2016

University Libraries Annual Report 2016

University of Denver, University Libraries

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The University Libraries include the Main Library in the Anderson Academic Commons, the Bonfils-Stanton Music Library in the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, and the Hampden Center (off-site storage).

The Anderson Academic Commons includes the University of Denver’s Main Library, a variety of academic support services, and the Front Porch Cafe in one center-of-campus location. The LEED Silver certifed, 154,223 ft² building has three floors offering a variety of accommodations including carrels, fireside seating, reservable group study rooms equipped with white boards and flat screens, and designated silent study areas. Other highlights are a special events room, computer-equipped seating, dedicated exhibit display walls and cabinets, and sustainable practices and programming.

The Bonfils-Stanton Music Library, located in the Lamont School of Music, offers music scores, audio and video recordings, and books and journals on music and musicology. A specially equipped room allows for listening to or viewing recordings of music and performance.

The Hampden Center is an off-site facility where nearly 2 million print holdings are stored. Supplementing the collection of about 600,000 print items in the Anderson Academic Commons, these resources generally were published more than 30 years ago and/or are less frequently used. Students and patrons request items from the Hampden Center using the library catalog, and the solicited materials are promptly delivered to campus.

The University Libraries provide access to a wide range of material to support in-depth research, reading for pleasure, and everything in between. With over two and a half million physical volumes, and about two million electronic journals and books, the libraries continuously update the collections, purchasing the latest print and electronic books and journals, databases, and audio and video recordings. Our subject librarians work closely with academic departments across the University to build the strongest collections possible. In fiscal year 2016, the library’s collection included 4,364,975 total volumes and $6,097,908 was spent on new acquisitions.
Jeanne Abrams, Professor and Curator of the Beck Archives, was selected as the University of Denver’s 2015-16 Lecturer in recognition of “superlative creative and scholarly work.” The award was bestowed at the Fall 2015 Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony by Provost Gregg Kvistad.

Jenny Bowers, Associate Professor and Social Sciences Reference Librarian, co-presented “Collaborative Reference: The Research Consultation as a Learning Partnership” with Carrie Forbes at the Amigos Online Reference Conference and “Unmediated Archives: Creating an Immersive Experience for Undergraduate Students Across the Disciplines,” with Peggy Keenan and Kate Crowe.

Chris Brown, Professor and Reference Technology Integration Librarian, published an expert report on off-site storage in relation to federal publications, which has led to consultations with libraries on downsizing their federal documents collections. Along with colleague Erin Elzi, Chris also published an article on cataloging practices at the DU Libraries.

Forbes, Associate Professor and Curator of Special Collections & Archives, worked with DU’s “Sistah Network” to conduct oral histories of black women graduates of the University of Denver from the early 1950s to the present. These oral histories help reconstruct a more complete picture of the DU student experience.

As part of an ongoing project, Kate Crowe, Associate Professor and Curator of Special Collections & Archives, worked with DU’s “Sistah Network” to conduct oral histories of black women graduates of the University of Denver from the early 1950s to the present. These oral histories help reconstruct a more complete picture of the DU student experience.

Erin Elzi, Assistant Professor and Cataloging and Metadata Librarian, presented nationally and regionally on project management techniques, and the Libraries’ migration to the new online discovery system. The primary focus of her research was the crossroads of feminist pedagogy and cataloging practices.

Collaborating with colleague Kate Crowe, Steve Fisher, Associate Professor and University Historian, co-authored a chapter, “Archives and Special Collections in the 21st Century,” in Creating the 21st Century Library published by Scarecrow Press.

Carrie Forbes, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Student & Scholar Services, co-presented “Collaborative Reference: The Research Consultation as a Learning Partnership” with Jenny Bowers at the Amigos Online Reference Conference and is currently chairing a national committee on librarian professional development for the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Esther Gil, Associate Professor and Business & Economics Reference Librarian, published an article, “Information-seeking behavior of business and economics faculty: A case study,” in the Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship and presented a poster on “Maximizing the One-Stop Information Literacy Session” at the Special Libraries Association Annual Conference.

Anna Harper, Visiting Assistant Professor and Reference & Instruction Librarian, is collaborating on a research project with Krystyna Matusiak, Library and Information Science professor, investigating the use of images in the academic work of college students.

Peggy Keenan, Professor and Arts & Humanities Reference Librarian, presented the findings from her sabbatical research on British bibliomysteries between the world wars at both the Popular Culture Association national conference and the Southwest Popular Culture Association regional conference. Her research focuses on how American characters are portrayed in these mysteries.

Michael Levine-Clark, Professor and Dean & Director, published an article and a chapter on demand-driven collection development, and gave eighteen talks at a range of conferences, including invited presentations in Kuwait City and London. He consulted with a major STEM publisher on strategies for working with academic libraries and served on nine publisher advisory boards.

With a research focus on digital services innovation in academic libraries, Sheila Yeh, Assistant Professor and Digital Infrastructure & Technology Coordinator, published a peer-reviewed article in College & Research Libraries, and a proceeding in the Americas Conference on Information Systems.
The University Libraries’ Special Collections consist of a variety of material types including printed books and journals that may be old, rare, or valuable by association; art including photos, three dimensional objects, and handmade works of art; archives including documents and ephemera; and maps which convey the history of exploration and discovery, and often are themselves works of art.

Some materials in Special Collections are old, like the recently acquired 1773 edition of a captivity narrative originally published in 1682, or our illuminated choir books, both of which were created between 1501 and 1600. Some items are contemporary; most of our fine press and artist books are handmade, and are often one-of-a-kind. We collect current records of the student experience, including posters, signs, and other ephemera from student protests, and make many of these materials available online. Curators in Special Collections frequently teach classes with these materials, especially focusing on archival materials created by DU students, which grounds teaching in the students’ own lived experiences and creates additional opportunities for deeper engagement with the sources.

Last fall, History professor Carol Helstosky substantially revised her history class on the First World War to reflect greater archival literacy through exposure to primary sources. With the help of librarians Peggy Keeran and Kate Crowe, she structured the entire class around World War I databases, in particular, the First World War Portal, which is just one of 1,273 electronic databases to which the University Libraries subscribe. Students were asked to locate, discuss, and write about primary sources for each class meeting, with a required final paper based on primary sources. Keeran conducted workshops to familiarize students with the First World War Portal and other databases. The class also visited Special Collections, where Curators Jeannée Abrams and Crowe introduced students to primary source materials. According to Professor Helstosky, the librarian/faculty assistance was fundamental to developing good research skills. The student’s success was not just in what they learned, but more importantly, how they learned, which reflected a high level of engagement with the course materials.

Main collecting areas include the University Archives, the Beck Archives of Jewish culture and history in the Rocky Mountain region, the Carson Brierly Griffin Dance Library, Fine Press and Artists’ Books, the Center for Ski History, and Cookery and Foodways.
C elebrating its 60th year, the University Library Association evolved from the Women's Library Association which was founded in 1956, and remains dedicated to the premise that a great university must have at its heart a great library. Members of this organization are DU alumni, parents, neighbors, and former University staff who participate in a lecture series, special events, and book discussions, and operate the Book Stack, a used book store benefiting the University Libraries. With an endowment of over $1.6 million, the Library Association funds a faculty grant program whereby professors request new materials to be added to the library collection to support their teaching. For each proposal, faculty work with a reference librarian to address collection development needs. Since this program was established in 1994, about $800,000 of library acquisitions have been funded by the Library Association endowment, serving students and faculty by enhancing resources supporting all of the University’s academic departments.

A recent estate gift from Wana Elaine Barnett, combined with the 2013 estate gift of Glenn Giffin, funded a staff position to work with the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library, an extensive collection of materials about all types of dance. Nathalie Proulx is the inaugural archivist for the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library. She began her association with the Dance Library working in DU’s Special Collections and Archives while pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science at DU.

From the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library’s exhibit, Rising Stars: Denver Civic Ballet and Ballet Guild, a sketched costume design from 1978 by Judy Graese for Milenko Banovitch’s production of “Memories.” Artist, dance teacher, and costume designer Judy Graese was among the 2016 honorees at Legends of Dance, an annual Dance Library celebration which recognizes individuals and organizations that have significantly impacted dance in the Rocky Mountain West.

