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University Libraries Annual Report 2019

Description

2019 Annual Report from the University of Denver, University Libraries. The annual report highlights programs, projects, and activities that occurred during the year, as well as details of normal operations and brief statistics.

Keywords

Annual report, Library statistics, Volunteers, Archives, Exhibits, Donors

Disciplines

Library and Information Science



2019

ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY *of*
DENVER

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the University Libraries, thank you for your support and interest. This publication presents library highlights of 2019.

We're proud that in the most recent *Princeton Review* annual ranking of the best colleges, the University of Denver (DU) placed fourth in the category of "best college library" following only the United States Military Academy, Columbia University, and Williams College. Our collaborative library facility, the Anderson Academic Commons, designed with the thoughtful input of students, faculty and staff over several years of planning, along with generous investment by DU Trustee Ed Anderson BFA '71 and his wife Linda Cabot and other donors, made possible the building of this central campus resource. The building's design allows us to be so much more than we were in Penrose Library. The *Princeton Review* ranking reflects the continued innovation and efforts of all who work here, including 20 librarians, 48 staff, and 62 student workers, as well as teams who offer student support in a variety of academic disciplines and in requisite skills like research, writing, technology, digital media, and more. We have succeeded in creating a compelling, comfortable, and welcoming environment that enables our students to thrive.

The University Libraries engage students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, neighbors and visitors with lectures, exhibits and other events. We also benefit from the generosity of friends' groups including the University Library Association (formerly Women's Library Association), The Dance Archive (formerly Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library), and the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society affiliated with our Beck Archives, organizations which have focused interests and programs. These groups bring library friends closer to our collections, and the University Libraries benefit from their outreach and fundraising support.

This report provides details of two new endowments established in 2019, and an overview of older endowed funds which contribute significantly to our collection development, enhance library faculty and staff compensation, and support library programs and facilities.

Please enjoy learning about the University Libraries in this report and contact me if you would like to be more involved. We accomplished much in 2019 and we could not have done it without you, so I thank you for supporting our students and community. You are essential to continually improving the experience of all who attend the University of Denver.



Michael Levine-Clark
Dean, University Libraries
Michael.Levine-Clark@du.edu
303-871-2007



Dean Michael Levine-Clark shown at left with DU alum and donor Taylor Kirkpatrick, and author Marianne Richmond. For details about the new endowment established by Kirkpatrick and benefiting the University Libraries, see page 10.



IN 2019...

- Librarians taught a total of 417 classes to 8,060 students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
- Library faculty and staff answered 14,498 questions across all library service points.
- 497,127 patrons visited the Anderson Academic Commons, our Main Library.
- We borrowed 14,660 items from other libraries around the country and the world for use by DU students and faculty. We also lent 14,179 items to patrons at other libraries.
- The library is a popular place for printing! 1,334,589 pages were printed at the AAC.
- A total of 220,034 documents were downloaded by people in 204 countries from Digital Commons @ DU, an online repository of DU scholarship and publications. Top 5 downloading countries are US, UK, India, Philippines, and Canada. Identifiable downloads are from 63% educational, 25% commercial, 5% government, 7% other institutions.
- Special Collections and Archives processed a total of 600 linear feet of total accessions (roughly 600 banker's boxes' worth).
- There were a total of 460,085 visits to the library's website: library.du.edu.
- 850,884 searches were conducted in Compass, the library's online search system.
- 24,966 study room reservations in the Anderson Academic Commons were made by the DU community.

LIBRARY FRIENDS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The University Library Association, a dues-paying membership organization, offers educational, social, and volunteer opportunities to constituents while philanthropically benefitting the University Libraries. In 2019 the Library Association's lecture series (which is open to the public) included presentations by:

- Ambassador Chris Hill about contemporary foreign relations
- 5280 Food Editor Denise Mickelson about dining in Denver
- Journalist Greg Dobbs about life as a foreign correspondent (*pictured*)
- Law professor Sam Kamin about the impact of marijuana legalization
- Former Governor Dick Lamm with suggestions for building community
- Ved Nanda, law professor, on experiences in international law

Members also had the opportunity to enjoy private docent-led tours at three Denver area museums, an exclusive DU theatre performance, and several book discussions. Volunteers run the ULA Book Stack, a used bookstore on the DU campus which also has an online presence. A successful 2019 fundraising campaign by ULA provides grant funds for DU faculty who redesign curriculum to emphasize and require student use of library resources. The ULA raised nearly \$40,000 for the University Libraries this year.



