ALBIN O. KUHN LIBRARY & GALLERY

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

UMBC
The annual report will be published each fiscal year cycle to acquaint the UMBC community, friends, and partners with the resources and activities of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery.

We look forward to receiving your comments and questions at aok@umbc.edu
The last fifteen months have been an interesting experience for the Albin O Kuhn Library & Gallery team. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the sudden transition to online learning and work, we accomplished a great deal and found innovative ways to provide services remotely to the UMBC community. This, our first ever annual report, is a great opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and where we hope to go next.

In January 2020, the Library & Gallery was planning for a major building renovation. A generous gift from Alan & Wendy Wilson (see "Investing in Innovation, p. 12) allowed us to begin planning for a state of the art Innovation Lab and Makerspace. Of course when the campus and much of the nation went into lockdown on March 13, 2020, these projects and many others were placed on hold. With the campus reopening and lockdown restrictions loosening across the state of Maryland, we hope to return to planning for both of these projects in the very near future.

I want to thank the staff of the Library & Gallery for their resiliency and creativity in adapting to remote and virtual services in a very short time and with little advanced warning. When the pandemic hit, our staff quickly migrated our research assistance and library instruction online. We created a virtual study room so that students could work "together" and receive help from a librarian when needed. The Library Gallery moved its exhibitions and artist talks online as well. We set up contactless curbside retrieval for library materials, and delivered e-books and electronic journal articles to library users wherever we could. All of this was accomplished with the dedication and hard work of our staff, who worked diligently to maintain library services for the UMBC community.

Going forward, I am anxious to see people back on campus and for the UMBC community to reacquaint themselves with the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery, our amazing resources, and our wonderful staff. Thank you for your support!
The Strategic Plan outlines the Library & Gallery's goals and objectives for 2018–2023 in four key Focus Areas. For the latest on our progress, see: https://library.umbc.edu/admin/#mission

1. Research & Scholarship
   The Library supports and advocates for research excellence, scholarship, and creative activity within UMBC and the community. We will: enhance collections and access; build partnerships; showcase scholarly and creative achievements; and provide technological support for research endeavors to become an integral part of promoting UMBC as a nationally and internationally recognized research university. (p. 15–16)

2. Teaching & Learning
   The Library meets the information needs of the UMBC community in equitable, inclusive, and effective ways. We will: integrate information literacy into the UMBC curriculum; improve teaching practices and cultural competencies; and strengthen the services that support academic success and lifelong learning. As practitioners we value cultural competence and continually seek opportunities to reflect on and develop our teaching practices. (p. 17–18)

3. Organization & Effectiveness
   To better serve UMBC and our community, the Library will analyze and adjust its internal organization and procedures including: securing the funding needed to support our vision; developing a branding and marketing strategy; and providing an environment for staff opportunity and growth. (p. 19–20)

4. Spaces & Technology
   The Library engages and supports our users through welcoming, equitable, and accessible physical and virtual spaces. We will expand the amount, type, and utilization of flexible, informal learning spaces in the library, continually assess space usage and technology, and adapt to better serve all members of the UMBC community. (p. 21–22)
NEW FACES

We are pleased to welcome these new staff to the Library & Gallery!

Audrey Nzombet started as Library Information Technology (IT) associate with our team in March 2020. He provides technical support and troubleshooting for hardware and software applications integral to library services and IT operations, including PC, Mac, and Linux desktop and network applications. Before UMBC, he worked with Oracle as a Systems Support Analyst. He graduated from UMBC with a BS in Information Systems and a minor in Computer Science. Audrey enjoys practicing and watching soccer and is passionate about new technologies.

Laurainne Ojo-Ohikuare joined our team as Processing Archivist in July 2020. She arranges and describes the photographic and manuscript collections for Special Collections. Before UMBC, she was the Athletics Archivist for University of Maryland and processed collections for George Washington University, the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, and New York University. She received her BA from Muhlenberg College in English Literature and Computer Science, a MS in Information and Library Science and MA in Irish Literature from New York University's dual degree program with Long Island University. She has published on archival processing strategies and is a member of the Society of American Archivists and American Library Association.
NEW FACES
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Jade Sutton joined the Library & Gallery as a General Assistant in our Accounting & Receiving department in March 2020, where she helps with important work related to invoicing, payments, and much more. Jade says she loves working in A&R and being a part of such an amazing Library & Gallery team. Before joining UMBC she worked in banking. She has two daughters with whom she loves to spend all of her spare time.

