

STATE OF THE LIBRARIES

Fall 2012

October 18, 2012

Introduction

Good morning, and welcome. I'm Lorraine Haricombe, dean of libraries at KU, and I'm glad to see you all here during what is undoubtedly a very busy time for many of us. I hope, packed schedules notwithstanding, you've had an opportunity to appreciate the breathtaking beauty of this campus, perhaps even as you made your way here today.

This is my seventh State of the Libraries presentation here at KU, and I'd like to begin by reemphasizing my personal commitment to clear, two-way communication with you, our colleagues throughout campus. Our goal today is to give you the opportunity to learn about our current priorities in the libraries, to provide you with some insight into why we are doing what we're doing, and give you a chance to ask questions and offer your comments.

Before I begin, I'd like to recognize the KU Libraries leadership team, including:

- Kent Miller, associate dean for administration and operations;
- Mary Roach, associate dean for technical services;
- Jen Church-Duran, assistant dean for user services;
- Deb Ludwig, assistant dean for collections and scholar services; and
- Beth Whittaker, head of the Spencer Research Library.

Our three directors offer broad support to KU Libraries: Mike Broadwell and staff support our workforce and work to advance organizational health; Shannon Royer and staff ensure that we remain fiscally healthy, and Rebecca Smith and her staff help to create high visibility for us by telling our story, and cultivating and stewarding donors to help raise funds for KU Libraries.

Together, this team led our library faculty and staff through a yearlong strategic planning process, which resulted in a refined vision and mission. I'd like to share each of those with you now, to provide important context as we move forward today:

First, our newly revised vision: "KU Libraries will be a strategic institutional asset that develops and delivers new methods of creating and supporting knowledge resources. We will enrich teaching and learning and fuel research at KU and worldwide."

And, our mission, which is: "To advance discovery, innovation and learning for KU, for the state of Kansas and for a rapidly expanding community of world scholars. We equip our students for a knowledge-driven, global society, and we support research and scholarly communication through collaborative opportunities at KU and beyond."

This mission directly speaks to our new strategic directions, and I look forward to sharing more about those in a moment. First, though, I'd like to highlight a few of the accomplishments and advancements we have celebrated during the past year.

Highlights from 2011-2012

2012 saw increased emphasis on the vital role librarians play in classroom instruction across

campus.

For example, librarians and staff in our International Area Studies unit provided direct classroom instruction and workshops to more than 4,000 students and faculty in more than 250 sessions.

Another example of this important work comes from the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, where library faculty and staff presented nearly 100 classes, including offerings in French, History, Geology, Museum Studies, Art History, African and African-American Studies, and many others. Since January 2012, we saw a total of 2,476 people participate in these sessions.

The Spencer Research Library has been a remarkably busy place this year, as it continues to serve scholars here on campus, in Kansas and throughout the world in the new Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room. Last October brought a record 109 patrons in the building in one day, and for the first time in recent memory, we had several days when more than 100 patrons came through our doors between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

In all, we hosted 6,789 visitors at Spencer in the past academic year. First-time users hailed from 29 states across the U.S., as well as from Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, highlighting the truly world-class resources available right here in our own backyard.

Within programs associated with data services and initiatives, our librarians and staff engaged faculty and students through more than 350 individual consultations regarding data acquisition and usage, plus additional consultations via workshops, grant development partnerships and other opportunities.

Some of these are new and emerging roles for our librarians as we continue to respond to the needs of our users. Librarians are uniquely qualified to assist you in data management. I invite you to contact your librarian should you need help.

This past year also brought us new—or newly deployed—faculty and staff within the libraries.

We recently welcomed Jennifer Roach, KU Libraries' new e-Sciences Librarian for Engineering. This is a brand new position that we created again to respond to needs in a digital era. We are committed to advancing the academic mission and strategic plan of the university, and librarians like Jennifer will be key players in these endeavors.

Ken Lohrentz, a familiar face to many, returned this fall to International Area Studies on a part-time, temporary basis. Ken retired from KU Libraries in 2007 as the librarian for African Studies. He brings a wealth of knowledge about the diverse regions of Africa and will be a tremendous help to faculty and students who study the continent.

We promoted Jill Becker into our First-Year Experience Coordinator position. In this new role, Jill collaborates with the new Office of First-Year Experience to help ensure student retention and success.

