

OFF THE SHELF

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IN THIS ISSUE

02. From the Director's Desk: Library "Invisible Labor"

03. New Digital Project Unlocks Access to VolumeOne

04. Tools of the Trade: behind the scenes

06. New Acquisitions: books, ebooks, and audiobooks

09. Updates from UWEC-BC Library

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



In this issue of *Off the Shelf* we are looking under the hood, providing glimpses of the behind-the-scenes expertise and effort that make our libraries run—library “invisible labor,” if you will.

Invisible labor is a concept originally coined by Arlene Kaplan Daniels in 1987¹ to describe the uncompensated and undervalued but essential and expected work that traditionally falls to women, often domestic and caregiving in nature. Use of the phrase has expanded to describe unseen physical, emotional, and intellectual work in a broader sense.

Traditional measures of library value or output are typically quantitative, i.e. number of books, journals, databases, patron interactions, etc., and do not reflect “the value inherent in the labor necessary to provide those resources and services and make them available,”² argue Rachel Ivy Clarke, et al., in their work on library invisible labor.

Invisible labor in libraries is the work, processes, areas of knowledge, technological acumen, and decision making that go into ensuring a book is in the library, placed where it is supposed to be on the shelf or in the cloud, properly described and discoverable in a multifaceted library management system that we implemented and manage in cooperation with all the other libraries in the UW System, employing a taxonomy used across the globe.

Invisible labor is managing library collections that are constantly growing in a building that isn’t, removing resources that are no longer useful, adding new ones to support evolving needs, and shifting the collections to make sure everything fits. Invisible library work is negotiating and collaborating with vendors, faculty, other UW System librarians, IT support, procurement professionals, donors and administrators, to ensure that a journal article in a database is funded, available, findable, and accessible when you need it.

And when that book or journal article isn’t available in our collection, invisible library work is the implementation and maintenance of complex software systems, combined with masterful research skills, that enable us to locate and request it from a library with whom we have established an agreement to borrow and then return content on behalf of our patrons. Invisible library labor is taking decades of print artifacts and painstakingly selecting, digitizing, editing, and curating them to make them available online “for free”; understanding and applying metadata and descriptions to them to make them discoverable; and researching and providing context to make them meaningful.

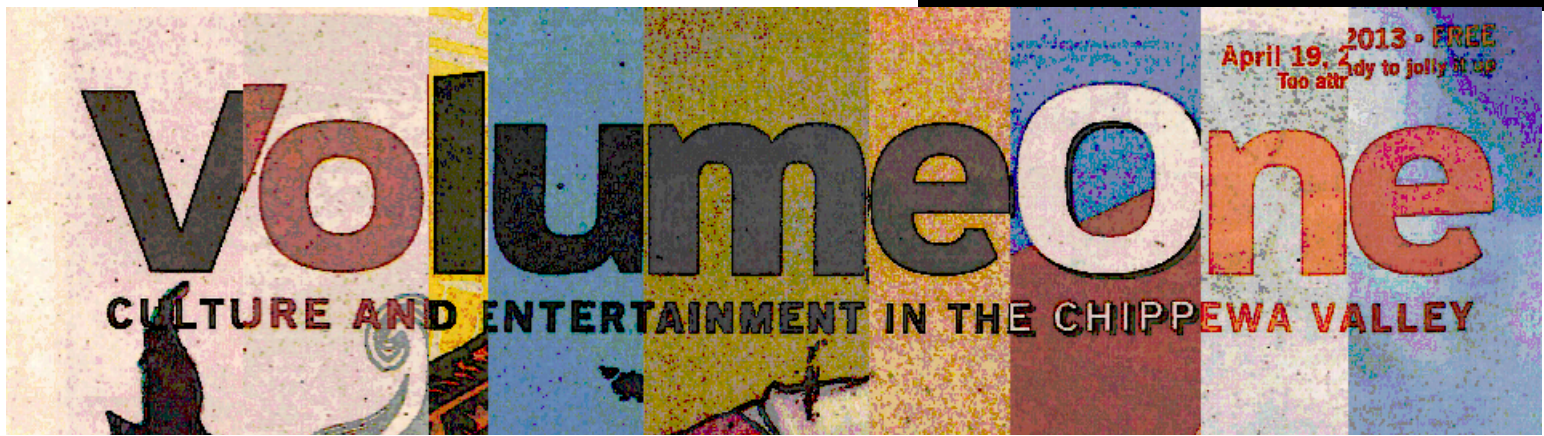
Invisible work is assuring the student with a research paper due that they’ve got this, assisting a faculty member with their literature review, and upgrading furniture in study rooms to ensure comfort and accessibility. It’s delivering a work of art or a library book to an office across the bridge in winter, scheduling therapy dog visits, and purchasing and organizing equipment for checkout. It’s hiring, training, and managing a revolving student employee workforce. It’s continuously expanding areas of expertise in order to assist students in navigating technology, assignments, campus bureaucracy, and life when no one else is available to help them or they don’t know where to go.

You get the idea. The cost, and value, of a library is so much more than the cost or number of books on the shelf. Dr. Clarke, in her work to make library work more visible, created a prototype [Library Value Calculator](#) that includes labor in a calculation of costs associated with borrowing a library item or using a library service. While designed for public libraries, it is illuminating for academic libraries as well.