CHANCELLOR CHOPP THANKS VOLUNTEERS



Former Chancellor Rebecca Chopp hosted Book Stack volunteers to thank them for their service.
 Back row: Mimi Yen, ULA President Barbara Anderson, Karen Saliman, Chancellor Chopp, University Libraries Dean Michael Levine-Clark, Ellen Graves, Lois Jones, Lane Hart. Front row: Bernie Spilka, Barbara Anderson, Sandee Walling, Pat Fisher, Debbie Stasio.

Betty and Lou Carey developed a special fondness and connection with the University of Denver over more than 50 years. Their son Grant Carey '70 said, "Witnessing the enhancement and growth of the libraries as a continual resource for knowledge and learning delighted them." Betty served as Women's Library Association (now University Library Association) President from 1972 to 1975. She initiated the creation of the WLA endowment which continues to grow with yearly gifts from members of the ULA. It has a value of over \$1 million and annually provides significant acquisition funds for the library.

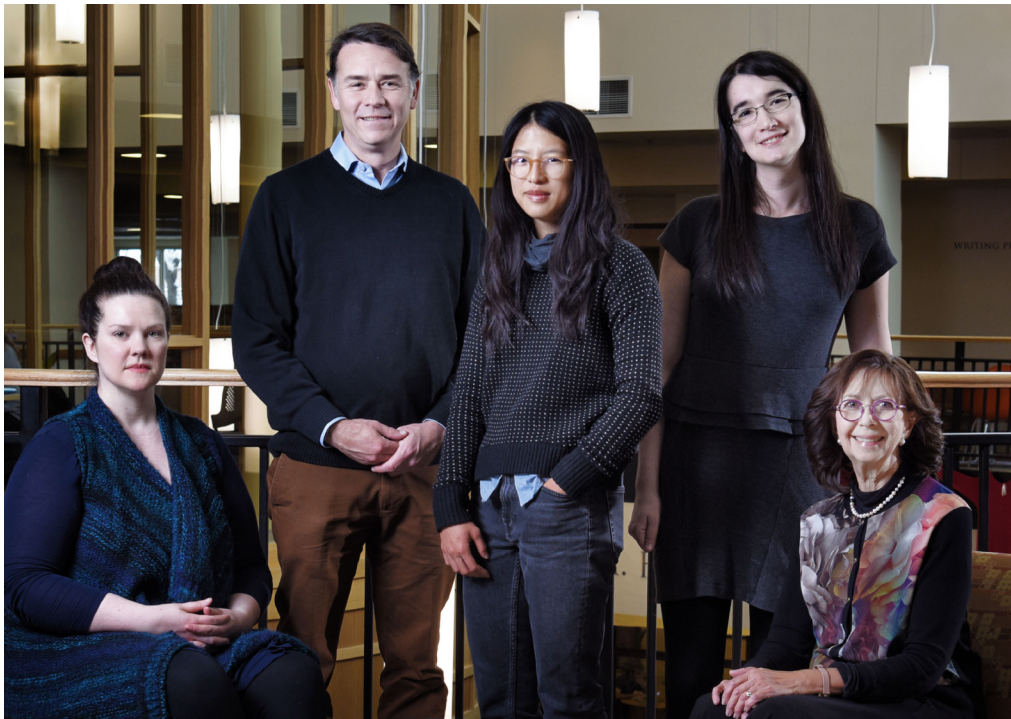
Betty was known for hosting events and celebrating library donors. Grant says, "Books and learning were our mother's lifelong passion. It brought her extreme satisfaction to donate to DU her extensive and comprehensive cookbook collection of about 700 volumes emphasizing health and nutrition, and covering every type of cooking style from throughout the world." Recent gifts from Betty's estate established endowed funds to support our cookbook collection, and library technical innovation, thus expanding her meaningful legacy benefitting all students and scholars who use the University Libraries.



The University of Denver Cookery and Foodways Collection is particularly strong in American regional cookery, and contains a large number of privately published fundraising cookbooks from churches, service organizations, and other community groups. The collection is primarily in English, but includes volumes on cooking from around the world. The gift of 700 volumes from Betty Carey helped to build this unique collection.

THE BECK ARCHIVES

The Ira M. and Peryle Hayutin Beck Memorial Archives, curated by Jeanne Abrams, are a rich repository of manuscripts, private papers, institutional records, oral histories, photographs, newspapers, memorabilia, and documents which reflect the history of Jewish life in the Rocky Mountain region. We received two prestigious grants this year that draw on the Beck Archives' Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (JCRS) primary sources. The JCRS was a nationally recognized tuberculosis sanatorium located in Denver from 1904 to 1954. Our records contain correspondence about patients, materials that reflect the treatment history of tuberculosis in the early 20th century, and the history of immigration to the Rocky Mountain region during that time.