Brian Moss, our new Reference Coordinator, is responsible for managing day-to-day operations and scheduling reference and research services at Anschutz and Watson Libraries' service desks.

And, we welcome Stephanie Scurto, who will be providing support on a part-time basis in a variety of areas including bibliography, reference and instruction to our faculty colleagues in the English

department.

This year we expanded our collections significantly. Thanks to the work of our technical services unit, we added more than 120,000 volumes in the past year. At last count, volumes within our eight facilities came to nearly 4.3 million. And, another 900,000 books, journals and databases are held electronically.

We continue to balance fiscal resources to ensure efficient and effective acquisition of new materials and ongoing subscriptions, aided in part by the Demand-Driven-Acquisitions program for print and electronic monographs. In addition, we routinely analyze our publishers' journal packages, and use these data to drive decisions about resources that best support our research needs on campus. As a result, we realize savings through careful analysis and shifting away from buying "just-in-case" to a model of acquiring and delivering resources "just-in-time." And, any savings realized are re-invested in collections.

As our physical collections grow, so do our storage needs. With nearly 1.35 million volumes housed there, the Library Annex is nearly full—97 percent full, to be exact. Last week we took possession of a new Annex addition, a module that doubles our storage capacity on west campus. We continue to focus on user needs with the Annex modules, delivering a vast majority of requested materials to researchers within a day, and often directly to their departmental office.

Construction on west campus will continue over the next few months. Just last week, we received approval to construct a new cold storage unit to properly preserve audio visual and digital materials. This new unit, located next to the Library Annex, will ensure long-term preservation more than 15,000 films and millions of photographs, KU assets that have key historical and cultural significance.

And, speaking of preservation, we continue vital work toward digital preservation, including efforts like improved audio transfer technical capacity and digitization of 67 KU films. Through this work, important and unique collections will live longer and serve more researchers.

Of course, preservation for traditional collections remains critically important as well. In the past year, our conservation services unit evaluated more than 6,000 books for repair. The devastating flood within the Murphy Art and Architecture Library brought to light the significant behind-the-scenes work of our preservation team. The water main break within the Spencer Museum on August 1 resulted in damage to about 20,000 volumes held in that library, located on the museum's lowest floor. The disaster caused the library to close for restoration and repairs.

I was overwhelmed by the incredible response to this disaster. Thanks in large part to the efforts of our preservation staff, as well as volunteers from the libraries and across campus, the library was up and running in an astonishingly short amount of time, to the benefit of faculty in many departments.

The Art and Architecture library is a great example of how our branch libraries can serve as your partner in research and teaching. Within our branch libraries, librarians and staff work with individual faculty to meet unique research and teaching needs.

Now let me turn to new resources.

Recently, we acquired ARTstor, a digital library that provides more than one million digital images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and sciences with an accessible suite of software tools for

teaching and research. This incredible resource was brought to the campus community thanks to a collaboration between the libraries and the History of Art Department. I encourage you take a peek at this tremendous offering.

And, speaking of new resources, the libraries were the grateful recipients of many generous collections gifts recently. Our technical services unit has been very busy processing these gifts, which include the more than 20,000 Latin American books, pamphlets and papers from Emeritus Professor of Latin American Studies Charley Stansifer, as well as sizable and important collections from the late George Woodyard, and the late James Seaver, Chuck Berg, and Ezra Gubbay, of Rochelle, New York. Here's a quick note regarding Mr. Gubbay's gift—this generous gift includes a collection of 7,500 opera recordings, of which more than 5,000 are 78s. There are a number of early and rare recordings, and we're very excited to share this gift with you soon.

These and other new collections demand increased collaboration to ensure expanded access and efficient management of library collections, both physical and virtual.

To that end, KU Libraries joined the HathiTrust Digital Library, a growing digital repository of collections of books and journals from some of the major research libraries in the United States. The mission of HathiTrust is to contribute to the common good by collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the record of human knowledge. As a partner in this trust, KU will help build a reliable and increasingly comprehensive digital archive of library materials converted from print that is co-owned and managed by a number of academic institutions.

KU Libraries was also selected as an "Archive Builder" for the West Regional Storage Trust, or WEST. WEST is a distributed, retrospective print journal repository program serving more than 100 research libraries, college libraries, and university libraries in the western part of the United States. Under the WEST program, participating libraries will consolidate print journal backfiles at major library storage facilities, ensuring long-term access to these volumes.

