IN THIS ISSUE

From The Director’s Desk
Around the Libraries
Recent Acquisitions
Staff News

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University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
I recently observed an introduction to the library class in which librarians asked groups of first year students to respond to the prompt, “What is a library?” At the top of every list was—you guessed it—books. I was simultaneously comforted and intrigued by the persistence of this perception. Following books, the students’ responses diverged widely, including things like Makerspace, quiet, comfortable, helpful people, free, study rooms, whiteboards, computers, and Wi-Fi.

The UW-Eau Claire libraries are in the middle of a strategic planning process, reflecting on where we have been and where we are going. A review of the past year’s library use statistics suggests that long-held perceptions of what libraries are may not accurately or fully reflect what libraries have become.

Consider:

- Only 10% of the libraries’ material budget was spent on print books. The rest was allocated to online resources, including ebooks and audiobooks, streamed video, and databases that provide access to journals, newspapers, etc.

- Our unique historical digital collections experienced a 76% increase in views.

- The McIntyre Library’s Blugold Makerspace saw a 43% increase in use.

- The UW-Eau Claire’s McIntyre Library experienced a 12% increase in library patrons in the two months following the opening of its makerspace in March 2023.

- The Digital Studio saw a 59% increase in use last year, and a 150% increase in the number of classes and tours conducted in the space.

- Students’ seemingly insatiable appetite for study rooms saw a 23% increase in use, limited only by availability of study rooms. McIntyre’s 44 study rooms are frequently all in use.

- A 9% decrease in use of the physical collection during the past year is in keeping with recent trends, but is accompanied by exponential growth in the use of online collections. For example, traffic to online access-point guide to ebooks and audiobooks increased 162% last year. UW-Eau Claire’s use of Overdrive, an ebook/audiobook platform shared by Universities of Wisconsin libraries, was second only to UW-Madison.

As we continue the strategic planning process, we will examine the stories that these numbers tell, and the ones they obscure. For example, even as we see an overall decline in use of print materials, we saw a 23% increase in use of books in curated collections, such as the Popular Reading Collection, the new book exhibit, and themed book displays. In our last strategic planning process, we set a goal to improve communication efforts, to ensure that students, faculty, and staff, were aware of our resources. In addition to creating successful physical and digital displays, we launched targeted e-newsletters for student and faculty/staff audiences. Our social media reach, primarily through Facebook and Instagram, increased more than 80% in the last year. With a continually revolving (i.e. graduating) audience, perpetual marketing, or ongoing engagement efforts, remains a necessary and constant goal.

In the weeks ahead we will continue soliciting ideas and input about what a library is and—more importantly—what it should be. What do you think? We invite you to share your thoughts here.

Jill Markgraf,
Director of Libraries
Digital Collections Turn 10

By Greg Kocken, kockeng@uwec.edu

This Fall we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of McIntyre Library’s Digital Collections! In 2013, we launched our first digital collections portal, using the open-source ResCarta application, providing free, online, and fully searchable access to two collections: our school’s yearbook, The Periscope, from 1917-1995, and a selection of nearly 800 historic campus photographs. Since that time, our digital collections have grown and expanded in many exciting ways.

Today, we are proud to host over fifteen unique digital collections—resources which not only explore campus history but also explore fascinating aspects of local, state, and national history. Among the gems of our digital collections is a fully searchable set of our student newspapers, The Spectator, from approximately 1923-2012. As a side note, this year also marks the 100th anniversary of the UW-Eau Claire student newspaper, The Spectator. The Special Collections and Archives Department is celebrating and exploring that history through a small student curated exhibit on display in the reading room through the end of 2023. In addition to the portal launched ten years ago, McIntyre Library now also hosts another digital collections platform, Omeka. Omeka is another open-source application which allows us, and partners across campus, to build digital exhibits. This platform allows us to use digital objects to curate stories that help viewers better understand these digital objects and collections. These digital humanities partnerships represent an area where we hope digital collections will continue to grow in the future.

Within the next year, through a partnership with the Music and Theater Arts Department, we expect to host a new collection exploring the history of bands at UW-Eau Claire. This, of course, is just one of many exciting new projects on the horizon. We look forward to sharing other exciting developments with our digital collections through the pages of Off the Shelf in the years ahead.

