OFF THE SHELF

FALL 2026

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UWEC LIBRARIES

ISSUE 104

stacked



MCINTYRE LIBRARY PODCAST



University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



A student rifles through vinyl records to play on the library's turntable. Several students check out DVDs. Another student asks whether we have a print copy of an ebook they discovered online. Upstairs, white-glove-clad students pore over historic handwritten letters under the guidance of our archivist. In the Makerspace, students work on creative projects such as painting, sewing, soldering, or sculpting. Another group of students claims its usual spot to play board games from the library's collection.

Taken individually, these moments might seem unremarkable. Together, they suggest something larger: a growing interest in physical, tactile, analog experiences. This renewed interest in analog, it seems, is being led not by older generations nostalgic for the good old days, but rather by younger generations, including our students.

This anecdotal evidence is supported by data. Adults in the 18 to 34 age group are purchasing vinyl records, Polaroid cameras, print books, and movie theater tickets at higher rates than any other adult age group, according to MRI-Simmons Catalyst, a library database containing data on consumer demographics, behaviors, and attitudes. This age group also is most likely to agree with the statements, "I worry about the amount of time I spend on the internet," and "I often wish I could take a break from technology."

Evolving vocabulary reflects the growing dissatisfaction with digital experiences. In recent years, terms such as "enshittification," "brain rot," and "AI slop" have topped various **"Word of the Year" lists**. These terms describe digital experiences that feel pervasive, degrading, increasingly exploitative, and unsatisfying.

With an app and a click, we have access to more music than we can ever listen to. Our phones contain more photos than we can ever revisit. Microsoft's Copilot AI chat tool can—according to its own response to my prompt—generate a 50,000-word novel in five minutes, if I want it to (I don't).

Experiencing digital fatigue, people are **increasingly finding meaning in activities** that require effort, skill, and attention. **Studies** suggest that working with one's hands, whether painting, sewing, building, or repairing, is linked to cognitive and emotional benefits. Mastering challenging skills, such as analog pursuits, can provide a sense of accomplishment, identity, and fulfillment that passive consumption often lacks.

Libraries occupy an interesting position within this cultural shift. Librarians are simultaneously teaching students AI literacy and digital fluency while creating opportunities for analog engagement. We help patrons navigate emerging technologies while encouraging and empowering them to think critically about those technologies and, when appropriate, to **resist them**. We recognize the importance of preparing students for a rapidly evolving and ethically complex digital world as well as the value of providing experiences rooted in physical objects, hands-on learning, and face-to-face community.

The library has our students covered from AI to analog. ■



Jill Markgraf,
Director of Libraries

Antidote to AI synthesis

Archives' low digitization leads students to learn from primary sources

By **Greg Kocken,** kockeng@uwec.edu

In 2024, the National Archives estimated that 2% of its archival holdings were digitized. It is possible, given the limited resources available to other American archival repositories, that the percentage of digitized archival holdings in the United States is closer to 1%. The vast holdings of archival repositories remain in their original format.

In an era where information is quickly synthesized by generative AI tools, these archival resources are an increasingly valuable tool for developing information literacy. Students engaged with archival materials must learn to read, contextualize, and interpret complex information sources themselves. This process helps students develop critical thinking skills through a process that cannot be easily aided by AI synthesis.

McIntyre Library's Special Collections and Archives Department provides students and instructors with a humanities laboratory designed to facilitate hands-on teaching and learning with primary sources of information. Furthermore, our students and instructors get access to world-class archival holdings through the Wisconsin Historical Society's Area Research Center Network. Recent course and student visits demonstrate the department's value.

Changes to the History Department's methods curriculum have increased class and individual student visits to Special Collections and Archives. Students in several core History Department courses frequently engage with Special Collections and Archives because they are required to work with non-digital archival materials, much of which is sent to the department through the Area Research Center Network. This opportunity helps students build information literacy skills through the process of learning to interpret unique archival materials. For many of these students, the process culminates in an original research paper.



Stacy Jalowitz, a former UW-Eau Claire student who served in the National Guard during the first Gulf War, wears protective gear and a gas mask while standing in her dorm room in this photo taken in 1990. Jalowitz's correspondence was among materials that a writing class interpreted during a visit to McIntyre Library's Special Collections and Archives during this semester.

This semester, students in a writing course engaged with Special Collections and Archives over two days. During their first visit, students focused on carefully reading and interpreting a single letter from the papers of Stacy Jalowitz, a former UW-Eau Claire student who was called to serve active duty in the National Guard during the first Gulf War. Students read passages from this letter to understand how Jalowitz informed her audience using language and context relevant to the reader. During the second visit, students selected their own archival collection to evaluate and build an interpretation based on the primary source materials present in that collection. Several students subsequently returned after the class meeting to continue engaging with archival content.

Special Collections and Archives is uniquely positioned to cultivate twenty-first century information literacy skills through a decidedly twentieth century medium. Navigating context, implicit bias, physical format, and meaning in archival materials builds critical thinking skills. AI tools cannot replicate the synthesis required of students in this environment. This helps prepare students to be more critical consumers of the digital information world around them. ■



Hannah Carlton, left, and Anna Zook, right, interview McIntyre Library cataloger Crystal Schmidt, center, during a recording of the Stacked podcast.

Staff photo by Kong Yang

Stepping up to the mic

Librarians start McIntyre podcast

By **Hannah Carlton** and **Anna Zook,** *carltohv@uwec.edu and zookam@uwec.edu*

Anna Zook (AZ): Hello, listeners! This is Anna.