The team working on the Mellon Foundation-funded project includes Katherine Crowe, Curator of Special Collections and Archives; Jack Maness, Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication & Collections Services; Kim Pham, Information Technologies Librarian; Alice Tarrant, Digitization Coordinator; and Jeanne Abrams, Curator of the Beck Archives. Not in photo are Fernando Reyes, Senior Systems Developer and Jeff Rynhart, Systems Programmer.

A grant of \$41,500 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Collections as Data: Part to Whole initiative supports a project that creates and makes computational use of digital archival collections as data. For our proposal we are developing capacity in services and infrastructure to support and use handwritten text recognition (HTR) technologies to publish transcriptions that were previously unavailable through traditional object-character recognition (OCR) processes, training HTR engines to work with JCRS correspondence that is written in non-Roman scripts such as Hebrew and Cyrillic. We also are examining the ethical and service implications of making this collection

accessible as data. Kim Pham, Information Technologies Librarian, is lead investigator with University Libraries Associate Dean Jack Maness and Jeanne Abrams principal investigators.

Additionally, the Council of Independent University Libraries awarded \$10,000 for the use of JCRS materials in a public-facing program. With faculty guidance, students are producing an exhibit and presentation that tie the JCRS materials to contemporary issues concerning equitable health care.

The Beck Archives helped rekindle important relationships for childhood asthma patients who had received medical treatment in Denver from 1957 through 1981 at the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (CARIH), a residential facility whose records are in the Beck Archives. This year CARIH alumni came to visit the place that had been their home and source of healthcare. During the reunion, former patients, now adults, examined relevant items in the Beck Archives – photos, oral histories, and ledgers of the medical institution where they had lived and attended school. CARIH visitors posted photographs of the Beck material to its Facebook group leading its alumni to find new connections to childhood companions from that unique place and time.



Recognized as Legends of Dance were Lara Branen, (Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop), Nada Diachenko (CU Boulder), Ana Claire (Boulder Ballet), Jane Spain (Dance Arts Studio), Marla Gentry (Denver Ballet Guild), Pam Piro (Denver Ballet Guild president), and Pam Gatz (Denver Ballet Guild)

THE DANCE ARCHIVE



THE DANCE ARCHIVE
A Dance Resource for All

This year the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library adopted a new name, The Dance Archive. With a vision to be the most comprehensive and significant dance resource in the American West, and a mission to advance education and engagement across all genres of dance and movement, the organization captivates students of any age and dance enthusiasts in a variety of ways. Curator of Special Collections and Archives

Katherine Crowe said, "We acknowledge Martha Faure Carson, Justin Brierly, and Glenn Giffin, our former namesakes, for their contributions to the organization for nearly 50 years. We also thank Wana Barnett, Lillian Cushing McFarlane, Maxine Williamson, and others who envisioned a dance resource for all, at its founding in 1972."

Board member Christin Crampton Day commented on the highlight of 2019, The Dance Archive's creation of a documentary film preserving the back story of the first-ever collaborative performance involving three Denver dance companies – Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Colorado Ballet, and Wonderbound – titled *Tour de Force*. A celebratory screening of the investigative feature at Denver's Sie Film Center included the boards, staff, and professional dancers from the three companies. "We are proud of our *Tour de Force* documentary, having seized the opportunity to capture this important dance milestone in our community and make it available as an educational asset through The Dance Archive," she said.

Another project involved hosting 200 elementary students from Denver public schools for a performance by Fiesta Colorado dance company and a history workshop using Dance Archive materials about the cultural traditions of Mexican and Spanish dance. Crowe commented that "this opportunity exposed local kids to the prospect of attending their hometown college, the University of Denver, while encouraging understanding and appreciation of Latino culture."



Denver public school students visited DU to learn about Fiesta Colorado dance company and enjoyed a hands-on experience with the dance company's collection in The Dance Archive.

Additionally, in 2019 The Dance Archive

- Honored six new Legends of Dance
- Sponsored dance performances at Newman Center Presents
- Coordinated the 8th annual trip to Vail Dance Festival
- Provided myriad resources to students and scholars

EXHIBITS

The University Libraries exhibit program offers experiential learning and fosters exploration across disciplines and beyond the classroom. Displays of items from our collections, exhibits created by students and faculty, and traveling presentations curated outside of DU offer exposure to local and global perspectives, as well as historic and artistic displays.

