

2021

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2022

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## A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARIES LEADERSHIP



Welcome to *Annual Review*, our reflection on the past academic year of work and achievement at KU Libraries. In many ways, 2021-22 was one of the most notable years in our history. With grit and grace, the libraries rebounded from the intense turbulence of 2020. By creatively adapting and responding to shifting demands wrought by the pandemic, we discovered new opportunities to serve the campus. In the following pages, you'll read stories of how our people and our collections illuminated generational connections among Jayhawks, advanced diversity in scholarship, preserved and documented Kansas' African American history, supported faculty research, and partnered in the development of instructional materials using interactive mapping technology.

We are grateful to Dean Kevin L. Smith, under whose leadership we navigated that resilient return, welcoming KU students and faculty fully and safely into our library spaces in fall 2021. Dean Smith served KU Libraries for six years before leaving in July 2022 for an opportunity to serve as library director at Colby College, where he will be closer to family. We appreciate his service to KU Libraries and wish him all the best in his new endeavors in Maine.

We are excited and honored to embark on a new academic year as interim co-deans while the search for a new permanent dean takes shape. We look forward to leading KU Libraries as we continue to transform lives by inspiring the discovery and creation of new knowledge for the university and our global community. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

R. Scott Hanrath  
Interim Co-Dean

Beth M. Whittaker  
Interim Co-Dean



# DISCOVERING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

## *Laura Phillips unearths grandfather's papers in University Archives*

**D**uring a tour of the Kenneth Spencer Research Library with the KU Libraries Student Ambassadors Program, Laura Phillips, a KU Libraries student ambassador, was surprised to find her grandfather's research papers in the University Archives from when he was a classics professor at KU. The serendipitous discovery gave Phillips a deeper connection to her grandfather and inspired her work as a classics student.

The late Oliver Phillips was the chair of the classics department and taught several courses in classics from 1964 to 1994. Laura remembers visiting him at his office in Watson Library as a child and exploring the stacks. The memory felt like déjà-vu when she came to KU as an undergrad years later. Laura referenced his papers while learning Latin and Greek as part of her own studies.

"Being able to reference his work for Latin class amongst all the other different papers I was reading felt like I had him as a teacher, which was really impactful and meaningful," Laura said. "It gave me a missing piece to my education that I thought I was always going to miss."

Along with discovering her grandfather's research papers, Laura discovered that a KU alum had published a 70-page interview with her grandfather about his life before becoming a professor. She learned everything from Oliver losing his house at age four during the Great Depression, to the mischief and pranks he pulled on his landlord.

"Discovering the interview humanized him in a way for me. He wasn't just this rockstar professor who had all these accomplishments; he was somebody who went through life, worked hard, and had obstacles," Laura said. "I can't begin to describe how meaningful it was for me to find these papers in the archives and to have these pieces of his life that I otherwise wouldn't ever know about."

Laura graduated from KU in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Languages and Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology. She went on to receive her masters from KU in May 2022.

"Discovering these papers was a really great way to end my time at KU," Laura said. ■

# LIBRARIES ADVOCATES

*Meet the KU Libraries Student Ambassadors supporting the libraries*

Meeting the needs of students is among the top priorities for KU Libraries. The Office of Communications and Advancement oversees and works closely with students through the KU Library Student Ambassadors Program (KULSAP) to better understand those needs while allowing students to engage and build awareness on campus to enhance library services and facilities.



## DEVIN ASKEW



Joining the KU Libraries Student Ambassador program in 2021, Devin Askew spent his year as an ambassador attending several Board of Advocates meetings, offering input in library focus groups, serving on the Watson Renovation Building Committee, and working as a student supervisor at the Watson Library circulation desk.

“I like the monthly KULSAP meetings and getting to converse with everyone about the libraries,” Askew said. “It’s nice to give input on how they can be improved.”

Devin enjoys working with a team and helping to create changes that can be made within the libraries. He graduated in May 2022 with a degree in chemical engineering.

