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University Libraries Annual Report 2020

Description

2020 Annual Report from the University of Denver, University Libraries. The annual report highlights programs, projects, and activities that occurred during the year.

Keywords

Annual report, Information literacy, Student employees, Volunteers, Archives, Exhibits, Donors

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ANDERSON ACADEMIC COMMONS

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 | UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of all of us at the University of Denver, I thank you for your interest in and support of the University Libraries. This year, like all people and institutions around the globe, the Libraries have been working to address momentous challenges. What started as a normal year became unprecedented in terms of the need for urgent and paramount change to address the world-wide pandemic followed by outcry over nationwide systems of racism and injustice.

As soon as the University switched to distance learning in March, our employees responded to new conditions and demands in order to provide uninterrupted services and resources to students, faculty, and staff. During the campus closure and phased re-opening, the virtual library has been 100% open and available, with our faculty and staff here to help. Instruction, research consultations, reference services, special collections consultations, and digital interlibrary loan have all been possible remotely.

Libraries in the United States generally have long made a deliberate effort to ensure that all community members have the resources they need; in that sense, inclusivity regardless of age, income level, location, ethnicity, or physical ability remains a priority in our profession and at the University Libraries. In light of recent social justice movements across the country, we at the Libraries have focused efforts to improve equity and inclusion, including the creation of an anti-racist resource guide and a statement of our support for Black Lives Matter, as well as a much more meaningful on-going commitment to explore our culture and practices around diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to use that work to transform the Libraries. This is challenging but crucial work that must happen for the Libraries to truly represent and serve our entire community.

Again this year we celebrate *The Princeton Review's* ranking us #4 for "best college library." The Anderson Academic Commons, home to the Main Library since its opening in 2013, has been a hub on campus for faculty, staff, students, and the community. In addition to our physical collections and study spaces, the Anderson Academic Commons offers event spaces, exhibits, and opportunities to meet classmates and friends for meaningful academic, extra-curricular, and social experiences. During the campus closure because of the pandemic, that engagement and connection have been difficult to recreate. But in addition to basic library resources and instruction offered remotely, we are pleased to provide opportunities for interaction virtually – through online exhibits, virtual lectures, and even virtual story-time for little ones. Now as the campus re-opens, the Anderson Academic Commons provides important spaces for classes and study halls to allow physical distancing. Demands keep changing, and Libraries' employees and our Anderson Academic Commons building keep adapting.



During the campus closure because of the pandemic, all Libraries employees were invited to meet weekly by Zoom with the Dean, Associate Deans, and Director of Business and Operations. We have 45 benefited staff, 18 faculty librarians, and 65 student and non-benefited staff.

We could not have predicted COVID-19 but the University Libraries were well prepared to go online, continuing to be a source of knowledge and transformational learning. With your support we have spent years building digital collections and developing powerful search systems to discover items in those collections. We have millions of electronic resources – including e-books, e-journals, and streaming audio and video – readily available to our students and faculty wherever they happen to be. Our librarians’ experience providing internet chat reference service and offering online programs helped us prepare for these unusual pandemic circumstances.

Please read this report to learn more about our highlights and our adaptations during 2020, and know that your gifts are essential to helping us serve the University and our extended community. Your confidence and support allow the University Libraries not only to be among the “best college libraries,” but to fulfill the evolving needs and demands of our students, faculty, and staff.



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*Associate Dean Jack Maness, Dean Michael Levine-Clark,
and Associate Dean Carrie Forbes*



INFORMATION LITERACY

Information literacy (IL), the ability to effectively locate, evaluate, and use needed information, is an important 21st-century skill for students at all levels of higher education; arguably it is essential for everyone navigating our data-rich world. DU librarians actively engage in teaching collaborations with faculty across the University to ensure that students develop these skills.

We offer stipends to enhance partnerships between librarians and faculty to more fully integrate library resources and information literacy skills into DU classes. The University Library Association's (ULA) Information Literacy Grants Program supports our goal of integrating research education into graduate programs. It is based on the Joseph I. Moreland Fund for Information Literacy Programs for undergraduate courses, supported generously by DU alum Joe Moreland '71. Through both programs, we award grants to instructors who design or revise courses to infuse an entire curriculum with information literacy and research skills.