The transformation of the Anderson Academic Commons from Penrose Library presents significant exhibit opportunities not previously possible, including lighted display walls, object cases, and new technologies. To support our new exhibit spaces and resources, the University Libraries created an exhibits and programs manager position.

We showcase our collections and collaborate with faculty to employ exhibit creation as a course goal. In addition to mastering course content in traditional ways, students also learn to create an exhibit – a concept, purpose, and goals, educational objectives, and key messages, as well as exhibit object selection and curatorial voice. Faculty, librarians, and the exhibits manager all help students learn these important elements of an exhibition.

Our exhibit *SEEKING GRACE*, initially presented at the Anderson Academic Commons in 2018, reconstructed the stories of every Black woman who attended the University of Denver between 1900 and 1945. Denver Public Library's Blair-Caldwell African-American Research Library hosted the exhibit in 2019.



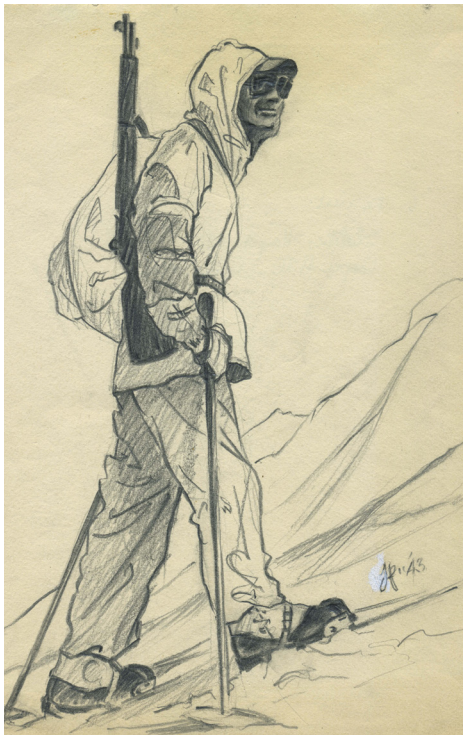
The video wall in the Anderson Academic Commons presents new opportunities for students and faculty to present video art.

Digital display technology is now available for students and faculty to present video art in the Anderson Academic Commons. Laleh Mehran, professor of emergent digital practices, instructed students in the creation of videos for show. She describes the class experience: "The video wall was an exciting professional opportunity for students. Creating images for both enthusiastic observers who intentionally view the display and people simply passing through the library was a challenge. Students produced content with attention to the surrounding space, and filmed and edited specifically for video wall technology. A Lamont School of Music student composed audio accompaniment. The hands-on learning experience resulted in photo/video documentation for the students' personal portfolios and websites, and prepared them for future video art endeavors."



For the 2019 exhibit *MORE THAN A HEADSTONE: THE LIVES & LEGACIES OF VETERANS AT FORT LOGAN NATIONAL CEMETERY*, history professors Elizabeth Escobedo and Carol Helstosky guided DU students through the process of researching the lives of veterans interred at Colorado's Fort Logan National Cemetery, culminating in an exhibit featuring materials from our Special Collections & Archives. Professor Escobedo commented, "Working on the exhibit provided students with a number of important opportunities. The Veterans Legacy Project team researched and delved deep in the historical record to learn about each individual veteran's life story, and then made sense of what these stories represent in the larger narrative of U.S. history. Students shared their work with the families and loved ones of deceased veterans, fostering closer ties between DU and the larger community. Hands-on experiences enhance student learning and the common good."

2019 EXHIBITS INCLUDED



JACQUES PARKER: THE MOUNTAINEER'S VIEW

A retrospective of the work of Jacques Parker created during his service as a World War II machine gun squad leader. A member of the 10th Mountain Division, Parker's nearly 100 pencil, ink, and watercolor works reveal a first-person visual account of military life and skiing warfare.

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY

Curated by DU's Autism Resource Group, this exhibit describes Autism spectrum disorder, promoting acceptance of neurodiversity. Featuring stories of Autistic people from the past and present, it explains how people with Autism manage situations and stresses of everyday life.

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Using an inquiry driven approach to research and writing, students explored various topics in DU's Special Collections and Archives, examining texts and artifacts that make up the historical record. Students curated exhibits to tell unique stories of college life, real-life struggles of marginalized communities, health trends as presented in cookbooks, observations of the heavens, and explorations of the mountains.