Strategic Planning

This past year was an exciting year! With participants from across the library we embarked on a process driven by one question: Given the changing landscape of higher education and the dynamic ambition of our institution, how must KU Libraries transform over the next five years?

The goals, strategies and metrics defined in our new Strategic Plan represent an intentional redefinition of libraries at the University of Kansas, in concert with the directions set forth under the campus plan Bold Aspirations. Work on our new strategic directions began in July, and I will now take a few minutes to share a few highlights of our progress so far on our first two goals.

Goal one in our strategic plan is to fully integrate information literacy, research skills and information resources into the curriculum, in order to enhance critical thinking, academic success and lifelong learning. Let me share a few examples of the strategies under this goal, which seeks to transform the Libraries' educational role.

First, we seek to develop first-year experience programming in support of campus retention and persistence initiatives. Already this fall, we played a vital role in planning and implementing several new campus undergraduate learning efforts.

We recently created a new First-Year Experience Coordinator position, which enables us to partner with the new Office of First-Year Experience to help ensure student retention and success. And, we were key players in the new campus Common Book program, helping develop the overall program goals and learner outcomes, as well as assisting in planning for inaugural year activities.

We also seek to provide pedagogical resources and tools for information literacy integration. To this end, we are represented and provide expert insight into the new core curriculum committee on campus.

But, our involvement doesn't end on campus. KU Libraries play an integral role in the regional CODDL Information Literacy Project sponsored by the Council of Deans and Directors of Libraries at the universities in Kansas. Designed to collaboratively develop and share online learning modules, assignments and more across institutions, this partnership helps us and other institutions determine what resources and contributions are best suited to helping our and each others' institutions succeed.

In the same vein, the K-20 Librarian initiative is a new collaboration of school, public and academic librarians in the region to lower technological and administrative barriers to deeper integration of services from area educational, cultural and civic institutions. The K-20 initiative aims to leverage the high-speed connectivity made possible by Google in Kansas City, Kansas.

In the coming months, we will focus these and other action items within goal one, including a plan to create a program of curricular consultation and outreach to high school teachers and school librarians at KU's top feeder schools.

We will also work to develop and expand outreach, instruction and consulting services, with the goal of enhancing graduate students' ability to access needed scholarly resources.

We will seek to grow our partnership with the Center for Online and Distance Learning and collaborate with individual department/schools to embed the Libraries in online and distance learning activities, while developing an instruction and outreach plan for integration of information literacy and critical thinking skills into the undergraduate curriculum—an ambitious set of goals for sure, but goals of true benefit to this campus.

Our second major strategic direction is to advance scholarship through proactive engagement in research and scholarly communication.

Specific strategies under this goal include a plan to enhance access to and discovery, delivery, and preservation of our institution's distinctive resources and assets.

This year, we've made significant progress here, having developed and launched a new web-based search tool to improve discovery of information across many different sources simultaneously: books, journal articles, images, and data. This new initiative has enhanced the quality of the user search experience and the breadth of resources retrieved.

We have also worked to enhance connectivity to KU Libraries from a mobile phone or tablet. As a result, KU Libraries is more accessible and provides a richer user experience to users of mobile devices like phones and tablets.

And speaking of enhancing user experiences, Spencer Research Library was the first public university in the Midwest to implement the Aeon system, which automates patron registration and materials requests, greatly simplifying the use of our collections onsite.

Access is always the key to a great library, so I'm pleased to share that in the past year, ten new digital collections or resources were created or made accessible to our faculty and scholars. Allow me to share a few examples:

We have made great progress on the "Exploring the History of Nineteenth-Century Ornithology and Scientific Illustration through the Works of John Gould," a National Endowment for the Humanities grant project to complete cataloging of the Gould and Sauer Collections, and to digitize the unique drawings held in Special Collections.

A collection of Lawrence photographs from the Kansas Collection was uploaded to LUNA insight, enhancing access to historic photos of our town.

And finally, a popular exhibition is now available online: "Naismith—Life and Legacy: Celebrating 150 years" includes 300 photographs, correspondence, and other materials relating to James Naismith now digitally available for research and teaching.

We also seek to develop a robust and coordinated approach to scholarly publishing, scholarly communication and copyright services. KU—the first public institution to pass a faculty-led open access policy—is an international leader in open access.

Last year, we launched the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI), which represents 46 universities and research centers in North America. Through this effort, we created a networked community to advocate for scholarly publishing reform and share best practice for managing open access initiatives.

We also saw significant growth of KU ScholarWorks, KU's institutional repository to provide open access to our faculty's research. Content held within ScholarWorks grew by 25 percent in the past year, to more than 8,700 items. Of the 2,000 items added recently, nearly 600 were theses and dissertations, and 1,427 works were authored or edited KU faculty members.

ScholarWorks ensures more visibility and accessibility to KU research at a global level to "push the boundaries of knowledge and benefit society," a key goal of Bold Aspirations. During the past year, more than 1.4 million items were downloaded—an average of 163 downloads per item.

We also created new online communities within ScholarWorks to highlight work of 557 KU faculty and students in new ways, including groups for distinguished and named professors at the University of Kansas, a group for faculty members who have authored books, and a group for those who have completed Central American theses and dissertations.

Another new KU ScholarWorks Community supports and promotes community-engaged scholarship. The first project in this community, known as the "KU & the Community: Partners in Scholarship," will be the Inge Digital Collection, which contains scholarly conference papers presented at the annual William Inge Theatre Festival, held at Independence Community College, in Independence, Kansas.

We have worked closely with the Provost's office to analyze citations of faculty journal articles input into the PRO database for potential inclusion in KU ScholarWorks. As a result, when faculty submit their CVs for the new PRO system, data is analyzed for potential inclusion of journal articles in KU

ScholarWorks, streamlining and automating workflows, and ultimately resulting in more open access to KU research.

Open access remains a key priority for us, at significant benefit to faculty at KU. Next week, we will hold a series of events in conjunction with the international Open Access Week. I hope to see you at many of the planned seminars and engagements aimed at increasing awareness of this critical initiative, and I invite you to watch for a very special announcement regarding open access on this campus, set for release on Monday.

Also, under goal two, we will seek to enhance capacity for data services and management and e-research support.

Here, we've recently launched discussions surrounding the proposed center for scholars in Watson, an effort to co-locate key support services for faculty and researchers at KU.

I am delighted that KU Libraries, along with two large multi-state consortia, were recently awarded a \$48,000 grant to study issues and propose a plan to help solve the issues related to the long term management of research data.

This success highlights our ongoing commitment to helping scholars manage their data research, as does our continued focus on education in digital humanities. Our Digital Humanities Seminars at the Hall Center brought in eight speakers during the 2011-12 academic year, and the Digital Jumpstart Workshops held last March reached more than 60 participants.

Earlier this month, we launched a new series called Research Corner Talks, which engage researchers to increase our understanding of their work and how to support their changing needs. These new events provide a means of increasing awareness of library resources and services, cultivating academic inquiry and fostering collaboration.

In the coming months, we will focus these and other action items within goal two, with an emphasis on developing and implementing inter-institutional plans for shared access to, and delivery of, print and digital collections.

We will also work to assess and evaluate the research and scholarly information needs and expectations of KU faculty and graduate students, and partner with KU Information Technology, Research and Graduate Studies and other campus groups to develop, cultivate, manage, and support access to data collection.

Closing

This is only a small portion of the work ahead of us as we implement these new strategic directions within KU Libraries in support of Bold Aspirations and the vital goals of this campus as a whole. As we move forward with these new strategic directions, we do so with the understanding that the Libraries are responsible not only for the cultivation, discovery and dissemination of information, but also for facilitating learning, research and knowledge creation. By achieving these goals, we support and encourage outstanding research, teaching and learning across the university.

We have set ambitious goals that will take staffing and financial resources. To that end, we will take a closer look at areas where we can work smarter and more efficiently to generate savings that can be reinvested in our strategic directions.

Finally, KU has launched an eighth year capital campaign, “Far Above,” that will help raise funding to accomplish some of these goals. I am delighted that KU Libraries is included in “Far Above.” A key goal for us is to identify new funding resources to help support our goals.

We look forward to engaging KU community and I welcome your feedback—and especially your support—as we move this institution forward.

Thank you for your time this morning, and I welcome your questions or comments on the role of libraries and librarians here at KU.