

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

**LIBRARIES COMMITTEE
2021-2022 Annual Report**

Members

Amanda Seligman, Chair	FAC	History
Carl Bogner	AS	Film (Chancellor’s Rep)
Maddie Brenner	Student/G	
Tathagato Chakraborty	Student/G	
Cary Costello	FAC	Sociology
Michael Doyle	Dir	UWM Libraries
Anne Dressel	FAC	Nursing
Bonita Klein-Tasman	Assoc Dean	Graduate School
Elana Levine	FAC	English
Suyu Lin	AS	Assessment & Institutional Research
Lindsay McHenry	FAC	Geosciences
Conal McNamara	Student/G	
Shama Mirza	FAC	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Alan Price	FAC	Mathematics & Natural Sciences
Nicole Stelzner	AS	Accessibility Resource Center
Erin Winkler	FAC	African & African Diaspora Studies

Charter

A3.4 Libraries Committee

- (1) **Membership.** Seventeen members as follows: eight elected faculty members, at least one from each division; two appointed academic staff members; three students, one of whom is a graduate student. The academic staff members are appointed by the Chancellor upon recommendation of the Academic Staff Committee. The Chancellor, the Director of the Libraries, the Graduate Dean, and a representative of the UWM Alumni Association are ex-officio members.

(Document 2169, 12/17/98; UWM Administration approval, 12/30/98)

(Document 2330, 5/14/02, UWM Administration approval, 5/31/02)

(Document 2364, 11/21/02, UWM Administration approval, 11/28/02)

- (2) **Functions.**
- a) Represents the interest and authority of the university faculty in archives and library affairs and in the establishment of policy.
 - b) Makes recommendations for faculty action.

- c) Advises the Director of the Libraries concerning administrative operation of the Archives and Libraries.

(Document 1016, 3/17/77; UWM Administration approval, 3/30/77)
(Document 1308, 4/22/82; UWM Administration approval, 4/29/82)
(Document 2319, 12/20/01; UWM Administration approval, 12/28/01)
(Document 2364, 11/21/02; UWM Administration approval, 11/28/02)
(Document 3090, 3/16/17; UWM Administration approval, 3/22/17)

Meetings

During semester I, 2021-2022, the University Libraries Committee (ULC) met four times (9/16, 10/14, 11/11, 12/16); during semester II, the committee met two times (2/24, 4/18).

Major Accomplishments/Actions

- Elected Amanda Seligman as Chair for 2021-2022.
- Received report from Aaron Dobbs, Library Associate Director for Access Services, about extending the loan renewal period for up to five years for UWM faculty/staff/graduate students.
- Discussed how UW-Madison’s Library Collections Enhancement Initiative might provide a model for augmenting the UWM Libraries’ own collection budget. Doyley and Seligman met in November with Florence Hsia, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in Arts & Humanities at UW-Madison, to learn more about the initiative.
- Received report from Tiffany Thornton, Outreach and Community Engagement Librarian, on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives related to staff recruitment and retention, library collection policies and programming, and a radically welcoming and inclusive library environment.
- Received report from Susan Foran, interim Library Associate Director for Collection & Resource Management, on the decision by the Library of Congress to replace the “illegal aliens” subject heading with the terms “noncitizens” and “illegal immigration.”

At each meeting Associate Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Michael Doyley provided updates on priorities, initiatives, staffing, and the budget, including those below.

COVID-19

- In fall 2021, the Golda Meir Library reopened in its entirety—in 2020-2021, access was limited to the Learning Commons—and all service desks had regular, scheduled hours. On-site instruction sessions increased through the year to reach pre-pandemic numbers. Programming was offered in a hybrid model that featured simultaneous on-site and virtual presentations.

