



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

ANNUAL REVIEW

2017-18



KU
LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Agility is the ability to think and move quickly and easily. Agility is key in navigating a changing landscape—and change has been everywhere at the University of Kansas this past year. We have a new chancellor and an interim provost, and the university will soon embark on designing a new strategic plan—just a few of many campus changes requiring the libraries to act with great agility.

Of course, libraries are used to change. We have existed through centuries of technological and economic evolution, although the pace of that change has accelerated dramatically in recent decades. The secret about how libraries deal with change is quite simple—we focus on our core mission.

Each student, professor, staff member, and community member belongs in our libraries, where we help them learn, discover, and grow. The constancy of this core mission allows our libraries to thrive amidst so much change. I am proud of our library colleagues' adaptability because I know it is rooted in a deep commitment to student learning and impactful research. The following stories offer highlights of KU Libraries' evolving and mission-focused successes throughout the past year.

Kevin L. Smith, *dean of KU Libraries*

FINDING A HOME ON THE HILL

CONNECTING LIBRARIES

TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Throughout her four years at KU, Arielle Swopes has explored campus and found a home at KU Libraries.

“KU Libraries have played such a big role in my experience at KU,” said Swopes. “As a student, they not only provide great spaces in which to focus and study, but also great people and resources to help you when you get stuck.”

Arielle describes the Watson Library carrels and the reservable group study rooms at Anschutz Library as her most productive study spaces. When faced with an impending deadline, she also likes the quiet comfort of the Spahr Engineering Library.

As a student employee working in the University Archives and supporting the African American Experience Collection at

Kenneth Spencer Research Library, Swopes offers a unique perspective on the services and resources of KU Libraries.

“The departments I worked for have taught me many life skills,” said Swopes. “I’ve been fortunate to work with so many amazing and inspiring people in the libraries who have truly helped me grow as a student and as a young woman.”

As she prepares to enter the neuroscience Ph.D. program at KU, Arielle looks forward to continuing her exploration and utilization of the libraries. Citing the multitude of resources offered—from laptop chargers available for checkout to the immensely helpful reference staff—Swopes encourages students to get to know the offerings of the libraries as soon as they arrive on campus. ■

“KU Libraries are part of every student’s experience at KU, and we’d truly be lost if we didn’t have them!”

—Arielle Swopes, senior



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

As the intellectual hub of campus, KU Libraries are constantly adapting and upgrading services and spaces.



STUDIO K

Studio K is a quick-record studio, designed so that any user can walk in and record a speech, demonstration, or presentation within moments of arrival. Studio K is located on the third floor of Watson Library and was developed in collaboration with KU IT.

HAWK WEEK

Students are greeted each August with donuts and coffee at Anschutz Library as an introduction to one of the most popular study spaces on campus.



FITDESKS

Bike desks are now available at Watson and Anschutz Libraries as an alternative to a traditional study space. The FitDesks are stationary exercise bicycles with built-in desk platforms to hold tablets, books, or other media. "The bike desks are a great example of how the libraries continually seek innovative ways to provide students with varied and flexible study spaces and services in support of their academic success," said Jeromy Horkman, director of public operations.



COMMUNITY TABLE

Community Table lunches, hosted in Anschutz Library in conjunction with the Office of Diversity & Equity and other academic units, offer students, faculty, and staff time to interact with one another and build a stronger KU community.



PAWS FOR FINALS

Therapy dogs visit multiple library locations during finals week to offer stress reduction for students between the demanding rigors of exams and final papers.

LEAVING A LEGACY

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND RESEARCH

Longtime friend and supporter of KU Libraries Kala Stroup works to increase a sense of pride, loyalty, and connection with the libraries.

"I serve on the KU Libraries Board of Advocates because I know that from more than 60 years in higher education, to be a great university you must have extensive library holdings," said Stroup, emeritus faculty member and internship advisor, KU Honors Program.

"Our libraries serve the entire university. A strong library system with robust resources is essential to a quality university, and

that is exactly what KU Libraries offer."

Daily interactions with students allows Stroup to understand their needs in a unique way. She often hears of a desire for quiet study space, a resource the libraries provide.

"Honors students often tell me how important the Watson Library study carrels are when they need a place to concentrate and focus," said Stroup. As a KU alumna who relied upon this quiet space during her academic career, Stroup was inspired to name a carrel in honor of her time on campus. ■

"For students, being surrounded by book in the stacks is a great thing, as the extensive resources of KU Libraries are literally within their reach"

—Kala Stroup



Award recipient Crystal R. Sanders, associate professor of history and African American studies at Pennsylvania State University, poses with Sandra Gautt (left).