Hannah Carlton (HC): And this is Hannah.

AZ & HC: And you're listening to *Stacked: The McIntyre Library Podcast*!

AZ: On today's episode, we welcome all readers to learn about the library's very first official podcast.

HC: Anna, let's start by telling folks how we came up with this idea.

AZ: Yah! The idea started on a cold January day when we were meeting with Avonlea Hanson in CETL about supporting podcast assignments.

HC: We previously were invited to teach two classes about podcasting in the fall of 2025, and we wanted to build out library resources for students creating and faculty assigning podcasts.

AZ: Podcast assignments are popping up across disciplines as an alternative to traditional research papers.

HC: Students need to research and collect information, think about their audience, and carefully plan how they will present information. Creating a podcast is a lot more work than listeners might expect!

AZ: We were so excited about podcast assignments, and Avonlea suggested that we start our own podcast. So, we did!

HC: We're using this podcast as an example for teaching podcasting but also as a way to bring people together to talk about how awesome libraries are. For most episodes, we bring on a guest to talk about something they love from McIntyre Library.

AZ: Guests have included students, faculty, and staff from myriad departments on campus, including many folks from within McIntyre's walls, so look out for an episode featuring your favorite library worker.

HC: Much like this article, our podcast is very conversational, and we have been told that it's like hanging out with us on FaceTime.

AZ: High praise. (Anna says with a smile on her face).

HC: We also have a long-form podcast to offer an example of a different format, and we are hoping to experiment with different formats as we go along to illustrate the different styles of podcasting to meet the needs of different assignments.

AZ: We are having a lot of fun recording in the Large Audio Studio on the first floor of the library and highlighting the digital studio spaces and equipment available for checkout.

HC: We've had the chance to test out some of the equipment students can borrow for podcasting assignments. We recorded an episode with the new podcast kit, which is easy to use and records great audio quality.

AZ: It has sound effects!

HC: (facepalm)

AZ: There have been some really funny moments in the studio, so it's a good thing we are recording in audio and there's no video to document our shenanigans. What's been one of your favorite moments, Hannah?

HC:. I loved talking to Jill Markgraf, McIntyre Library director, about how being a librarian has changed over the years. What about you, Anna?

AZ: Hearing students' stories about McIntyre Library has been illuminating.

HC: We should tell people how to find us!

AZ: You can find all recorded episodes on our YouTube channel. We have five episodes available and will post one new episode a month.

HC: And if you're interested in assigning a podcast, we would love to help! You can reach us at zookam@uwec.edu and carltohv@uwec.edu.

HC & AZ: Byeeeeeeee!. ■

We've got the gear to take a podcast outside the studio

By **Erin Kriener-Franz,** *krieneej@uwec.edu*

While our Audio Studios offer the physical space and equipment needed for recording audio, students may be on the lookout for portable options for their projects as well. Equipment checkout at McIntyre Library offers a variety of options for recording interviews, podcasts, music, and more. Here are a few options in the checkout pool, all available at the Main Desk for 14-day checkouts.

Laptop-recording companion



A computer microphone is a great option for enhancing audio on computer-based projects. These USB microphones can record clear audio with minimal background noise in any computer program. Equipment checkout offers both Logitech Blue Yeti and Snowball iCE microphones for checkout.

On-the-go podcast studio



The Zoom Podcasting Kit (and additional accessory kits) can help bring the podcast studio anywhere. Included in the kit is the Zoom Podtrak P4 Next audio recorder—a multitrack audio recorder with built-in noise reduction—and one microphone + headphone setup. Students can check out additional microphone + headphone kits to have up to four separate recording lines.

Mobile microphone sets



Wireless microphone sets offer enhanced audio recording on almost any device (including phones and tablets). Each kit includes two clip-on lapel microphones that sync automatically to any device with the receiver.

Portable recorder



Another portable audio recording option is the Zoom H4N and Zoom H5 Audio Recorders. These handheld recorders offer high-quality built-in microphones with different creative controls for an optimal audio experience on the go. ■

Upcoming Makerspace workshops

By **Blugold Makerspace staff,** *library.makerspace@uwec.edu*

Our Makerspace staffers are sharing their expertise through multiple workshops this fall. No prior experience is required to attend these workshops.

These workshops are open to all UWEC students, faculty, and staff members by presenting a Blugold ID.

Groups of UWEC employees should contact the Makerspace in advance for pricing and scheduling. Reach out to Dan Hillis, *hillisdr@uwec.edu*, with any questions. ■

Felt Pie Garland



Friday, Nov. 13
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
&
Tuesday, Nov. 17
Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for this fall-themed, no-sew project! Learn how to create three types of pie in felt—cherry, pumpkin, and apple.

Quilt Square Felt Garland



Tuesday, Nov. 17
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Electronics for Makers

Mondays
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Nov 16: Make LEDs Do Something Awesome

Nov 23: Tree Ornament Planning Lab

Nov 30: Tree Ornament Work & Troubleshooting

Dec 7: Build a Tiny Instrument

Ever want to make something electronic but didn't know where to start? Electronics for Makers is a hands-on workshop series where you'll build real devices while learning the electronics, programming, and troubleshooting skills behind them. Each session stands on its own, so you can drop in for one workshop or come back all year and take on increasingly ambitious projects. No prior electronics/Arduino/programming experience is necessary.