Jasmine Shumaker joined our team as Reference & Instruction Librarian in July 2020. She holds a BA in History and MLIS from the University of Oklahoma. In her current position, Jasmine supports Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Public Policy students, faculty, and staff with their research needs. Jasmine’s research interests include the emotional labor of Black women in librarianship, as well as retaining Black librarians in the field. Prior to joining academic librarianship, she worked as an Adult Services Librarian with the District of Columbia Public Library, and was the Business Librarian for the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center in Baltimore, Maryland. In her spare time Jasmine enjoys listening to podcasts, hiking, and travelling.
PROMOTIONS

Librarians at UMBC hold faculty status. We proudly recognize our librarians who successfully went through the promotion and permanent status process this year.

Aimee Plaisance was promoted to Librarian II with permanent status

Aimee Plaisance joined AOK Library as Catalog Librarian in February 2017. She was previously a cataloger at the James Smith Noel Collection in Shreveport, LA, and she is currently a Maryland representative for the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians. Aimee earned her BA in Latin at the University of Richmond and her MLIS at the University of Washington. She enjoys cooking, photography, and doing crossword puzzles and has more houseplants than is entirely reasonable.

Erin Durham teaches research sessions, provides research consultations, and selects resources for several campus departments. She has presented and published on critical pedagogy, information literacy, and Open Educational Resources (OERs), and is passionate about information access and equity. In 2019, Erin was the recipient of an Association of College & Research Libraries Early-Career Scholarship, and is a current participant in the Certificate in OER Librarianship program from the Open Education Network. She earned her MLIS and MA in History from the University of Maryland, and also performs and teaches violin and holds an MM in Music Performance. She is an avid runner, hiker, traveler, and outdoors enthusiast.

Erin Durham was promoted to Librarian II with permanent status
AWARDS & HONORS

Check out the great things the Library & Gallery staff have accomplished!

• **Kathy Chetelat**, Interlibrary Loan Supervisor, won UMBC’s Karen L. Wensch Endowment Award for Outstanding Non-Exempt Staff in spring 2021.
• Special Collections Librarian **Susan Graham** and **Beth Saunders**, Head of Special Collections & Gallery (with L. DiCuirci, English) received a Hrabowski Adaptation Award from the Hrabowski Innovation Fund for their project, “Digitizing the Funny Papers: A Student-Led Digital Humanities Collaboration with UMBC Special Collections.”
• **Stephen Jones**, manager of Library IT Services, completed an ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) Post Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in December 2020. Awarded by UMBC’s Department of Education, the program covers a range of topics to develop awareness of and skills in inter-cultural and cross-cultural communication.
• Special Collections Librarian **Lindsey Loeper** won the UMBC Library Faculty Award in spring 2021 for outstanding librarianship, research, publication, and service to UMBC and the profession.
• **Jessica Riley**, Special Collections graduate assistant, was awarded a Filson Fellowship from the Filson Historical Society (Louisville, KY) in fall 2020 to complete research and publish a scholarly work in the journal, Ohio Valley History.
• Cataloger (and new retiree) **Vicki Sipe** received the campus’s Lavender Legacy Award for her "timeless impact on the campus LGBTQ+ community."
As UMBC faculty, our librarians and archivists contribute to the scholarly conversation through publications, presentations, reviews, and creative works. Here are some highlights of our work for this year.

- **Michelle Flinchbaugh** is the Column Editor of "Biz of Digital" in the Charleston Hub's *Against The Grain*. She has served in this role since February 2018, soliciting, editing, and occasionally writing articles for the journal, which is published six times a year.


- **Joanna Gadsby** and **Katy Sullivan** co-authored "Building relationships at a public research university," a chapter in the forthcoming *Hidden Architectures of Information Literacy* (ACRL, 2020).

- **Erin Durham, Semhar Yohannes, Emily Joseph, and Katy Sullivan** presented "Advocating for library staff safety" at the Intersect Virtual Unconference (September 2020).