ALYCE HUNLEY WHAYNE VISITING RESEARCHERS TRAVEL AWARD

KU Libraries were proud to host the three winners of the Alyce Hunley Whayne Visiting Researchers Travel Award. The award recipients are provided travel funding and access to onsite use of the collections at Spencer Research Library, particularly the African American Experience Collection.

The award was made possible by a generous gift from Sandra Gautt in honor of her late mother, Alyce Hunley Whayne. Gautt also serves as a member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates.



A TIMELESS TRADITION

At the heart of Watson Library, hundreds of thousands of books—the titles and subjects resonating with students from all backgrounds—are poised for immersive browsing. In the center stack on the third floor, a group of study spaces exists, newly renovated yet already well loved.

“I always come to this floor of carrels when I need to focus on writing a paper,” said Jake Honer, a junior majoring in strategic communication and minoring in film and media studies. “Returning to this spot and seeing the new space is

incredible. The desks are so chic, and the renovations make you feel really at home. There is a clean, modern vibe to the updated carrels.”

Natural light flows through the window panes, glittering across the glass-topped desks. At the corner of each desk, a nameplate is present, offering the ability to engrave and capture a legacy that will live on in this space forever.

Aaliyah Cohen, a sophomore majoring in anthropology and minoring in African and African American studies, uses the carrels daily. “I always sit in one of the named

spaces because I feel like the families are wishing me good luck,” said Cohen. “The nameplates make me think of the legacies that these people have at KU.”

For more than 50 years, the carrels have provided quiet, intimate spaces for studying, writing, and reading. Providing these individual study spaces for students is vital to supporting our mission to create inclusive spaces that lend themselves to student success. If you are interested in naming a carrel, please reach out to Christy McWard, cmcward@ku.edu. ■

ONE DAY. ONE KU.

KU Libraries participated in the university’s inaugural day of giving, *One Day. One KU.*, in February. The campaign recorded an all-time high number of donations in one day.

KU Libraries were encouraged by the incredible support received on this historic day. Our gift total is a testament to the passion of our supporters. With this much-needed additional funding, KU Libraries are able to provide world-class resources and services for researchers, students, and future generations of Jayhawks to come.

Thank you to our friends, colleagues, and community partners for your continued support of KU Libraries.

24 
hour giving window

 80
generous donors


\$18,665
total giving

OPEN RESOURCES IMPACT

KU Libraries, through the Shulenburger Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright and Parents' Campaign, have funded 10 grants to adopt, adapt, or create open educational resources to replace commercial texts in KU classrooms.



an estimated
\$88,000



in student savings
per semester of use



nearly a
1:3

dollars spent to
saved with the
ratio growing
exponentially as
materials are used
in future semesters

OPEN EDUCATION INITIATIVES

MAKING KNOWLEDGE

EASILY ACCESSIBLE

KU Libraries continue to support open educational resources (OER) by providing grant funding to KU instructors and faculty who want to create openly licensed textbooks for use by the public.

Rafael Martins, a doctoral student in philosophy, recently completed his grant-funded project with support from the Shulenburger Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright.

Martins used the OER grant to identify and collect public domain copies of classic readings in philosophy in order to curate a collection of primary readings that will replace more costly anthologies frequently used in classes for non-philosophy majors. "Classics in Moral & Political Philosophy: An Open Collection," is available in KU ScholarWorks, our online repository. His publication includes works on value theory, normative ethics, and political economy, and features topics of political legitimacy and obligation, human nature, and justice.

"The University of Kansas Libraries, and especially the Shulenburger Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright and the Budig Media Production Studio, provided extraordinarily magnificent support for our OER projects, from grant application to everything else you might need," said Martins. "The staff at KU Libraries were so available and willing to go beyond their best to help us with our project." ■

"The staff at KU Libraries were so available and willing to go beyond their best to help us with our project."

—Rafael Martins, doctoral student in philosophy



BUILDING CONNECTIONS

ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Research, teaching, community building. These are just three ways that Dr. Dhanashree Thorat, postdoctoral researcher in digital humanities at the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities (IDRH), is making an impact at KU. With her in-depth knowledge of digital research methods and tools, Thorat has seen a spike in the number of professors and instructors who reach out for help designing digital pedagogy assignments for their students.

"The library is the place where faculty go when they have questions about digital technology in the classroom," said Thorat. "My role is to engage with them and tailor support for their specific interests. It is very much about helping instructors and students realize and actualize their ideas."

Mentorship is another key aspect of Thorat's work at KU Libraries. She is the coordinator and mentor for four KU students who are part of a nationwide digital humanities scholarship program.