The paradox inherent in invisible work, as Clarke, et al., point out is that “the higher the quality of the work, the less visible it becomes to those who benefit from it.” It follows then that the exceptional work performed by my library colleagues is largely unseen. Enjoy the articles in this issue that make some of the invisible visible. ■

Jill Markgraf,
Director of Libraries

1. Daniels, Arlene Kaplan. “Invisible Work.” *Social Problems* 34, no. 5 (December 1987): 403-415. <https://doi.org/10.2307/800538>
2. Clarke, Rachel Ivy et al. “Invisible Labor, Invisible Value: Unpacking Traditional Assessment of Academic Library Value.” *College & Research Libraries*



Windows into our Community: New Digital Project Unlocks Recent History

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

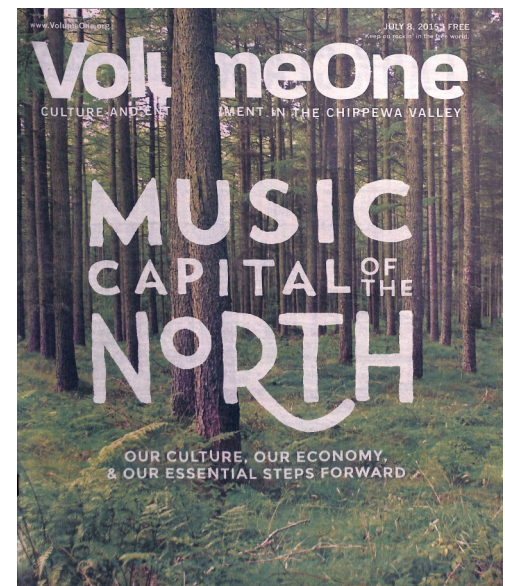
In 2023, our digital collections team embarked on its most ambitious project yet: digitizing and providing a fully searchable and browsable archive of the Chippewa Valley's *Volume One* magazine. A free culture and entertainment publication, *Volume One* distributes 14,000 copies to over "400 locations throughout Eau Claire, Menomonie, Chippewa Falls, and beyond" every two weeks, connecting with an estimated 45,000 readers. Nick Meyer, owner and publisher of the magazine, helped found *Volume One* in 2002. According to Meyer, "With just a click this archive can take you to so many key moments in recent history of the Chippewa Valley. From the start of Phoenix Park to the moment Bon Iver hit the world...so many stories are there, weaving themselves together into a window on what our community has become."

More than just a simple publication, today *Volume One* is part of the fabric of the community. The stories which unfold on its pages explore events and issues from critical perspectives. It shapes conversation and inspires action. According to historian Dan Ott, "*Volume One*'s "Music Capital of the North" issue in 2015 pulled together a variety of deep rooted and more recent musical-culture threads in the Chippewa Valley and successfully suggested that these threads together made a distinct cultural tapestry and musical identity for the region." That issue inspired Ott to co-develop an oral history project, "Sounds of Eau Claire," aimed at gathering stories that document the deep roots of the Eau Claire area's music scene. The project, remarked Ott, verified "how real *Volume One*'s "music capital of the north" idea really was as a historic and living community culture."

The project to digitize *Volume One* originated through conversations with L. E. Phillips Memorial Public Library several years ago. The public library reached out to McIntyre Library to inquire about our own capacity to support such a project. Recognizing the value of the resource, last year we entered into an agreement with *Volume One* to digitize and host the online archive. To date, issues from the beginning in 2002 through the end of 2016 are fully digitized and available in the online archive. The project will be completed this summer, providing access to issues through 2022. Each page is carefully scanned, enhanced, and added to our digital collection portal. The result is a resource unlike any other hosted by McIntyre Library. As Nick Meyer states, "Many thousands of incredible local people, ideas, events, businesses, and community projects have been featured in the pages of *Volume One* across nearly 22 years now. It's one thing to experience the evolution of a community as it's happening. But it's truly amazing to see the collective passion of all these folks and their endeavors gathered up in a historic archive like this, all captured alongside each other in their moments in time." ■



A look at the scanning process for each individual page of every issue.



The cover of the 2015 "Music Capital of the North" issue.

Tools of the trade

Repairing, protecting books persists even as digital collection grows

By **Andrew Dowd**, dowdal@uwec.edu

Mary Hable found herself doing surgery on the jaw of a paper alligator—tapping her years of experience repairing books.

The operation was a success. The reptile again bears its toothy maw to those who turn the page on this particular pop-up book.

It was among the more memorable recent repairs that Hable, McIntyre Library's lead cataloger, could recall. Fixing up worn books and prolonging the lives of new ones continues to be a small part of the job done by the library's catalogers.

"I do give it a good effort," Hable said.

The amount of books that come in for triage is less than she remembers from earlier in her career. The average now is about three books a month at McIntyre Library that need repairs such as reinforcing spines, gluing pages back in, or other mending jobs.

Patrons increasingly using electronic books, digital journals, and other online resources are a main reason why there's been less wear-and-tear to their physical counterparts.

But aside from maintaining the investment the university has made over the decades in books, the need to make occasional repairs is necessary as many of them aren't



Left to right: McIntyre Library catalogers Laurie Roach, Mary Hable, and Crystal Schmidt hold their personal favorite tools used in repairing books. They stand in front of a wall of random items that fell out of books that were returned to the library. The collection includes concert tickets, 3D glasses, a playing card, personalized bookmarks, and Bible pages.

digitized and some are unlikely to be.