After Dark 2023

Our annual back-to-school party, Library After Dark, was a huge success! Nearly 1,000 students attended and enjoyed free pizza, games, live entertainment, and more. Thank you to all of our performers and volunteers! Photos and Off the Shelf cover photo by Kong Yang, circulation manager. See the full album here.
Summer 2023 Digital Studio Interns: Collin and Derek

By Anna Zook, zookam@uwec.edu

Walk into McIntyre Library on a summer’s day and you might encounter a group of prospective students with their guardians on a campus tour, community members making their way to the fifth floor for a visit to Special Collections, a librarian engaged in research, or if you’re lucky, you’ll see a Digital Studio student intern plugging away at learning a new skill or finding ways to improve accessibility and engagement for our various Digital Studio spaces.

Now in its third year, the Digital Studio was fortunate to hire two student interns this past summer. Collin Petry, a senior music education and computer science software engineering double major returned for his second summer, and Derek Braend, a Guitar Performance major, spent hours completing various tasks and projects, some assigned and others of their own devices, culminating in a final project presented to library staff at the end of the summer session. I was fortunate to meet with Collin and Derek on a bi-weekly basis alongside Liliana LaValle, digital learning librarian, to hear about their projects and progress and asked each of them to share more about their experience.

When asked about what drew them to the position, I discovered that aside from Collin’s majors making it an obvious fit, he also has an interest in photography and an absolute love of virtual reality. He further expressed that the skills he acquired in the Large Audio Studio would make him a better educator. Derek’s entrance into a position with the Digital Studio happened quite serendipitously as he engaged with library staff while troubleshooting a guitar output conundrum. He needed a job, and we needed him!

As our interns progressed through the summer, staff encouraged them to think about how their experiences might impact their futures. They are armed with skills that will have a far-reaching impact on their ability to communicate about technology, and as Collin pointed out, the ability to transfer those skills across disciplines. As a future educator, Collin will be able to guide his students on music production and recording technology and techniques, while Derek’s burgeoning camera and scriptwriting skills allow him to support his own creative pursuits through video and production. More importantly, they now have confidence that they can learn most of the skills that have excited and inspired them in their academic and vocational pursuits.

Walk into McIntyre Library this fall, and you might find Collin or Derek staffing the Digital Studio’s help desk on the lower level. You will also see new signage throughout the spaces, streamlined instructions, and on the desktop in the Large Audio Studio, a link to the updated guide that includes information on the equipment as well as a link to a new guide Collin worked on over the summer on miking instruments. Stick around for closing time to hear Collin’s latest music compilations, seasonally themed, and stay tuned for announcements about our upcoming spring film festival, inspired by Derek’s unfinished video.

Want to know more about our Digital Studio spaces and how they can support your curriculum, increase student engagement and belonging, and have the potential to lead to some innovative assignments? Please contact us at library.digitalstudio@uwec.edu. We would love to collaborate with you!
Q: What skills have you developed/expanded during your internship? What is the best new skill you’ve learned?

Collin: There’s a lot of fun skills I have developed and expanded upon while working in the Digital Studio, including skills in writing instruction manuals, troubleshooting technology issues, making advertisement posters, and navigating the U.S. music copyright system.

Derek: I learned a ton about DSLR cameras, photo editing in Adobe Lightroom, video editing in Adobe Premiere Pro, and even a bit about scriptwriting and project planning.

Q: What was your favorite moment working as an intern at McIntyre?

C: My favorite experience working as an intern has been being able to show people our various studios and help them understand how things work in the different studios. There are always a lot of lightbulb “Aha!” moments that people have, realizing how the rooms can be used or how something works.

D: One really cool moment was my presentation to the library. I made a video to demonstrate what type of product a student could make using the free library resources. It was unfinished but my bosses and coworkers said they really liked it.

Q: What one thing did you learn about McIntyre Library that you wish everyone on campus knew?

C: Digital Studio is more than just the first-floor recording studio! And you can just rent a room and play VR games! Got an hour between classes and you don’t have anything to do? Go to the library and destress with some VR games! Want a good picture of something/someone, or have some fun fancy lighting? Use the Photo/Video studio!

D: The staff are great people! It always feels like my bosses are invested in who I am as a person. They came out to see my gigs and were always really supportive about the creative directions I took with my projects and congratulated me on my quality of work.

The library’s Large Audio Studio features an array of electric instruments and microphones that students can use. A mixing board and computer lets them produce their own music.
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

**Age of Vice**
Deepti Kapoor
PR9499.4.K3763 A72 2023

**All the Sinners Bleed**
S. A. Cosby
PS3603.O7988 A55 2023

**The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession**
Michael Finkel
N8795.5.B74 F56 2023

‘Finkel’s play-by-play of each theft has the pacing and atmosphere of a good suspense tale.”
—Kirkus Reviews

**Bright Young Women**
Jessica Knoll
PS3611.N64 B75 2023

**Chain-gang All-stars**
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah
PS3601.D49 C48 2023

**Drowning: The Rescue of Flight 1421: A Novel**
T. J. Newman
PS3614.E664 D76 2023

**Fourth Wing**
Rebecca Yarros
PS3625.A7384 F68 2023

**The Fraud**
Zadie Smith
PR6069.M59 F73 2023

The bestselling author’s latest work of fiction is based on historical events from Victorian England. A lower-class butcher claims he’s the rightful heir to a sizable estate and title. But a key witness and Great Britain citizens watching the trial doubt the mysterious man’s story.

**Hang the Moon: A Novel**
Jeannette Walls
PS3623.A3644 H36 2023

**Happy Place**
Emily Henry
PS3608.E5715 H36 2023

**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store**
James McBride
PS3613.C28 H43 2023

**Hell Bent**
Leigh Bardugo
PS3602.A775325 H45 2023

**Hello Beautiful: A Novel**
Ann Napolitano
PS3614.A66 H45 2023

*NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER & OPRAH’S BOOK CLUB PICK*
**Holly: A Novel**  
Stephen King  
PS3561.I483 H56 2023

**Homecoming: A Novel**  
Kate Morton  
PR9619.4.M74 H66 2023

**Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel**  
Lisa See  
PS3569.E3334 L33 2023

**Maame**  
Jessica George  
PR6107.E586 M33 2023

**Pageboy: A Memoir**  
Elliot Page  
PN2308.P34 A3 2023

**Pineapple Street: A Novel**  
Jenny Jackson  
PS3610.A3519 P56 2023

**Symphony of Secrets**  
Brendan Sclocumb  
PS3619.L645 S96 2023

**Tom Lake: A Novel**  
Ann Patchett  
PS3566.A7756 T66 2023

**Too Late: A Novel**  
Colleen Hoover  
PS3608.O623 T66 2023

**The White Lady: A Novel**  
Jacqueline Winspear  
PR6123.I575 W44 2023

**Yellowface: A Novel**  
R. F. Kuang  
PS3611.U17 Y45 2023

**Yours Truly**  
Abby Jimenez  
PS3610.I47 Y68 2023

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**Into the Good World Again: Poems**  
Max Garland  
PS3557.A7162 I58 2023

Max Garland, former Poet Laureate of Wisconsin, released his latest collection of poems. He wrote most of these poems during the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalls anguish and isolation of that time, but also grace, resilience, creativity, and healing remembrance. Garland is a professor emeritus at UW-Eau Claire, having taught English here.

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**Ebooks and Audiobooks via Libby**

Available to UWEC faculty, staff, and students.

- **American Prometheus** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Kai Bird

- **Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune** (audiobook)  
  Anderson Cooper

- **Blue Hour** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Tiffany Clarke Harrison

- **Happiness Falls** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Angie Kim

- **The Hero of This Book** (audiobook)  
  Elizabeth McCracken

- **The Last Devil to Die** (audiobook)  
  Richard Osman

- **The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Eckhart Tolle

- **The Running Grave** (ebook)  
  Robert Galbraith

- **Thank You for Listening** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Julia Whelan

- **Vampires of El Norte** (ebook)  
  Isabel Cañas

- **Wildfire** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Hannah Grace

- **The Women of NOW** (ebook & audiobook)  
  Katherine Turk

- **Your Brain on Art: How the arts transform us** (audiobook)  
  Susan Magsamen

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**Meet Libby**

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

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

Join us for our NEW expanded open hours—now opening Monday through Friday at 10 AM. University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire students, staff, and faculty are welcome to join us for our fall and spring semester open hours and workshop with their Blugold ID.

McIntyre Valued Partners (MVP) are invited to reach out about special workshops available during our winterim and summer sessions. Topics include Recycled Paper Flowers, Intro to Soldering, Sewing 101, and more. Please email us for more information.