With philanthropic support from the ULA, we awarded \$14,500 to nine faculty members from diverse graduate programs for the first year of the program (academic year 2019-2020). Each instructor submitted a proposal with details on curricular changes and a letter of support from their department chair or dean. Reference librarians Bridget Farrell, Esther Gil, and Jennifer Bowers worked closely with faculty from Morgridge College of Education, Daniels College of Business, and the Graduate School of Social Work, to create information literacy assignments, instructional videos, online research guides, and lesson plans for teaching IL skills.

The resulting modified courses challenged students to engage critically with sources within discipline-specific subject matter appropriate for advanced research at the graduate level. Dr. Jillian Blueford, Clinical Assistant Professor, received a grant for her course *Introduction to Assessment*, which introduces psychology students to the use of assessments in the school counselor role, the historical context of assessments in the counseling profession, ethical guidelines, and multicultural considerations. Noting the value of the grants in enhancing her course, she stated, "Incorporating literacy skills and research into my assessment course has broadened students' understanding of utilizing academic resources and referring to scholarly literature to inform their practice. As future school counselors, they must have this knowledge so that they can provide the best care to their students, families, and communities."

The information literacy grants have proven so valuable that we continue to explore curricular collaborations to reach more students in all disciplines and at all levels of higher education. We're grateful to Mr. Moreland and the ULA for funding that inspires faculty and librarian collaboration, and encourages students to manage and master what can be overwhelming amounts of information.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STUDENT WORKERS

The University Libraries employ many University of Denver undergraduate and graduate students. During the campus closure as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, student workers helped the Libraries continue to provide resources and services to students, faculty, and staff.

Until March, student workers in the Research Center offered both virtual and in-person support to patrons navigating our resources for their studies. After the Governor's stay-at-home order took effect, the Research Center provided only virtual support, answering questions through online chat, email, and text messages. Common inquiries include directional questions (How do I find something/someone on campus/online?), research questions (Where/how should I research this topic?), questions about library services and policies, and tech support questions pertaining to the Libraries' resources. Students in their second year working with the Research Center took on increasing responsibilities, including teaching online workshops and providing one-on-one consultations for patrons needing additional support to tackle challenging research problems.

Students employed by the Libraries' Access Services work at the Lending Desk checking in and out materials, shelving materials, pulling requests, answering phones, and other directional questions, and did so until the Anderson Academic Commons closed. Because Access Services involves customer service and materials handling which must be done in-person, transitioning to remote work required all of our student staff to learn new library tasks, but also provided us the opportunity to work on important projects such as conducting usability testing on our websites, making them more accessible to visually-impaired users, and working with artificial-intelligence technologies to transcribe archival documents for researchers.

Dr. Carrie Forbes, Associate Dean of University Libraries said "The Libraries benefit from the talented student workers who serve in a variety of jobs, and we're pleased to offer them roles which provide valuable career and life skills. Along with DU Athletics, the Libraries employ more students than other departments on campus. We celebrate our student workers who continue on to careers and graduate school where they make use of the research, technology, and customer service skills gained from library work. We simply could not provide such superior service to our patrons without student staff."



From the Historical Photograph Collection, a young woman wearing a graduation cap and gown. The University of Denver's Public Relations Office, Student Yearbook (the Kynewisbok) and student newspaper (the Clarion) produced collections of photographs that document the history of the University. This collection contains images of University buildings, events, traditions, and campus life.

DIGITAL REPOSITORY

University of Denver libraries have a history of building innovative technology in collaborative environments to meet user needs. Between 1973 and 1988, development of some of the earliest automated library systems integrating shared catalog, serials management, and automated interlibrary loan systems began here, and we continue to innovate. With leadership from Associate Dean Jack Maness, and Information Technologies Librarian Kim Pham, employees in the departments of Digital Collections Services and Library Technology Services create technology applications to manage information infrastructures allowing us to share worldwide our collections as well as research conducted at DU by students and faculty.