Blugold Makerspace

Open Hours Fall 2026

Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday Noon - 4:00 p.m.

University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Barron COUNTY Library
barron.uwec.edu/library



UWEC–BC Library student workers Lauren Saylor, left, and Rallye Downer pose in front of a retro photo spot.

Celebrating decades

We decided to celebrate UWEC–BC campus' 60th anniversary by featuring different decades in the library this year. We are decorating and providing photo spots in the library for one decade each month.

September was the 1960s, October the 1970s, November the 1980s, and so on. We are reflecting on campus activities as well as each decade's pop culture in our displays and activities each month.

For example, October celebrated the '70s with pet rocks and lava lamps! ■

Crafty collaboration

Library, AmeriCorps, 4-H launch Maker Monday program

By **Jenniver Duvall,** duvallja@uwec.edu

In June, the Maker Monday program was launched at the UWEC–BC Library. The program is the result of a collaboration between the library, Barron County 4-H, and AmeriCorps. The idea was to create activities that attract people of all ages and give families fun projects to work on together during the summer months.

Each session included two crafts or projects, and the participants were welcome to do either one or both. Projects included wood pumpkins, marshmallow catapults, 3D paintings, boat designing, and aluminum flowers.

The activities were planned and led by AmeriCorps and 4-H staff in the library makerspace, and supplies were provided by all three groups.

Although attendance started out small, it grew significantly each week. There were always newcomers, but many families returned weekly. It was also terrific to see more and more adults get into the fun with their kids. It was such a success that we are continuing the program once a month during the school year.

The library has become more involved in the planning and leadership aspects of the workshops now that the semester has started, and we are having a lot of fun with it. Our students are now participating along with community members, and we hope that we are providing both groups with memorable experiences on the UWEC–Barron County Campus. ■



Starting over the summer, Maker Monday attracted people of all ages to the UWEC-BC Library.

All titles can be found in the Popular Reading Collection on the second floor of McIntyre Library.

List curated by **Carrie Butler Becker,** *beckercb@uwec.edu*

The Astral Library: A Novel
Kate Quinn
PS3617.U578 A87 2026



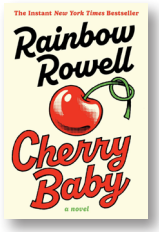
The Book Witch: A Novel
Meg Shaffer
PS3618.E5726 B575 2026

A Box Full of Darkness
Simone St. James
PR9199.4.S726 B69 2026



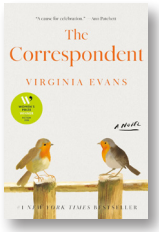
Brawler: Stories
Lauren Groff
PS3607.R6344 B73 2026

Cherry Baby: A Novel
Rainbow Rowell
PS3618.O8755 C44 2026



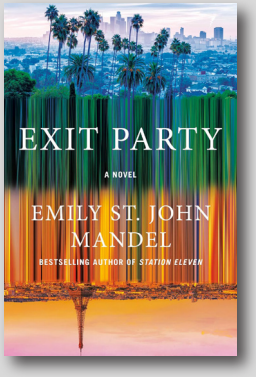
Cool Machine: A Novel
Colson Whitehead
PS3573.H4768 C66 2026

The Correspondent: A Novel
Virginia Evans
PS3605.V3774 C67 2025



Etna: A Novel
Paul Yoon
PS3625.O54 E86 2026

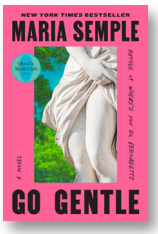
Exit Party: A Novel
Emily St. John Mandel
PR9199.4.M3347 E95 2026



Ari, recently released from 18 years in prison, attends a celebratory party at a friend-of-a-friend's house. In this version of the future, America has fallen apart from a new civil war, but life is now returning to some semblance of normalcy. But then strange things happen, including the disappearance of the party's host. Long after the party's over, Ari and others are effected by the inexplicable events that happened there.

Famesick: A Memoir
Lena Dunham
PN1992.4.D86 A3 2026

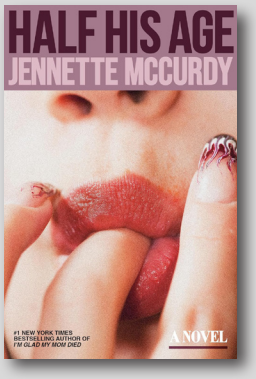
Go Gentle: A Novel
Maria Semple
PS3619.E495 G6 2026



Good People: A Novel
Patmeena Sabit
PR9199.4.S2125 G66 2026

A Great Act of Love: A Novel
Heather Rose
PR9619.3.R619 G74 2026

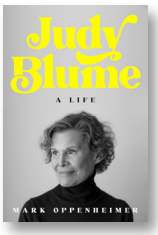
Half His Age: A Novel
Jennette McCurdy
PS3613.C388 H35 2026



A 17-year-old pines for her creative writing teacher in this darkly comedic spin on the coming-of-age story. Despite that he's married, much older than her, and so many other reasons why it's wrong, the brash young woman disregards obstacles standing between her and Mr. Korgy. This is the first novel from former child star Jennette McCurdy, who made her authorial debut with her hit memoir, "I'm Glad My Mom Died."

