What is a library?

or

In appreciation of audacious thinking

Claire Stewart, Dean of Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Presentation to Emeriti and Retirees association

December 2021
Libraries are *essential* teaching & research infrastructure

Content

Expertise

Technology

Space
Content

Aka Library collections
From scarcity to abundance
But still locked away ...

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Coming Up: Leadership During Crisis, Francis Collins, NIH Director (Washington Post) Friday, December 17 @ 2:15 pm ET. Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health, is stepping down as head of the agency after serving three U.S. presidents for more than a decade. On Friday, Dec. 17 at 2:15 p.m. ET, Collins joins Washington Post senior writer Frances Stead Sellers to discuss his legacy at the helm of the nation's top biomedical organization and assess the latest developments in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Register for the program here: https://www.washingtonpost.com/washington-post-live/2021/12/17/leadership-during-crisis-with-francis-s-collins-md-phd/

12/15/21: Replicating scientific results is tough — but essential (Nature) Replicability — the ability to obtain the same result when an experiment is repeated — is foundational to science. But in many research fields it has proved difficult to achieve. An important and much-anticipated brace of research papers now show just how complicated, time-consuming and difficult it can be to conduct interpretation in cancer biology. https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-03734-4


12/14/21: Federal Scientists Say Onerous U.S. Marijuana Regulations Hinder Urgent Research (Marijuana Moment) In a new paper published by the National Cancer Institute, a research team of six, including authors from federal agencies such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—turn a critical eye on cannabis regulatory systems in the United States, writing that administrative burdens stifle much-needed scientific investigation into the drug’s potential health applications and safety concerns. https://www.marijuanamoment.net/federal-scientists-say-onerous-u-s-marijuana-regulations-hinder-urgent-research/
The blessing and the curse of going digital: The Big Deal

**Radical** transformations in access  
Crippling economic consequences
Playing the long game
More still locked away...

HathiTrust — by the numbers

17.37 million total volumes
8.9 million titles
6.7 million volumes (38%) open for reading (public domain & CC-licensed)

10.65 million volumes protected by copyright or undetermined

The collection includes (mostly) published materials in bound form, (mostly) digitized from library collections.
The male argonaut is very small,...- not more than an inch in length,- and has no shell. Hence, even by excentric naturalists, as Dumont and De Blainville, it was long regarded as doubtful whether the shell was really secreted by the female, or whether, like the hermit-crab, she borrowed for her protection the empty hemisphere of some other mollusk.

It is an old belief, sanctioned by Aristotle, that the broad membranous expansions of the two arms are not hoisted as sails, nor allowed, when at rest, to dangle over the side of the "boat", but are used as a kind of hood by which the animal retains the shell in its proper position, as a man bearing a load on his shoulders holds it with his hands. When it

argonaut ordinarily crawler along the bottom, carrying its shell above it, keel uppermost; and the broad extremities of the two arms are not hoisted as sails, nor allowed, when at rest, to dangle over the side of the "boat", but are used as a kind of hood by which the animal retains the shell in its proper position, as a man bearing a load on his shoulders holds it with his hands. When it

comes to the surface, or progresses by swimming instead of walking, it does so in the same manner as the octopus; namely, by the forcible expulsion of water from its funnel-like tube.

This "paper-sailor," then, when the poests have regarded as endowed with so much grace and beauty, and living in luxurious ease, is but a fine lady octopus after all. Turn her out of her handsome residence, and, instead of the fairy skimmer of the seas, you have before you what Mr. Mantell would call a "dumb dump, moist, unpleasant body," like that of her weird and sprawling relative. The Paper Nautilus has been regarded as the analogue of the skull, which, like it, secretes an internal shell for the protection of its soft body; and the octopus as that of the garden slug, which, having organs like those of the skull, the octopus has organs like those of the skull-bearing argonaut, has no shell. The Cuttlefish and belemnites may be compared to some of the sea-urchins, as Aplysia and Bolinae, and to some land-slug, as Parnassula and Limax, which have an internal shell.

* See page 27.
* H. Wundt, op. cit.

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**The Heading:**

**The Octopus.**

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March 2020: COVID arrives on campus

We are closing. This is sad, I definitely had a moment this afternoon walking around the building. I hate closing the libraries, even though I know it’s the best thing to keep everyone safe. Be well, take care, pray that we are all back here again someday not too far down the line.

All campus libraries, with the exception of the Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons, will close to all UNL students, faculty and staff, including library faculty and staff, at 8pm on Friday evening March 20, and will remain closed indefinitely. The Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons will be open to members of the UNL community from 8am – 8pm Monday through Friday. Read the full announcement about the closure on Nebraska Today.

https://news.unl.edu/.../love-library-prepares-for-closure/
Solution: HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access (ETAS)
For 15 months, ETAS made 50% of UNL’s library collection accessible to students and faculty anywhere in the world.
More, please! Digital use: policy frontiers

- First principle: maximize the investments we have already made
- Legal issues and the cases to justify controlled digital lending (CDL)
  - Contract pre-emption
  - Fair use and first sale
- The need for university libraries
  - Users continue to be scattered across the globe, exacerbated by COVID, and we don’t know when this will get better
  - Interlibrary Loan
  - Teaching materials and reserves – student access and affordability
Successful Teaching with Affordable Resources (STAR) is a campus initiative to decrease the cost of student education by making access to textbooks and course content more affordable. Since 2019, these efforts have saved students over $3.5 million. STAR leverages the resources of the Office of the Executive Vice-Chancellor, University Libraries, Information Technology Services, and the Center for Transformative Teaching.
Two members of the 2021-2022 STAR Cohort: faculty supported through grants to create open and affordable content. This year sponsored by Women Investing in Nebraska (WIN) and the Office of the Provost.