- **Stephen Jones** and **John Breitmeyer** presented "Library IT in a time of COVID: what has gone well and what we can improve for next time" at the 2020 Towson Conference for Academic Libraries.
SCHOLARSHIP
As UMBC faculty, our librarians and archivists contribute to the scholarly conversation through publications, presentations, reviews, and creative works. Here are some highlights of our work for this year.

- **Susan Graham** and **Semhar Yohannes** presented a poster, “The joy of shining a light on others: Collaborative guest lecture series” at the 2020 Towson Conference for Academic Libraries.
- **Katy Sullivan** and **Semhar Yohannes** presented a poster, "Designing a holistic research appointment service: Utilizing an online feedback form to create best practices for research" at Bridging the Spectrum: A Symposium (February 2021).
- **Aimee Plaisance** and **Semhar Yohannes** presented a poster, "Implementing a health literacy initiative during COVID-19" at Bridging the Spectrum: A Symposium (February 2021). Semhar and Aimee also presented "Health literacy in an academic environment" to the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (*Beyond the SEA* Series, March 2020).
- **Beth Saunders** and **Katy Sullivan** presented "Onboarding and managing new hires remotely" at the Council of Academic Library Directors Annual Meeting (September 2020).
- **Carolyn Sheffield** presented "Open and equitable scholarly communications: New research from ACRL grant recipients" with results from the grant-funded project, *A Roadmap to the Future of Promotion and Tenure*, at the ACRL Virtual Conference (April 2021).
INVESTING IN INNOVATION

Thanks to a generous donation from the Alan D. and Wendy R. Wilson Foundation, the Library & Gallery is creating a new space for students to develop ideas, prototype projects, and seek mentorship on innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Alan & Wendy Wilson Innovation Lab will be located on the first floor and open to all UMBC students. As a space that will serve all departments and disciplines, programming will be developed with partners from across campus including the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship.

In 2020, we formed a Faculty & Staff Focus Group to inform overall planning, identify opportunities for collaborations, and explore synergies with other initiatives on campus. We've also sought input from students with a campus-wide survey distributed in late 2019 and a follow-up survey that will go out this fall. Within the Library, an Advisory Group helps guide our planning and engagement with the rest of campus. We look forward to sharing progress on upcoming renovations to prepare the space for the Innovation Lab!
THE CHANGING SCHOLARLY LANDSCAPE

Libraries are at the forefront of the changing scholarly landscape. As such, they are constant advocates for equitable, sustainable publishing practices and models. The promotion and tenure rules at institutions of higher education have a major effect on what changes to scholarly publishing will stick, and which will ultimately stall out.

Carolyn Sheffield, Associate Director for Library IT & Digital Strategies, and Michelle Flinchbaugh, Digital Scholarship Services Librarian, were awarded a $5000 grant from the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) for their project, A Roadmap to the Future of Promotion & Tenure. Working with colleagues from four Maryland universities plus UMBC, the co-investigators designed, conducted, and analyzed a statewide survey and organized meetings of tenured and tenure-track faculty on "changes—and a roadmap to implement those changes—that could be made to Promotion & Tenure guidelines to enhance recognition of scholarly works that promote and support openness, diversity, and inclusion." Their recommendations will lay the groundwork for additional work in this important area.
REFRESHING STUDY SPACES

As a center of academic and social life on campus, the Library & Gallery provides a variety of spaces for UMBC faculty, students, and visitors.

As we eagerly await a whole-building renovation project, we have reinvigorated a number of areas around the Library. Recently the Library has upgraded the technology in our Assistive Technology Room for users with disabilities, renovated our Instruction Room, Presentation Practice Room, and Media Screening Room, and created a Lactation Room for new parents who need a private space for nursing. The Digital Media lab offers a "Whisper Room" for recording audio and a studio (including a greenscreen!) for creating audio and video content. And we've updated all of the furniture in our 24-7 space, the Retriever Learning Center (RLC), to provide individual and group study spaces that are flexible and compatible with the needs of our students. We even offer a new virtual study room* where students can study online with their peers!