John of John: A Novel
Douglas Stuart
PS3619.T828 J64 2026

Judy Blume: A Life
Mark Oppenheimer
PS3552.L843 Z795 2026



The Keeper
Tana French
PR6106.R457 K44 2026

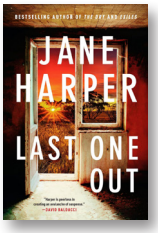
Kin
Tayari Jones
PS3610.O63 K56 2026

Land: A Novel
Maggie O'Farrell
PR6065.F36 L36 2026



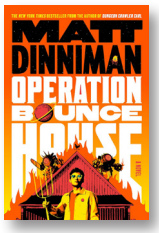
The Land and Its People
David Sedaris
PS3569.E314 L36 2026

Last One Out: A Novel
Jane Harper
PR9619.4.H3645 L37 2026



[The Meaning of Your Life: Finding Purpose in an Age of Emptiness]
Arthur C. Brooks
BF637.S4 B794 2026

[Operation Bounce House]
Matt Dinniman
PS3604.I49 O64 2026

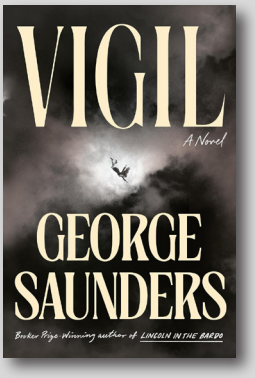


[The Poet Empress]
Shen Tao
PR9199.4.T3555 P64 2026

[The Things We Never Say: A Novel]
Elizabeth Strout
PS3569.T736 T48 2026



[Two Can Play]
Ali Hazelwood
PS3608.A98845 T96 2026



[Vigil: A Novel]
George Saunders
PS3569.A7897 V54 2026

Ushering souls into the afterlife has been easy for Jill "Doll" Blaine, a supernatural being who descends from the heavens. After 343 successful deliveries from souls ready to shake loose the mortal coil, she runs into the immovable force that is K.J. Boone. The dying oil magnate has no regrets for his big, bold life and resists the idea that it's over. Author George Saunders takes on greed, environmental perils, and mortality in his latest novel.

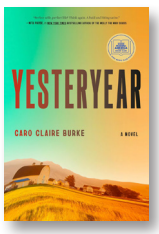
[Villa Coco: A Novel]
Andrew Sean Greer
PS3557.R3987 V55 2026



[Want To Know a Secret?]
Freida McFadden
PS3613.C4365 W36 2026

[When the Moon Hits Your Eye]
John Scalzi
PS3619.C256 W4 2026

[Whistler: A Novel]
Ann Patchett
PS3566.A7756 W45 2026



[Yesteryear: A Novel]
Caro Claire Burke
PS3602.U75518 Y47 2026

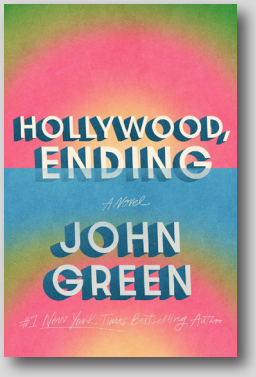
Ebooks and Audiobooks via Libby

Available to UWEC faculty, staff, and students.

[All That's Unseen: An Appalachian Memoir]
(audiobook)
Emilee Hackney

[The American Way of Killing: The Invention of an Epidemic]
(audiobook)
Malcolm Gladwell

[The French Illusion]
(audiobook)
John Grisham



[Hollywood, Ending]
(audiobook)
John Green

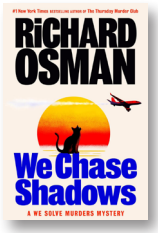
Two rising actors get their big break when they are cast in a biopic about Andy Warhol. Kai and Juniper begin falling in love, but find their relationship complicated by the tension between their private and public lives. Author John Green blends a behind-the-scenes Hollywood love story with an examination of the modern-day attention economy.

[Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel]
(audiobook)
Lucy Foley



[Partita: A Novel]
(audiobook)
Barbara Kingsolver

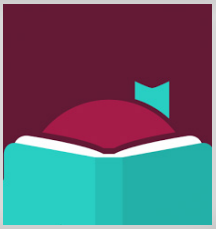
[Threshing Day]
(audiobook and ebook)
Rebecca Yarros



[We Chase Shadows]
(audiobook)
Richard Osman

[Meet Libby]

Access ebooks and audiobooks via the Libby app. To get started, go to libguides.uwec.edu/overdrive



Game On!

Collection born from prize-winning essay has grown to over 400 titles

By **Helena Sumbulla,** *sumbullh@uwec.edu*

If you were lucky enough to drop by Hans Kishel's office on the first floor of the library before his retirement, you would be greeted with a row of colorful dice adorning his window ledge; a middle finger cutout on a popsicle stick; board games that filled both the inside and outside of his office; and fun, knee-high socks on a dashing young man. Hans' demeanor much reflected that of his surroundings—sarcastic, playful, and deep, deeeep down—kind to everyone who crossed paths with him. Naturally, it makes sense that he and his compadre, Eric Jennings, an instruction and outreach librarian who started at the same time as Hans, were instrumental to the creation of the Games Collection at McIntyre Library.

Board games and academic libraries have traditionally not played well together. Until the early 2000s, academic libraries were typically seen as places where serious studying and research occurred—certainly not a space for frivolities like board games. Attitudes and pedagogical practices shifted around 2008, led by an emphasis on student engagement and fostering collaboration and community on campus. Academic librarians increasingly adopted game-based learning tools for instruction and to support outreach initiatives.

