festival's living history characters.

"Experiencing the Smithsonian Folklife Festival as a participant allowed me to reconnect with the region I call home in profound ways," she said. "I will always be grateful to have been a part of the group representing Arkansas and the Ozarks at the nation's capital."



Digital Collections



The University Libraries offer many resources that are only available in print. Our Digital Services Department works diligently to scan some of our most unique and most heavily-used print resources and make them available online so that any researcher can access them from anywhere, any time.

"We select items for digitization based on several factors, but primarily in response to user demand," said Martha Anderson, Head of Digital Services. "By listening to their needs and interests, we can prioritize our digitization efforts to ensure we're providing the most relevant and sought-after content."

You never know what you'll find when exploring the 37 collections on our Digital Collections website.

Architecture aficionados can peruse correspondence between Frank Lloyd Wright and University of Arkansas alumnus Fay Jones, for whom our School of Architecture is named.

For the musically minded, we've digitized 4,600 records from the *Ozark Folksong Collection* - the largest and most complete collection of traditional music and associated materials from Arkansas and the Ozarks in the nation.

Fans of farming will discover a wealth of knowledge in our seven unique collections of digitized materials from the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, from how-to guides on topics like gardening, sewing, and caring for livestock, to information on insect identification and which varieties of houseplants thrive in Arkansas. The *Arkansas Farm Research* collection, which features newsletters highlighting research on farm production and crop improvement, was finalized during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The collection *Land of (Unequal) Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas* includes photographs, newspaper clippings, court documents, poetry, sermons and more. These materials document the struggles of multiple groups, including Black and Japanese citizens, women, and the LGBTQ community.

Two of our most heavily used digital collections are *The University of Arkansas Yearbooks* and *The Arkansas Traveler Newspapers*. Our dedicated librarians spent years adding metadata to these collections to make them searchable - for example, you can type in your great-grandmother's name and pull up pages and articles that mention her. Both of these student publications are still ongoing, and the collections continue to be updated.

"The digitization of the University of Arkansas Yearbooks was part of our collaboration with the University of Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebrations," said Anderson. "The Arkansas community showed incredible support for this project, participating in fundraisers and volunteering donations to cover processing costs."

In addition to documenting the history of our state, we put great effort into documenting the history of the University of Arkansas, itself. Alumni can take a walk down memory lane with collections like *University of Arkansas Picture Collection*, *Commence and Go Forth - University of Arkansas Commencement Speeches*, *The University of Arkansas Campuses*, and *University of Arkansas Catalog of Studies*.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of creating digital collections is knowing that we are building these resources with the University population in mind," Anderson said. "The enthusiastic involvement of the local community in these efforts reaffirms the value of our work and strengthens our commitment to making important historical materials accessible to all."



Imagining a New Library

Construction Levels 1 and 2 of Mullins Library continued throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. Libraries personnel put in a significant amount of work to prepare for the reopening during this time.

Our renovated levels will include new technology and experiential learning offerings, and staff have been hard at work acquiring these items, learning to use them, and developing policies for users.

Augmented/Virtual Reality Lab

The renovated library will include an immersive and collaborative environment for augmented and virtual reality.

“Faculty members have begun using these technologies in courses and programs across campus,” said Jason Battles, Dean of Libraries. “As the central academic hub of the U of A, our AR/VR lab, makerspace, and video/audio production offerings will be the most accessible spaces for such technologies and available to students, faculty, and staff of all disciplines.”

Data Visualization

This reservable space will feature a 180-degree, floor-to-ceiling screen driven by four 4K projectors creating a large, immersive experience for classes of up to 25 people. The space is useful to a variety of disciplines, from astronomy to architecture.

Event Space

Colleges and units will again have large spaces available for various events, small conferences, and performances. This will include a 2,500-square-foot event space with a catering kitchen and seating for 125-150 that can be configured for nearly any need.

Fowler’s Nook Café

The campus community has expressed much excitement about the inclusion of a café on Level 1 of Mullins, which was announced in October 2021. Funded in part by a generous gift from Chris Fowler, Fowler’s Nook will offer fresh, healthy food and beverage options. A new entrance on the South side of Level 1 will provide natural lighting to the floor for the first time ever and allow for the inclusion of an outdoor patio space adjacent to the café.

“Students will have access to different food options and beverages while they study without having to leave the library,” Battles said. “This will provide a more encompassing environment that saves them time and prevents the need to search for another study spot upon returning to the building.”

Makerspace

A new makerspace will provide highly interactive, hands-on teaching and learning experiences and will include technologies such as 3D printers and scanners, sewing machines, and vinyl and laser cutters.