"The Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities is where students come first when they have an idea," said Thorat. "I want to give students a platform and connect them to people and places that will help them with their research now and in the future."

This year, KU Libraries and IDRH will partner with academic libraries at multiple peer institutions to host the 2018 Digital Frontiers conference at KU. The theme, "Finding Community in Digital Humanities," acknowledges that each community brings its own voice and perspective.

The work of Thorat extends far beyond the KU campus. She is an executive founding member of the Center for Digital Humanities in Pune, India.

"I am always considering ways that IDRH and CDH Pune can have international, cross-institutional exchanges," said Thorat. "I think such international partnerships can be impactful if they are meaningfully crafted for both communities." ■

"I want to give students a platform and connect them with people and places that will help them with their research now and in the future."

—Dhanashree Thorat, postdoctoral researcher in digital humanities



COMMEMORATE THE GR8S

“Commemorate the Gr8s,” the 2017-18 traveling exhibit from KU Libraries, offered a rare look at the unforgettable National Championship runs of the 1988 and 2008 KU Men’s Basketball teams. Alumni and friends from across the country joined us and our KU Alumni Association partners to view exciting, historic materials from decades past—including iconic photographs and memorabilia from the extraordinary games of our championship seasons—all from the University Archives.



POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Working together enriches our efforts to shape the creation of knowledge outside the walls of our individual libraries.

RESEARCH SPRINTS

In May, KU Libraries hosted the third annual Research Sprints, where faculty members work with a team of libraries faculty and staff to complete research and teaching projects. The week-long effort, the first of its kind to be hosted at an academic library, offers researchers the ability to focus completely on achieving a specific goal.

The revolutionary idea was quickly discovered by the University of Minnesota and soon after, KU Libraries and UMN partnered to create a Research Sprints Toolkit, which provides other universities the necessary equipment to host their own event. This combined team has started to present the successful model to deans of research libraries across the country.

MELLON GRANT

Collaboration between KU Libraries and the Spencer Museum of Art earned a grant from the Andrew K. Mellon Foundation to conserve valuable cultural materials housed at the university. Funding from the university and the grant will support a new associate conservator position and creation of a state-of-the-art conservation lab.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



RESIST AND RESPECT

In September 2017, KU Libraries unveiled “Resist and Respect: Kansans respond to the Vietnam War,” an exhibition that highlighted a variety of imagery, scholarship, and memorials that were generated throughout the state of Kansas during and after the Vietnam War. The exhibition opening featured a keynote presentation by Dr. David Ambler, KU Vice Chancellor Emeritus for Student Affairs.

Through the Libraries Love Lawrence initiative, KU Libraries were proud to partner with the Lawrence Public Library and Kansas City’s PBS member station, KCPT, to host a screening of selected clips from “The Vietnam War,” the latest Ken Burns documentary that features Vietnam veteran and Baldwin City native, John Musgrave. Musgrave attended the event and participated in an engaged discussion with the community about his service and experiences surrounding the Vietnam War.



SIDE BY SIDE: A PARTNERSHIP OF HONOR AND SUPPORT

In January, KU Libraries revealed a new exhibition showcasing partnerships between KU and Haskell Indian Nations University. “Side by Side” highlights this long-held relationship between our revered universities, and exhibit display cases were collaboratively curated by specialists from both institutions. The exhibition will be on display in Watson Library through August 2018.

Keynote speaker Venida Chenault, Haskell Indian Nations University president, with KU Chancellor Douglas A. Girod at exhibition opening.



READ ACROSS LAWRENCE

KU Libraries partnered with the Lawrence Public Library for the 16th annual Read Across Lawrence. This year’s event invited the community together to read and discuss “Wonder,” by R.J. Palacio.

GALLERY LECTURE SERIES

Gallery Lecture Series presentations, hosted in the Haricombe Gallery, featured speakers with ties to the fall and spring exhibitions. One presenter representing “Side by Side” was KU professor Sarah Deer, who spoke on the high rates of sexual violence against native women. A presentation on the role of the Vietnam War in Senator Bob Dole’s political career was given by KU professor Ray Mizumura-Pence to complement “Resist and Respect.”



CELEBRATING

50 YEARS

Home to collections of rare manuscripts, photographs, books, and a plethora of unique objects, Kenneth Spencer Research Library has much to explore. The red carpet of the recently renovated North Gallery welcomes visitors into a breathtaking space, with panoramic views of the KU campus as well as a two-story view of the closed stacks—where some of the most remarkable collections are on display.

