

*Student Success • Research Excellence • Community Engagement*



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**MILWAUKEE**

# Libraries

ANNUAL REPORT • 2024-25



*Sheldon Lubar checks out the exhibit of his life's work at the Sheldon Lubar Conference & Study Room dedication. Photo by Troye Fox.*



# A Note from the Director



*Michael Doyle, Associate Vice Provost and Director of Libraries*

This latest year was an exciting one for the UWM Libraries! I encourage you to read this annual report for the full details – here are some highlights.

This spring we completed two major renovations in the Golda Meir Library. In March, we opened the Graduate Student Commons on the 2nd floor, east wing at a gathering of the campus community. Since then, the space has been visited by hundreds of graduate students from all UWM colleges. Our graduate students are clearly thrilled to have a space of their own.

In May, the campus dedicated the Sheldon B. Lubar Conference & Study Room on the 3rd floor, west wing with a private gathering. The room is home to a permanent exhibit honoring Mr. Lubar's life, career and enduring contributions to education and public service. We are proud to have this space in the Library.

Also in 2024-25, we made significant progress “refreshing” open study areas of nearly 12,700 square feet through painting, recarpeting, and making improvements to lighting and furniture. UWM students immediately claimed their newest comfortable study locations.

Additionally, librarians stayed informed about the opportunities and risks presented by Generative AI and provided critical guidance to the UWM community. We hosted an event that highlighted the development of AI research tools by JSTOR, a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary sources. Librarians helped students and instructors use emerging tools like Chat GPT responsibly and ethically.

At the close of the academic year, we honored outgoing Chancellor Mark Mone with a special presentation in the Library, and we look forward to welcoming our incoming Chancellor Thomas Gibson this summer.

Michael Doyle, Ph.D., M.L.I.S.

STUDENT SUCCESS

# Graduate Student Commons Opens

Over 100 people attended the grand opening of the Graduate Student Commons on April 7 during Graduate Student Appreciation Week. The new Commons, a collaboration between the Library and the Graduate School, opened its doors in March.

Located on the second floor, east wing of the Golda Meir Library, this fully renovated 2,700-square-foot area provides UWM graduate students with a “third space” — an alternative to home and classroom — for studying, networking with peers, and building community.

The Commons overlooks the UWM Fountain and offers plentiful sunlight. It includes individual and group seating with a variety of comfortable chairs, study booths, and white boards. The space is partitioned into

two zones: one for quiet study and another for collaboration and conversation.

Library Director Michael Doyley says, “This project addresses one of our strategic goals concerning student success and outstanding learning environment, which is to develop spaces that meet our students’ evolving needs.”

Interim Vice Provost for Research & Graduate School Dean Kristian O’Connor, Ph.D. commented, “Having a space set aside for UWM’s graduate students has long been a priority of the Graduate School, and we are very excited to see the project come to fruition. We hope that students will take advantage of this amazing space, whether it is for group projects or just a quiet corner to study.”



Kristian O'Connor and Michael Doyley cut the ribbon at the April 7 grand opening.



Chancellor Mark Mone (left) and Library Director Michael Doyley. Photo by Elora Hennessey.

## LIBRARIES CELEBRATE CHANCELLOR WITH ACQUISITION OF RARE EDITION OF COOKBOOK

At a small reception on June 11, Library Director Michael Doyley thanked outgoing Chancellor Mark Mone for his eleven years of leadership at UWM and strong support of the Libraries. On behalf of the Libraries, Doyley presented the Chancellor with a rare 1912 edition of *The Way to a Man's Heart: The Settlement Cookbook*, which will be added to Special Collections in his honor.

The choice of the book recognizes the Chancellor's strong interest in the culinary arts. Author Elizabeth Black Kander was the founder of a settlement house in Milwaukee that helped immigrants, mainly Eastern European Jews, get settled in America and specifically Milwaukee.

The *Settlement Cookbook* included tested recipes from settlement house classes, Milwaukee Public School kitchens, and other venues. It was published in more than 40 editions from 1901 to 1991 and was a staple of American kitchens for generations.



## SHELDON LUBAR HONORED WITH NEW LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM AND EXHIBIT

UWM celebrated the 96th birthday of renowned businessman and philanthropist Sheldon Lubar with the dedication on May 21 of the Sheldon B. Lubar Conference & Study Room in the Golda Meir Library. Over 100 people attended including university leaders, local officials, and members of the Lubar family.