Fall 2023 Open Hours

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

Sunday
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER + DECEMBER WORKSHOPS

Paint a Pokémon
Stop into the Makerspace and pick one of our pre-made Pokémon to paint. Using the magic of lasers, we will prepare a series of 3-4-inch-tall pocket monsters out of recycled cardboard. Open to all UWEC students, faculty, and staff who gotta catch ’em all.

- Wed, Nov 1: 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- Mon, Nov 6: 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- Tues, Nov 14: 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Mon, Nov 20: 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Upcycle a Bookend
Join us for a fun project using former library bookends! Decorate your metal bookend using paint, paper collage, or whatever brings you joy. Limited to two bookends per participant; they are yours to keep after the workshop.

- Tues, Nov 7: 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Nov 16: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Felt Pie Garland
Create a festive fall dessert-inspired décor banner with felt, a great no-sew project! Registration required; select a date and sign up below.

- Fri, Nov 3: 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- Wed, Nov 15: 12:00–1:00 p.m.

3D Paper Snowflakes
Come relax and make beautiful swirling paper snowflakes. Use scrap paper, recycled book pages, or maps to make these fun winter decorations.

- Tues, Nov 28: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Nov 30: 3:00–4:00 p.m.

Crochet 101
Learn the basics of crochet and leave with the skills needed to make a washcloth or scarf. Registration required; select a date and sign up below.

- Thurs, Nov 30: 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Wed, Dec 6: 12:00–1:00 p.m.

DIY Fabric Gift Bags
Create eco-friendly, reusable fabric drawstring bags that also make great gift wrapping in this beginner-friendly sewing project. Registration required; click the date below to reserve a spot.

- Fri, Dec 1: 1:00–2:00 p.m.
- Mon, Dec 11: 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Create Holiday Ornaments
Use paint, lasers, colored pencils, crayons, or anything else in the Makerspace to create a 4-inch wooden holiday ornament. This event is aimed at all UWEC students, faculty, and staff interested in some relaxing craft time.

- Mon, Dec 4: 12:30–1:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Dec 7: 3:00–4:00 p.m.
- Tues, Dec 12: 2:30–3:30 p.m.
- Wed, Dec 13: 12:00–1:00 p.m.
Our Life with Katherine Crosby

By Jennifer Duvall, duvallja@uwec.edu

Over the summer, the Barron County campus took on the complicated project of getting their theatre back up and running. The first task in this endeavor was to clean and organize areas of the Fine Arts building that hadn’t been used in years.

During this process a plethora of fantastic archival items were discovered. Many of them were gems from the booming theatre years here in the 1970s and 1980s. Amazing posters, photos, and programs created by our students and faculty were found as we made our way through the tech booth and the prop room.

However, one of the most odd-but-interesting finds was in the make-up room. As we were moving shelving to clean, we discovered boxes full of the same book. At first, we assumed that they were old theatre textbooks, but upon closer inspection, we discovered that they were filled with copies of a book called My Life with Bing.

This name will sound familiar to those of you that like Christmas music or old movie musicals, but for those who are unaware, Bing Crosby was an extremely famous singer and actor in the 1940s and 1950s. As it turns out, his second wife, Katherine Crosby, wrote this book after his death and then toured the U.S. making appearances and signing autographs.

Interestingly, one of her stops was at the Barron County Campus. Not only did she speak to students and the public about her book, but she also performed in a production of the play A Lion in Winter right here in our theatre.

It was quite an unexpected discovery!
My name is Anna Zook (rhymes with Wanna Book) and in May of this year, I began working as the new assistant professor as arts librarian at McIntyre Library. This position is a bit of a homecoming for me, as my first library job was at McIntyre, first as an intern to fulfill my library science minor through UW-Eau Claire, then as a part-time LTE with the Research and Instruction department for nigh on six years (back when the Clocktower was still in the middle of the Quad!). I also put my theater degree from Lawrence University to use throughout this time by working as a professional actor for eight years. Although I spent that time getting to know all the facets of the local arts scene, singing in a folk band, and attending live concerts, I never quite found a way to put my years playing French horn to use.

After completing my master of library and information science (MLIS) through UW-Milwaukee where I concentrated on information organization and wrote a thesis that focused on nontraditional students and the academic library, I took a position at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where I combined my love of reference and working with students and my love of the arts, curating a “Terrier Dynasty” art show featuring works by the offspring of faculty and staff and launching an annual poetry event for homesick students. Not long after my appointment at Wofford, my growing family and I moved to Spooner, WI where I found a job at the greatest Independent Bookstore north of Highway 8. From there, we moved to Chippewa Falls, where I coordinated an in-school support program for students at the local middle school and began volunteering for the Family Support Center. One year later, I returned to library work as the Digital Services Librarian at the L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in Eau Claire, where I promoted and provided instruction on their digital services and helped coordinate the Dabble Box Makerspace.