It was around this time Eric informed Hans about a chessboard he had seen sitting out at another university library he visited. It was used at a start-of-the-year party to provide students with an alternative to going out to the bars. (Little did they know at the time, but this planted the seeds for McIntyre Library's own After Dark start-of-the-year event.)



Located on the library's first floor, the Games Collection comprises over 400 titles. Among them are copies of the party game Wits & Wagers, one of the first titles bought by Hans Kishel's winnings in an essay contest about the value of board games in education.



Two students test their chess skills during After Dark 2024.

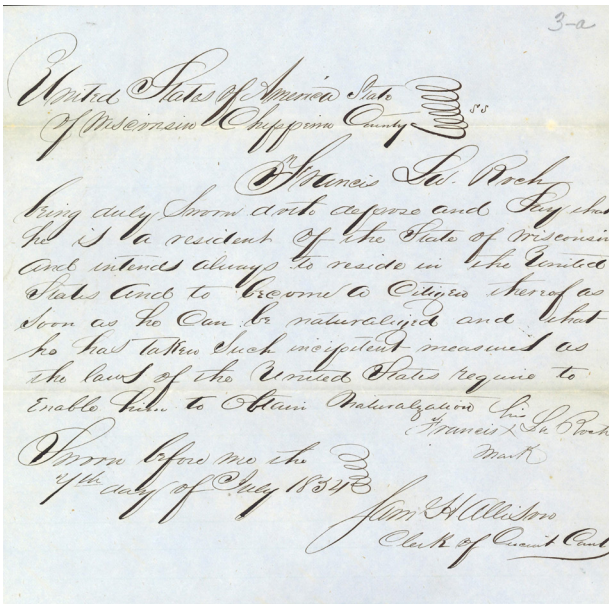
Having no budget to purchase board games, Hans entered an essay contest aimed at educators incorporating board games in their work and won $100. With the money, he purchased chess, checkers, an abstract strategy game, and a party game—**Wits & Wagers**.

The collection has since grown steadily over the years. The university's Languages Department has donated money to buy games for international students to practice their language skills; an Honors class on Game Design and Analysis brought in six copies of **Carcassonne**; the Gamers Guild, a tabletop board game group on campus, has consistently contributed tried-and-true board games to the library over the years. The main source of board games, however, has been word-of-mouth donations made to the collection from staff and faculty on campus. Today, students, staff, and faculty can check out any of our **400+ board games** for a week at a time.

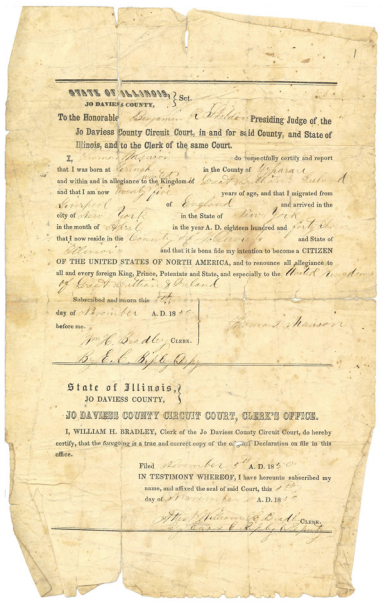
Behind all those added board games is the labor of our acquisitions, cataloging, and stacks team who work diligently to ensure the board games are discoverable. We recently alphabetized the collection and are in the process of adding QR codes to all games for students to easily provide feedback and report missing pieces. Student Engagement Librarian Helena Sumbulla, who is now managing the collection, hopes to further expand it in inclusive ways, such as by adding Braille playing cards.

Whether for education purposes, a study break, or connecting with friends and strangers alike, board games have cemented themselves as important resources in academic libraries. Hans' hope for the future of the board game collection is that they all get along and keep growing.

Just do not talk to him about Monopoly. That is not a game as far as he is concerned. ■



United States of America State of Wisconsin Chippewa County ss
I Francis La Roche being duly Sworn doth depose and say that I am a resident of the State of Wisconsin and intend always to reside in the United States and to become a Citizen thereof as soon as I can be naturalized and that I have taken such incipient measures as the laws of the United States require to Enable him to obtain Naturalization
Francis La Roche
mark
Sworn & Subscribed before me this 4th day of July 1854
John H Allison
Clerk of Circuit Court



STATE OF ILLINOIS, } Set.
JO DAVIESS COUNTY,
To the Honorable ... Presiding Judge of the Jo Daviess County Circuit Court, in and for said County, and State of Illinois, and to the Clerk of the same Court.
I, ... do respectfully certify and report that I was born at ... in the County of ... and within and in allegiance to the Kingdom of ... and that I am now ... years of age, and that I migrated from ... to ... and arrived in the city of ... in the State of ... in the month of ... in the year A. D. eighteen hundred and ... that I now reside in the ... and State of ... and that it is bona fide my intention to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA, and to renounce all allegiance to all and every foreign King, Prince, Potentate and State, and especially to the ... of ... whereof I am now a subject.
Subscribed and sworn this ... day of ... A. D. 18..
before me.
W. H. Bradley, Clerk.
By E. L. Kirkpatrick, Dep.
State of Illinois, }
JO DAVIESS COUNTY,
JO DAVIESS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, CLERK'S OFFICE.
I, WILLIAM H. BRADLEY, Clerk of the Jo Daviess County Circuit Court, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the ... Declaration on file in this office.
Filed ... A. D. 18..
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the seal of said Court, this ... day of ... A. D. 18..
W. H. Bradley, Clerk.
By E. L. Kirkpatrick, Dep.

McIntyre Library's Special Collections and Archives has some Canadian naturalization documents from the 1850s, including this handwritten one (far left) and this more standardized form (left).
Below: *Early naturalization documents of people immigrating to the U.S. typically featured this heading.*



Canadian law ups archive use

New policy opens citizen claims to those who can trace generations back

By **Sarah Beer,** *beersj@uwec.edu*

This is not dissimilar to "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie":

"If you change a citizenship law, people are going to ask for citizenship.
If people want citizenship, they are going to need records.
If they need records, they're going to contact the archivists who have them..."

In December 2025, the Canadian government changed its citizenship law. Previously, only people born in Canada and their first-generation descendants were considered Canadian citizens. The new law states that multiple generations can claim citizenship.

"There is no generational limit for past births. If you can trace an unbroken line of descent to a Canadian citizen ... you may now be recognized as a Canadian citizen at birth," wrote Colin R. Singer, a longtime immigration lawyer and founder of **Immigration.ca**.

Shortly after the law changed, archives with naturalization and vital records began to get requests from people seeking to establish their Canadian citizenship. In McIntyre Library's Special Collections & Archives Department, those requests started appearing in February, and began flooding in during March.

"Trace an unbroken line of descent" is where archivists come in. For people trying to prove citizenship, they need proof that one of their ancestors was born in Canada. So, they start with the ancestor that was born in Canada and immigrated to the United States, which leads them to seek out a trio of naturalization records.

The first of three documents is called the Declaration of Intent(ion). In this document, the person seeking citizenship states that they intend to become a citizen and renounce their allegiance to their homeland. In some cases, Declarations were the only papers filed, because that was all that was required in Wisconsin to vote. At the very least, these documents list the person's name, the foreign ruler of their homeland, and the date of signing. For this reason, early Declarations can be tricky because there could be six Hans Hansons from Norway who filled out their first papers and virtually no way to distinguish between them. If you're lucky, however, later Declarations could also include their birth date and place, the date and place of entry into the United States, occupation, physical description, and the names of their immediate family.

The second document is the Petition for Naturalization. This was filed at least five to seven years after the Declaration and contained much of the information listed above. In later years, Petitions also included photographs—a rare treat for those of us who routinely dig into the intimate details of the lives of the deceased without ever knowing what they looked like.

The third and final document is the Certificate of Naturalization, which shows that the Petition was approved and the immigrant is now a citizen of the U.S.

Once people have proven that their ancestor was born in Canada and they have the naturalization papers, they then need to prove the "unbroken line of descent." They do this by providing birth, death, and/or marriage records for each of the generations that link them to the ancestor who immigrated.

As the home of the Eau Claire Area Research Center, Special Collections & Archives is home to years of historical **naturalization and vital records for six Wisconsin counties**. ■





Far left: *Andy Shafer used pencil and gouache on paper in 2017 to create* The Occupation. ***Left:*** *Anna Zook shares a smile with Barbara Shafer over the latter's painting,* Art 108.

Adding art

Local artists' pieces join permanent collection managed by McIntyre Library

By **Anna Zook,** *zookam@uwec.edu*

UW-Eau Claire's Permanent Art Collection (PAC), which McIntyre Library has managed since 2015, operates on what can only be called a shoestring budget, a small amount focusing on sustaining the current collection. Our budget usually goes to repairing damaged frames, replacing discolored mats, or purchasing tools and supplies required to care for the nearly 800 pieces in our collection. The prospect of purchasing a piece for the collection has seldom been indulged in recent years.

But that changed last fall when an opportunity arose to purchase a piece that tells a unique story from the 2025 Foster Gallery exhibit "Meter and Medium: A Visual Festschrift of Anders C. Shafer." Curated by Arts Librarian Anna Zook, the exhibit celebrated the influence Shafer had on his students as an instructor in the university's Art & Design Department.

Andy Shafer's painting *The Blot Man*, (2024, pencil and acrylic on paper), tells the story of an artist who was dissatisfied with the stiffness of the landscape paintings of his time. To break away from the norm, the artist dipped rocks in paint and blotted them on paper, building "random" impressions of the rocks. Inspired by the work of artist Alexander Cozens, known as "the blotmaster" in his adopted homeland of England, the painting depicts not only Cozens' "blot" story, but adds a visual commentary, or a multi-text, through a sequence of images, elaborating on the idea of seeing things in other things, an idea that Andy says, "brings to mind the line from *Hamlet*, 'very like a whale'." (Act III, scene ii). Much like the banter between Hamlet and Polonius, there's a bit of humor and madness evident in the story Shafer tells through his saturated landscapes and his depiction of an artist determined to paint the world in a new way.

Accompanying this purchase, the PAC Committee was also gifted an opportunity to select an artwork from the exhibit and unanimously chose Shafer's *Occupation*, (2017, pencil and gouache on paper). Another sequential piece inspired by history, the artist built the idea around sketches he drew of every bridge over the Seine River when he lived in Paris as well as memories of living in Paris post-World War II. The piece was awarded Best in Show in the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library's 38th ArtsWest juried exhibit and explores the many tensions and conflicts in Nazi occupied Paris. Shafer's bridges are mixed with images of individuals

struggling, fleeing, fighting, and holding each other up in a series of 110 unique images.