May 2020 marked the official launch of our digital repository. Since then, we've added over 17,000 objects and 77 collections, documenting the University's special collections that include oral histories, scrapbooks, newspapers, artworks, photographs, and historical records and artifacts. In 2018 the University Libraries' technology teams started building the digital repository, including a back-end administrative interface and a user-friendly front-end experience for patrons. The resulting ecosystem supports the metadata creation, access, and preservation of our digital collections available to faculty, students, and scholars globally for education and research.

Dr. Jeanne Abrams, Professor and Curator of the Beck Archives, explained the significance of the new digital repository, "With the challenges that libraries have faced from COVID-19 this year, our repository provides a convenient, high-quality path for sharing important primary source collections. Although we know students find the hands-on experience of delving into primary sources the most engaging, the repository comes close to replicating the in-person experience, satisfying their intellectual curiosity and giving students tools they need to complete research projects and other class assignments."

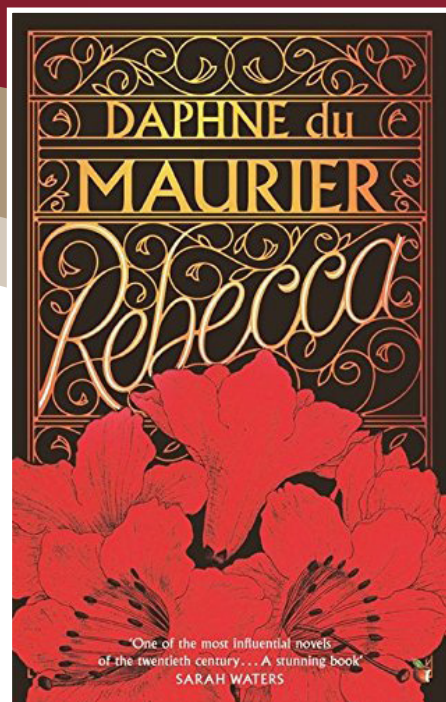


Ernst Heinrich Loewenstein (Henry Lowenstein) was born in Berlin, Germany in 1925 to a Jewish father and a non-Jewish mother. To escape Nazi brutality, he was sent on the Kindertransport to England in 1939. Shortly after the war the family emigrated to the United States to avoid persecution. The collection documents the Loewenstein family's struggle to survive in Berlin during the Holocaust and includes this Jewish Scout Association membership card from 1938.

EXHIBITS

The University Libraries offer exhibits that showcase our collections, highlight scholarly and creative work by faculty and students, and feature presentations from cultural organizations. The University Libraries developed an innovative technology application, an online exhibit platform which allows us also to share collections and exhibits remotely.

The Romance Novel: The Rise & Reputation of a Bestselling Genre, on display this year at the Anderson Academic Commons, offered an overview of romance fiction since 1930, and featured materials recently acquired by our Special Collections. Now a billion-dollar industry, romance novels outsell other genres by a wide margin, and the first modern romance is traced to 1740. The exhibit considered circumstances that contribute to the book type's popularity, like the desire for escapism during the Depression years. Over time, popular themes have included housewives, working women, medical romances, historic and fantasy-based settings, gay and lesbian romance, and edgy, independent characters.