"Some books you can't replace," Hable said.

That includes the rare, out-of-print, and expensive pieces of the library's vast collection.

• • •

The work area for Hable and fellow catalogers Laurie Roach and Crystal Schmidt is an assortment of tools and supplies.

Some of them look like the progeny of typical office equipment and old hand-powered machines.

Bearing the name "Acme," a saddle-stitch stapler has an upside-down V-shaped metal stand with an industrial stapler mounted on it. This allows a book to be held open to its center so new staples can be driven into it.

Nearby is the book press—essentially a hand-cranked vice that pinches a book between two smooth metal plates. Squeezing the book pages together firmly, this creates a nice surface for the catalogers to stamp the library's name onto.

Other pieces on the catalogers' worktable are more reminiscent of things used in crafting.

Eighteen reels of strong adhesive tapes in varying widths are arranged in rows so catalogers can pick the right one for the job. Orange and purple flat plastic tools they call "squeegees" are kept handy when preparing new books.

A hand-cranked book press squeezes a book's pages together to create a nice, tight surface to stamp the McIntyre Library name onto.



Running the edge of one of these over a folded sheet of plastic creates a nice crease when crafting a protective book cover.

And then there are the common, everyday office supplies the cataloguers do not take for granted.

A standard No. 2 pencil is Hable's trusty tool of choice. When a book gets cataloged, she'll write the call number inside it. It's a precaution in case the shelf label comes off somehow. Writing it in pencil allows for the occasional changes that the Library of Congress makes to call numbers for books.

The humble eraser also belongs in the cataloguers' toolkit to get rid of smudges and scribbles in library books.

Glue for patching up old books as well as adhesive remover for taking sticky labels off new ones are both here as well.

• • •

While they'll make a valiant attempt to fix-up a damaged book,

there are times when they can't be repaired.

When one comes in bad condition, Hable said cataloguers will look at how many copies are owned across the Universities of Wisconsin. With the ability to ship books between locations or scan chapters for patrons, borrowing another campus' copy is an alternative to buying another one. That makes it easier for the library to retire a book that's in rough shape.

For the collection of government documents kept at McIntyre, there are more steps involved.

Other libraries that keep government documents must be contacted to see if they're interested in one despite loose pages, a worn spine, or factors that rate it in "poor" condition.

Roach, who specializes in the government documents kept in McIntyre Library, said when a specific document in that collection becomes available digitally there's no longer that pressure to keep a physical copy maintained.

• • •

For the trio of Hable, Roach, and Schmidt, fixing up books is just part of the job they've all been drawn to.

One Halloween when she was a child, Schmidt donned a sunflower dress and mimicked the look of a local librarian. She found that even then she was drawn to the career.

"I just inherently knew," she said. "I loved going to my public school's library."

Roach, who's been working in libraries for 43½ years, recalled a similar inclination when she was a child. As a youth, she'd loan out her own books to neighbors, playing librarian even in her early years.

"I always wanted to go into either education or libraries," Roach said.

All three, including Hable, had worked in libraries when they were students and that later became their careers. ■



Within the cataloguers' array of tools is a staple puller, adhesive remover, tape, purple and orange plastic "squeegees," a stamp, and other assorted items they use to maintain the library's book collection.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

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

Absolution

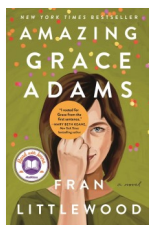
Alice McDermott
PS3563.C355 A67 2023

Amazing Grace Adams

Fran Littlewood
PR6112.I885 A83 2023

The Berry Pickers: A Novel

Amanda Peters
PR9199.4.P477 B47 2023

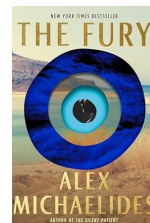


The Frozen River: A Novel

Ariel Lawhon
PS3601.L447 F76 2023

The Fury

Alex Michaelides
PR6113.I2645 F87 2024



The Future: A Novel

Naomi Alderman
PR6101.L43 F88 2023



Happiness Falls: A Novel

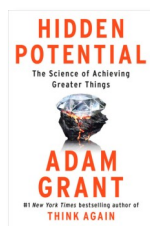
Angie Kim
PS3611.I45286 H37 2023

The Heiress: A Novel

Rachel Hawkins
PS3608.A893463 H45 2024

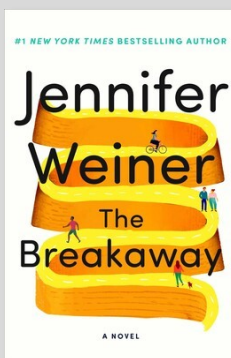
Hidden Potential: The Science of Achieving Greater Things

Adam Grant
BF503 .G736 2023



How To Say Babylon: A Memoir

Safiya Sinclair
PS3619.I56847 Z46 2023



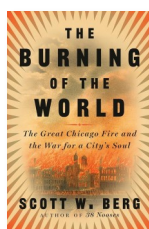
Between her job, fiancé, cycling group and apartment, Abby Stern has made it to a happy place. An adventuresome 700-mile bike ride in a group that includes a former fling and her critical mother makes Abby reconsider a lot about her life.