Accompanying this donation, the PAC also was fortunate to receive the donation of an artwork by another Shafer. *Art 108*, (2020, acrylic), was donated by Barbara Shafer, who, alongside Andy, provided instruction in the Art & Design Department as adjunct faculty. One of her favorite classes to teach was Art 108: Color Design. Taught in the painting studio on the third floor of Haas Fine Arts, Barb painted the piece from a series of photographs she had of the space and her students. Noting that the many shelves in the background of the photos provided a challenge, the artist shared that she cut apart the many photos she had of students working in the space, "creating a collage of the images that piqued her interest." She tackled the project during lockdown in 2020 when she was hiding in her house, using the time in isolation to take on the repetitive nature of the shelves. Barbara Shafer captures the breadth of the many shelves in the space beautifully, but more importantly, her piece captures the joy, focus, and hard work in her ART 108 class through the expressions of the many students depicted in the piece.

The PAC welcomes these three new pieces to our collection from artists who have worked in our community since the late 1960s. The rich and varied stories they tell, from the frustration with traditional techniques inspiring a new technique, to the occupation of France intertwined with memory, to the narration in the collage painting of Art 108 students, are apt additions to a collection of art that tells many stories. Thank you, Barb and Andy, for furthering the narrative. ■

Librarians make AI literacy OER

By **Hannah Carlton and Steph Regenauer,** *carltohv@uwec.edu* and *regenasa@uwec.edu*

This summer, librarians Hannah Carlton and Steph Regenauer worked with students Evelyn Oehler and Rachael Singer to create five new information literacy and AI literacy tutorials for the Social Work Department to use in their Introduction to Social Work course. These tutorials were created in response to a request from the department, which was looking to embed more information and AI literacy content into its curriculum. The tutorials cover types of information sources, evaluating sources, lateral reading, AI fundamentals, and AI in research.

The tutorials were remixed from existing open educational resources (OER). OER are educational content that are openly licensed for others to reuse, adapt, or remix.

The tutorials were created in Pressbooks, a software program that supports multimedia content integration and interactive activities. The tutorials integrate in Canvas, the university's learning management system, allowing instructors to easily assign them to students.

This fall the tutorials are being piloted in two sections of Introduction to Social Work, with the goal of implementing them in more sections in the spring. While they were created for social work, they were designed to be broadly applicable to other disciplines and can be easily adapted with new examples.

The project received a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant from the Center for Excellence and Teaching and Learning at UW-Eau Claire. The grant paid the two students for the hours they worked on the project.

Singer, an English and psychology double-major, found working on the project to be very rewarding.

"As a library worker majoring in a social science, it was fascinating to work on a project with an interdisciplinary approach between information literacy, artificial intelligence, and social work," she stated. "Contributing to this OER helped to develop my skills in instructional design, curriculum development, and professional writing."

Oehler, a social work major who also works in the library, hopes that these tutorials will be impactful for students.

"We have created a project that will be beneficial for ... social sciences research, hopefully creating an impact beyond the classroom," she said.

The tutorials are all openly licensed as OER for others to use, adapt, and remix. Reach out to Steph (regenasa@uwec.edu) or Hannah (carltohv@uwec.edu) to learn more. ■

Good dogs

McIntyre Library continues to schedule therapy dog visits multiple times during semesters to help students de-stress between study sessions. Local volunteers bring in their well-trained dogs, which are required to pass a certification program, to be petted by students who miss their own pets back home. For visits close to Halloween, several of the dogs wore costumes, including Lizzy, the black Lab (right).





Hans Kishel says 'Goodbye'

By **Anna Zook** and **Brad Gehrke,**
zookam@uwec.edu and gehrkeb@uwec.edu

After eighteen years of stellar librarianship and service, Hans bid farewell to McIntyre Library this summer, leaving a hole the size of the library in the hearts of students and staff across the UW-Eau Claire campus.

Hans started during the summer of 2008 as a reference and instruction librarian for science, putting his Master's in geology from the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks and his Master's in library and information science from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to use at the Reference Desk, in the instruction lab and classrooms across campus, and in countless one-on-one consultations with students. He put his mastery of understanding media, (thank you, **Marshall McLuhan**), into play to help teach about privacy and knowledge in the age of the Internet.

One of his greatest contributions to the library was his irreverent teaching style. Hans actively worked to remove the barriers between teacher and student to meet those he worked with on an even level. He treated his class as a peer group in a great learning experiment rather than as a typical teacher at the head of a class, and he never considered his teaching day complete if no one flipped him off with a wicked grin.

Hans' passion for board games is also a well-known fact, and he spearheaded our expansive board game collection in the library. He worked tirelessly with the student gaming club on campus as their faculty advisor to bring in the attention and funding needed for this enduring facet of McIntyre Library.

All that being said, don't be surprised to find him in the library over the summer playing a board game with an old colleague or harping on about media literacy to some poor student. While his permanent role as a librarian may have ended, Hans may still turn up around any corner with his big grin, leading us all into trouble. ■

Happy Retirement, Kate!

By **Jill Markgraf,** markgrjs@uwec.edu

When I interviewed Kate Hinnant in 2002, I realized we had met someone special, with a depth of thought and clarity of communication that was rare and refreshing. We hired her then as a web services and reference librarian.

In 2005, she left the library but stayed on campus. Kate worked as a project manager for the University Policy Directory, then as a lecturer in the English Department. She returned to McIntyre Library in 2013 as our business librarian, but gained responsibilities to fit her many interests and talents. In following years, she added head of instruction and then head of communication to her title.