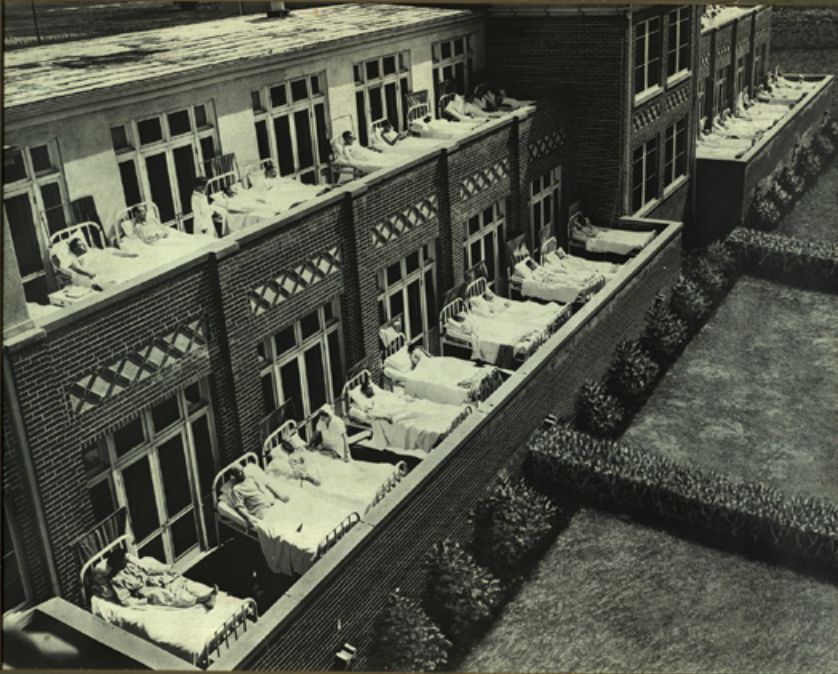
Written by Daphne du Maurier, the Gothic romance *Rebecca* sold 2.8 million copies between 1938 and 1965 and has never gone out of print, with ongoing paperback sales estimated at more than 4,000 copies monthly. Alfred Hitchcock's award-winning film adaptation debuted in 1940 and a Netflix version aired in 2020.



The online exhibit *Abcedarium* comes from our Fine Press & Artist's Book collection.

Visit the exhibits page at library.du.edu to see our online offerings. From the University Archives we offer online exhibits about student activism, Earth Day at DU, and DU's Black alumnae. The Beck Archives are the foundation for online exhibits about healthcare, tuberculosis, Lowenstein family history, and artwork including portraits of Holocaust survivors. The Dance Archive presents the story of Hanya Holm, a founder of American modern dance. Curator of Special Collections & Archives Katherine Crowe hosted a virtual talk in May 2020 about Woodstock West, sharing images from that online exhibit which examines DU's 1970 protest of Kent State University shootings and contemporary American politics. We're pleased to present more than a dozen online exhibits currently and look forward to building our portfolio.

J.C.R.S. of DENVER



COLORADO SUNSHINE HELPS...

in the treatment of tuberculosis. Shown above are the Sun Porches of the Main Building for Men at the Sanatorium of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society of Denver, Colorado.

Patients at the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (circa 1930) participated in heliotherapy, or sun exposure, as treatment for tuberculosis.

THE BECK ARCHIVES

The Ira M. and Peryle Hayutin Beck Memorial Archives serve as a repository of the heritage of Jewish culture and history of the Rocky Mountain region. The collections held by the Beck Archives contain a variety of materials including manuscripts, private papers, institutional records, oral histories, photographs, newspapers, memorabilia, and

documents which chronicle organizations, businesses, and the lives of individuals who have contributed to the building of Jewish life in the region. Professor Jeanne Abrams is curator of the Beck Archives.

A Legacy of Healing, Jewish Leadership in Colorado's Health Care, an exhibit designed by a team from the University Libraries using materials from the Beck Archives, was featured at History Colorado's new Ballantine Gallery beginning in November 2019. The exhibit showcased the Jewish community's efforts to care for Colorado's poor and sick, including patients suffering from tuberculosis in the early 20th century. Despite the early closure of the exhibit because of COVID-19, nearly 6,000 people visited the exhibition.

Starting in the late 1800s and continuing for decades, Colorado's promise of fresh air and sunshine lured tuberculosis patients seeking a cure for this contagious infection which was the leading cause of death at that time. National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives (now National Jewish Health) was founded in 1899 as Denver's first tuberculosis sanatorium, followed by the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (JCRC) which opened in 1904. Other institutions were established to take on the demand for medical care, but only the Jewish organizations treated all patients free of charge. This story of medical innovation paired with the generosity of Denver's Jewish community led to the establishment of Denver's contemporary medical centers and philanthropic organizations that persist today.