The Breakaway: A Novel

Jennifer Weiner
PS3573.E3935 B74 2023

The Burning of the World: The Great Chicago Fire and the War for a City's Soul

Scott W. Berg
F548.42 .B474 2023

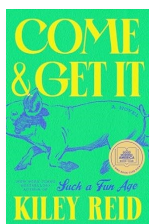


Class: A Memoir

Stephanie Land
HQ759.915 .L36 2023

Come and Get It: A Novel

Kiley Reid
PS3618.E5363 C66 2024

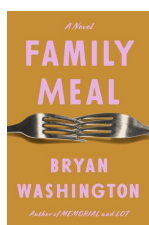


Diva

Daisy Goodwin
PR6107.O6625 D58 2024

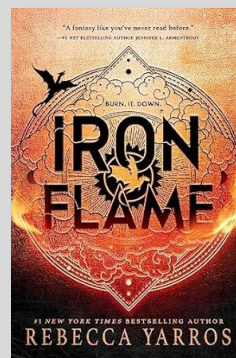
Family Meal

Bryan Washington
PS3623.A86737 F36 2023



Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals

Oliver Burkeman
HD69.T54 B875 2021



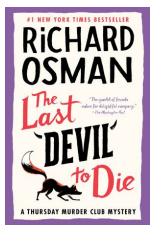
Iron Flame

Rebecca Yarros
PS3625.A7384 I76 2023

The second book in *The Empyrean* series appeared on many top book lists in 2023. Amazon, Barnes & Noble, NPR, Audible, Paste Magazine and others declared the fantasy romance as one of the best books published last year.

The Last Devil to Die

Richard Osman
PR6115.S58 L37 2023



The Leftover Woman: A Novel

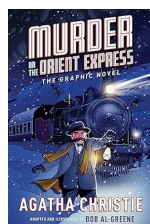
Jean Kwok
PS3611.W65 L44 2023

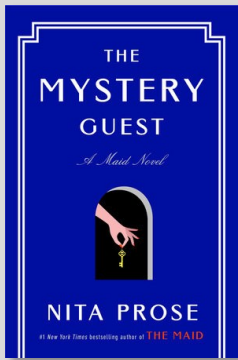
Let Us Descend: A Novel

Jesmyn Ward
PS3623.A7323 L48 2023

Murder on the Orient Express: The Graphic Novel

Bob Al-Greene
PN6727.A44 M87 2023





The Mystery Guest

Nita Prose
PR9199.4.P7768 M97 2023

When a world-renowned author drops dead in the tearoom of a five-star hotel, the list of suspects includes employees and guests of the establishment. Molly Gray, the head maid, holds the key to unlocking the killer's identity, but she will have to face buried secrets from her past to solve the mystery.

No Two Persons

Erica Bauermeister
PS3602.A9357 N6 2023

Opinions: A Decade of Arguments, Criticism, and Minding Other People's Business

Roxane Gay
PS3607.A985725 A6 2023

The Perfectionist's Guide to Losing Control: A Path to Peace and Power

Katherine Morgan Schafner
BF698.35.P47 S33 2023

The Postcard

Anne Berest
PQ2702.E725 C3713 2023

So Late in the Day: Stories of Women and Men

Claire Keegan
PR6061.E329 S65 2023

Starling House

Alix E. Harrow
PS3608.A783854 S73 2023

The Unmaking of June Farrow: A Novel

Adrienne Young
PS3625.O932 U56 2023

Watership Down: The Graphic Novel

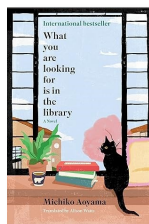
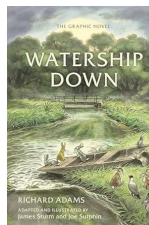
James Sturm
PN6727.S79 W38 2023

We Have Always Been Who We Are

Sofia T. Romero
PS3568.O56465 .W44 2023

What You Are Looking for Is in the Library: A Novel

Michiko Aoyama
PL867.5.O927 O8313 2023

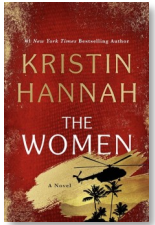


The Women

Kristin Hannah
PS3558.A4763 W66 2024

The Wonderful World of James Herriot

James Herriot
SF613.H44 A3 2023

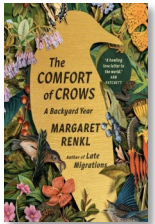


Ebooks and Audiobooks via Libby

Available to UWEC faculty, staff, and students.

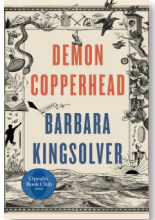
The Comfort of Crows (audiobook)

Margaret Renkl



Demon Copperhead (ebook and audiobook)

Barbara Kingsolver



Holly (ebook)

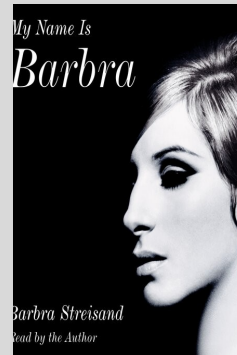
Stephen King

Iron Flame (audiobook)

Rebecca Yarros

Let Us Descend (ebook)

Jesmyn Ward



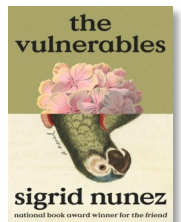
Read by Barbra Streisand herself, this much-anticipated memoir spans her illustrious career in the entertainment industry. Growing up in Brooklyn and getting her start in New York nightclubs, Streisand became one of the biggest names in showbusiness. This audiobook edition features exclusive anecdotes and music not found in other versions of the book.

My Name Is Barbra

(audiobook)
Barbra Streisand

The Vulnerables (ebook and audiobook)

Sigrid Nunez



The Woman in Me (ebook and audiobook)

Britney Spears

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

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire students, staff, and faculty are welcome to join us for our 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. ■



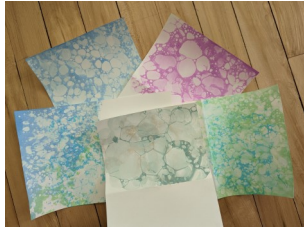
Spring 2024 Open Hours

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

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

EARTH WEEK WORKSHOPS

Join the Blugold Makerspace for a variety of ecocrafts in honor of Earth Week!



Blugold Makerspace at Earth Claire, hosted by the Student Office of Sustainability

Join us on the campus mall to make a T-shirt into a tote bag or create some marbled paper with the power of bubbles! All are welcome to create with us.

Monday, April 22: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m

Campus Mall



Freezer Paper Screen Printing

Learn how to use the power of freezer paper and fabric paint to create custom designs for your favorite shirt, tote bag, or other cotton item. Bring a shirt or use some of our fabric. All materials provided.

Tuesday, April 23: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m

Blugold Makerspace



Mending 101

Learn some basic hand sewing skills to help with various clothing repair projects, and how to sew on a button!

Wednesday, April 24: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m

Blugold Makerspace



Upcycle a Bookend

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.

Thursday, April 25: 2:00–3:00 p.m

Blugold Makerspace

CRAFT SWAP—FOREVER!

Due to popular demand, we have decided to host our Craft Swap space year-round!

Tried something new, but it's not for you? Drop off the supplies at the Blugold Makerspace Craft Swap! We're collecting yarn, fabric, coloring tools, craft supplies, patterns, and more—you may find your new favorite hobby.

The Craft Swap operates on the honor system during library hours. Donations are not necessary to take an item but are encouraged. Located near the Blugold Makerspace, library lower level room 109.





University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

Barron
COUNTY

Library

barron.uwec.edu/library

The brand new study spaces at UW-ECBC Library, complete with new paint and glass panel doors. ■

Big Changes at the University of Wisconsin-Barron County Library!

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

On Valentine's Day, the UW Madison Extension-Barron County branch came to join us in the library. Our new roommates moved into our student lounge/Makerspace area, so we reimagined the rest of the building to create new spaces for our students. The changes have included adding glass walls to our study alcoves to create more private study rooms, moving our computers to other areas of the library, doing massive weeding and shifting projects to remove four shelving units, and creating a temporary Makerspace area. It has been quite a year!

There are now three more group study rooms that the students love, a computer loft with two new docking stations, and we will soon have a new Makerspace. The final touch will be creating a new "living room" area cozily tucked between the stacks. We are hoping to have everything done in the week or two following spring break, so if you're up this way, feel free to stop in and check it out. This has been a mammoth project for our small staff and student workers, but we are extremely excited about providing this terrific space for our students! ■



The main stacks area: before (above) and after (below) ■



Behind the Scenes: Spotlight on Carrie Butler Becker, Book Buyer

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



Nestled in a tidy office on the third floor of our library is an individual who is at the center of the process that puts books on our shelves, ensures that our OverDrive collection is outfitted with new releases, diverse fiction and nonfiction titles in eBook and eAudiobook formats, and keeps the Popular Reading Collection (PRC) on the second floor stocked with titles aimed to appeal to a wide range of readers. She is responsible for purchasing, receiving, and invoicing all books, ebooks, audiobooks, streaming videos, and other media at McIntyre Library, and although it is quite possible that you have never seen her at the library, she is an integral part of our team. I'm talking about Carrie Butler Becker, a member of our staff who has performed many feats of magic not only on my behalf, but for many of our patrons who have requested items for purchase throughout her thirteen years at McIntyre Library.

A self-proclaimed homebody, grammar nerd, (she reads grammar guides like others might read trashy celebrity memoirs), and fan of the Oxford Comma, Carrie collects antiques, oil paintings, bronze sculptures, and has an affinity for anything dog related. She has been a campus community member for 25 years and points out that like many of our current library staff, she too worked at McIntyre as a student. She loves learning about American history and watching black and white sci-fi movies like *The Thing from Another World*, *The Blob*, and *The Deadly Mantis*. Hidden amongst her varied interests, she had a side gig as a book blogger, reviewing each of the over 200 books she read each year, and had the opportunity to judge for the Cybils nonfiction awards a couple of years ago.

Carrie's love and passion for all things books is evident, and her selection process is well-informed. When selecting for our PRC and OverDrive collections, largely driven by patron requests, she balances the blend of voices on the shelf so that every reader who accesses these collections might see themselves on both physical and virtual shelves. She keeps the nonfiction titles looking fresh, loves adding new poetry books to our collection, seeks inspiration from readers on BookTube, and even manages to add titles in genres she doesn't care for by keeping up with new releases through a multitude of review publications that she scours for her own TBR list, which largely consists of nonfiction titles.