As much as I loved each of those positions, I cannot express how delighted I am to not only return to my original library home at McIntyre, but also to be serving as the arts librarian, and getting the chance to work so closely with students and faculty in music, theatre, dance, and visual arts. In many ways, this is the library job I have always hoped I could find, in the library I always wanted to call “home.” Don’t get me wrong, you don’t have to be a sculptor or play the Ondes Martenot to get the chance to collaborate with me. Though I’m already engaging extensively with the arts programs, I’ll still have shifts at the front desk, be available for research assistance, or be willing to help you get settled into one of the many opportunities available in our Digital Studio and Blugold Makerspace. I’ve done a lot of things since I left McIntyre Library more than a decade ago, but I’m so happy to be back again and I’m excited to share our resources with you!

Please feel free to stop by my office (Library 1001D) or email me at zoookam@uwec.edu. Or catch me for a quick chat at Haas on Thursday afternoons, or during intermission at a concert at the Pablo.

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Welcome, Anna!
Kate Hinnant, head of instruction, contributed the editors note to the seventh issue of Barstow & Grand.

McIntyre Library faculty members Helena Sumbulla, outreach librarian, and Liliana LaValle, digital learning librarian, and Kate Hinnant, head of instruction, presented the session “It Is All New(s) To Me: Engaging Young Adults With Lateral Reading” at the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium June 9 at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Greg Kocken, head of special collections & archives, was honored for the book he co-authored with emeriti Robert Gough, Rest in Nature: A Guide to Eau Claire’s Forest Hill Cemetery, at the 2023 Celebration of Scholarship hosted by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in October. Congratulations, Greg!


Robin Miller, head of collections and discovery, was invited to give a national webinar titled “Responding to User Interests with Government Information: One FDL’s Approach” for the United States Government Publications Office in May. In this webinar, participants learned about one depository’s approach to integrating Government information into routine library outreach and instruction.

Jill Markgraf, library director, joined Eau Claire Women in Theater (ECWIT), a regional troupe that performs dramatic readings of existing texts and original works, focusing on stories that explore the human condition, bring history to life, and nurture empowerment of all people through artistry.


Emily Le, main desk student assistant, will be the newest accounting intern at Wipfli in Eau Claire for the 2024 tax season. Congratulations, Emily!

Maggie O’Brien, main desk student assistant, was awarded a Viennese Ball Study Abroad scholarship for her spring 2024 study abroad trip to England. This fall, Maggie was also promoted to Currents Editor of The Spectator, and hired as an intern at the UW-Eau Claire Center for Writing Excellence. Congratulations on these big accomplishments, Maggie!

Liliana LaValle and Helena Sumbulla presented the session, “A Cacophony of Voices: Critical Information Pedagogy” at the OPID 2023 Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning.

Carrie Butler Becker, acquisitions and content coordinator, and her husband, Brian, reached their goal of becoming debt-free this year. Congratulations, Carrie and Brian!

Members of the User Services and Technical Services teams combined forces to volunteer together at the Feed My People food pantry this August. They packaged 4,839 pounds of donated corn on the cob for distribution to numerous food pantries in western Wisconsin.

Kevin Dekan, periodicals and electronic resources, and his girlfriend, Joanne, enjoyed a beautiful trip to Paris, France, Ghent and Antwerp in Belgium, and Amsterdam, Netherlands, in September. Although there was record-breaking heat, they enjoyed revisiting some of their favorite cities and discovering new places as well.
Your gift to McIntyre Library will enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable library resources!

Students in the Blugold Makerspace attending a workshop, partially funded by donors like you!

Thank you for considering a gift to UW-Eau Claire's McIntyre Library!

Donate online at https://blugolds.uwec.edu/library

Thank you to our McIntyre Valued Partners (MVPs)

The following donors have contributed to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation McIntyre Library Funds from March through October 2023

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Thank you to our McIntyre Valued Partners (MVPs)

The Off the Shelf newsletter is published fall and spring semesters for friends of McIntyre Library and the UWEC Barron County Library

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Find the current issue online at: library.uwec.edu/about-us/off-the-shelf