## PHUONG TRUONG



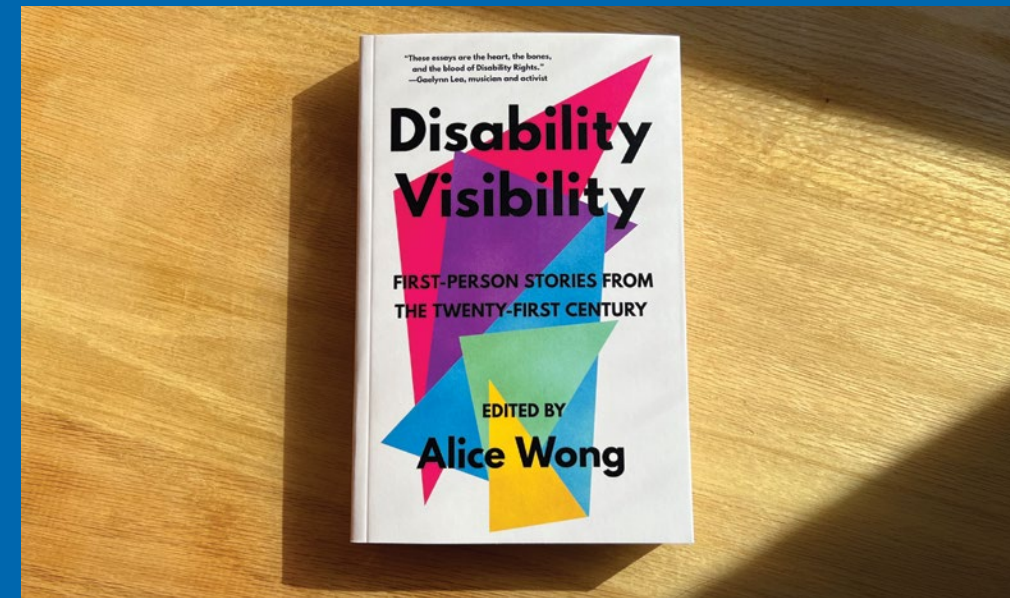
Curiosity struck for new KU grad Phuong Truong two years ago when she discovered the KU Libraries Student Ambassador program. Learning how the library was organized fascinated her and it led her to many accomplishments, including helping to craft and establish the program’s constitution.

“I helped with how to write a better constitution for KULSAP and what items we need to have for the organization to run smoothly,” Truong said. “Students work collaboratively with the libraries and I think it is one of my biggest achievements.”

Truong said that her time with KULSAP has inspired her to get involved with other libraries in her area. She graduated in May 2022 with a degree in supply chain management and business analytics.

# FOCUS ON STUDENTS

*Libraries support for Jayhawk success*



## KU COMMON BOOK HIGHLIGHTS DISABILITY JUSTICE AND AWARENESS

The University of Kansas’ Common Book program announced the 2022-23 selection, “Disability Visibility: First-person Stories from the Twenty-First Century,” edited by disability rights activist Alice Wong. This anthology of personal essays by disabled people explores the complexities of the contemporary disabled experience, challenges assumptions, deepens understanding, and celebrates disability culture.

With “Disability Visibility,” KU celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Common Book. The program builds community among students, faculty, and staff; encourages intellectual engagement through reading and discussion; and creates shared conversation about topics and issues of significance in today’s world. This is the first year that the Common Book program has been under KU Libraries’ leadership after the program was transferred from the Office of First Year Experience.

The KU Common Book program is presented through a partnership among KU Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Division of Academic Success. KU Libraries are excited to take on this program to further facilitate conversations on campus and across the community.



## LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION

Students gathered in Anschutz Library at the end of the semester for the Long Night Against Procrastination, an evening of food, stress-relieving activities, research help the libraries, and writing help from the KU Writing Center just in time for finals.



## FINALS ARE RUFF

KU Libraries welcomed some furry friends from the KU Health Education Resource Office as a stress-relieving opportunity during finals week. The therapy dogs gave students in Watson and Anschutz a break from studying to get some puppy love.

# EQUITY IN CRITICAL LIBRARIANSHIP

## *L. Marie Avila selected as a Mellon teaching scholar*

In spring 2022, KU Libraries undergraduate engagement librarian L. Marie Avila was one of nine scholars chosen to be part of a fellowship that advances diversity, equity, and inclusion through teaching in partnership with the Center for Teaching Excellence, Lied Center, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a grant to the University of Kansas's Lied Center to support "Utilizing the Performing Arts to Enhance Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives." The Mellon teaching scholars will collaborate with a rich and diverse cohort of Mellon curriculum writers to implement and engage with syllabi in the coming academic year.