When asked about how she sees the role of book buying changing in the digital age, Carrie remains optimistic that paper books are here to stay but also shares her appreciation for audiobooks and is excited to see the rise in usage of audiobooks in OverDrive by readers on our campus. When she started in this position thirteen years ago, her work was mostly manual and paper based, but has transitioned to an online ordering system that is integrated with our online catalog. Although this has streamlined some of her purchasing work, there can be the occasional mishap. This last fall, she ordered a set of photography books a student requested for the collection. What appeared to be a straightforward purchase ended in a delivery to Singapore that took several weeks to resolve.

Her persistence to track down this shipment and ensure that this collection of photography would be available for the student requesting this rare multi-volume set is just one example of Carrie's tenacity to ensure that every reader who enters our doors, physically or virtually, will be connected with material that will spark their love for reading and learning and growing. She loves fulfilling patron requests for materials, watching the PRC grow in popularity, and ensuring that all voices are represented in the collections McIntyre Library offers. If you happen to see her on the second floor as she works to guarantee that the PRC is looking its best, give her a thanks, ask her for a recommended poetry title, and see if she'll tell you about the family* of squirrels nesting on her window ledge outside her office window. ■

*Carrie did point out that the exact filial relationships of said squirrels is indeterminate.

Strike a Pose: Yoga at McIntyre Library

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

For the last five semesters, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire community could take an hour out of their Fridays to rejuvenate with yoga led by our favorite library yoga instructor, Ashleigh Kroschel.

Whether it be to stretch out kinks, improve flexibility, or feel more grounded by getting back to our breaths, Ashleigh ensures that everyone will walk away with a practice that meets their needs. In a calm voice, Ashleigh guides us through various poses, offering modifications when necessary, so that everyone's abilities are honored.

It will be a great loss to the library when she graduates this spring, but we are so grateful to have had her yoga expertise for as long as we have. Ashleigh will graduate with a biology major and psychology minor and plans to continue teaching yoga for as long as she can. She currently works at Eaum Yoga and Fitness in downtown Eau Claire.

I asked Ashleigh a few questions about her experience as a yoga instructor:

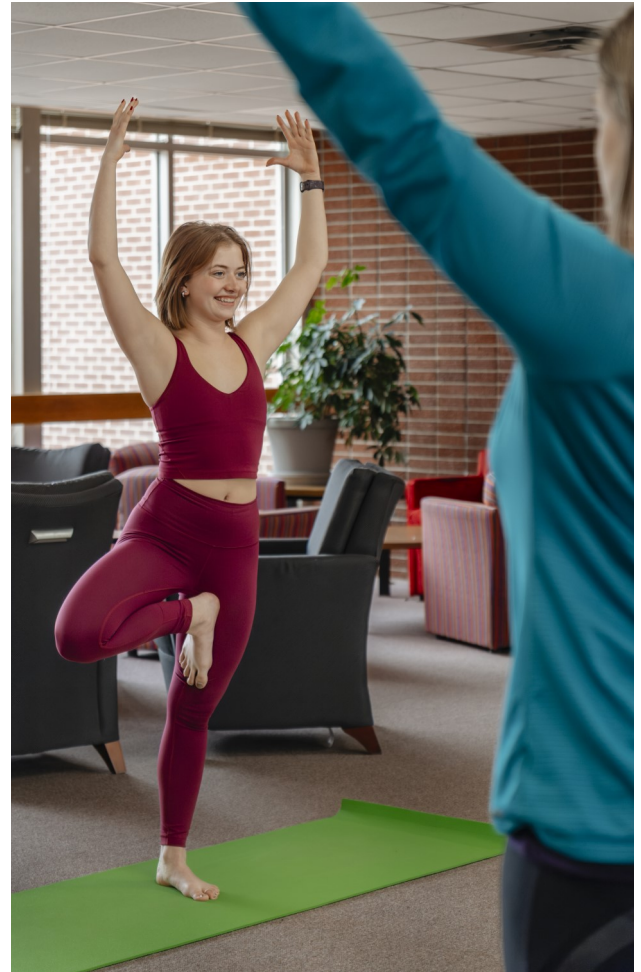
What got you interested in yoga? Back in my hometown, there is a yoga studio called Willbridge that my mom, my sister, and I would attend classes! It was a way for us to spend some time together, just us girls. When my grandma or aunts would visit, they would join us as well. It was a way for us to connect as a family!

How did you decide to move from a student to instructor? Back in high school, I had an opportunity to go to a community college and get my 200-hour yoga certification. Unfortunately, COVID hit and all in-person classes were cancelled. But fast forward to freshman year, I saw that GroupEx [Group Exercise through campus recreation] had tons of different classes offered—including yoga. I went on the first day of school and they said they were hiring! No experience necessary. I jumped at the opportunity and then trained in with the instructor at the time! GroupEx has the wonderful opportunity that you get one scholarship opportunity to use toward personal development of the classes you teach. I did lots of research and found an online 200-hour teacher training that was accredited through Yoga Alliance. I took those classes while in school full time and working part time. It was a lot of work, but it was so worth it.

What is your favorite part of teaching at McIntyre Library? I love the community! I get my regulars that bring a smile to my face and I love that my students are both faculty members and students in school. I love that it brings everyone together.