Kate's stellar reputation made her sought after for committees and leadership roles across campus. She served on University Senate for several years, participating in or chairing various committees. She spent many years on the local and state leadership teams for AAUW (American Association of University Women) and several years on UW-Eau Claire's Commission on the Status of Women. In 2025 the Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department bestowed its Feminist Service Award to Kate.

In McIntyre Library we benefitted from many of Kate's senses; her sense of justice, her sense of aesthetics, and her sense of humor. And believe me, we heard about it when we violated any of those senses. Kate's signature groan in response to a bad—or even a brilliant—pun, is legendary.

Kate elevated our efforts to become a more accessible institution, both physically and digitally. She led improvements to our website, our communications, and our library wayfinding efforts.

A consistent source of sound judgement and compassion, Kate is a respected mentor to her newer colleagues and a trusted advisor for those of us who have been around awhile.

Kate also is a published poet and a prolific book reviewer. She has served as the poetry editor of Barstow and Grand since 2016.



At her heart, Kate is a poet and a writer, and if there is a silver lining to losing her as a longtime library colleague, it is in knowing that she will have time to devote to her creative endeavors. Happy McRetirement! ■

Library Staff News: April 2026 – October 2026

Anna Zook, **Hannah Carlton**, **Helena Sumbulla** and **Steph Regenauer**, librarians and assistant professors at McIntyre Library, presented at the 2026 Lake Superior Libraries Symposium on June 5 at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Minnesota. Zook, Carlton and Regenauer presented "The Chippewa (River) Runs Through It: Outreach Strategies for Far Flung Academic Buildings," and Sumbulla and Zook presented "Walk the Vote: Centering the Library as a Campus Civic Engagement Hub."

Helena Sumbulla was one of nine authors of a nursing scoping review titled, ***"Nursing Strategies That Enhance Patient and Family Member Perspectives of Having Received Compassionate Care: A Scoping Review."*** The paper was published in the June edition of *International Journal of Nursing Studies*.

Jill Markgraf, director of libraries, participated on the panel discussion "Together Now: Building Staff Engagement, Connection, and Belonging" on Aug. 4 at the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians Conference in Milwaukee.

Longtime McIntyre Library employee and daughter of the building's namesake, **Katherine (Kate) McIntyre**, 87, died May 15 at The Classics at Hillcrest Green in Altoona. Hired in 1977—four years after the passing of her father, William D. McIntyre—Kate had a long, varied career at the library up to her retirement in July 2003. Her positions included library services assistant, IMC librarian, and catalog librarian. She served on many library and university committees, participated in state professional organizations, and volunteered for the Recording for the Visually Handicapped Program. Kate also made numerous appearances in UW-Eau Claire Summer Theatre, and served as an acting judge for it from 1977 to 1996. "I have been a reader, a traveler, and an amateur actress," she wrote of herself in a copy of the McIntyre family history book kept in the library's Special Collections & Archives. Kate is survived by her longtime partner, Gerald (Jerry) Strader, and two sons.

Jennifer Duvall, academic librarian at UW-Eau Claire – Barron County, had her guest essay, ***"Why do so few of us predict the future?"***, published in the Aug. 19 edition of the *Rice Lake Chronotype*.

In March 2026, the university's Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department presented **Helena Sumbulla** with its 2025-26 REGSS Feminist Teacher Award. Awardees are nominated and selected by the REGSS Steering Committee, who wanted to recognize Helena's "feminist spirit embodied in the substance of [her] teaching, [her] pedagogical skills, and the community building that [she] fosters."

McIntyre Library's trivia team, the **Tome Raiders**, tried its hand at crime-solving during the July 22 Murder Mystery night held at Together Farms in rural Mondovi. Library staff enjoyed Twin Cities-based actors who created an interactive 1920s mob wedding murder-mystery but came up short in the detective department. The team's conclusion did earn an award certificate for dead-last. The Tome Raiders have been more capable when it comes to trivia nights though, earning several first-place finishes so far this year.

Jill Markgraf performed in several shows as a member of Eau Claire Women in Theater, including *Failure is Impossible*, an original play about the women's suffrage movement, focusing on Wisconsin suffragists.

Numerous McIntyre Library faculty, staff, and student workers dressed up on Oct. 30 to celebrate Halloween. Employees dressed as heroes and villians. See how many characters you can identify in this group photo.



SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARIES

Our supporters often ask us how they can help the libraries at UW-Eau Claire keep up the great work. Here are some ideas!



Cultivate a Love of Reading ($250)

$250 would support McIntyre Library's Subversive Books Club in the fall semester.

Put a Button on It! ($200)

$200 would buy one box of button-maker supplies, used by the library's Makerspace at outreach and marketing events on campus.



Your gift to the McIntyre Library Advancement Fund can be designated for one of the items on our wish list. To share your support, go to blugolds.uwec.edu/library, select the McIntyre Library Advancement Fund, and make a note of the wish list item in the comments field.

Double your donation on Giving Day

On Giving Day — Tuesday, Dec. 1 — longtime library supporter and professor emerita Dr. Sally Webb has generously offered a $3,000 matching grant for donations to McIntyre Library. That means every dollar you give that day will be doubled — up to $3,000 — making your impact go even further.

Join us in celebrating their contributions and making a difference on Dec. 1. Click here for details on this match and others available on Giving Day.

Thank you to our McIntyre Valued Partners (MVPs)

The following donors have contributed to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation McIntyre Library Funds from April 2026 through October 2026

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