DONOR IMPACT

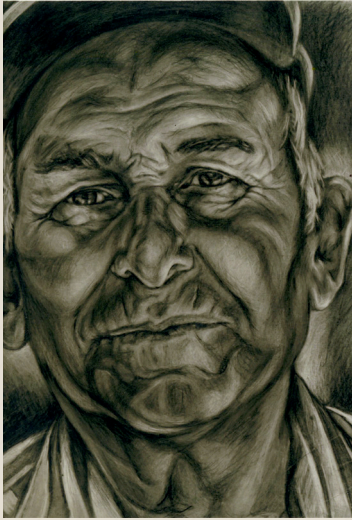
A recent gift from Taylor Kirkpatrick IMBA '04 enables the University Libraries to support children and families in Denver's underserved communities by providing resources to diversify our collection of children's books, and to fund a lecture series about childhood wellness and parental bonding. It reinforces cross-campus collaborations, advances the vision of DU's strategic plan, and strengthens connections between the University and the community.

Faculty from the University Libraries and the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health specialty within DU's Graduate School of Professional Psychology partner to offer the Caring for You and Baby Lifelong Learning Series that promotes wellness, education, and literacy by bringing children's book authors and experts to campus. We're developing our collection of children's literature with the Alternative Books for Children Diversity Collection by offering books and materials beyond the mainstream infant and early childhood bestseller lists to represent diverse families demonstrating inclusivity in regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

About his gift, Taylor Kirkpatrick said, "Central to me in the functionality of this gift is strengthening Dean Levine-Clark's charge to situate the University Libraries and Anderson Academic Commons as the heart of the University. This powerful and strategic vision is amplified by the addition of the Learning Series and the Diversity Collection. If these resources promote overall well-being and expand mental health services for children and families in the Denver community, we will have accomplished something significant."

"With Taylor's generous gift, the University Libraries is building a world-class collection of children's and young adult literature that represents voices often not included in academic library collections," says Levine-Clark. "This collection supports research and teaching at DU and is accessible to children beyond the University. Combined with the speaker series, Kirkpatrick's donation opens our collections and the Anderson Academic Commons to a broader community, connecting young readers with books and authors that speak about diverse experiences."





Studio art professor Deborah Howard donated this portrait of Yakov Neyman along with drawings, study materials, photographs, and other artworks to the Beck Archives.



The Spirituals Project preserves and revitalizes the music and teachings of sacred folk songs called "spirituals," created and sung by African-Americans in slavery. This sheet music is in the collection.

We received as gifts in 2019 the Spirituals Project collection and Deborah Howard's collection, among others. We seek donations that fit into our main collecting areas:

- University Archives: records of the University from its founding in 1864 to the present, including academics, athletics, faculty research, Chancellors' records, Board of Trustees documents, and more.
- Beck Archives of Rocky Mountain Jewish History: a repository of the heritage of Jewish culture and history of the Rocky Mountain region.
- The Dance Archive: a variety of historical resources about all types of dance, emphasizing dance in the Rocky Mountain region.
- Fine Press and Artists' Books: highlighting the beauty of the book-as-object, and emphasizing hand-printing techniques.
- Center for Ski History: personal papers, organizational records, publications, and ephemera related to the history of skiing and other winter sports, with a focus on the American West.
- Cookery and Foodways: focusing on American regional cookery but including volumes from around the world, the collection contains privately published fund-raising cookbooks from churches, service organizations, and other community groups.
- Manuscripts and Rare Books

The University Libraries benefit from the thoughtful generosity of donors who have established and supported endowed funds to generate income in perpetuity for annual library expenditures. The gifted principal of an endowment is invested and a portion of the annual earnings are "released" to be spent according to the donor's wishes. These endowments support library projects, exhibits, and employee compensation, and many specifically fund the acquisition of books. For example, some of our endowed book funds with restricted purposes are directed for the purchase of books and materials:

- About civilian women serving in the Vietnam War
- In the field of British history
- About the history of art and architecture
- With a focus on science

The oldest and largest of our 28 endowed funds was established 90 years ago by Mary Reed for general library support. Other significant endowments provide funding:

- For The Dance Archive with gifts by Martha Faure Carson, Glenn Giffin, and Wana Elaine Barnett
- By the University Library Association for collection development
- From the estate of Virginia Herold for library innovation.

We welcome additional gifts to these endowments, and the establishment of new ones.

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
2150 East Evans Avenue
Denver, CO 80208
www.library.du.edu
303.871.3958