Avila's work at KU Libraries focuses on information literacy in undergraduate research and learning to create a pathway to student success. Her teaching provides students with library knowledge and the tools they need to navigate information in the academic world and beyond. As a first-generation graduate of higher education, she is familiar with the barriers in the undergraduate and graduate student experience.

"Libraries are part of that pipeline to success, but I had to be mindful when applying to this fellowship that my position and library instruction are a different framework and discipline from other teachers or professors that have been teaching for years," Avila said.

Avila said she looks to bridge her library instruction and the experience gained in the fellowship to instruct an interdisciplinary approach to accessing libraries' digital and physical collections in issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion while highlighting "other ways of knowing."

One of the spring 2022 events in the partnership with the Lied Center was the "Red Sky Performance: TRACE," an Indigenous performing arts production, which introduced the work by the curriculum writers and the fellows. The focus on an Indigenous culture also tied into Avila's own experiences as an urban Native American and tribal citizen of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan, and as an Indigenous scholar. ■

“

I am contributing to a curriculum that will center equity in storytelling, helping to bring these stories to the forefront using library resources. Critical librarianship provides the framework to look at contemporary and historical narratives through a social justice lens.

”

-L. Marie Avila



# HONORING A LEGACY



## *Eleanor Woodyard pays tribute to late husband, George, through library support*

Living in Lawrence for more than 55 years, Eleanor Woodyard has cultivated a beautiful life filled with her favorite things. Inside Eleanor's home one will find treasured keepsakes from trips around the world and photographs of her beloved family, including her late husband, George W. Woodyard.

George and Eleanor moved to Lawrence when George became a professor at the University of Kansas in 1966. The couple entertained scholars and traveling guests from around the world as part of George's role in the Spanish and Portuguese department. He would later go on to serve as Dean of International Programs at KU. George and Eleanor always found themselves drawn to the campus libraries, and KU Libraries quickly became an enduring point of interest.

"KU was not my alma mater, nor George's, but we always found ourselves wanting to support the libraries," Eleanor said.

“

**We are big believers that while nobody graduates from the libraries, every student uses the libraries to graduate.**

”

**-Eleanor Woodyard**

George generously served as an inaugural member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates. After he passed away in 2010, Eleanor was invited to take his place as an Advocate.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted to be asked to join the Board of Advocates," Eleanor said. "It was such a great opportunity for me to be involved in



The plaque in the study carrel named in honor of George.

the libraries, too, and to be there for the community and the university."

Kenneth Spencer Research Library is home to the personal papers of George Woodyard, consisting of many of his publications, awards, and papers detailing his extensive travels.

"George was thrilled that KU Libraries wanted the books he collected and the research papers he worked on," Eleanor said. "He was renowned for his work in Latin American theater, and he brought in many important people from around the world, exposing the university to different cultures and individuals."

When the carrels in Watson Library underwent a renovation and opened for naming opportunities, Eleanor knew she wanted to dedicate a space to George, honoring his legacy. During his academic career, George spent a lot of time in the carrels at the University of Illinois, where he received his Ph.D. in Spanish. Eleanor found that George was often looking for a quiet place to study outside of their house, where she was hard at work raising their four children, three of whom attended KU.

"George used the carrels so much to do his own research, so it seemed logical that I should sponsor a carrel at Watson Library," Eleanor said. "All our kids and the grandkids came to campus to see the space, and they were so excited that he was being recognized." ■

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## *Deborah Dandridge's documentation and preservation of African American history in Kansas*

Exploring dusty boxes in the basements of Kansas City businesses isn't exactly what comes to mind for most people when they think of the job of a library archivist, but it's exactly the type of work that Deborah Dandridge has been doing since the 1980s.

Dandridge joined KU Libraries through a National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant. With her background in history and African American studies, she said that joining KU Libraries as a field archivist and curator of African American Experience Collections in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library felt perfect for her.

As a field archivist, Dandridge makes connections with the local community in search of pieces of history that could be preserved and kept safe at Spencer. Much of her work focuses on the lives of everyday African Americans in Kansas and the surrounding region. That means going to where the people are, in their homes, businesses, and places of worship in order to document and preserve their stories.

"My community activism is getting people to understand the importance of preserving the things they thought were only for personal use, and putting them in a place where you know they'll be

maintained and people will have access to them," Dandridge said.

