A Note from the Director

It’s no exaggeration to say that the 2019-2020 academic year was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that higher education will be adjusting for several years to come. I am incredibly proud of the ingenuity and dexterity of the UWM Libraries’ staff in transitioning to working remotely and ensuring continued access to essential collections and services for the UWM community.

In a matter of days, we moved all library reference, research consultation, and course instruction online to support teaching and learning, which had also moved fully online. We provided more scholarly content to users by opting into special agreements with library vendors. We digitized journal articles and book chapters from our physical holdings on demand and e-mailed them directly to users.

We were able to check out the majority of our laptops to students before closure, and sent the remainder to the UWM Food Center and Pantry, which remained open, for checkout there.

Most recently, we initiated a contactless pick-up service for users to borrow books and other physical materials. During this period, library staff at all three locations have persevered and made sacrifices to help meet UWM’s teaching and research mission. Have you been helped by a library staff person during these past months? I hope that you will take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

The work continues. Right now we are actively preparing to reopen library locations at all three UWM campuses with an emphasis on access to the physical collections, computers, and study spaces. Given the size and complexity of the Golda Meir Library, reopening will happen more gradually than reopening the branch libraries at the Washington County and Waukesha campuses. Students, faculty, and staff on the main campus will initially have access to the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons (but not, alas, the Grind coffee shop) and the ability to request books to checkout at the main circulation desk.

Thereafter, we will expand access to the general collection and the reading rooms of the American Geographical Society Library, Archives, and Special Collections. These are truly unprecedented times. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate the uncharted path ahead.

While our environment changes around us, the mission of the UWM Libraries remains unchanged: to provide the UWM community with the resources, services, and spaces that it needs to advance teaching, learning, and research. We will stay true to our mission while also taking steps to ensure everyone’s safety. Be well.

Michael Doylen, Ph.D., M.L.I.S.
Student Success

The Library as Classroom: Expanding the UWM Libraries’ Contributions to Student Success

Teaching using primary sources has long been recognized as an effective way to impart critical thinking skills to students of all ages. Archivists and special collections librarians work with faculty and instructors across disciplines to design assignments and course outcomes, integrate primary sources into lesson plans, and provide guidance to students.

In the UWM Libraries, the Division of Distinctive Collections includes the American Geographical Society Library, Archives, and Special Collections. Staff across these units frequently collaborate with faculty at UWM and elsewhere to integrate rare and unique holdings into course outcomes.

These collaborations can take many forms. They run the gamut from an intensive introduction to primary source research in a single class (the “one shot” approach) to multiple class visits that introduce increasingly complex research methodologies to each new lesson.

This is a departure from practice, when archivists and librarians simply displayed their treasures to students without attention to critical questions such as: who created this record or artifact? What perspective does it convey? What perspectives does it exclude or marginalize? What does it tell us about the culture it comes from?

This past fall 2019 Aims McGuinness, associate professor of history, taught a first-year seminar, “Mapping Worlds,” that met entirely in the American Geographical Society Library. McGuinness received a UWM Faculty Undergraduate Distinguished Teaching award in 2019 for this innovative course.

“I find it moving, as a teacher,” McGuinness says, “to see how students’ eyes light up when an AGSL librarian brings out a priceless artifact such as the Lazzlo’s 1452 Mappamundi or one of the AGSL’s extraordinary collection of atlases published by Abraham Ortelius in the 16th century.”

He has also taught History 596, “Maps as Historical Sources,” in the AGSL, a course developed and originally offered by the late history professor Bruce Fetter. “The past becomes real and inspiring for the students in a way that it can’t when they’re looking at reproductions or a PowerPoint,” McGuinness says.

History Professor Amanda Seligman met with her course, History 294, “Seminar on Historical Method: Research Techniques,” several times in the Libraries’ Distinctive Collections during the fall 2019 semester.

The student evaluations from the class were the best she has ever received in her career, she says, primarily because of the substantial time spent in the Libraries’ collections, and the immersive, tactile, and unmediated experience of seeing and handling primary sources—real letters, actual documents, original photographs, rare maps.

She posed the question, “Which lecture/discussions did you find the most useful?” One student’s answer was typical of their responses: “Every one that was a library trip was awesome!” Another added: “This was true history research!”

Research Excellence

Libraries Expand Affordable Textbook Program

Now in its fifth year, the UWM Open Textbook and Open Educational Resource Adoption Project—a partnership between the UWM Libraries and Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning—continues to expand affordable course material options across campus. To date, the project has supported Open Textbook and Open Educational Resources (OER) adoption in 16 UWM courses and saved 17,658 students $2,106,750 in textbook costs.

This support has bolstered efforts to strategically scaffold affordable course material options throughout General Education Requirement courses. There are currently ten GER courses with no additional costs for materials.