Recording Studio Suite

Spaces and equipment for professional audio and video recording will be made available by reservation. These spaces will allow the campus community to record music, presentations, lecture slides, videos, interviews, oral history projects, and more. The Recording Studio Suite will include a control room, audio recording studio, video recording studio, and podcast recording booths. It will also feature a Steinway piano.

Upgrades to Special Collections

The Libraries’ Special Collections Division houses rare and unique materials and makes them available to researchers worldwide. After the renovation, Special Collections will have a new reading room, dedicated classroom space, a modern processing and preservation area, and an expansive exhibit gallery. Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts, a statewide program within the division, will have dedicated offices and a space for recording oral histories.





Development

At the University of Arkansas Libraries, we couldn't provide the spaces, services, and resources we do without robust support from our generous donors. During the 2023-2024 academic year, 185 unique donors contributed a total of \$4,863,306.20.

Become a Friend of the Libraries Today!

Every gift has an impact. When you give to the Friends of the University Libraries fund, we're able to be flexible and strategic in allocating support for our most pressing priorities within an academic year.

Your gift gives the Libraries flexibility to create innovative opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

Because this fund is used broadly across the University Libraries, a gift to the Friends of the Libraries fund has the capacity to make a big impact on all University of Arkansas students!

When you give to the Libraries, you are supporting:

- + Collections + Resources
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Interested in learning more about giving?

Contact Hannah Lee, Director of Development, to find out more about how you can make a tremendous difference in the lives of students through charitable giving to the University Libraries.



Hannah Lee
Director of Development
hannlee@uark.edu
479-718-2679

Focus on Preservation: Alumnus Paul Goodwin Gives New Life to University Libraries Collections

As seen in Arkansas magazine

For alumnus Paul Goodwin, the library is more than a building for storing books. It is a place of exploration and belonging. His affinity for books, though, began in grade school. Goodwin recalls taking random titles off the shelves and realizing that someone thought they were worthy of publication. He discovered that the right words could make the simplest stories exceptional and that great writers can make words dance and sing.

The Libraries' mission is to provide access to information that will support and foster creativity, study, teaching, and research. It also serves as a vibrant and diverse intellectual center of campus. When Paul and Clia Goodwin were students, the library was more than a venue for learning. It was a haven—a place where students from different hometowns and backgrounds could come together to connect both socially and intellectually.

Paul met Clia Doty Goodwin in 1965 outside of the Science and Engineering Auditorium, an arrangement orchestrated by mutual friends. They sat together in class that day and the following, cementing their seating arrangement for the rest of the semester. That meeting transformed Goodwin's U of A experience. Together, Paul, Clia and their friends—a group of self-described "loveable losers"—cultivated a sense of belonging, often within the confines of Vol Walker Library, the university's main library for over 30 years.

But it was the peak of the Vietnam War, and Paul soon left the university to begin his military service. After about a year overseas, Paul proposed to Clia. He flew to her home in



Tulsa to get married, and they returned to Okinawa together for Goodwin to complete his service.

While Goodwin was away, the university opened Mullins Library. The crucial difference between Vol Walker and Mullins was the introduction of open stacks. The new layout made the library's resources infinitely more accessible. Access meant opportunity.

Goodwin returned to the U of A on the GI Bill in 1971 to complete his undergraduate degree. He discovered the endless possibilities that the new library held. In striking contrast to his first undergraduate career, Goodwin made the dean's list. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Dramatic Art in 1972.

The University Libraries are unique hubs that offer research opportunities, social engagement, and opportunities for connection. They provide access to books, periodicals, and digital archives, along with resources to assist students. They offer productive workspaces, free from dorm room and coffee shop distractions. There is always a quiet corner in the library. Students use libraries to enhance career readiness through research skills, digital literacy, and critical analysis.

As a safe and central space, libraries bring students together and help foster a sense of belonging. New students can find information boards, form study groups, and enter work study programs. Art and cultural exhibits and other group events offer shared experiences for students with common interests. As a central source of information and connection, libraries have something for everyone.

Goodwin understands how libraries contribute to student success. Though he eventually became a writer, Goodwin began his career as an Assistant Professor at the University of New Hampshire. There, he leveraged his passion for the library to encourage students on their own educational journeys. Goodwin introduced concepts in class and sent his students to the library to investigate. There, they discovered that the puddle they dipped their toes into was an ocean.

"When you are exposed to an idea, it makes you want to learn more," Goodwin said. "That's when you go to the library, and it begins to fulfill its function. The library doesn't do any good just sitting there all by itself."