However, it's not always easy to persuade members of a historically marginalized community to trust her and the institution she represents with their family's history. The University of Kansas is not a historically Black college, and Dandridge is more often than not a stranger to the people she visits. She has to earn their trust and show them that donating their records and materials to the Kenneth Spencer Research Library is worthwhile, and that their family documents will be handled with care.

Dandridge recalled the time she sat with the late Clarence Love, who had been a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, in his front yard to persuade him to donate his legislative documents to KU Libraries.

"Before I even began my spiel of trying to persuade him to donate his legislative papers, he said 'Now, what do you know about Black history?' That is an experience I will never ever forget."

Dandridge has been recognized with many awards and honors during her time at KU Libraries. Most recently, she was the 2020 recipient of the Dorothy Porter Wesley Award from the



Items on display at the Topeka Council of Colored Women's Club.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History. She has also worked on various community projects in her position. This year, Dandridge helped create a banner for the Topeka Council of Colored Women's Club. ■

“

**My hope is that this work will continue and expand. I think it's important because we want to document all people in our region. And that's going to require a lot of effort, people, and financial resources.**

”

**-Deborah Dandridge**



# MAPPING OUT HISTORY

*Dr. Rami Zeedan leverages the libraries' expertise during Sprints Week*

Sprints Week made its comeback this year at KU Libraries with the promise of innovation and collaboration between faculty and librarians. Sprints Week, held every year in May following finals, is an opportunity for KU librarians to partner with faculty and academic staff for one week on a teaching or research project. This year, Assistant Professor of Israel Studies and the Undergraduate Director of the Jewish Studies Program, Dr. Rami Zeedan, underwent his Sprints Week project to create new instructional material for his class on the 1948 war that established Israel as a country.

Zeedan reached out to the libraries and joined Sprints Week to create instructional material that would allow students to see the shifting of borders in Israel and Palestine over time. Rather than just looking at static maps, Zeedan wanted students to work with the maps in a hands-on way using interactive technology.

"In my class I introduce the idea of using maps to make the learning of history much more accessible and useful," Zeedan said. "I wanted to transform an assignment I already had to make it more of a digital humanities project."

Three KU librarians — Michael Peper, head of the center for faculty and staff initiatives and engagement, Samantha Bishop Simmons, humanities librarian, and Scott McEathron, head of the



center for graduate initiatives and engagement — gathered in Watson Library for five days to work with Professor Zeedan on this project.

"We touched on a lot of different library sources that could be relevant, both to this course and to other research that Professor Zeedan was doing," Peper said. "It really felt like we accomplished

the goal of exposing KU faculty to the breadth of what is available at KU Libraries."

Zeedan wanted to make sure that the technology used for this project was free, online, and easily accessible to students. With these ideas in mind, the team settled on Google Earth Pro to create a framework that would allow students to visualize and interact with the maps.

"The team went above and beyond in meeting my expectations," Zeedan said. "The next time I have a question, I will definitely reach out to the libraries since they have such good connections and resources." ■

# EXPANDING OPEN ACCESS

*Opening doors to equitable education*



KU Libraries' many open access initiatives help us reach our goal of providing easily available resources and information to the entire campus community and beyond.

"It's been a good year for open access at KU," said Josh Bolick, head of the Shulenburg Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright at KU Libraries. "Both the Faculty Senate and University Senate adopted resolutions supporting the libraries and advocating for open access, and a growing number of librarians and staff in KU Libraries are working toward greater openness in their roles."

The University Senate's new resolution adopts principles of open access at the university and outlines two key components. First, it encourages KU scholars to publish in open access journals and archive their articles in KU's open access digital repository, KU ScholarWorks. Second, it encourages the libraries to include open access as a guiding principle in journal negotiations for the university and to "prioritize openness by crafting agreements that advance open access and other methods of open dissemination for research outputs."

This resolution reaffirms many of the initiatives KU Libraries have taken on this year. In early spring, KU Libraries

reached a partnership with the Public Library of Science (PLOS) to waive author fees for Lawrence campus researchers. Before entering this agreement, KU researchers looking to publish in PLOS would pay hundreds — or even thousands — of dollars in fees. This agreement makes research publication more accessible and allows that research to reach a broader audience.