The cost of textbooks can impact the courses students choose and if they forego purchasing a textbook, it can negatively impact their success in a course. To assist students in making informed choices, a “course marking” pilot has been developed in collaboration with the Registrar’s Office, allowing the selection of a “no/low cost textbook” filter in the UWM course catalog.

Research Excellence

Invictus, UWM Black Student Union’s Newspaper, Added to African American Online Collections

In February, the Libraries digitized and posted a large number of issues of Invictus, a publication launched by the Black Student Union in 1977. One of UWM’s longest-running student newspapers, Invictus gave voice to the University’s African American student body with news features, profiles, and poetry. The last issue was published in 1995. The collection also includes the only two issues of a predecessor publication, The Black Critic.

Invictus joins other UWM Libraries’ collections that document local African American history: two digital collections, March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project and UWM African American Alumni Oral History Project, and a number of Archives’ collections, including the Vel Phillips papers and UWM Department of Africology records.

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Libraries Annual Report 2019-2020
UWM Librarians Rise to the COVID-19 Challenge to Support Students: View from the Branch Libraries

Efforts taken by the dedicated staff at the UWM at Waukesha and Washington County Libraries provide a window onto efforts taken by staff across all campus libraries as UWM closed its facilities in March.

“At the beginning of the COVID era, the ground beneath us felt like it was shifting on an hourly basis,” said Scott Silet, Assistant Director of Libraries for the College of General Studies.

Meeting the challenge to provide services and resources exclusively online, he said “meant a doubling of emails both sent and read, more video meetings and chats in the first month than we had done in the previous year total, and blowing through our cellphone data plans due to a huge jump in after-hours texting between staff.”

Virtual instruction was offered both synchronously and asynchronously, with staff quickly learning new digital platforms to aid instruction. Reference services and research consultations, as well, were provided via the expanded use of technology.

“I made sure that every student who needed a laptop had access to one” said Jan Donahue, Academic Librarian at Washington County, “even that if that meant meeting them in a parking lot – mask on.”

Silet said, “It was both invigorating as a staff and, at times, exhausting. Thankfully, by the beginning of June, we had all managed to get through our first semester working remotely to deliver the support our students needed, and I think quite well.”

AGSL Fellowships 2020

The American Geographical Society Library (AGSL) awarded fellowships to three visiting scholars in 2020:

Lauren Beck, professor of Hispanic Studies and Visual & Material Culture Studies at Mount Allison University, received a McColl Research Program Fellowship for her proposal, “Honouring Our Place: Women, Indigenous People, and People of Color in Place Names and Place Emblems in the Americas.”

Lindsay Frederick Braun, associate professor of African History at the University of Oregon, was awarded an AGSL Research Fellowship for his project, “Geographers of Colonial East Africa and the American Geographical Society.”

Phillip Koyoumjian, adjunct lecturer at the University of Rochester, also received an AGSL Research Fellowship, for his proposal, “Maps and the Making of Geographical Knowledge in Britain, 1660-1730.”
AGSL Acquires Loren McIntyre Photo Collection

The American Geographical Society Library (AGSL) recently acquired the Loren A. McIntyre Latin American Photo Collection, comprising over 80,000 slides taken by McIntyre, a photojournalist and explorer. McIntyre’s photographs, shot in Central and South America over a thirty-year period, appeared in over 500 publications, including Time, Life, Smithsonian, and National Geographic Magazine.

Born in 1917 and raised in Seattle, McIntyre studied Latin American culture at the University of California, Berkeley and joined the Merchant Marine after graduating. He served in the US Navy for four years during WWII, and then with the Peruvian Navy. He began photographing his travels in the 50’s while employed by the US AID program in Bolivia and Peru.

Among the many remarkable chapters in his life is the story of his sojourn among a remote Amazonian people, the Mayoruna, recounted in the 1991 book Amazon Beaming by Petru Popescu, which also chronicles McIntyre’s journey to the Amazon River’s most distant source, a small lake in the Peruvian Andes.

McIntyre’s books include The Incredible Incas and Their Timeless Land (1975), Exploring South America (1990), Amazonia (1991), and a biography of the German geographer and explorer Alexander von Humboldt, Die Amerikanische Reise (2000).

He co-wrote and co-produced the short documentary film Amazon, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1997. McIntyre died in 2003.

In addition to his slides, the collection includes over 400 photographs; albums; manuscript materials (notebooks, personal papers); digital files; recordings by McIntyre; movie reels of projects he was involved in; his publications; and artifacts, including his camera.

Maria McIntyre, McIntyre’s daughter-in-law, donated the collection to AGSL. It is currently being sorted and catalogued. Funding is needed for preservation and digitization of the collection. For more information on supporting this project, please contact Christina McCaffery at cmmakal@uwm.edu.

