As we advance into the 21st century, KU Libraries stand firmly at the crossroads of people and ideas. Our staff, our services, our collections and our buildings will evolve to serve new generations of students and faculty. We are committed to listening and to responding innovatively to change in our role as the foundation for discovery and learning at the University of Kansas.
I am so pleased and proud to be associated with the accomplishments of the people who make up the faculty and staff of KU Libraries. They have worked as a team during this past year to make a difference in the life of the University of Kansas and beyond. As far as we have come, however, we cannot stay where we are. We must continue to move forward to address new challenges as we rethink the role of the research library in the 21st century.

A difficult economic environment requires us to be ever more vigilant and wise stewards of the resources entrusted to us, even as the expectations of our users continue to rise. Scholars are developing new methodological approaches in their research and innovative approaches to teaching, while seeking new ways to reach out to their peers and to society. Students seek new ways to learn and grow in this information age. These and so many other changes have profound consequences for our roles and how we anticipate and respond to a quickening pace of change generally.

It is a challenge to adapt to the changes that seem to swirl about us, and yet I know that by working together—among ourselves and with partners on and off campus—we can do some truly amazing things. Our strong partnerships both with those whom we serve and those who support our efforts—the taxpayers, payers of tuition and those who give generously to KU Libraries through the KU Endowment Association—must continue to animate our every effort.

I have come to appreciate more than ever the Kansas state motto, Ad astra per aspera, or “To the stars through difficulties.” As in this storied state’s past, we face challenges that may be daunting, but we also know that the rewards for our creativity and hard work will benefit many future generations in Kansas and far beyond.

As we successfully meet these challenges, the result will be a transformed organization that continues to adapt and evolve to support new needs, successfully engaging current and future learners at all levels, from first-year undergraduates to senior faculty, as well as the broader community.

You have my profound thanks for your commitment to the success of KU Libraries.

Lorraine J. Haricombe
Collections at Anschutz include the sciences, business and U.S. government documents, as well as the T.R. Smith Map Collection and the GIS and Numeric Data Lab. Anschutz also serves as a 24-hour study facility for students.

Located on Lawrence’s west campus, the Library Annex is a high-density preservation and storage facility for low-use library materials. The transfer of such materials to the Library Annex increases the space available for users in the main campus library buildings. It also provides conservation-level environmental controls for books and journals, archives and manuscripts, and rare and fragile materials.

The Archive of Recorded Sound, which features extensive jazz and opera holdings, and the Hale Media System for listening and viewing, are highlights of this library, located in Murphy Hall. It contains more than 111,000 scores, books, sound recordings and other volumes, and holds the leading music collection in the Great Plains.

These collections, located in the Spencer Museum of Art, document the visual arts worldwide to support programs in art, design, architecture and the history of art.

This branch provides services at the KU Edwards Campus in suburban Kansas City. 

The University Archives are housed here, as are manuscripts and rare books. Also in Spencer is the Kansas Collection, which includes books, manuscripts, maps, photographs and other items documenting the state’s history.

The oldest and largest of the university's libraries, Watson houses collections in the social sciences, humanities, education, journalism and social welfare. Highlights include the East Asian, Maria, and Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American collections. The Libraries’ administrative offices and Preservation Department are also housed here.
What’s next? We continue the transition from acquiring information resources primarily in print to a model based primarily on digital information. Over half of the library collections budget now supports digital resources that are available anytime and anywhere to KU students and faculty.

This year KU Libraries received a gift of $250,000 from the estate of KU emeritus professor Walter Kollmorgen, on behalf of Walter and his sister, Johanna Kollmorgen. Kollmorgen came to KU in 1946 to establish the geography department and was a leading authority in the field of agricultural geography. The gift will be used to support collection development at KU.

Bruce McKinney, a Wichita man who spent more than 35 years documenting the history of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals in the Midwest, donated more than 160 boxes of magazines, pamphlets, organizational newsletters and other materials to Spencer Research Library. McKinney was inspired to make the gift after meeting with KU Librarian Tami Albin about her oral history project, “Under the Rainbow: Oral Histories of LGBTQ People in Kansas.”

Librarians have acquired an impressive suite of new digital resources that includes historical newspapers such as the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Defender and the Washington Post; the IEEE/ IET Electronic Library containing almost one-third of the world’s current literature in computer science and electrical engineering; and a new collection of Apabi electronic books to enhance our East Asian library collection.
The Kenneth Spencer Research Library, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year with a series of events highlighting its world-class collections, underwent a significant transformation in 2009. The library’s reference function was relocated to the reading room, a change that provides more efficient and effective services to library users.

Dust flew as KU Libraries developed a new collaborative environment in Anschutz Library. The space is designed to meet the needs of 21st century undergraduate researchers while supporting collaboration with the campus partners most critical to academic success. Locating these resources at the point of need gives KU students an academic edge by putting tools and expertise at their fingertips.

In partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, KU Libraries took significant first steps in planning the transformation of the fourth floor of Watson into a new Center for Scholars, designed to assist faculty and graduate students at KU with the formulation and dissemination of their research. The Center for Scholars will initially offer a new, enhanced digital workspace for new media and publishing, and the new data analysis center will support the formulation of quantitative and qualitative social science research methods.