What advice do you have for people looking to get into yoga? Don't be nervous—just go! Yoga is for everyone and every body. It is a wonderful way to get into a healthy lifestyle since it is so low impact and there are so many modifications and variations for each yoga pose to make it work for everyone. Just try it!

It is not a stretch to say we'll really miss Ashleigh around the library and can't wait to hear about all the accomplishments she has ahead of her. If you are interested in catching a class with Ashleigh before she graduates, yogatta stop by the McIntyre Library's Breezeway (L2022) Fridays at 1:00 p.m. through May 17. Open to all UW-Eau Claire students, staff, and faculty. Mats and wipes are provided. ■



Brie-hind the Scenes: Our Student Workers Are Cheddar Together

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



Each semester, library supervisors coordinate Cheddar Together--a special student employee camaraderie event centered around cheese and conversation. This event brings together student employees across departments to help build community, discuss student employee experiences, and share some soup and grilled cheeses (lovingly prepared by their supervisors). It may sound a little cheesy, but you better brie-lieve it is a highlight of the semester for some! ■

Images

Top left: our students, staff and faculty enjoying the most recent Cheddar Together event in February.

Top right: an epic cheese pull captured by super photographer, Kong

Bottom: Cheers! But with grilled cheeses



2023 Student Employee Scholarship: Kaylee Michaels

By **Jenna Vande Zande**, vandezjl@uwec.edu

This spring, we awarded our eighth annual McIntyre Library Student Employee Scholarship to Kaylee Michaels.

Kaylee has worked at the library's main desk since spring 2022 and she is a social work major and psychology minor, with a certificate in child advocacy studies.

When asked about what she enjoys most about working at the Main Desk, Kaylee said, "I honestly enjoy helping patrons with general needs. This could be giving directions to somewhere on campus, using the printer, or just looking for a book. Even if I'm not able to fully help them achieve their goal, I still get to refer them somewhere that can, and I help make even a small, positive impact on their day. Making someone's day a little better is always my goal, and I get to achieve this daily at the library."



In her essay, Kaylee shared a growth in her work ethic through opening the library each morning and shifting her whole organizational routine to accommodate for the newfound knowledge and growth that came with being a "morning person." She writes, "While working at McIntyre Library, I have had multiple realizations about myself. For starters, I am surprised to find myself to be a morning person...Thanks to my opening shifts at the library, I now understand when I have my best focus and can do my best work. I've learned to utilize these mornings to improve my personal and academic growth. This introspection has allowed me to improve my time management skills."

Kaylee also details connections about her experiences at McIntyre to her future ambitions stating, "The easy-going nature of working at the main desk allows me to improve my interpersonal connections and communication...As a social work major, these skills are essential for success. Assisting patrons to navigate the library or other campus resources has given me first-hand experience of what professional conversation and aid should look like. I can apply my interpersonal and communication skills to my future profession and everyday interactions with peers, coworkers, and professors."

After graduating this spring, Kaylee will be an intern at Durban's Children's Home in Durban, South Africa from late May to early August. Here, she will work alongside social workers and take on cases of children between the ages of two and eighteen. Kaylee will learn valuable social work and child welfare skills, practicing critical social work tasks like developmental assessments and creating care plans for admitted children, as well as gaining first-hand experience in developing intercultural awareness and competency in an international setting.

Congratulations, Kaylee, and thank you for being a member of the McIntyre main desk team!

• • •

While the experiences gained working in McIntyre Library help students make connections and prepare for their careers, we are happy to help make college a little more affordable for Kaylee and future student employee recipients. We are excited to announce that this year during National Library Week (April 7-13) we will be hosting a donation drive for our student scholarship! Celebrate your love of libraries by directly supporting our amazing student workers and the impactful projects and learning experiences they participate in during their time with us. Thank you to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation for helping us organize this great crowdfunding event! Go to blugolds.uwec.edu/library for more details. ■



April is the Cruellest Month

By **Kate Hinnant**, hinnanks@uwec.edu

If those of us who work at the library look down at the mouth this April, it is probably because two of our colleagues are leaving McIntyre for new opportunities. Librarians Roxanne Backowski and Liliana LaValle have been a vital part of our staff for years. During their time here, they have planted seeds that all of us will benefit from for a long time.



Roxanne Backowski

When Roxanne arrived at McIntyre Library in 2017, she had the daunting task of getting up to speed with the complex and ever-changing world of electronic resources. Armed with her to-do lists and a penchant for details, she quickly became a valuable member of the library faculty. She brought an evidence-based approach to resource management, providing her colleagues with the data necessary to make sound decisions for difficult choices. She also revolutionized our approach to licensing streaming video, just in time for Covid-19. In 2020, her position was recrafted to include all library acquisitions. Her librarianship extended to teaching, and she created engaging and relevant lessons for students in kinesiology. In 2023, she transitioned into the role of Associate Director of User Services and Operations.

During her time with us, Roxanne also started the library's community garden program, which donated produce to the campus food bank. An avid outdoorsperson, she shared her knowledge of cross-country skiing with colleagues new to Wisconsin, as well as pictures from her many travels. Many of us get a kick out of her Minnesotan pronunciations and will miss having her around daily.

Luckily, Roxanne will not be going far. She has accepted the position as Director of University of Wisconsin-Stout's Library. We are sure that Stout will benefit from her ideas and leadership, just as we have.