Madeline Wiseman

**Journalism and Mass Communication**
JGEN 120: Basic Business Communication

**Enrollment:** 320

**Project**
Eliminate the textbook by adopting, adapting, and authoring OER materials in order to enhance course content and decrease student costs.

**Savings**
$120/student

Nicholas Husbye

**Education and Human Sciences**
TEAC 311/313: Teaching Reading in the Elementary School/Language Arts in the Elementary School

**Enrollment:** 90

**Project**
Replace textbooks with learning objects for both online and in-person contexts. Digital learning objects will include a series of videos, guided notes for the videos, and content knowledge assessments.

**Savings**
$105/student
“Inclusive” access
Libraries expertise: information justice and smart money

When the honeymoon is over...living at the mercy of the market

—or

How many times must we learn the same lesson?

• Electronic journals
• “The end of infinite storage” and reliance on big tech
  • Box
  • VidGrid
  • Amazon and AWS
• Textbooks
• Other research outputs? Research data?
Libraries expertise: misinformation and student learning and success

New Course for Spring Pre-Session 2022: Information & Your Life
Announce

2-3 minutes

**NEED A ONE CREDIT CLASS?**

**LIBR 110**
*Information & Your Life*

Register for the pre-session NOW!

New course offered during the Spring pre-session addresses how to deal with the bombardment of information in the modern world.

Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and your roommate. Google, Google Scholar, news feeds, and your uncle at the holiday dinner table. In
Student’s UCARE project sheds light on Indigenous history materials in Archives & Special Collections

The first time Jake Borgmann visited the Archives & Special Collections, it was the Spring semester 2019 and he was a student in History 250 – Historian's Craft, taught by Ann Tschetter, associate professor of practice. The students were assigned to write papers about an aspect of the University's history for NISO and Borgmann's interest was in the Red Power movement's impact on UNL and how it influenced the Indian Student Association. Borgmann found the materials in the archives intriguing and decided to delve deeper.

Jake Borgmann, senior, works in the Archives & Special Collections processing the Mark Awakuni-
Changing the approach to archiving and truth-seeking
Movement for truth commissions

NABS SUPPORTS FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL INVESTIGATION AND CALLS FOR A CONGRESSIONAL TRUTH COMMISSION

JUNE 25, 2021 BY NABS

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) would like to express deep gratitude for the leadership of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, whose announcement this week of a Department of Interior Federal Indian Boarding School Truth Initiative marks the first major federal investigation into the U.S. government's Indian boarding school policy. NABS believes this investigation will provide critical resources to address the ongoing historical trauma of Indian boarding schools. Our organization has been pursuing truth, justice, and healing for boarding school survivors, descendants, and tribal communities.
“At a university with a rich history of influential women, many great voices have been lost to time, but often the unknown and anonymous voices make the greatest impact.”
– UNL history student Neil Long, fall 2021
Doing history and redressing silence

- Living in a hybrid world: ongoing, active curation of and engagement with our rich print collections, deeper engagement with community and community-based archiving
- Filling gaps and redressing silences
- Changing our descriptive practice
- Bringing students into dialog with primary source materials, leveraging technologies
- Giving voice to the voiceless
Safeguarding our treasures

SHAKESPEARE AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries has a strong collection of materials relating to Shakespeare and his works. The Shakespeare First Folio is the premiere volume in the collection that also includes rare quartos printed in the 1600s and 1700s, books that were owned by distinguished individuals, engraved illustrations of scenes from the plays, and prompt books as far back as the 1770s for Shakespearian actors at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, London.

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES’ FIRST FOLIO

The 1623 edition of Shakespeare’s works is known as the “First Folio” because it was the first printing of all of his plays in one volume. The First Folio includes thirty-six plays arranged by comedy, history, and tragedy. Eighteen of the plays had not been published prior to this volume.

Among the former owners of this copy of the first folio edition of Shakespeare’s plays was the author and antiquary John Gage Buckmore (1592-1661), a descendant of Ambrose Backwood.
Safeguarding treasures in Archives and Special Collections

Clockwise from left:

Willa Cather in graduation cap and gown, Philip L. and Helen Cather Southwick Collection

The Nebraska Folio (Shakespeare First Folio), the 2 millionth volume added to the Libraries' collection

The first page of the University Charter, 1869
Building new, national research infrastructure
Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH)

Figure 1: CDRH Participating Grant Awards from 2002-2020
Bringing it together in a Research Commons:

An intentionally-built space to bring together expertise, technology, and content to solve information challenges

- A new home for the CDRH
- Extended reality and digital storytelling
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning; computationally-intensive research, research data
- Community engagement, community archiving; Truth, racial healing and reconciliation
- Library expertise well-connected to rapidly evolving scholarly practice
Continuing the work to transform and activate library spaces: Love
Transformation of the CY Thompson Library
Dinsdale Family Learning Commons
Finishing Love: Research Commons and link renovation

Concept drawings
Finishing Love: Research Commons and link renovation
A true Archives & Special collections research & teaching center
Ask me anything!