



# State of KU Libraries 2023-24

*A look back, a look ahead*

March 21, 2024

**KU** LIBRARIES  
The University of Kansas



# Overview

## *Looking back: 2023* *Major Accomplishments*

- **By portfolio**
  - *Distinctive Collections*
  - *Research Engagement*
  - *Cataloging, Acquisitions & Access Services*
  - *Communications & Advancement*
  - *Administrative Services*
- **DEIB, Accessibility & Wellness**
- **Honors & Awards**

## *Looking ahead: 2024*

- **Watson 100 & capital projects**
- **New mission, vision, values**
- **2024-28 Strategic Plan highlights**





# Looking back: 2023

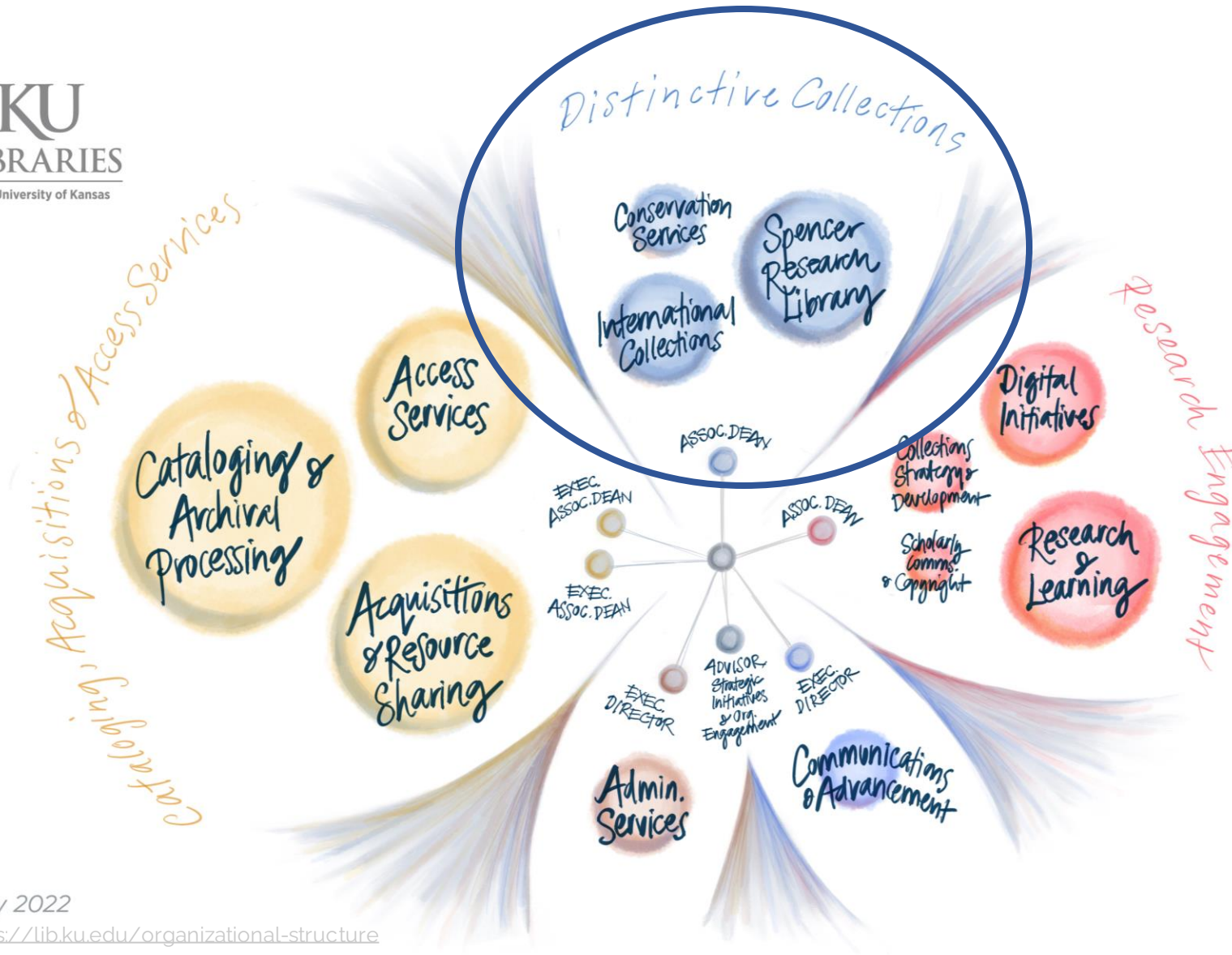
## *Major Accomplishments*



## Library Divisions

### Distinctive Collections

- Beth Whittaker, AD



# *Distinctive Collections:* 2023 SNAPSHOT



## *Spencer Research Library*

- **745 in-person researchers** visited the Reading Room
  - (50% KU undergrad/grad students)
- **87 tours & events** for campus, K-12, community, national, & international groups
- **128 instruction sessions** led for KU classes, reaching more than **1,300 students**



## *Conservation Services*

- **2,786 items repaired** in-house
- **305 audio, video, and film** digitized
- **290 visitors** to the conservation lab, including KU students, K-12 students, & community



## *International Collections*

- **Approx. 1.5M items in non-English languages**
  - (Approx. 25% of KU's 5.78M print collection)
- KU Libraries collections **span almost 400 languages!**

# ***Distinctive Collections:*** **Major Accomplishments**



## ***Consul visits***

- Apr. 24: Visit by the **Italian Consul General, Thomas Botzios** & the **Director of the Italian Institute of Culture** out of Chicago, **Luca Di Vito**, with KU faculty from the Dept. of French, Francophone & Italian Studies, Patrizio Ceccagnoli
- Dec. 7: Visit of **Mexican Consul Titular, Soileh Padilla Mayer**, out of Kansas City

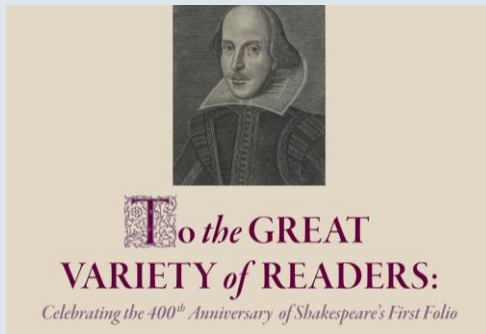
## ***Whayne Travel Award***

- **Brandon Byrd, Vanderbilt University**
  - *"Pap: The Life and Lessons of Benjamin Singleton"*

## ***Spencer Travel Award***

- **Paul Hutchinson, University of Bristol, United Kingdom**
  - *"Every Damn One of 'Em's Got a Little Piece of Land in His Head": Masculinity & Ecological Crisis in the Dust Bowl*
- **Bethan Johnson, Harvard University**
  - *Alpha: James Mason and His Lone Wolf Army's War on the World*
- **Christina Lord, University of North Carolina Wilmington**
  - *From French Comics to "Star Wars": Trans-Atlantic Visual Culture in Science Fiction*
- **Daniel Ruggles, Brandeis University**
  - *Conservative Student Organizations and the American Right, 1960-Present*

# Distinctive Collections: Major Accomplishments



## Exhibits

- [To the Great Variety of Readers: Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio](#)
  - **Sept. 2023 – Jan. 2024:** The inaugural exhibit in a new series of exhibitions co-curated by KU faculty and Spencer librarians and funded by a [major gift from David Bergeron and Geraldo Sousa](#)
- [Photographic Treasures of Historic Leavenworth, Kansas](#)
  - **Feb. – July 2023:** A traveling exhibit from the [Leavenworth County Historical Society](#) with supplemental materials from Spencer Research Library
- [Keeping the Books: The Rubinstein Collection of the Orsetti Family Business Archive](#)
  - **Sept. 2022 – Feb. 2023**
- Spencer "temporary" exhibits
- [In Search of Democracy: Contemporary Social Movements in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan](#)
- [Writing Materials & Instruments in East Asia: From ancient to contemporary periods](#)
- [China in Latin America](#)





# *Distinctive Collections:* Major Accomplishments

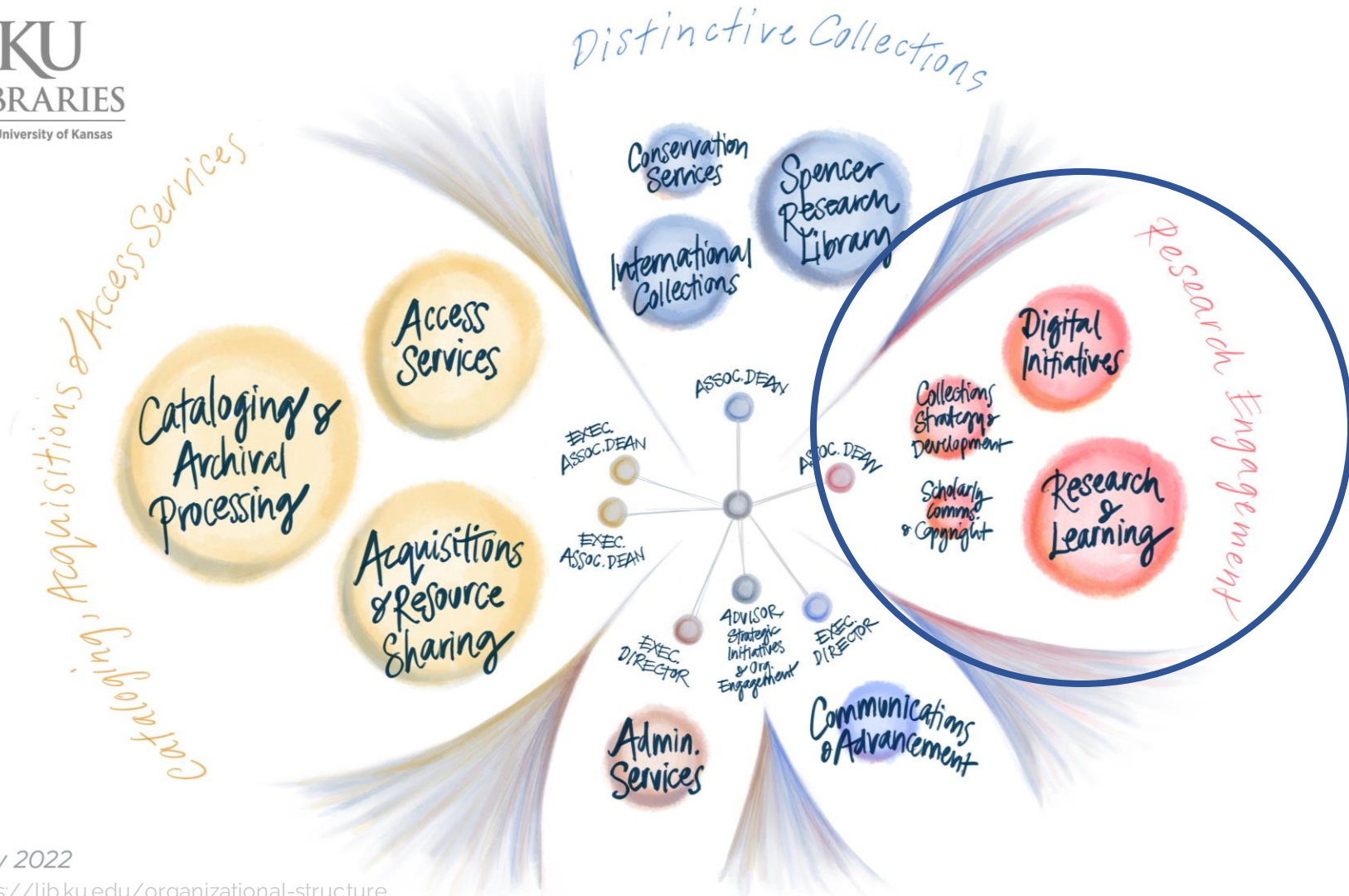
- Spencer & KUMC's Clendening Library joined the **Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine**
- Conservation Services hosted an **intern from the HBCU Preservation Alliance** (4th year)
- **Dardess Research Forum** for faculty and graduate students (East Asian)



## *Digitization & Born Digital: Team Effort*

- **Digital collections acquired for International Collections** (some with Title IV funding)
- **Digitization of KU Libraries resources**
- **Born digital workflows emerging** through work of cross-divisional team





## Library Divisions

### Distinctive Collections

- Beth Whittaker, AD

### Research Engagement

- Scott Hanrath, AD

# Research Engagement: 2023 SNAPSHOT



## Digital Initiatives

- Digitally publish **56 open journals** (\*soon to be 57!) / **1,054,494 downloads** (CY23)
- KU ScholarWorks: **29,111 items**, including **9,544** KU theses & dissertations
  - **2,115,500 downloads** (CY23)
- Almost **200,000 objects** with **500,000+ views** (2018+) in Digital Collections Repository

## Research & Learning

- **95 systematic review consultations/meetings** for 13 depts. & research centers
- **260 systematic reviews** by 420 authors published to Covidence platform
- More than **350 library instruction sessions** led (AY22-23)

## Collections Strategy & Development

- **85% of collections budget** devoted to electronic resources.
  - Elsevier titles comprise **15% of collections budget**
- **154 open access articles** by KU researchers published via APC waivers/discounts

## Scholarly Communication & Copyright

- Open Educational Resources OER initiatives: **38 awards** / **\$129,252 awarded**
  - Estimated **\$1,167,200 cost savings annually** for **11,592** individual students

# Research Engagement: Major Accomplishments



## Advancing research

- **Sprints Week**
  - 2 successful projects May 2023 + follow-up
- **Fridays on Fourth**
  - New collaboration for graduate students with Writing Center, Graduate Studies, & CTE
- **Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities**
  - Partnership with College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Hall Center for the Humanities
- **Data Carpentries Genomics**
  - Hosted workshops for 35 learners, teaching data management and analysis skills
- **Digital Projects Support Hub**
  - Web scraping, static websites, AI, mapping, data visualization + others

# Research Engagement: Major Accomplishments



## Student engagement

- **Makerspace:**
  - Events included **Plantshootz from Anschutz** where over 200 people got a baby plant and contributed to ideas for future programming and activities.
- **“De-Stress Study Sesh”**
  - November event to help students **prepare for finals** in collaboration with the KU Writing Center (Wingspan: Center for Learning & Writing Support)
- **“Watch it at Watson”**
  - First ever movie night during **Hawk Week** with a screening of “The Hunger Games” (67 students attended)

# Research Engagement: Major Accomplishments

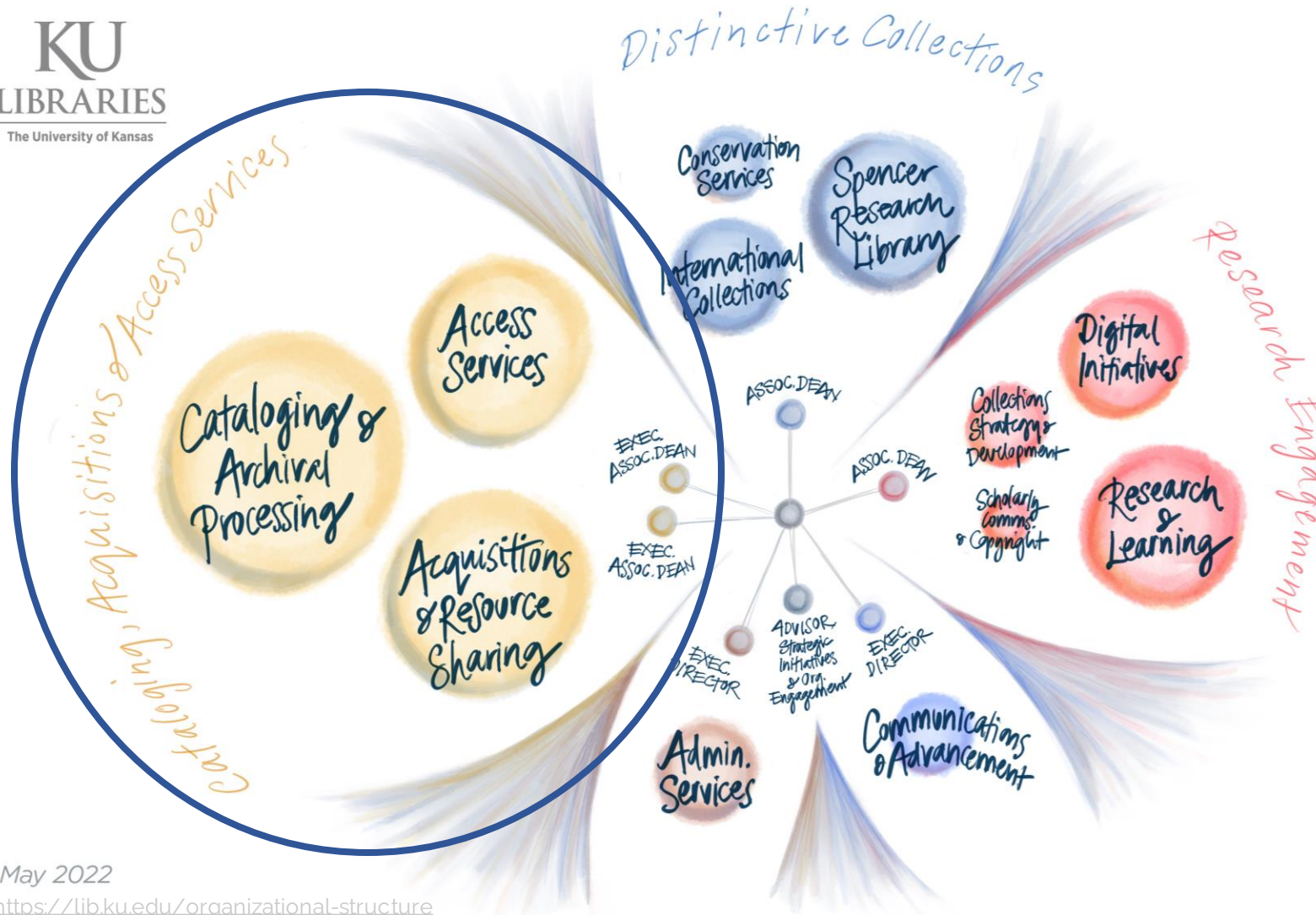


## Expanding content

- Collections Strategy & Development: **653 requests from users** → **purchases** via "Suggest a Purchase" form
- **11,000+ films in streaming collections** with the addition of Swank 1,000 and Kanopy's new subscription project, K-Base

## Advocating for open

- KU joined **HELIOS Open**, a network of higher education institutions working together to advance open knowledge production and practices with a focus on engaging with senior decision makers
- Worked with two editors of **5 journals to flip from closed to open**, as well as hosting community-building **Editors Forums**
- KU Libraries expanded open access publishing by signing partnerships with **6 different publishers that eliminate APCs** for KU researchers



## Library Divisions

### Distinctive Collections

- Beth Whittaker, AD

### Research Engagement

- Scott Hanrath, AD

### Cataloging, Acquisitions, & Access Services

- Mary Roach, Exec AD
- Kent Miller, Exec AD
- Jeromy Horkman, Dir. Of Public Operations

# Cataloging, Acquisitions & Access Services: 2023 SNAPSHOT



## Acquisitions & Resource Sharing

- **15,365 KU items loaned** to other institutions (FY23)
- **8,336 items borrowed** from other institutions (FY23)
- **11,532 new monographs (print & electronic) acquired**, up 6% from 2022
- **46 new databases (or database components) & 5 new journals added**, up 2% from 2022

## Cataloging & Archival Processing

- **117,901 print books & e-books processed & added to online catalog** (FY23)
- **566,072 new & corrected name and subject authority records** loaded into Voyager
- **100s of Library of Congress historically-inappropriate or obsolete subject headings** remediated
- **132,283 items from 5 on-campus libraries prepared for accessioning into the Annex** (FY23)

## Library Annex

- **173,304 items accessioned** (CY23), and **2,447,340 total items accessioned** (as of 3/11/24)

## Access Services & Space Usage

- **62,011 items circulated** (FY23)
- **535,257 users visits** to all library locations over 135 hours per week (CY23)
- **4,307 different students reserved study rooms** via **25,571 booking slots** (CY23)

# Cataloging, Acquisitions & Access Services: Major Accomplishments



## *Library Annex*

- A **record year at the Annex**: most accessioned items (with team of 3 FTE)
- In the process of **replacing 17-year-old order picker** in Library Annex

## *Employee environments*

- Refreshed **furnishings** in Acquisitions, providing **adjustable-height workstations and task lighting** for staff and students
- Refreshed **staff offices** in Anschutz Library
- Completed upgrades to the **Library Administrative Office**, partnering with the Office of Communications & Advancement in advance of the space's **naming as the Ranz Administrative Suite**



## *Welcoming & engaging spaces*

- New **building entrance doors** installed in Watson and Spencer to enhance environmental controls and improve security
- Two locations added activity tables near lobby seating for **de-stressing and brain breaks**
- Operations Managers began **decorating service points** to be more welcoming



# Cataloging, Acquisitions & Access Services: Major Accomplishments



## Acquisitions & Resource Sharing

- **Finalized 5 new Read and Publish agreements**
  - Elsevier, Company of Biologists, Cambridge R&P, Frontiers, PeerJ
- **ADA review of new online resource requests implemented**
- **Open Access (OA) fund reporting** operationalized

## Cataloging & Archival Processing

- **Completed our serial archive building commitment to WEST** (West Regional Storage Trust)
  - KU has participated in this distributed print serial repository program since 2011
- **Provided a selection of our records to new shared catalogs:**
  - **Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC):** provided bibliographic information for **14,434 items**
  - **Consortium for History of Science, Technology & Medicine:** provided **247,258 MARC records** (all Spencer holdings, including those in the Annex)
- Inventoried & preserved **historic Cornish Studios glass plate negatives** through Ringle internship
- **Rehoused John Gould Ornithological Collection** and worked with Digital Initiatives to **better preserve**
- Prioritized processing workflows: **African American Experience Collection** and **BIPOC new acquisitions**, as well as **materials for instruction or public use/exhibitions**

# Cataloging, Acquisitions & Access Services: Major Accomplishments



## Welcoming & engaging spaces

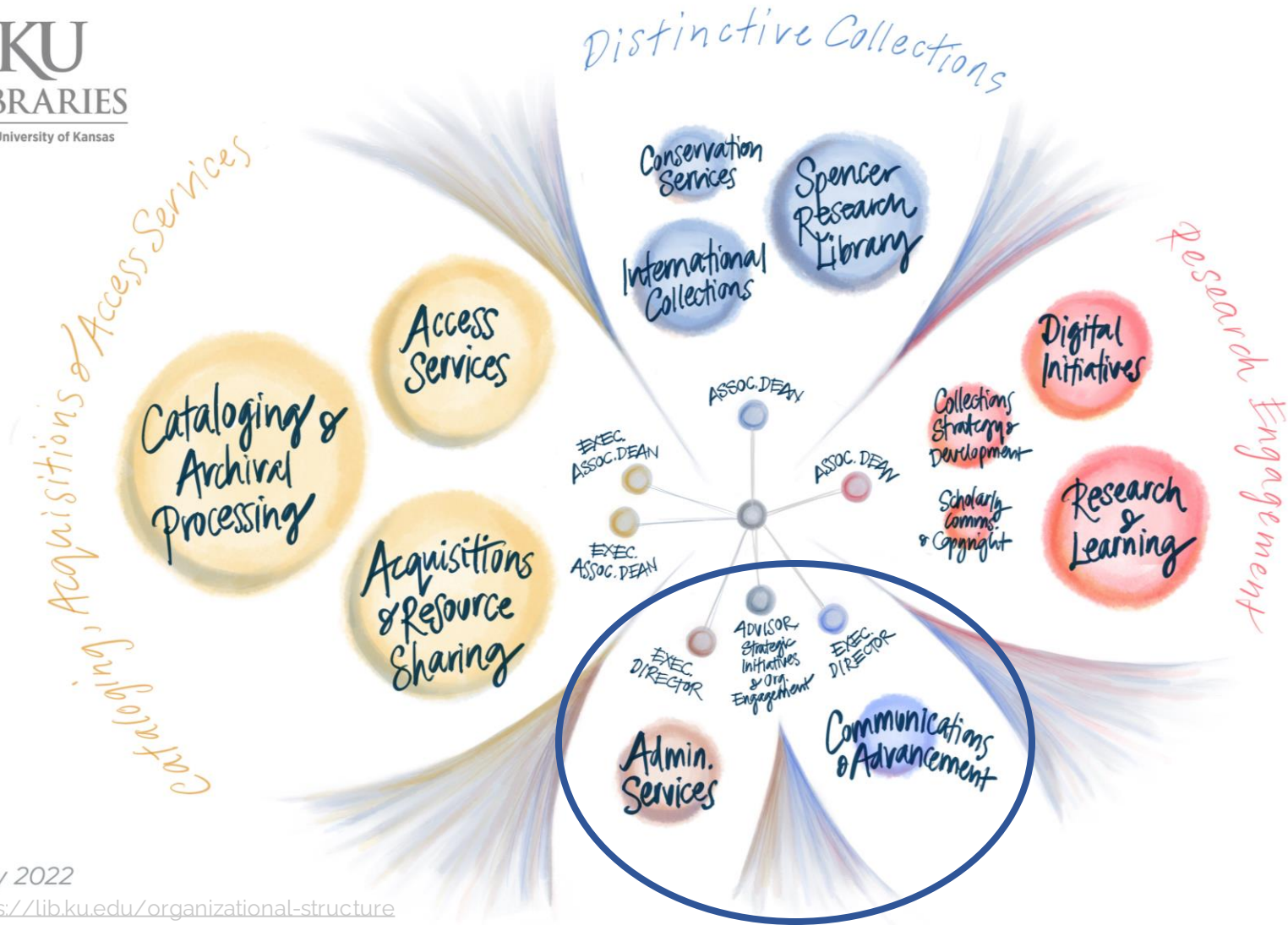
- **Anschutz:**
  - *Beaham Reading Room refreshed* with all new furniture
  - *Opened all of 2 South as a user study environment*
  - *New service desk*
- **Music & Dance Library:**
  - *Underwent a public furniture refresh* with a variety of new public seating
  - *Introduced a new display and exhibit space* to highlight collections
- **Art & Architecture Library:**
  - *Developed two new exhibits a year* to highlight the closed stacks collections



## Community hub

- **LibArt program: student art exhibition**
  - *Highest annual submissions* of student artwork for display across library locations
  - *Inaugural monetary awards presented* to LibArt student artists
- **Upgraded A/V technology** in Watson 3 West and Spencer's Johnson Room and North Gallery to support expanded **events/conference opportunities**
- **Watson 3 West & 455** have become very popular campus meeting spaces





## Library Divisions

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### Research Engagement

- Scott Hanrath, AD

### Cataloging, Acquisitions, & Access Services

- Mary Roach, Exec AD
- Kent Miller, Exec AD
- Jeromy Horkman, Dir. Of Public Operations

### Communications & Advancement

- Christy McWard, Exec. Dir.

### Administrative Services

- Mike Broadwell, Exec. Dir.

# Communications & Advancement

## Major Accomplishments

- Relunched **alumni outreach program**, partnering with KU Alumni Association and University Archives to develop two traveling exhibits:
  - *Rock Chalk Rally*
  - *Highlights by the Hundreds*
  - *Thank you, KU Alumni Assoc.!*
- Campus engagement: Planned and implemented **65 events**



# Communications & Advancement Major Accomplishments



- Work was recognized with **two ALADN Awards**, winning top honors for "Best Social Media" and "Best Marketing Materials"
- Started the **revamp of existing communication materials**
- Repositioned libraries' **social media strategy** and launched **BiblioBios**
- Celebrated the dedication of **a new major gift to Watson Library**
  - *Many thanks to KU Endowment!*
- Launched the **Watson Centennial Celebration** planning and branding effort



# Communications & Advancement

## Major Accomplishments



### *Digital Storytelling & Social Media Engagement Strategy Focus*

- **Facebook.com/kulibraries**
  - Libraries' platform **content increased 389%**
    - **Doubled reach** per post
    - **Tripled engagement** per post
- **Instagram.com/kulibraries**
  - Libraries' platform **content increased 227%**
    - **Engagement increased 184%**
- **YouTube.com/@kulibraries**
  - Created 17 new storytelling videos
    - **Viewership increased 19%**
    - **Watch time increased 18%**

### *Campus + Community Communications*

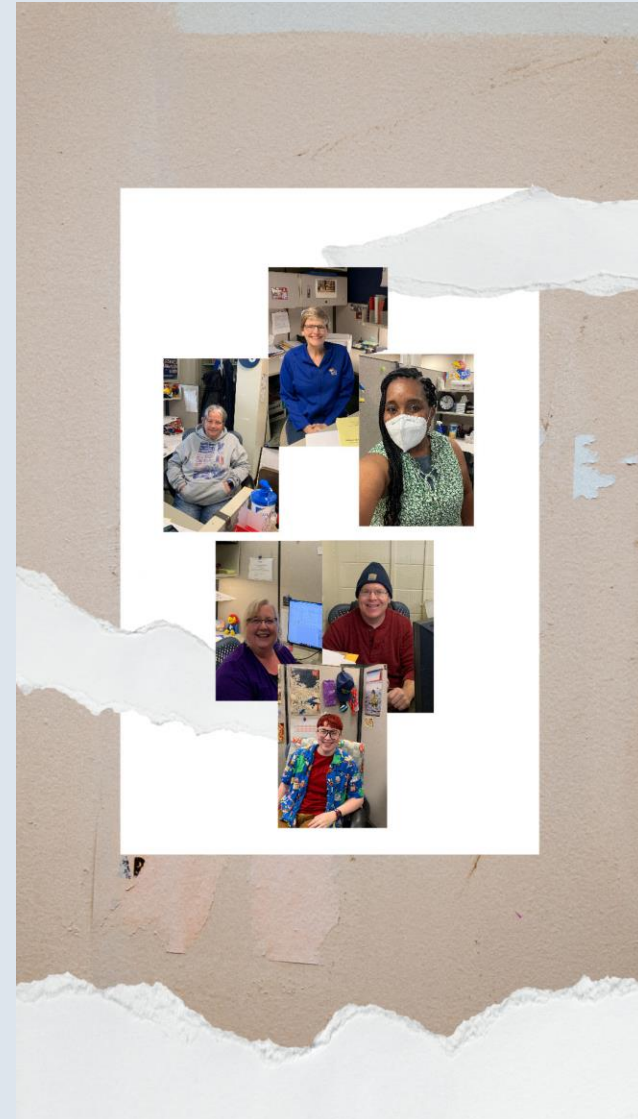
- **54 news releases**, stories and highlights featured in *KU Today*
- Visit [lib.ku.edu/pressroom](http://lib.ku.edu/pressroom) to view all news and publications from KU Libraries

# Administrative Services

## Major Accomplishments

### Our People

- Hired and onboarded **21 faculty and staff members**
- Processed and offboarded **11 departures**
- Enhanced **onboarding, orientation mentor programs**
- **Coaching program:**
  - Professional coaching - 9 coaching assignments, 24 sessions
  - Strengths coaching - 21 coaching sessions
- Piloting **Talent Development Initiative** in collaboration with libraries staff governance
- Continued enhancements to libraries' **administrative business workflows**
- **Faculty PT processes:**
  - 2 promotions
  - 2 sabbaticals
  - 1 PTTR (Progress Toward Tenure Review)
  - 2 PTRs (Post-Tenure Review)



# STUDENT Honors & Awards

- **Dean's Award for Student Employee Excellence (DASEE):**
  - Jenna Bellemere
  - Belle Cersovsky
- **Snyder Book Collecting Contest**
  - *Undergraduate winners*
    - John Lubianetsky
    - Zac Kitay
    - Weston Curnow
  - *Graduate winners*
    - Tiffani Hagan
    - Brynn Fitzsimmons
    - Hazlet Henderson







# LIBRARY TEAM Honors & Awards

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- **Staff Excellence Awards:**

- Tahirih Mullen
- Jim Richey

- **Sanders Scholar Award:**


- Amalia Monroe-Gulick + scholar Vydhika Krishna Meka
- Scott McEathron + scholar Sarah Crossley
- Brian Rosenblum + scholar Carola Emkow

- **Promotion & Tenure**

- Jill Becker, *Assoc. Librarian + Tenure*
- Michael Peper, *Assoc. Librarian + Tenure*

- **ARL Leadership Fellow**

- Scott Hanrath



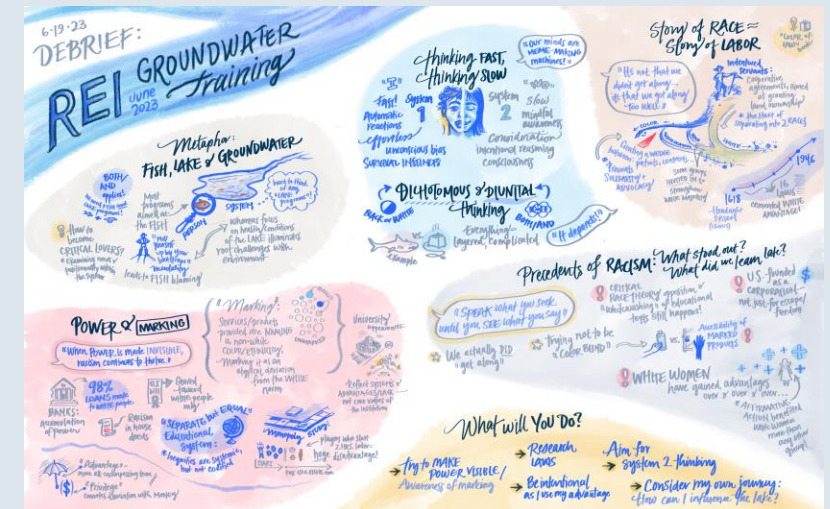
# UNIVERSITY Honors & Awards

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- **Shulenburger Award for Innovation & Advocacy in Scholarly Communication:**
    - **Bruce Lieberman**
      - *Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*
      - *Senior Curator, Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum*
    - **Cameron W. Piercy**
      - *Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Communication Studies*
      - *Founding Director, Human-Machine Communication Lab*

# Focus & integration: DEIB Priorities

## Notable Actions

- Racial Equity Institute Phase I training
- Adoption of Juneteenth "Day of Reflection, Healing, & Learning"
- Creation of Disability and Accessibility Tutorial
- Collective work in goals and professional performance





# Focus & integration: DEIB Priorities

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## 2023-24 DEIB/RISE Priorities:

1. **Reinvigorate/revive a DEIB Steering Committee and create a new DEIB Advisory Committee that provide input and feedback on a diverse representation of identities, perspectives, and library units.**
2. **Infuse DEIB/RISE priorities throughout KU Libraries' 2024-26 strategic plan. Ensure that plan forefronts DEIB efforts, aligning with and advancing RISE priorities.**
3. **Expand DEIB efforts to include overlapping and intersectional areas such as accessibility, mental health, employee engagement and well-being.**



# Looking ahead: 2024

*Capital projects*

*Mission, vision, & strategic directions*



# Capital Projects



## ***Watson Library...Turns 100 in 2024!***

- Last major renovation: 1978-82
- Fully embody and advance *Jayhawks Rising* “**Research & Discovery**”
- Vision includes **visible colocation of R&D initiatives; flexible event spaces;** new centers for **business research & global librarianship; digitization lab; scholarly makerspaces;** integrated, interactive **digital technologies;** and more
- Seeking **major capital campaign** for full renovation (\$100M+), centering on **expanded accessibility, sustainability,** inviting, flexible indoor & outdoor **research and learning spaces**

# Capital Projects



## ***Anschutz Library***

- Major **gathering place & campus crossroads** for undergraduates
- Fully embody and advance *Jayhawks Rising* **"Student Success"**
- Pressing need for **Student Success Center**
- Vision includes **full-service café** with adjoining **faculty lounge**, library **instruction space**, expanded **student success space**, more student **study space** (solo + group); **expanded makerspaces**
- Seeking a **program plan to guide** phased renovation over time

# Capital Projects



## *Library Annex*

- **Fundamental to opening up student-centered space** in both Watson and Anschutz
- Will reach **capacity in 3-5 years** (\*must break ground in 1 year)
- Approx. **\$16M+ project**



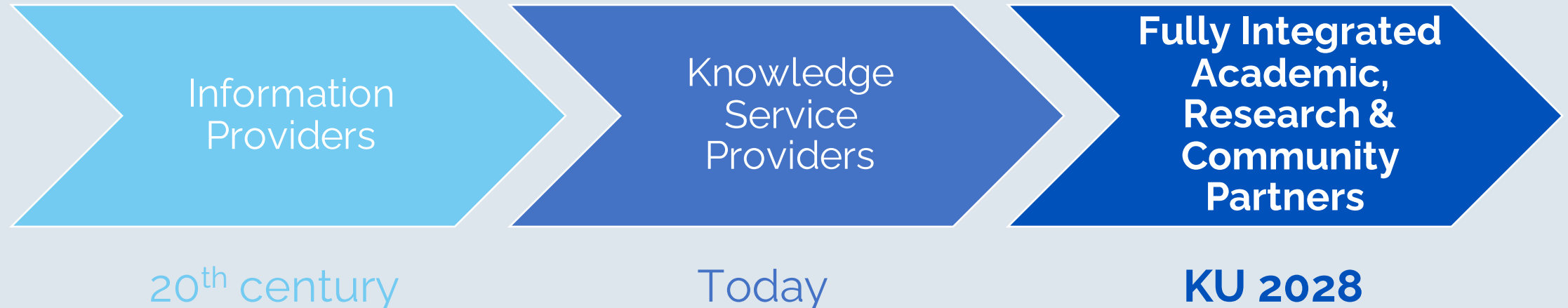
# KU Libraries: 2024-28

## MISSION

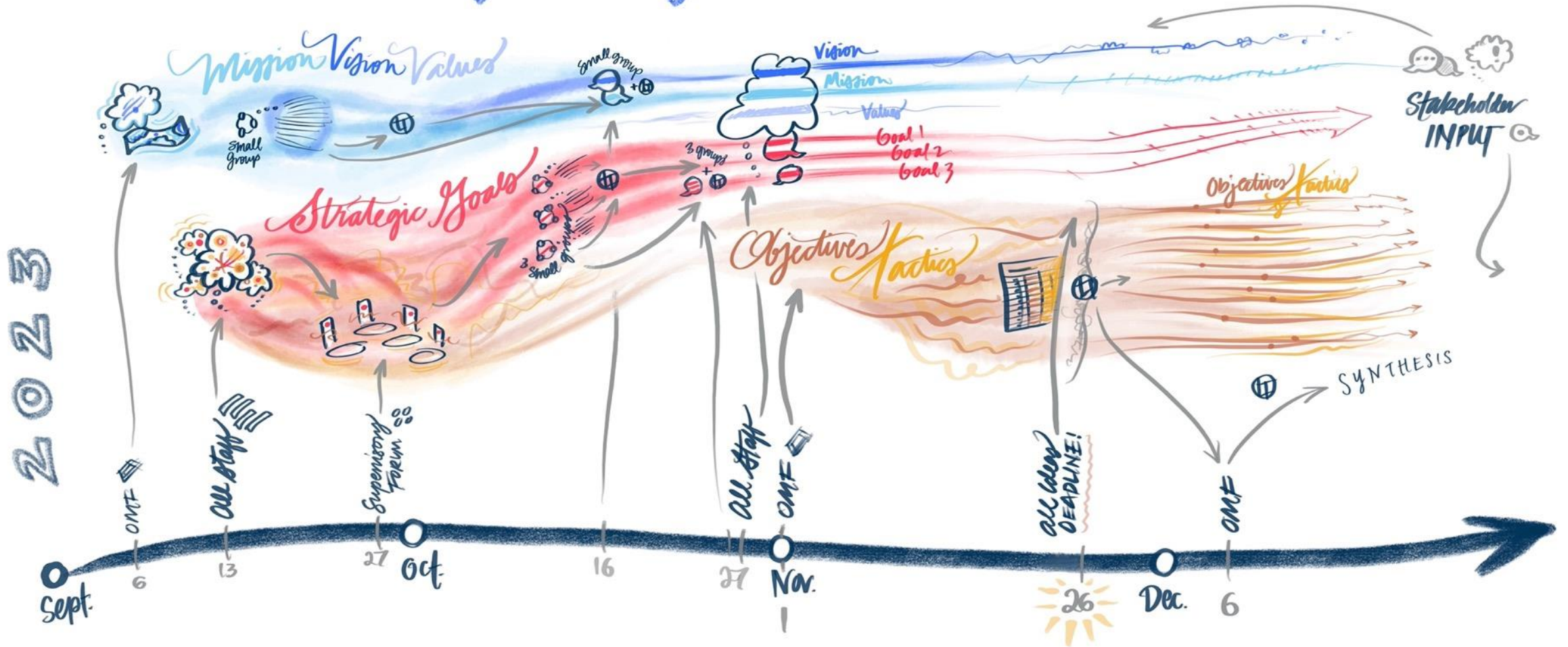
We advance research, teaching and learning at the **intersection** of **people** and ideas.

## VISION

We seek to empower all **learners** through **transformative partnerships** – opening doors, fueling knowledge creation, and cultivating our **communities**.



# KU LIBRARIES: Strategic Planning Timeline






## Major Strategic Initiatives: Student Success

Forge partnerships and experiences that **equip students as engaged, critical thinkers who thrive** in the classroom and beyond.

### Strategies:

OBJECTIVES:

- I. Continue to refine **innovative physical library spaces** that advance student success.
  - ● II. Transform and expand **library instruction** in support of student success.
  - ● III. Enrich and elevate **student research and learning experiences**.
  - ● IV. Contribute significantly to the **financial accessibility** of a KU education.
- 

## Major Strategic Initiatives:

# Research & Discovery

*Amplify researcher impact through expertise, community, and diverse resources that **propel knowledge creation and sharing.***

### Strategies:



OBJECTIVES:


- I. **Expand the open discoverability, preservation, and impact** of KU's information resources, distinctive holdings, and scholarship.
- II. Enhance and **upgrade the libraries' internal and external information architecture.**
- III. Expand capabilities in strategic new areas to **enrich, advance, and showcase researcher impact.**
- IV. **Broaden KU Libraries' global connections and impact.** Increase our efficacy, leadership, and academic library reputation through **shared approaches** to information resources and disciplinary challenges.
- V. Apply new methods to **assess, strengthen, and streamline** library decision-making, workflows, and processes.

## Major Strategic Initiatives:

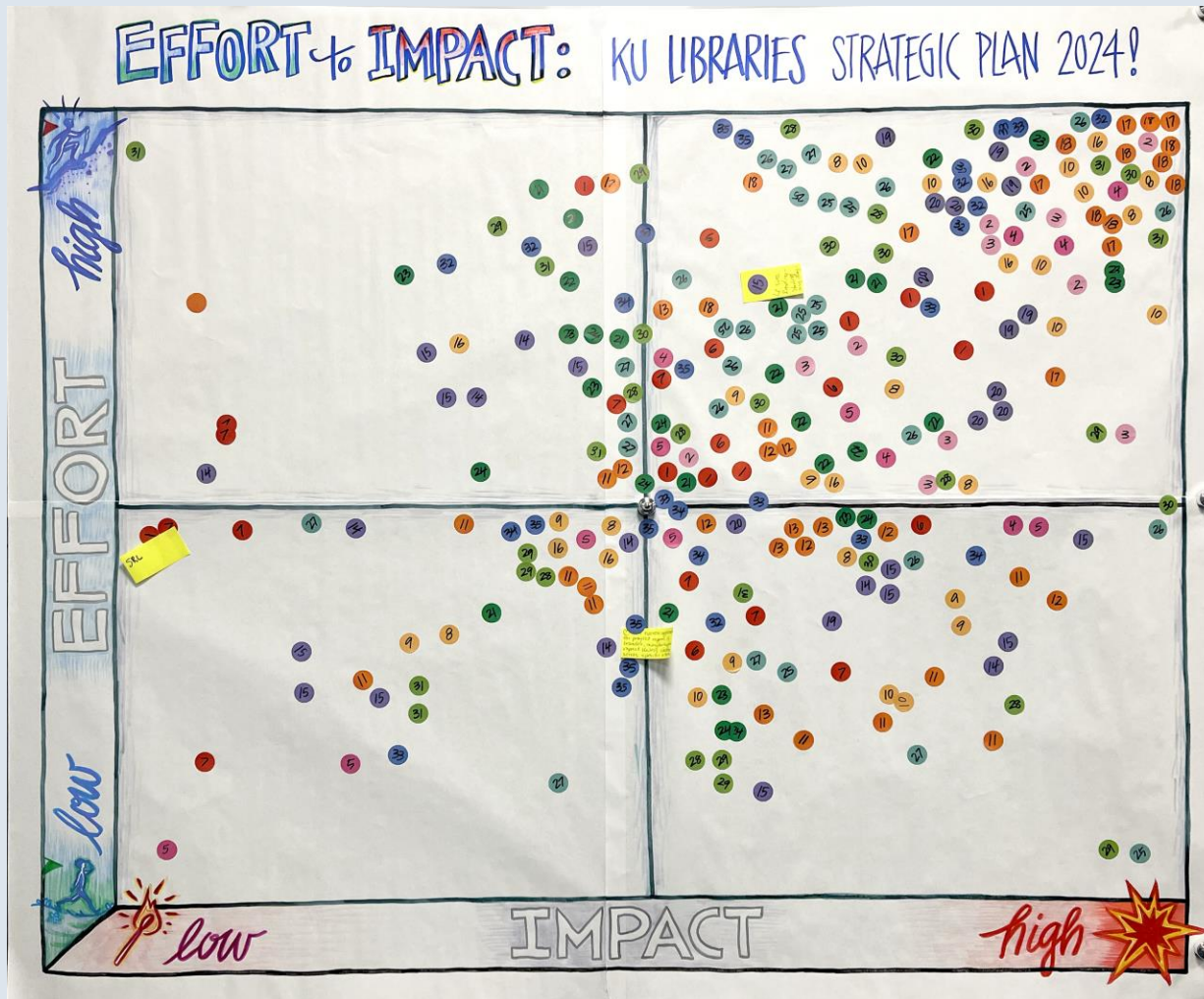
# Healthy & Vibrant Communities

*Elevate our communities by **fostering individual wellbeing, sparking interpersonal connections, and advancing society.***

### Strategies:

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- 
- OBJECTIVES:
- I. Nurture a library team and **communities of belonging that center wellbeing** – welcoming and benefiting from a **plurality of perspectives**.
  - II. Strengthen connection and growth through **increased community engagement**.
  - III. Foster community wellbeing via **creative expression, low-barrier innovative exploration, and leisure reading**.
  - IV. Model, promote, and build **sustainable communities**.
  - V. Develop **innovative, inspirational, aspirational physical spaces** that bring the community together in a spirit of learning.
  - VI. Increase library **team opportunities for talent development** and the **advancement of library initiatives**.

# Major Strategic Initiatives: 2024 Priority Objectives



**KU Libraries**

2024-28 Strategic Plan

Additional plan details coming soon:  
We are currently finalizing our complete framework of goals, strategies, objectives, and actions. Additional details will be integrated as soon as they are solidified.

[lib.ku.edu/strategic-plan](https://lib.ku.edu/strategic-plan)



# JAYHAWKS // RISING

*"To be an exceptional learning community that lifts each other and advances society."*



## Questions?

## Thank You!