KU Libraries also recognized a new Textbook Heroes cohort in March to celebrate proponents of open access and education. Textbook Heroes are members of the KU community who have taken extraordinary initiative to increase access to and affordability of required course materials by implementing and advocating for Open Educational Resources (OER) and other low- and no-cost course materials. The 2022 Textbook Heroes are KU Libraries OER student assistant Axel Heinichen and Open Language Resource Center (OLRC) members Jonathan Perkins, director of the OLRC; Keah Cunningham, assistant director of the OLRC; and Katie Ashley, education program coordinator.

These initiatives are just some of the many open access projects advanced by KU Libraries. We hope to continue this work as we continue discussions with publishers and campus partners to increase accessibility and equity in scholarship. ■

# SHOWCASING SCHOLARSHIP

*Libraries' exhibitions and events shine a spotlight on research*



## MARY HUNTOON

“Mary Huntoon: Artist & Art Therapist” highlighted Mary Huntoon, a Kansas native whose art brightened the lives of many. KU Libraries and Spencer Museum of Art are home to a large collection of original artwork by Huntoon, as well as the Mary Huntoon papers, which include personal and business correspondence, original poetry manuscripts, photographs, and more. The exhibit was curated as part of a major conservation initiative supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and featured collection objects from both KU Libraries and the Spencer Museum.



Student and faculty panel discussing how “Braiding Sweetgrass” was used in their scholarship.

## SITTING IN A CIRCLE

“Sitting in a Circle” showcased the creative stories and reflections generated by students and faculty as they engaged with the 2021-22 Common Book, “Braiding Sweetgrass,” a book of Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teaching of plants. This library exhibition was the first since 2020, when events were suspended due to the pandemic. “Sitting in a Circle” was also the first exhibition to be displayed in the newly updated Haricombe Gallery. The update took the gallery from a print-based display to a virtual viewing space with online exhibits, story maps, and other technology that allow visitors to take a deeper look into the featured exhibits.



Beth Whittaker and Danny Caine judging Snyder Book Collecting Contest entries.

## SNYDER CONTEST

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, KU Libraries hosted the 64<sup>th</sup> annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest awards ceremony in April. Held since 1957, the Snyder Book Collecting Contest awards University of Kansas undergraduate and graduate students for their collections of books, digital items, graphic novels, music and film that share a particular subject, topic or theme. This year, past winner, author, and owner of The Raven bookstore, Danny Caine, judged the entries and offered the keynote presentation for the event.

# JAYHAWKS JOINING TOGETHER

*Unique collaboration opportunities continue to grow*



## JAYHAWK BOOK CLUB

Each semester, KU Libraries select a book for Jayhawk alumni and KU friends to read together and discuss online. In the fall of 2021, Jayhawk Book Club read “The Final Revival of Opal and Nev” by Dawnie Walton. “The Sweetness of Water” by Nathan Harris was the spring selection. For the summer selection “Woman on Fire,” members were able to talk with New York Times bestselling author Lisa Barr via Zoom.

Jayhawk Book Club is a partnership with the KU Alumni Association. Learn more and join the club at [rockcha.lk/JBC](https://rockcha.lk/JBC).



## REV UP THE RIVALRY

During basketball season, KU Libraries joined the KU Alumni Association’s Presidents Club for the Missouri and Kentucky pre-game events. University Archives items were exhibited at the events highlighting KU’s fierce and enduring rivalries with the University of Missouri and University of Kentucky.



## WATKINS SOCIETY



In May, KU Libraries had the honor of hosting KU Endowment Association’s Watkins Society event at Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

The Watkins Society recognizes individuals who have developed an estate plan or other deferred gift arrangement with KU Endowment. Friends of KU toured the North Gallery and viewed an exhibit of items from University Archives. All gathered in the Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room to hear remarks about the libraries from Beth Whittaker, director of Spencer Research Library and associate dean for distinctive collections, and Ken Stephens, a longtime friend of KU Libraries and a member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates.



## JAYHAWK MARCH MADNESS

KU Libraries brought back Jayhawk March Madness this year with a new flock of rare Jayhawk images from University Archives. The Jayhawks were arranged in brackets and voted on in conjunction with KU basketball’s advancement through the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament. This year’s champion was “Too Big a Brood for the Coop,” a 1916 University Daily Kansan drawing by Daniel Henry “Hank” Maloy.



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