Dedicated on November 8, 1968, Spencer Research Library was made possible by a contribution from Helen Foresman Spencer, a philanthropist known for her support of the arts and humanities, as a memorial to her late husband Kenneth Spencer. The library allowed the University of Kansas to bring together the previously scattered special collections acquired over its first century and to pursue growth. Housing the University Archives, Spencer Research Library continues to be an important repository for departments across campus.

On November 8, 2018, Spencer Research Library will commemorate 50 years of serving KU, the community, and users from around the world. Celebrations include the creation of a new exhibit which highlights compelling items from the library's collections that have been identified by researchers, students, and friends of the library. ■



50 FOR 50

The above images represent a small selection of items that will be featured at the 50 for 50 exhibition celebration on November 8, 2018.



KU LIBRARIES

The University of Kansas

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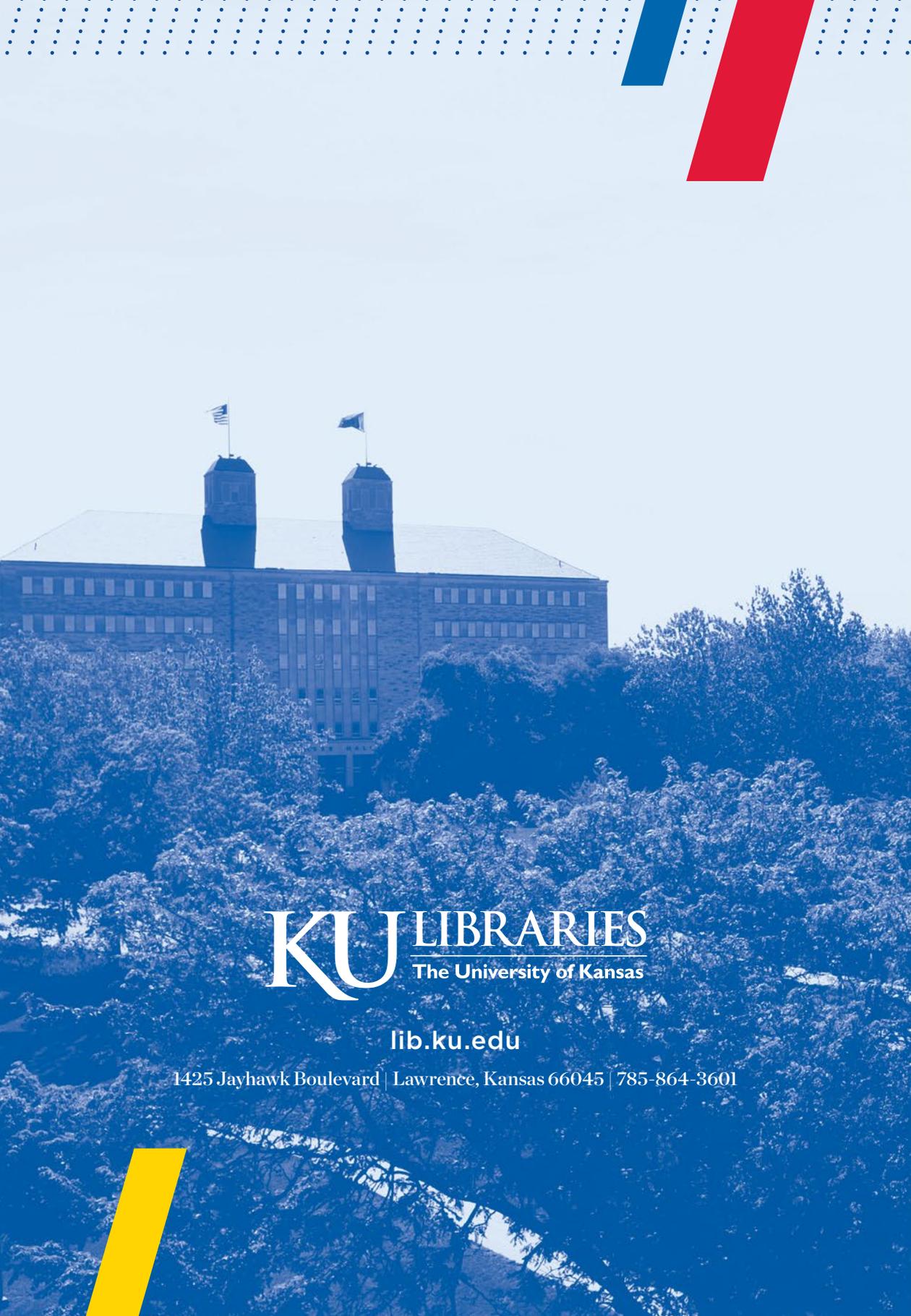
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