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley issued a proclamation recognizing Lubar's accomplishments. Proclamations also came from the offices of Wisconsin

Gov. Tony Evers and Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson.

The third floor conference room is home to an exhibit chronicling Lubar's life, career and enduring contributions to education and public service. It not only honors his achievements but also serves as a lasting inspiration for future generations of students and leaders.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

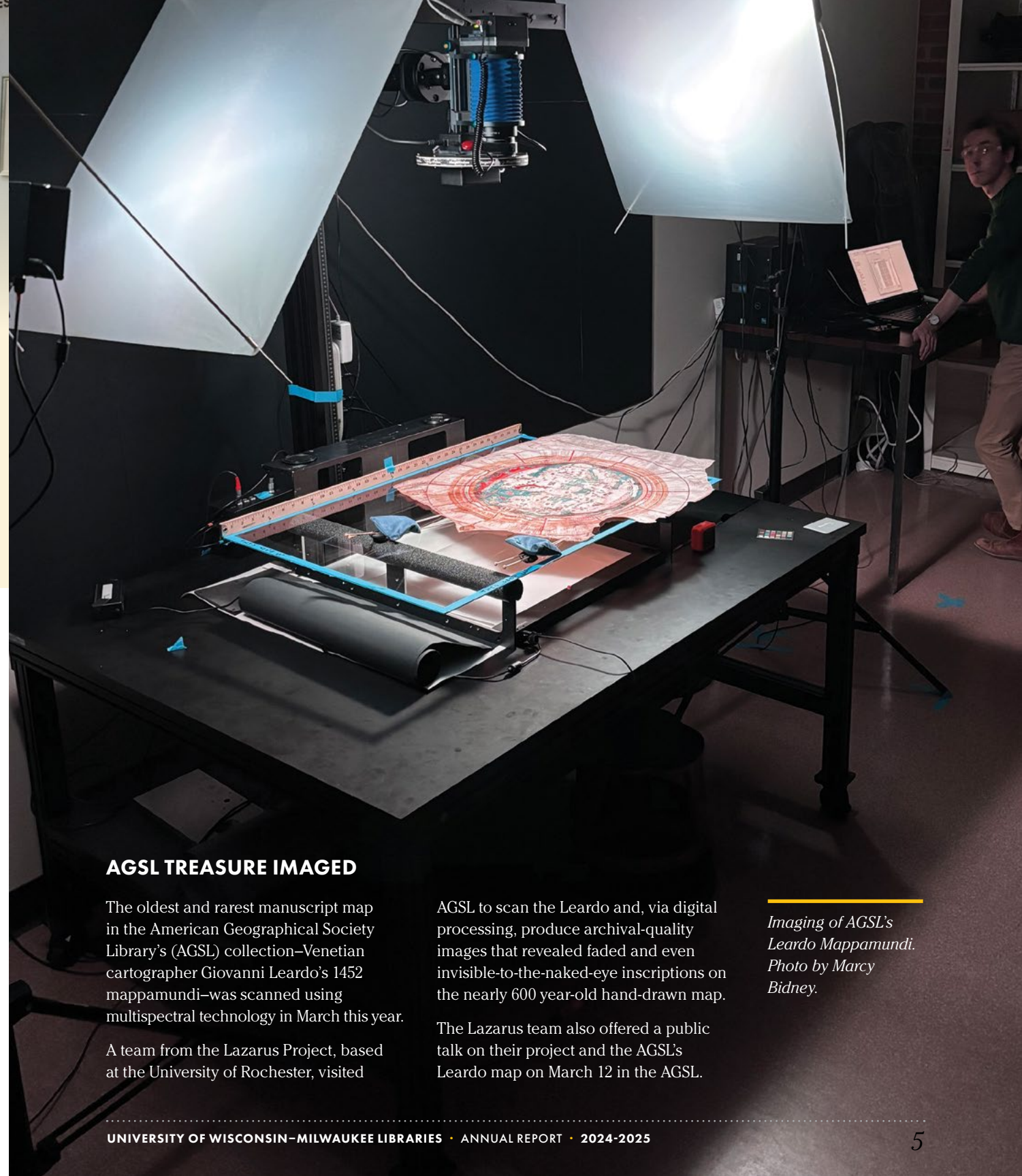
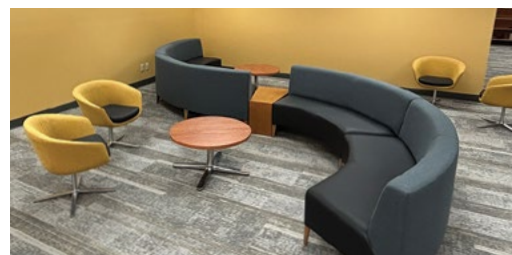
### LIBRARY SPACES FRESHENED UP