The University of Arkansas Libraries house over 3.7 million books and e-books, more than 232,000 journals, and over 23,000 feet of archival collections. The Special Collections Department consists of unique historical materials that provide insight into Arkansas history and related topics, often from first-hand accounts. Many items within the collections are unpublished and one-of-a-kind.

To help protect these resources, Goodwin established the Dr. Clia M. Goodwin and Mr. Paul D. Goodwin Preservation Endowment for the University Libraries in honor of his late wife, Clia. The \$250,000 planned gift provides long-term support for the preservation of the Special Collections at the University Libraries and will benefit generations of students, teachers, and researchers.

"The Dr. Clia M. Goodwin and Paul D. Goodwin Preservation Endowment for the University Libraries will have an incredible impact on the Libraries' work to preserve our collections for future generations indefinitely," said Jason Battles, Dean of University Libraries. "We are honored to be the recipients of such a generous, transformative gift."

Goodwin has witnessed the University Libraries' extraordinary transformation since the late 1960s, from closed stacks to open stacks to unlimited digital access today. He has seen them adapt to the internet revolution of the last 30 years. Access may have changed, but the benefits of libraries have never been more evident.

Today, people from around the world access over 3,000 top containers from the Libraries' Special Collections annually. The most requested collections are the papers of Arkansas poet Edsel Ford, the papers of J. William Fulbright, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs Historical Collection, and the Florence Price papers. Goodwin recalled having access to these artifacts. "Being able to have those documents and artifacts in front of you is irreplaceable," he said. "You can't get that from Google. That's why preservation is important."



A Legacy of Support: Susan and Orville Hall's Commitment to the University Libraries

Longtime supporters of the University Libraries Susan and Orville Hall have deep-rooted connections to the University of Arkansas. Their recent gift to the Friends of the University Libraries fund, made in honor of Dean Jason Battles, is a testament to their shared passion for education and their enduring appreciation for the Libraries' role in preserving knowledge and enriching the community.

Orville Hall, Jr., a retired Senior Research Engineer for Boeing, and Susan Hall, former Director of Education and Marketing at Prairie View Private Psychiatric Hospital, both hold degrees from the University of Arkansas. Orville earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering and holds an MS in Engineering Mechanics from the College of Engineering, while Susan graduated from the Walton College of Business with a degree in Banking and Finance. The couple's bond with the University Libraries extends beyond their academic roots—both Orville's and Susan's fathers have their papers housed in the Libraries' Special Collections. The Orville Hall, Sr. Papers and the Harold A. Dulan Papers reflect their families' rich legacies and contributions to history.

"Libraries are very dear to us," Susan shared. "People take them for granted." She fondly recalled her time as a student, saying, "I loved the Libraries, especially as a student, I loved the business library. They had the best table to lay your head on!" For the Halls, their connection to the University Libraries is both personal and enduring. "The U of A has always been a part of our lives," Susan reflected.

The Halls' admiration for the Libraries deepened when they met Jason Battles, Dean of Libraries, in 2021. Susan met Dean Battles while serving on the search committee for the Dean of Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Battles chaired the search. "I was so impressed with his leadership," Susan recalls. "His professionalism, his attitude—everything about him made a lasting impression." Inspired by his leadership and the pivotal role the Libraries play in society, Susan and Orville were moved to make their generous gift.



As dedicated supporters, the Halls are particularly excited about the ongoing renovations at Mullins Library and the Fine Arts Library. These projects, overseen by Dean Battles, will create state-of-the-art spaces for students, faculty, and the community. The Halls see these efforts as essential investments in the future of the University, ensuring that the Libraries continue to serve as vibrant hubs of learning and inspiration for generations to come.

For Susan and Orville Hall, their gift is more than just a financial contribution—it is a reflection of their love for the Libraries and their belief in its mission. Their generosity, in honor of Dean Battles, stands as a legacy of support for the University of Arkansas Libraries, one that will inspire future donors and strengthen the Libraries' impact for years to come.



The University Libraries' Dean's Advisory Council serves as an indispensable bridge between the Libraries and the University of Arkansas community. Composed of passionate alumni, dedicated supporters, and friends of the University, this distinguished group plays a pivotal role in shaping the Libraries' future. Hand-selected for their unique insights and deep commitment to the University's mission, the council collaborates closely with the Dean to provide thoughtful guidance on key strategic priorities.

Their role extends beyond advice: as ambassadors, they advocate for the Libraries in their communities, elevating its profile and sharing its value with a wider audience. With their collective wisdom, these leaders infuse the Libraries' vision with perspectives grounded in their love for the institution, ensuring that it continues to serve as a beacon of knowledge, innovation, and academic excellence for generations to come.



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- | | |
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