Among items from the Beck Archives on display were photographs, medical equipment, clothing, and a stained glass window from National Jewish Hospital's synagogue, which together with Dr. Abrams' exhibit text, documented this important chapter of Colorado's past and the people essential to it. A 30-minute documentary about the early days of Jewish healthcare and philanthropy was central to the exhibit. Beck Archives' staff Karen Butler-Clary and Thyria Wilson, along with Rebecca Macey, Manager of Library Exhibitions & Programs, and Jeanne Abrams, made up the *Legacy of Healing* exhibit team.



The annual Legends of Dance celebration honored Barbara Ellis, David Andrews, Kim Robards, Gregory Gonzales, and Karen Genoff-Campbell in October 2019.

THE DANCE ARCHIVE



THE DANCE ARCHIVE
A Dance Resource for All

“The Dance Archive” is the new name for the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library. Founded in 1972, the renamed and re-branded Dance Archive is a “dance resource for all,” working with

researchers from elementary aged school children new to performing arts to experienced scholars of dance and dance history. The Dance Archive contains photographs, letters, film, choreographic notes, rare books and journals, and other materials that document dance in our region and beyond.

This has been a year of growth for The Dance Archive; in addition to our annual trip to the Vail International Dance Festival in 2019, sponsorship of a Newman Center Presents dance performance, presenting at the 2020 Colorado Dance Educators’ Organization, and our annual *Legends of Dance* celebration, we:

- Expanded our reach in the Rocky Mountain West, and our connections to dance archives throughout the U.S. by partnering with Dance/USA on a June 2020 virtual workshop aimed at dancers and dance organizations on the basics of archiving dance and movement.
- Presented the documentary we produced on *Tour de Force*, the collaborative dance production of the same name by Wonderbound, Colorado Ballet, and the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, at the February 2020 Utah Film Festival where it won second place in the documentary category.

In March 2020 we transitioned to remote work because of COVID-19 and focused our efforts on ensuring that the recorded oral histories of all 87 *Legends of Dance* honorees are available to the public from The Dance Archive’s website. We also digitized many collection materials including images, cassette tapes, and films.



In November 2019 The Dance Archive sponsored a performance by Movement Art Is (M.A.I.) as part of Newman Center Presents. Pictured are The Dance Archive board members Michelle O’Bryan Hamel and Joan Brown with co-founders Jon Boogz and Lil Buck of M.A.I.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The University Library Association is the current iteration of the Women's Library Association, established in 1956 by Marion Gottesfeld. Since then, these two Library Associations have offered educational, social and volunteer opportunities to DU alumni, parents and neighbors while raising funds to support library collections.

The coronavirus cut short the ULA's annual lecture series, and closed the ULA's used book store, the Book Stack. Nonetheless, pre-pandemic the organization enjoyed lectures and book sales.

For its "Document DU" fundraiser, the ULA raised over \$13,000 from its members and a few non-members including Mark Mitchell BA '81, MPA '82. This DU alum has given annually to the ULA since 2006 in honor of his mother, Charlotte S. Mitchell, who was Director of Library Resources and Services at Miles Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company.

Mark said, "Although my mother never worked at the University of Denver libraries, she inquired about open positions in 1950. I have a letter to her from Donald E. Strout, Director of Libraries at that time. The only position available was in the Cataloging Department - not the right role for her - and offering a salary of \$2,900 per year. She was never a member of the Library Association but as a lifelong librarian and advocate for library services she would have shared the ULA's commitment to supporting library resources.

As a graduate of DU, I'm pleased to honor my mother with a gift that reaches all students, faculty, and staff as well as community visitors."

Document DU focuses on financing important archival projects within the University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives including the Dan Ritchie Collection (Chancellor Emeritus and former communications executive), the Walter Scheib papers (White House executive chef), the DU memorabilia collection, and Colorado Women's College yearbook.



Included in the University Archives are athletic team uniforms and other memorabilia.



Chancellor Dan Ritchie shown at right, serving a student at the Chancellor's BBQ.



Book Stack volunteers Ellen Graves, Vivienne Reil, Sharon Majeres-Tate, and Barbara Anderson preparing selections to send to parolees.



THANK YOU!

The University Libraries appreciates the support of all donors. This year, we especially thank Drs. Sandra and Gareth Eaton who in 2002 established an endowed book fund for the acquisition of science books, to which they give annually. Sandra and Gareth, both faculty in chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Denver, met at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where they earned Ph.Ds. Since establishing the fund, many science books have been added to our collection through the Eaton endowment. About supporting the University Libraries they said, "The library is essential to research, scholarship and teaching in the sciences. Our contribution is part of our commitment to our students."



We're grateful also to Sandee Walling who earned a Master of Social Work at the University of Denver and

has been involved with the University Libraries for decades. Sandee served as President of the Women's Library Association in 1997-1998 and 2000-2001, and has been a volunteer at the Library Association Book Stack, greeting customers and working the cash register at the used bookstore store most Wednesdays and Saturdays for twenty years. Sandee's recent gift endows a fund to be used at the discretion of the library dean.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOOK STACK

University Library Association volunteers manage a used book store in the Mary Reed building on the DU campus, raising funds for library acquisitions. They sort through donated books, stock the shelves, staff the store, and assist customers. Even though the pandemic temporarily closed the Book Stack's on-campus store, this year the volunteers took on providing books to a library at a Lakewood halfway house operated by a nonprofit community corrections agency that helps parolees prepare for life after incarceration.

"The idea is to integrate the parolees into the community," says DU alumna Heidi Gesso MA '77, a halfway house volunteer who helps them pursue GEDs and develop job skills. The more they read, the better they read. And the better they read, the better prepared they are for testing and for employment."

Volunteers searched for titles within Book Stack inventory that would appeal to the parolees and purchased them for the halfway house library. Selections by James Patterson, Louis L'Amour, Harlan Coben, Stephen King, and Tom Clancy, as well as self-help books geared toward men, and memoirs offering tales of adversity and triumph fit the bill. The parolees' library now offers 1,500 books in its collection for a community of 250 readers.

The parolees themselves unpacked, categorized, and shelved the titles. More important, they read them. Many of them have told Gesso how much it means that donors have considered them worthy of popular books in good condition. These men, she says, are used to parental and societal negligence.

The Book Stack's work to bring meaningful reading to diverse audiences reinforces the mission of DU's libraries, says Michael Levine-Clark, Dean of University Libraries. "For years, the Book Stack and its dedicated volunteers have done so much for the public good — on campus by supporting our collections, and in the community by connecting readers with books that help them find information, insight, entertainment, and escape."

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.

The University Libraries provide resources and services in person as well as digitally and remotely. Our three facilities include:

- The **Main Library** in the Anderson Academic Commons (shown on front cover)
- The **Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Music Library** in the Lamont School of Music which offers music scores, audio and video recordings, and books and journals on music and the study of music
- The **Hampden Center** in Lakewood where we store lower-use serials and monographs, microforms, large archival materials, DU furniture, and University records



The University of Denver endeavors to create real change through a campus-wide investment in sustainability and environmental responsibility, and has installed over 7,000 solar panels across 18 DU buildings, including on the University Libraries' Hampden Center (above). The panels account for 7-8% of DU's energy consumption, while DU retains ownership of the renewable energy credits produced by the solar panels.



Jenny Thompson, a graduate voice student at Lamont School of Music, presented on the topic, "Bias in the Canon: An Exploration into Whitewashing in America's Classical Music and its forgotten African-American Past" at the Music Library's "Lamont Colloquium" Spring scholarship forum. The Mountain-Plains Music Library Association voted her presentation "Best of Chapter," and the national Music Library Association (MLA) selected it to be delivered at next year's MLA Annual Meeting. Shown is a screen shot of Jenny presenting her paper virtually.

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