We have made significant progress in identifying and moving lesser-used materials to the Libraries Annex. To date, 760,000 items have been accessioned into the Annex, allowing Watson and Anschutz Libraries to shift collections and repurpose vacant space.

What’s next? Plans are in the works to update Watson Library’s technological infrastructure to better accommodate technological advancements, including videoconferencing and the manipulation of large data files used by contemporary researchers.
John Stratton, associate librarian for business and economics, was elected as president of the University of Kansas Senate and chair of the University Senate Executive Committee, serving 2009-10.

George Gibbs, head of the Gorton Music & Dance Library, presented “Centron Films: a Filmography” in March 2009, describing his scholarly work with the film collection, housed in the Kansas Collection at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Additionally, the National Film Preservation Foundation had granted $11,000 to preserve three of the Centron films.

Last July, KU Librarians Deborah Ludwig and Jennifer Church-Duran joined KU Libraries’ administrative team. Ludwig, assistant dean for collections and scholar services, leads collection development, preservation, scholar services and international area studies. Church-Duran, assistant dean for user services, works to embed the libraries in academic programs to advance the university’s mission.

Deborah Dandridge, field archivist for the Kansas Collection, established an ongoing oral history project documenting African American medical health care providers in Kansas City. The project will operate in partnership with the KU Medical Center.

What’s next? Sarah Goodwin Thiel is leading the creation of several exhibitions for the new Library Gallery in Watson Library. The exhibitions, which highlight library collections and campus scholarship, cover topics including scholarly communications and outreach during the height of AIDS epidemic. The exhibitions feature an online component at www.lib.ku.edu/exhibits.
The libraries are committed to increasing access to their new, unique and unprocessed holdings. They added 240,000 new bibliographic records to the catalog this year, representing electronic serials, print, video, sound and manuscript collections and more. Since July 2007, 2,500 linear feet of manuscripts were cataloged and added to the collections.

The libraries continue to maximize the use of technology and streamline processing workflows, with the goal of making materials available as soon as possible, and as widely as possible. Scholar Services (a program of Information Services), along with the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, Dykes Library, the Spencer Museum of Art, the art history department and other campus partners have contributed images, maps, manuscripts and photographs to digital collections now holding nearly 100,000 images. Scholar Services has also made several KU-based images, journals and micrographs available online to readers and researchers throughout the world, through journals@KU (journals.ku.edu) and KU ScholarWorks (kuscholarworks.ku.edu).

The University of Kansas was a core partner in a multi-national, $475,700 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to design a next-generation, open-source library system flexible enough to meet the changing needs of 21st-century libraries and library users. The grant was awarded to Duke University Libraries to create the Open Library Environment (OLE) Project.

What’s next? KU librarians were instrumental in working with other faculty to prepare and to pass the first campus open access policy at a public university for deposit of author copies of journal articles into KU ScholarWorks in 2009. Now, work begins on implementation, a project spearheaded by Scholarly Communications Librarian Ada Emmett.
The 2009 LibQUAL+ survey was administered to faculty, staff and students last spring. Initial 2009 results and comparison of trends across surveys completed in 2003 and 2006 indicate a steady improvement in the quality of library services to the campus.

Library Instructional Services has developed a number of online tutorials for undergraduates, focusing on essential library research tools and skills, such as using the library catalog. These tutorials, as well as virtual library tours, will be available to students this fall via Blackboard (KU’s online course content system), KU’s YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/KU) and KU Libraries’ Web site.

Several nationally and internationally recognized speakers came to KU Libraries to help us explore issues related to service quality and the future of libraries and librarianship: Dr. Susan Gibbons spoke on “Studying Your Students: Adapting and Designing Spaces Based on User Studies,” covering a range of topics relating to how we focus on our users and engage them in planning and implementing changes in library programs, services and facilities. Andrew Pace presented “Library 2.0 in a Webscale World,” exploring how Library 2.0 will affect libraries and library systems.

In the coming year, Library Instructional Services will explore ways to meet the growing demand from undergraduates for “point of need” technology help.
In 2008, KU Libraries launched its newly created Board of Advocates, whose members provide human and financial resources to promote and achieve the mission and vision of KU Libraries.

In cooperation with the KU Endowment Association, KU Libraries launched a new annual fund effort to reach out to former library student employees.

KU Football Coach Mark Mangino shed light on the growing fiscal needs of university libraries through a fundraiser held at the Anderson Football Complex on May 5, one of more than 12 major events held for KU Libraries friends and benefactors in 2008-09.

Librarians and staff members brought the Lawrence and campus communities together with a series of events and programs for National Poetry Month in April.

**What’s next?** In Fall 2009, KU Libraries will launch the Vosper Society. The society, named in honor of internationally acclaimed former dean of KU Libraries, Robert Vosper, will recognize donors on an annual basis and provide benefits including special event invitations. To learn more see [www.lib.ku.edu/giving](http://www.lib.ku.edu/giving).
Mission
The University of Kansas Libraries are dynamic partners and campus leaders in advancing inquiry and learning for KU, for the state of Kansas and for an ever-expanding community of world scholars. We acquire, organize, disseminate and preserve scholarship in traditional and digital forms; we develop and deliver on-demand tools and services through creative means to enhance research and teaching; and we help students become information literate, technologically sophisticated and globally aware.

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