Over the last year and a half, the Golda Meir Library has made a number of improvements to the second floor to enhance student learning.

In the west wing, two large study areas adjacent to the art and architecture collection were recarpeted and repainted, and chairs refurbished. A vacated office space was renovated as two group study rooms, each receiving new carpeting and paint, and equipped with widescreen monitors.

In addition to the new Graduate Students Commons (see story on page 2), the east side was refreshed as well. Soft seating was installed in a large study room, and a small group study room near the music collection was repainted.

*New group study room and furniture, 2nd floor, west wing.*



### AGSL TREASURE IMAGED

The oldest and rarest manuscript map in the American Geographical Society Library's (AGSL) collection—Venetian cartographer Giovanni Leardo's 1452 mappamundi—was scanned using multispectral technology in March this year.

A team from the Lazarus Project, based at the University of Rochester, visited

AGSL to scan the Leardo and, via digital processing, produce archival-quality images that revealed faded and even invisible-to-the-naked-eye inscriptions on the nearly 600 year-old hand-drawn map.

The Lazarus team also offered a public talk on their project and the AGSL's Leardo map on March 12 in the AGSL.

*Imaging of AGSL's Leardo Mappamundi. Photo by Marcy Bidney.*



RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

# Libraries Recognize UWM Authors

The UWM Libraries hosted an event on March 27 recognizing UWM faculty and staff who have published books or recordings within the last two years. Provost Andrew Daire congratulated the 62 authors and their cumulative 79 works, which were on display at the event held in the fourth floor Conference Center. Vice Provost for Research & Graduate School Dean Kristian O'Connor and Library Director Michael Doylen also spoke.

The event was co-sponsored by the Libraries and the UWM Office of Research.

The UWM Authors Collection was established in 1973 to bring together as complete a collection as possible of monographs and audio and visual recordings produced by UWM faculty and staff in order to better document the university's research outcomes.

The collection now numbers more than 3,520 works. It is displayed in Special Collections of the Library.

*Guests peruse books at UWM Authors Recognition Ceremony. Photo by Troye Fox.*

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

## 2025 FROMKIN AWARDEE TO EXAMINE LATINO/A IMMIGRANTS' RESILIENCE

Gabriela Nagy, UWM assistant professor of psychology and principal investigator, EQUITY Research Group, has been chosen for the 2025 Morris Fromkin Memorial Grant and Lecture.



focusing instead on their remarkable resilience and the protective factors that safeguard their mental and physical health despite chronic stressors, trauma, and systemic oppression."

She will present the results of her research at the Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture in fall 2025.

The amount of the grant is \$5,000. This year's Fromkin committee members were Michael Doylen, Nan Kim, Kumkum Sangari, Anne Widmayer, and Max Yela.

Established by Morris Fromkin's family and supported by an endowment from Fromkin's grandson, Daniel Soyer, the lecture series, dedicated to social justice, is the longest running lecture series on campus.

Her proposal is titled "Resilience, Resistance, and Rhetoric: What Latino/a Immigrants Teach Us About Health and Humanity."

The primary goal of Nagy's project, she writes, is "to develop a popular press book that . . . [focuses] on how Latino/a immigrants resist oppressive systems and rebound from chronic stress and trauma in the US."

Her book will "challenge the pervasive deficit lens through which Latino/a immigrants are often viewed,

STUDENT SUCCESS

## LIBRARIES PARTNER WITH FACULTY TO SUPPORT TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY

Through the Open Educational Resources (OER)/Open Textbook initiative, the UWM Libraries and the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning have supported the creation of open textbooks by UWM instructors for 10 years and have saved UWM students more than \$6 million.



first four semesters texts to no cost for students.

She also created a custom set of course materials that include listening and reading exercises. She encouraged students to contribute French references from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, travels, family, and other sources to this text. One of her goals was to recenter French instruction on the global influence, giving students a textbook that included more varied instances of French language.

Teaching faculty and staff can receive a grant to produce a variety of OERs. For example, Anita Alkhas, associate professor of French in UWM's Global Studies Department, received funding from the OER/Open Textbook initiative in 2020-2021 to adapt an existing open textbook, *Liberté*, for French 103/104 and 203/204, effectively converting the

For the fall 2025 semester, Alkhas is adopting a new open textbook for this course series that includes the ancillary materials. She will be able to leverage the existing materials, but incorporate the global French focus she values for these courses and language pedagogy.



**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

# Distinctive Collections Engage with the Community

A critical component of the UWM Libraries' mission is community engagement. Our Distinctive Collections, for example, strive to connect their rich resources and expertise with the campus community and beyond. During 2024-25, these departments—American Geographical Society Library, Archives, Digital Collections, and Special Collections—hosted lectures, created exhibits, taught workshops, and much more. Here are a few highlights:

- Max Yela, head of **Special Collections**, was the keynote speaker at the 2024 Wood Engravers' Network Conference at the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin on August 1. The department hosted an all-day Indigenous Nations Poets (In-Na-Po)-sponsored poetry-writing workshop and filming project on November 23.
- **American Geographical Society Library** offered a session on August 21 for the 8th Annual Green & Healthy Schools Conference held at UWM. Friendship Force of Greater Milwaukee visited AGSL on April 8 with members receiving an overview of the collection and perusing global maps that support their mission.
- **Archives** presented a House History Workshop on October 19 for members of the Historic Water Tower Neighborhood Association. The department hosted students from Nicolet High School to conduct research on National History Day, November 7.
- **Digital Collections** assisted public radio station WUWM prepare their materials for digitization as part of the station's acceptance into the American Archives for Public Broadcasting. It worked with Center for 21st Century Studies to host the "AI and the Humanities Collaboratory" which included an April 21 keynote by award-winning author Meghan O'Gieblyn.

*Max Yela (third from right) at Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum, Two Rivers, WI.*

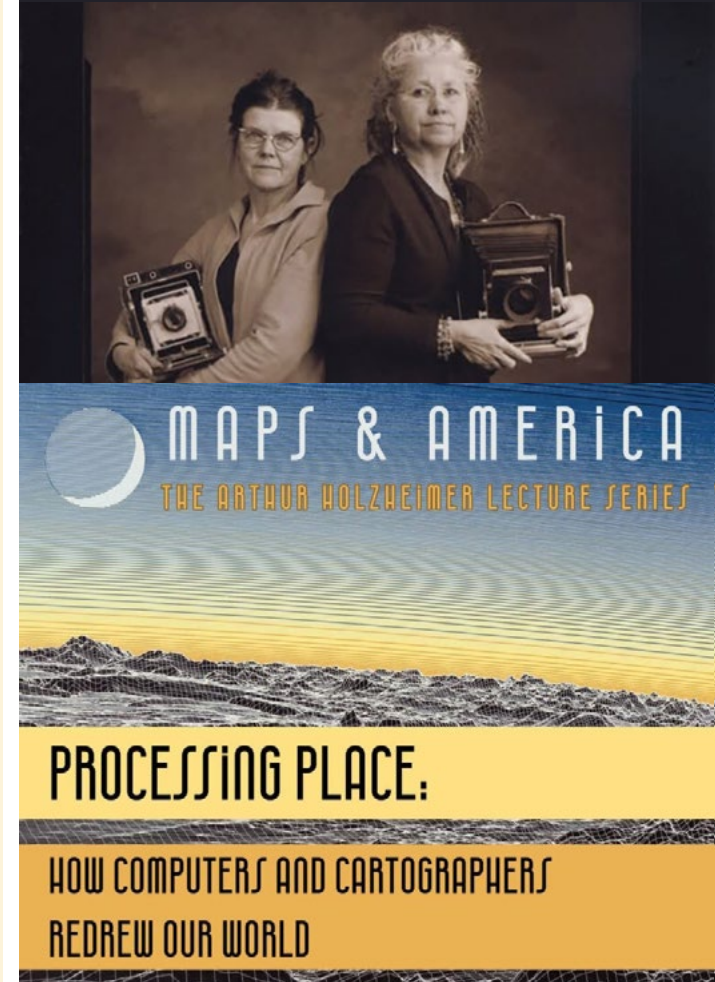
**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

## MAJOR LECTURES CONSIDERED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, COMPUTERS AND CARTOGRAPHY, AND COLLABORATIVE ARTIST'S BOOKS

The **55th Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture** was titled "Environmental Crisis and Social Justice in the New Nuclear Age: Contemporary Legacies of Rachel Carson and Jonathan Schell" and presented by Nan Kim, associate professor in the UWM Department of History, on October 17, 2024 in the fourth floor Conference Center.

Ian Spangler, assistant curator of Digital and Participatory Geography and Emily Bowe, assistant director, both of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library, delivered the **35th annual "Maps & America": Arthur Holzheimer Lecture** on April 24, 2025 in the American Geographical Society Library. The title of their talk was "Processing Place: How Computers and Cartographers Redrew our World."

The **Ettinger Book Arts Lecture** was held on November 20, 2024 in the fourth floor Conference Center. Collaborative book artists and photographers Barbara Cjurej and Lindsay Lochman spoke about the works they have created together over the last 40 years.



55th Annual Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture

**Environmental Crisis and Social Justice  
in the New Nuclear Age:  
Contemporary Legacies of  
Rachel Carson and Jonathan Schell**



# Fromkin Social Justice Grant and Lecture Endowment Goal Reached

The UWM Libraries reached our campaign goal in 2024 of \$150,000 to endow the Morris Fromkin Memorial Research Grant and Lecture, thanks in large measure to a major gift and a multi-year pledge totaling \$135,000 given



Dan Soyer

by Dan Soyer in memory of his grandfather Morris Fromkin. We also greatly appreciate the support of other donors who helped make this possible. The endowment permits the Libraries to award an annual grant of \$6,000 and sustains the program in perpetuity.

“My grandfather often said that practicing law gave him the opportunity to do good in the world,” says Soyer. “With the support of this endowment, I hope the Fromkin grant and Lecture program will preserve his legacy by exploring and promoting social justice.”

Morris Fromkin, who practiced law first in Milwaukee and later in New York, was a lifelong friend and

supporter of people and movements seeking social justice in the twentieth century. After his death in 1969, his immediate family established the Morris Fromkin Memorial Collection, as well as a research grant and lecture, which was inaugurated in 1970.

Library Director Michael Doyle shared his appreciation for Mr. Soyer’s gift: “I’m thrilled that Dan has chosen to honor the memory of his grandfather by helping us to sustain this great lecture series for future generations and increase the amount of the annual grant.”

The Fromkin Grant is the only UWM Libraries’ grant that supports original research and scholarship by UWM faculty and staff. Grant recipients have come from history, art and design, economics, geography, African and African diaspora studies, communication, architecture, criminal justice, and many other departments and units at UWM.



## CREATE A LEGACY THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Planning for the future and creating the legacy you wish to leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact.

You can create such an impact on students, faculty and the community by including the UWM Libraries in your estate giving. This kind of charitable gift arrangement helps you support the causes that are meaningful to you and will make a difference for future generations.

Gifts of every size and type matter. Establishing a legacy gift is just one way for you to make certain that the UWM Libraries and programs you care deeply about will continue after your lifetime. We can’t do it without you. We are stronger together. To learn more, please visit our website [giftplanning.uwm.edu](http://giftplanning.uwm.edu).

# UWM Libraries by the Numbers 2024-25



58,726 interlibrary loan requests filled by UWM Libraries for other institutions

18,635 requests filled by other libraries for UWM

2,153 articles scanned for UWM community



568 research consultations

5,322 e-mails, texts, and chats



562 online and onsite instruction sessions reaching a total of 9,387 students



16,026 group study room reservations

2,394 visits to the Graduate Student Commons (opened in April)



51,948 books and other materials circulated, including laptops and wifi hotspots



450,951 UWM Libraries webpage views

303,979 UWM Libraries LibGuides views

15,737 views of the Research Tutorial video



\$1,728,471 in course-materials cost avoidance

Benefiting 16,763 students in 347 courses and 608 sections

**Thank you.** The Libraries gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organizations who gave monetary gifts to the Libraries from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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**And many thanks,** as well, to the following individuals and organizations who gave gifts-in-kind—books, maps, DVDs, and other library materials—from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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