Strategic Planning

- Completed a strategic plan for 2021-2024, which was developed in conversation with major University initiatives, including 2030 Action Plan, Campus Cares initiatives focused on the health and well-being of the UWM community, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Action Plan.
- Action items of the strategic plan include DEI objectives, items related to affordable learning goals for students, programming related to healing and recovery, redesign of library spaces to support student needs, development of an affordable research collection that supports faculty needs, and professional development of library staff in digital technologies.

Collections

- In September 2021, the Libraries hosted the Slovenian Consul General and the Minister for Slovenians Abroad. The dignitaries were interested in the Libraries' Slovenian music collection, the largest of its kind outside Slovenia.
- Two research American Geographical Society Library fellows were chosen for 2022: Anita Carasco, associate professor of anthropology at Luther College, and Sebastian Diaz, doctoral student in history at Cornell University.
- The Libraries signed a 3-year "transformative agreement" contract with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the world's largest and oldest computer science society. Under this agreement, the Libraries will pay for article processing charges (APCs) instead of subscription to content. Transformative agreements are becoming more common, shifting contracts between libraries and publishers away from subscriptions for content locked behind a paywall, to support for open access publication.

Programs

- Numerous hybrid presentations, including the 52nd Annual Morris Fromkin Memorial Lecture with Anne Bonds and Derek Handley; the Ettinger Book Artist Lecture with Melissa Wagner-Lawler; the Holzheimer "Maps & America" Lecture with Katherine Parker; and many workshops and talks hosted by the Digital Humanities Lab.
- Hosted two outdoor concerts by the UWM Steel PANthers steel band; several therapy dog events; and two Chancellor's study breaks.
- Community presentation of UWM's Latino Activism Oral History & Archives event.
- Distinctive Collections participated in 2021 Doors Open Milwaukee.
- Initiated a twice-yearly "Faculty Picks" book recommendation column.
- Waukesha Library hosted an exhibit of poems and artwork produced during a 2021 workshop at the UWM at Waukesha Field Station that was led by UWM at Waukesha Emerita Professor of English Peggy Rozga and Emerita Professor of Art Barb Reinhart. An opening program was held April 21, 2022.

Facilities

- Open hours at the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons were scaled back from 24/7 because of low use after 1 a.m. and budget concerns. LC now closes at 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

- The Libraries repurposed the service desk on 2E in the Golda Meir Library as a contemplative space with yoga mats, prayer rugs, cushions, and soft lighting, which aligns with a campus initiative to create areas for students to retreat from the stress of college life.
- In fall 2021, the Libraries opened six group study rooms at the UWM at Waukesha Library, providing students with dedicated, accessible spaces with sharable technology.
- In November 2021, began construction on the new \$2.8 million Archives space on the third floor of the Golda Meir Library. Construction is on time and on budget. It is scheduled to be completed in October 2022.
- In April 2022, the Libraries, Graduate School, and Campus Planning held a focus group with over 30 graduate students to discuss plans for a dedicated study space for graduate students in the Golda Meir Library. The initial vision includes a mix of spaces for individual and group work, reservable areas for meetings and presentations, and secure access.
- The Libraries collaborated with the Student Union to host various Union services over the summer while the Union building is renovated. The Golda Meir Library will host the food pantry in the first floor, west wing; host an exhibition from the Union Art Gallery in the 4th floor gallery; and provide an indoor location for new student orientations.

Budget

- The Libraries' received a budget allocation of \$8,970,000 for 2022-2023. It will manage a spending reduction of 1.1% (~ \$85,000). The budget will allow the Libraries to fill key vacancies. Spending on the collection will remain at the same amount as FY22. This will be the second consecutive year in which the Libraries will make not cut to the collection budget.

Personnel

- Libraries filled key vacancies and hired 1 limited appointee, 4 academic staff, and 4 university staff.
- Recruitments are underway for a business librarian and library assistant in Media & Reserve Services.
- Most of Libraries staff were satisfied with their TTC titles. Some appealed theirs.
- The Libraries offered two workshops facilitated by the Dean of Students to help staff cope with emotional and psychological effects of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Seligman