W illiam I. Smith ’55, ’67 and his family made a significant gift to the University Libraries that funded a pilot subscription to Digital Commons, an online archive for collecting, preserving, and sharing digital versions of DU-generated research. Academic work by University of Denver students and faculty now is accessible by scholars around the world. A dynamic world map at http://digitalcommons.du.edu/ shows real-time downloads of scholarly work generated by University of Denver students and faculty, and shared via the open access institutional repository.

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J oe Moreland ’71 worked with the University Libraries and University Advancement to fund a pilot program that promotes information literacy by encouraging professors to collaborate with reference librarians. Together the teaching faculty and librarians create assignments that help students use library resources, multimedia software, datasets, and archival records. The first classes in the pilot occurred in 2016, and the program continues in 2016-2017. An initial review suggests that students are gaining critical abilities to navigate our information-rich world. Students learn life-long skills including how to find the right information for an assignment, evaluate sources, understand the difference between primary and secondary sources, and effectively use information.

An infographic made by students Shelby Mosier-Murray and Celina Sarangi explains the chemistry behind the airbag. Professor Debbie Mitchell’s analytical chemistry class required library workshops on information literacy and source evaluation (taught by the science librarian), and an Adobe Illustrator (taught by staff in the library’s Digital Media Center).

Containing materials including manuscripts, private papers, institutional records, oral histories, photographs, newspapers, memorabilia, and documents, the Beck Memorial Archives reflect and explain Jewish culture and history in the Rocky Mountain region. Gifts to the Beck Archives enabled the acquisition of a sterling silver railroad pass issued by Jewish Colorado pioneer Otto Mears who was responsible for carving roads on the western slope, and building railroads, including the Silverton line. The sliced filigree train pass was a coveted gift given to VIPs.

Sources:
- 1976-2001 alone..
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THE LIBRARIES at a GLANCE 2016

Number of students at the University of Denver: 11,797
Number of Anderson Academic Commons visitors: 777,446

LIBRARY PERSONNEL:
FACULTY 19
STAFF 55

AAC reference desk questions asked & answered: 22,433

Number of Information literacy instruction sessions: 398
Study room reservations: 31,921
Checkouts of library materials: 97,792
Searches on the libraries’ main search portal: 819,998

PRINT VOLUMES

Hamden Center: 1,934,086
AAC: 561,634
Music Library: 42,602

18

DVDs and CDs: 30,841
Digital Collection Items: 41,914
Electronic Databases: 1,273
Electronic Journals: 127,576
Electronic Books: 1,826,653
Government Docs: 853,622 (print); 725,931 (online)

Total Volumes (including e-books): 4,364,975

105

Hours open per week: 357 days a year and 24/7 during finals

THANK YOU

We appreciate the generous donors to the University Libraries for joining our efforts to enhance the education and the futures of University of Denver students. Because the libraries serve all of the University’s students, your gift supports all student achievement during their time at DU, and empowers them to be life-long learners after graduation.

Support for the libraries through the annual fund allows the Dean & Director to fund the most pressing needs, pilot programs, and innovation.

Gifts to an existing endowed fund, or to establish a new one, support activities such as library lectures or acquisitions in a specific area of the donor’s interest. Endowments offer a lasting legacy by preserving the principal while allocating a portion of the investment’s earnings annually for expenditures.

Naming opportunities are available in the Anderson Academic Commons at a range of giving levels.

To learn more about the University Libraries, please visit library.du.edu.

For information about giving to the University Libraries, or to receive news and announcements, including invitations to exhibits and events, please call 303-871-3958 or email Andrea.Howland@du.edu.
MISSION

The University of Denver Libraries connect students, faculty, staff, and the broader University community to knowledge in all forms. Reflecting the University’s mission, we support teaching, research, scholarship, and creative endeavors by providing diverse resources and services for all stages of the information lifecycle. By so doing, we preserve our varied cultural heritage, facilitate lifelong learning, and inspire our students and faculty to question, contemplate, and engage.

University Libraries
Anderson Academic Commons
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