* https://lib.guides.umbc.edu/virtualstudyroom
As our services moved online during the COVID-19 pandemic, we remained committed to sharing the same quality of curation and opportunities to experience art as we have when we're in person. The Library Gallery worked closely with the Library IT department to migrate their website to a new Wordpress site that provides an elegant platform for online exhibitions. Check out both current and past exhibitions here: https://librarygallery.umbc.edu

We are also hard at work to refresh the Library webpages, which provides the portal to our amazing collection of services and scholarly resources, information on upcoming events and library spaces, online research help with our expert librarians, and much more. If you haven't visited us lately at https://library.umbc.edu, come see what you've been missing!
Research assistance transactions by our librarians and archivists

3,264

75% of these were virtual, via chat, email, and online appointments.

Items supplied by our Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery services. We received 8,378 requests from UMBC users and successfully filled more than 94% of them.

2,297

New UMBC-produced research works deposited to ScholarWorks @UMBC, part of the Maryland Shared Open Access Repository*

* https://mdsoar.org/handle/11603/14
The Library supports research excellence, scholarship, and creative activity within UMBC and the community. These pages offer just a sample of our essential activities in this strategic focus area.

Online databases available to UMBC students and researchers

331

Streaming videos available via 2 new resources: Films on Demand and Academic Video Online

113,000

Other selected resources added in 2020-21:

- **Black Drama** - full text of more than 1,700 plays from mid-1800s to present
- **Early English Books Online** - page images of almost every work printed in the British Isles and North America, and more, between 1470 and 1700
- **LGBT Thought and Culture** and **LGBTQ+ Source** - books, periodicals, and archival materials documenting LGBT political, social, and cultural movements, plus scholarly and popular LGBT publications and primary sources in full text
- **Newsbank** - full-text news resources from 11,000+ local, national, and international sources, updated daily
- **Policy Map** - interactive online data mapping tool that can be used to create maps, tables, graphs from a wide variety of data sets
- **Social Work Online** - full text of published social work textbooks, documentaries, clinical demonstration videos, and lectures
The Library is a key partner in integrating information literacy into the UMBC curriculum. We continually reflect on and improve our teaching practices and cultural competencies to support academic success and lifelong learning.

The closure of the UMBC campus due to COVID-19 required us to creatively reconfigure our time-tested methods of delivering information literacy and research instruction to our users. Despite unprecedented circumstances, our librarians and archivists delivered a variety of classes and workshops reaching more than 4,400 participants.

- **169 LIBRARY INSTRUCTION SESSIONS**
- **35 WORKSHOPS AND ORIENTATIONS**
- **320 TOTAL CONTACT HOURS**
- **OF THESE 204 SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS, 68% WERE COMPLETELY ONLINE***

In response to the pandemic and the resulting flood of available medical information, a group of library staff formed the **Health Literacy Working Group** with the purpose of "improving the health of library employees and patrons by making health information easy to understand and use." The group published a newsletter, facilitated article discussions for staff, and hosted a Speaker Series with experts such as UMBC's Director of Environmental Safety and Health.

* In-person sessions were primarily held between January and March 2020 and in May–June 2021.
The Library is a key partner in integrating information literacy into the UMBC curriculum. We continually reflect on and improve our teaching practices and cultural competencies to support academic success and lifelong learning.

A key part of our Teaching & Learning activities, our AOK Library Workshop Series and Writing Wednesday Workshops feature expert tips on:

- Managing Citations with EndNote Online
- How to Use Zotero for Citation Management
- Stepping Up Your Research: Searching Strategically
- How to Write a STEM Literature Review
- Creating an Academic Research Poster
- Finding Your Flow: Navigating Final Papers
- Getting Started with Open Educational Resources
- And much more!