Water buffalo roundup, Marajó Island, Brazil, 1971. Photo by Loren McIntyre.
Congresswoman Gwen Moore Delivers 50th Annual Morris Fromkin Lecture


Morris Fromkin, who practiced law first in Milwaukee and later 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 family established the Morris Fromkin Memorial Collection, as well as a research grant and lectureship, which was inaugurated in 1970.

The grant, funded by the UWM Libraries, has encouraged and assisted UWM faculty and staff members from a variety of disciplines in their research on individuals, groups, movements, and ideas which have influenced the quest for social justice and human rights. Occasionally, important contributors to the cause of social justice from outside the university are invited to speak.

Over five decades, lecture topics have ranged widely, from the forging of identity in Milwaukee’s Latino immigrant community, to the intellectual origins of the “Wisconsin Idea,” to YouTube-based Afro-Brazilian social justice activism.

The Fromkin Grant is the only UWM Libraries-funded grant that supports original research and scholarship by UWM faculty and staff. The annual lecture has featured scholars across a variety of disciplines, including history, art and design, economics, geography, Africology, communication, architecture, criminal justice, and many others.

The “LGBTQ+ Audio Archive Mining Project” will use machine learning tools and data analysis and visualization to build and process text datasets extracted from a variety of AV materials in these collections, including collections of oral histories, local television news and radio broadcasts, and early LGBTQ+ community cable programming.

The project will lead to a deeper understanding of the contents of these collections, and enhance discoverability of previously unrecognized topics, relationships, and patterns that shed light on the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Milwaukee and the Midwest.

“This project is especially exciting,” Hanlon says, “because it will enable us to better comprehend our past—something that is all the more important in the case of communities whose histories have often been hidden, such as the LGBTQ+ community. This will open up new audiences for our archival collections, and give students and the community an opportunity to use our collections in ways that simply weren’t possible in their original formats.”

In addition to the core team, project participants include UWM Libraries’ staff Shiraz Bhathena, Jie Chen, Karl Holten, and Ling Meng. The project concludes in April 2021.
Ettinger Lecture Highlights Milwaukee Native’s Bookwork

Book artist, letterpress printer, collage artist, graphic designer, and stonecutter Michael Koppa offered a discussion of his career, focusing on his process and his bookwork, on September 24, 2019 in the fourth floor Conference Center of the Golda Meir Library. His talk was the 14th annual presentation in the Ettinger Book Artists Series, supported by the Ettinger Family Foundation.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, and a graduate of the art program at UW-Madison, Koppa settled in Viroqua, Wisconsin, and re-established his Heavy Duty Press at a studio dubbed “Der Klubhaus” in rural Liberty, Wisconsin.

His presentation highlighted the development of his work from the artist’s zine series The Sphere, which he produced starting in 1993 for his parent’s grocery store, the iconic Koppa’s Fulbeli Deli on Farwell Ave. in Milwaukee’s East Side, to his latest 2018/19 Heavy Duty Press production, the exquisite letterpress artist’s book, Typesetting on a Winter’s Afternoon.

An exhibit of Koppa’s work was on display in the Fourth Floor Exhibition Gallery during fall 2019.

STAFF MEMBER FACILITATES INTER-COLLEGE HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

When Health Sciences Librarian Carrie Wade joined the UWM Libraries in early 2018, she brought along her strong interest in podcasting and experience with audio production. Later that year, the Digital Humanities Lab opened its Audio Studio—equipped to make professional grade audio recordings—on the second floor of the Golda Meir Library.

Wade took advantage of the new opportunity, creating with co-producer David Frazer a podcast that features conversation between members of UWM’s Partners for Health—the College of Health Sciences, College of Nursing, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, and Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health—and promotes their efforts to the Milwaukee community.

The most recent episodes were released in February and featured Helen Meier, assistant professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, and Dimitri Topitzes, professor of social work in School of Social Welfare, interviewing each other on their research interests and contributions to the health of the community.

Wade and Frazer (Center of Urban Population Health) have produced six episodes of “Partners for Health.” The UWM Partners for Health podcasts may be accessed at uwm.edu/health/podcast.
The UWM Libraries organize many on-site exhibitions each year. Exhibition venues include the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, Archives, American Geographical Society Library, Special Collections, and elsewhere in the Golda Meir Library, as well as at the Washington County and Waukesha libraries. Highlights from 2019-2020 include:

• “The Little Review & the Bauhaus,” installed by the Archives in the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons in January 2020. The exhibit highlighted the important early 20th-century American literary and arts periodical The Little Review and its engagement with Bauhaus artists. It complemented the “Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, the Bauhaus, and Milwaukee” exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum that included several Moholy-Nagy photographs on loan from the Archives.

• “The Harlem Renaissance: 100 Years Later,” showcased books and other materials held by Libraries that related to the early twentieth-century Black literary movement in New York City. The exhibit, also located in the Learning Commons, was put together by the Libraries’ Diversity Committee.

• “Celebrating 50 Years of the Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture,” curated by Special Collections and displayed in the Fourth Floor Exhibition Gallery, documented the history of this Libraries-sponsored series that showcases work on social justice and human rights. A digital collection was also created to supplement the exhibit: uwm.edu/lib-collections/morris-fromkin-memorial-lecture-digital-collection/

• “100th Anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference,” an exhibit in the American Geographical Society Library, recognized the role of the American Geographical Society at the Paris Peace Conference following World War I. Starting in November 1917, a team of geographers, historians, regional experts and cartographers worked in secret at the AGS headquarters in New York, drawing on the library’s vast resources to produce reports and maps for the American negotiators to use at the Peace Conference.

Clockwise from top right: Aims McGuinness, Whitney Moon, Ann Hanlon (inset), Dylan Barth, and Peter Blewett.

STUDENT SUCCESS

DHL Teaching Fellows Incorporate Digital Methods into Their Courses

The Digital Humanities Lab hosted its second cohort of DH Teaching Fellows in 2019-20, which included Dylan Barth, lecturer, Women’s and Gender Studies; Peter Blewett, senior lecturer, English; Aims McGuinness, associate professor, History; and Whitney Moon, assistant professor, Architecture and Urban Planning.

Like their colleagues in the 2018-19 cohort, the Fellows came together to discuss their strategies for integrating DH methods into their fall 2019 assignments and provide documentation to build a growing repository of classroom-friendly DH tools and sample assignments.

This year, the Fellows met with Lane Sunwall from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Ann Hanlon, head of the Libraries’ Digital Collections & Initiatives, to discuss technical and pedagogical issues.

Assignments included a diverse range of topics and methods. Students produced podcasts about architectural research methods, created personalized digital mappamundi, reflected on multicultural identities through digital storytelling, and developed choose-your-own-adventure narratives to explore masculinity.

The Fellows met virtually to wrap up the year and will participate in an online “social” with the 2020-21 Fellows in the fall. Assignment summaries and outcomes are available here: uwm.edu/libraries/dhlab/sample-assignments

Clockwise from top right: Aims McGuinness, Whitney Moon, Ann Hanlon (inset), Dylan Barth, and Peter Blewett.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Libraries’ Exhibits Range Across Disciplines, Materials, and Histories

The UWM Libraries organize many on-site exhibitions each year. Exhibition venues include the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, Archives, American Geographical Society Library, Special Collections, and elsewhere in the Golda Meir Library, as well as at the Washington County and Waukesha libraries. Highlights from 2019-2020 include:

• “The Little Review & the Bauhaus,” installed by the Archives in the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons in January 2020. The exhibit highlighted the important early 20th-century American literary and arts periodical The Little Review and its engagement with Bauhaus artists. It complemented the “Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, the Bauhaus, and Milwaukee” exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum that included several Moholy-Nagy photographs on loan from the Archives.

• “The Harlem Renaissance: 100 Years Later,” showcased books and other materials held by Libraries that related to the early twentieth-century Black literary movement in New York City. The exhibit, also located in the Learning Commons, was put together by the Libraries’ Diversity Committee.

• “Celebrating 50 Years of the Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture,” curated by Special Collections and displayed in the Fourth Floor Exhibition Gallery, documented the history of this Libraries-sponsored series that showcases work on social justice and human rights. A digital collection was also created to supplement the exhibit: uwm.edu/lib-collections/morris-fromkin-memorial-lecture-digital-collection/

• “100th Anniversary of the Paris Peace Conference,” an exhibit in the American Geographical Society Library, recognized the role of the American Geographical Society at the Paris Peace Conference following World War I. Starting in November 1917, a team of geographers, historians, regional experts and cartographers worked in secret at the AGS headquarters in New York, drawing on the library’s vast resources to produce reports and maps for the American negotiators to use at the Peace Conference.

[Self-portrait], László Moholy-Nagy, c. 1925. The Little Review Collection, UWM Archives.
UWM LIBRARIES

By the Numbers 2018

STUDENT SUCCESS

444 instruction sessions for 9,063 attendees

256,530 views of research guides

5,084 reservations of group study rooms

3,849 laptop checkouts

444 instruction sessions for 9,063 attendees

256,530 views of research guides

5,084 reservations of group study rooms

3,849 laptop checkouts

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

272,036 downloads from UWM Digital Commons

1,073,326 views of full-text articles

598 research consultations

1,744,159 views/listens of e-resources

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

925 high school students from 27 schools reached

80 public programs

925 high school students from 27 schools reached

80 public programs
Thank you to the following donors who gave significant monetary gifts to the Libraries from January 1 to December 31, 2018. We are grateful for your support.

And many thanks, too, to the following donors who gave gifts-in-kind—books, maps, DVDs, and other library materials—from January 1 to December 31, 2018.