Photo: Roxanne and "Artie" at Library After Dark; photo by Kong Yang.



Liliana LaValle

Liliana came to us with experience in public libraries, but she quickly adapted to the academic environment, developing strong ties to her liaison departments, and becoming involved in campus scholarly exchanges, such as the Faculty Forum. As the Digital Instruction librarian, she developed many tutorials, including popular introductions to citation styles, and was instrumental during Covid-19 in helping the library instructors pivot to online teaching. Liliana also co-created the Popular Reading Collection, which increased leisure reading checkouts in the library. She has also led the Digital Studio Team since its inception. If that were not enough, Liliana has been a champion of Open Educational Resources (OER) on our campuses, lending her expertise to making educational materials more affordable for our students.

Some of us have delighted in Liliana's propensity for puns. Others have reviled it. Even though she has a talent for clever word play, she also worked on our Plain Language Team, improving library communications for our users. Always up for a game of Kubb, or any game really, Liliana knows how to make work fun. She figured out early on that if you replace the word "meeting" with "party," you can lift your colleagues' spirits. We will miss the "Libguide Revision Parties," replete with cookies and popcorn when she leaves.

Liliana will be moving back to her hometown of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her husband, Chris, has landed a plum job as a manager for Advanced Research Computing at the University of Michigan.

Photo: Liliana and Blu the Blugold at Blugold Experience Day.

Library Staff and Student News: October 2023 — March 2024

Carrie Butler Becker, acquisitions and content coordinator, and **Liliana LaValle**, digital learning librarian, completed Tier 3 of the EDI professional development program with their project, “Popular Reading Collection Diversity Inventory.” Learn more about [EDI professional development](#) and [Tier 3](#).

Erin Kriener, equipment checkout desk supervisor, got engaged to her partner, Alex, in December. They are planning a fall 2024 wedding. Congratulations, Erin and Alex!

Robin Miller, associate director of collections and scholar services, recently presented “ChatGPT and Beyond: Teaching and Learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI),” a workshop that attracted more than 70 K-12 teachers. UW-Eau Claire-Barron County hosted the first workshop on Oct. 26, and the second workshop on Nov. 8 on UW-Eau Claire’s main campus. These professional development sessions were offered to area teachers with support from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. Workforce Innovation Grant.



Erin and her partner, Alex.

Miller was quoted in the Jan. 16 Eau Claire Leader-Telegram article “[AI, academics and Altoona: Teachers learn about generative technology at mini summit](#)” about a workshop she presented to School District of Altoona staff members.

Miller, also had her paper “[Pandora’s Can of Worms: A Year of Generative AI in Higher Education](#)” published in Vol. 24, Issue 1 of the journal *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*.

Miller also was a guest on “[EduCast](#),” a podcast hosted by Dr. Heidi Eliopoulos, superintendent of the School District of Altoona. In a wide-ranging discussion, Miller and Eliopoulos discussed generative artificial intelligence and the opportunities and challenges it poses for educators.

Kati Morley, associate professor and education librarian, and Kate Kramschuster, interim library director at UW-Stout, presented the poster “[Calling All School Librarians: Website Evaluation Has Changed, and We Must, Too! \(And We Need YOUR Help!\)](#)” at the American Association of School Librarians national conference Oct. 19 in Tampa, Florida. They also presented a similar presentation, “Web Evaluation Has Changed, and We Must, Too!” Oct. 26 at the [Wisconsin Library Association 2023 Annual Conference](#) in Middleton. Academic librarians are seeing gaping holes in most students’ abilities to use the internet to their best advantage; both presentations focused on better techniques for website evaluation that rely on critical thinking skills and not checklists—and how educators should change their attitudes regarding Wikipedia.

Anna Zook, assistant professor and arts librarian, presented “Not Only the Young: Creative Play and Problem-Solving for Libraries” Oct. 25 at the [Wisconsin Library Association 2023 Annual Conference](#) in Middleton.

Ashley Krueger, main desk lead student and stacks associate, has joined the Boys and Girls Club of Altoona as a new volunteer. She is excited to work with at risk youth in our community. Congratulations, Ashley!

Sofia Prado, graphic design intern, had three pieces selected for the spring 2024 issue of NOTA (None Of The Above), the longstanding UW-Eau Claire student liberal arts publication. The titles of her work are *Self Portrait* (image, right), *March 23rd*, and *Going in Circles*. Congratulations, Sofia!



Katelyn Zastrow, main desk and stacks student assistant, began working as a writing assistant intern at the UW-Eau Claire Center for Writing Excellence (CWE) this spring. Congratulations, Katelyn!

McIntyre Library had **several employees participate in the Shamrock Shuffle**, an annual run/walk, on March 9 on a course centered on the campus. (image, right—library staffers show off their Shamrock Shuffle shirts)



SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARIES

During National Library Week, our supporters often ask us how they can help the libraries at UW-Eau Claire keep up the great work. Here are some ideas!



Nurture Student Employees (\$500)

\$500 would fund one scholarship, awarded annually to a UW-Eau Claire student who works in the libraries.

Enhance Library Exhibitions (\$530)

\$530 to purchase a conservation chest mount form that could be used to safely exhibit historic clothing from Special Collections and Archives.



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.

Thank you to our McIntyre Valued Partners (MVPs)

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