Opening Up Access for Students

Libraries have always been champions of free and open access to information. Recognizing that the rising cost of textbooks creates a barrier for many students, UMBC created an Open Educational Resources (OER) Working Group in 2020. OERs are free teaching, learning, and research materials available without restrictions on their access, use, or sharing. The OER Working Group, co-chaired by librarian Erin Durham, aims to increase awareness and use of OERs by UMBC instructors. For more on this important Teaching & Learning initiative, visit https://lib.guides.umbc.edu/OER.
Selected grants received in 2020–2021

- Special Collections received a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to digitize films from the Jule Eisenbud Collection on Ted Serios and Thoughtography.
- Special Collections was also part of UMBC's Maryland Folklife Network Grant and received a Technical Assistance Grant, both from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC).
- The Library Gallery also received a grant from MSAC to help offset the annual operating costs of the Gallery, allowing us to attract important exhibitions, such as the upcoming Prison Nation.
- Archivist Susan Graham and Head of Special Collections Beth Saunders (with Lindsay DiCuirci, English) received a Hrabowski Adaptation Award from the Hrabowski Innovation Fund for their project, “Digitizing the Funny Papers: A Student-Led Digital Humanities Collaboration with UMBC Special Collections.”
- Carolyn Sheffield, Associate Director for Library IT & Digital Strategies, and Michelle Flinchbaugh, Digital Scholarship Services Librarian, received a grant from the Association of College & Research Libraries for their project, "A Roadmap to the Future of Promotion & Tenure." In collaboration with four other universities, the project explored changes to Promotion & Tenure guidelines that would enhance recognition of scholarly works that support openness, diversity, and inclusion.
To better serve our community, the Library & Gallery looks for creative ways to fund our initiatives, communicate our value, and engage in key partnerships both on and off campus.

ORCID provides persistent identifiers for researchers to control their identities and manage attributions for their works. This collaboration between the Library & Gallery, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT), and the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) provides UMBC researchers with the ability to log in using their UMBC credentials and save time by sharing data saved in ORCID with other systems.*

In March 2021, UMBC joined over 1,200 organizations as an official member of the ORCID (Open Researcher Contributor ID) Consortium.

In spring 2020, 90 students from 2 elementary schools visited the Library Gallery for an interactive tour of the exhibition Antonio McAfee: Through the Layers, Pt. 2 and hands-on learning activities with the gallery curators. The students made collage self-portraits and learned about the possibilities of photography as a medium of self-expression. The program was made possible with a grant from the Charlesmead Initiative, which aims to strengthen arts engagement opportunities for K-8 students in Title I public schools in Baltimore City.

* Learn more about ORCID: https://lib.guides.umbc.edu/c.php?g=1047837
SPACES & TECHNOLOGY

The Library engages and supports users through welcoming, equitable, and accessible physical and virtual spaces. We work to continually evaluate, expand, and adapt our spaces and technology to serve our community.

Enhancing Access to Technology

We expanded our popular laptop lending program in late 2019, offering PC laptops, Macbooks, and Chromebooks for a variety of loan periods, ranging from 4 hours to 3 days, to allow users to check them out according to their needs. When the pandemic closed our doors in early 2020, we coordinated with our partners in the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) to continue making these and other University-owned laptops available to students, including for semester-long loans when needed.

We loan our laptops nearly 5,000 times each year

Our popular Digital Media Lab welcomes 550+ visitors and handles over 4,000 loans of audiovisual equipment, including still and video cameras, professional-quality microphones, tripods, lighting kits, and audio recorders, each year.
Improving Accessibility

We work closely with our colleagues in the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) and the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services (ADS) to continuously improve the accessibility of technology throughout the Library. With their input and assistance, we relocated a selection of assistive technologies to a more accessible room and made others available for loan. As an early campus adopter of Monsido, we continuously review and improve the accessibility of the library website. In 2019, we added a KIC scanner to the first floor, making a range of accessible features available including text to speech scanning. Internally, we've standardized workflows for Interlibrary Loan and Course Reserves to ensure scanned documents are machine readable. For those requiring access to assistive technology or other accommodations when using the Library & Gallery, please visit https://accessibility.umbc.edu/.

Thank you

Last but not least, we're grateful for all the Library IT Services team did to support the transition to telework and remote services, and to ensure that our website was kept up to date with timely information as services evolved.
# DONOR HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all our wonderful donors who make our work possible!

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<td>$500,000 for the creation of an Innovation Lab</td>
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Support the Library & Gallery. Visit library.umbc.edu and click on GIVE

* Denotes a member of the Library & Gallery staff
Thank you for your ongoing support of the Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery