First-Floor Improvements

During the last two years, the first floor of Kent State University Library has experienced an evolution toward service, accessibility and convenience for students, upholding the university’s priority of Students First.

Step inside from the bustling Risman Plaza and you’ll see helpful staff and student employees at the Circulation Desk to your left. Just ahead, the Student Multimedia Studio invites visitors to tap into their creativity through innovative software and technology. Additional resource departments, such as Copyright Services and Textbooks on Reserve, are also available.

The Ask Me Desk, located across the lobby, is staffed with library graduate students who quickly respond to questions, both face-to-face and online. Affixed to the wall across from this desk is a six-foot map of Kent Campus buildings and grounds. New students, tour groups and campus guests often use the directional guide to navigate their routes.

The Library received a makeover in the west side of the first floor when Student Accessibility Services moved into the building in January 2017. In addition to renovation of existing offices, a testing center and waiting area were added, providing optimum resources for students with registered disabilities.

In summer 2017, students’ financial services, including registration and student records, financial aid, billing and payments and financial wellness, relocated from the Schwartz Building to the Library, becoming the One Stop for Student Services.

The center of the first floor contains the largest computer lab on campus. A result of a seamless collaboration between University Libraries’ Systems Department and Information Services, the many PC and Mac stations on the first floor are fully equipped with advanced software. Every detail, from the desks to the state-of-the-art computer availability tool (http://apps.library.kent.edu/computermap), a real-time, computer occupancy map, has been designed with the students in mind.

A fully licensed Starbucks store opened on the Library’s first floor in fall 2017. The popular addition, offering an array of coffees and other beverages, along with pastries, sandwiches and snacks, is a highly sought-after attraction, located at the far end of the building.

The physical layout of the University Library is always evolving to efficiently provide the personnel, tools and resources to support students, faculty and staff members. If you haven’t been to the Library recently, we encourage you to stop by soon. Stay tuned for future updates as we continue improving access to our helpful services and features.
I am happy to introduce you to our renamed newsletter, the *Essential Library*.

The title is apt, as it aligns with our vision, which is:

“**To be regarded as essential for student, staff, faculty and community success.**”

The *Essential Library* will highlight the essential resources, services, spaces and events of Kent State University Libraries, but the most essential element, the one that makes all the others parts possible, is our people—the faculty, staff and student workers of University Libraries. They are essential to the success of Kent State University’s Library System. So rest assured that this publication will also endeavor to highlight their great work and help better connect you with the essential people who make our Libraries work. As always, if you have questions, comments or ideas about our Libraries, please feel free to send me a note at kburhann@kent.edu. Thanks for your support, and I hope you enjoy the *Essential Library*.

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**Increase the impact of your scholarly research through bibliometrics**

Utilize bibliometric resources, such as author, article, citation and journal metrics, to determine and increase the impact of your published research. Faculty in the midst of tenure or reappointment proceedings will find this versatile software to be very useful. Bibliometrics is also beneficial when applying for grants, illuminating trends in scholarship and assisting authors as they consider publication opportunities.

Take advantage of University Libraries’ bibliometric tools to further your scholarly career. Visit https://libguides.library.kent.edu/bibliometrics to learn more.

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**Easily read scholarly journals on **

**BrowZine**

- Access from any device, iOS, Android or online at www.browzine.com
- Create a personal bookshelf and receive new article notifications on your mobile device
- Easily save to Zotero, Mendeley, Dropbox and other services

Kent State University Libraries is excited to welcome BrowZine to our online resources. This high-functioning search tool offers scholars a sleek, easy-to-use, digital environment to browse the contents of select academic journals.

Users can create a personalized digital bookshelf where the newest issues of their favorite journals will be automatically updated, allowing access to the most current research.

In addition to BrowZine’s website, the tool also offers a free app for iOS and Android, allowing users to read their chosen publications from any device as soon as issues are available.
Of the many helpful groups in Kent State University Libraries, the subject librarians is one of the most visible. Students and faculty may refer to them as their personal librarians, or as they were previously named, liaison librarians. These individuals are tasked with working directly with academic departments, and in some cases, non-academic units, to support teaching and research needs.

The subject librarian’s greatest role is to assist students with their information research needs. Frequently, subject librarians and faculty members collaborate to design and teach in-class presentations, outlining resources and search strategies pertinent to a class assignment. If time is not available for an in-class session, there are other options. For many popular topics, such as citation style and evaluating information from the web, online tutorials can be assigned for students to view (for a complete list, visit https://libguides.library.kent.edu/tutorials). For online courses, subject librarians can conduct a podcast overview or be embedded into the course to give students open access to the subject expertise of their librarian.

Most often, subject librarians work directly with students — in person, via email, phone and, increasingly, via WebEx video conferencing with off-campus students. These one-on-one appointments allow the subject librarian to concentrate on the individual student’s research needs and offer more time to answer any questions that the student may have. Faculty are encouraged to recommend that their students work with a subject librarian to ensure their research is on the right path.

In addition to working with students directly, subject librarians assist faculty with designing assignments that best utilize University Libraries’ resources and collection materials, which have been carefully selected through their feedback and the research needs of students and faculty. Librarians support faculty by meeting the information literacy-learning goals within their respective curricula. Being mindful of our affordable course materials initiative, subject librarians can identify openly accessible educational materials and other cost-saving resources for faculty to use in the classroom. Many faculty members tap into their subject librarians’ knowledge to receive specialized assistance with their research and to help with drafting data management plans, which are required by grant applications.

Reach out to your subject librarian today by visiting University Libraries’ website at:

www.library.kent.edu/about/departments/reference/subject-librarians-directory
LaunchNET brings their creative ideas to University Libraries

Since LaunchNET’s opening in summer 2012, the department has helped more than 1,600 entrepreneurs and innovators from their “glass box” office in the Kent State Student Center. Last year, the department was assigned to University Libraries as their new reporting line and physical location.

As an innovation hub, LaunchNET helps Kent State students, faculty, staff and alumni recognize opportunities to create pioneering, new ventures or grow existing start-ups through advising, mentoring, events, workshops and more. Additionally, a variety of entrepreneurial competitions are offered for students, allowing them to work with others across disciplines, receive one-on-one support from experienced advisors and gain access to potential funding and other resources.

Now that LaunchNET is operating under University Libraries’ administrative direction, the already productive partnership has been strengthened through many established campus events and initiatives, such as the Kent State Mini Maker Faire, Elevator Pitch and Innov8athon, in addition to new activities.

Promoting student success through affordability initiatives

The rising cost of higher education has continued to be a major issue in the discussion of student success, retention and graduation rates. Multiple studies have confirmed that affordable course materials positively contribute to these factors.

Open Educational Resource (OER): any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license. The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them. OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation. As defined by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Since 1975, traditional textbook prices have increased at three times the rate of inflation. In an attempt to save money, among other reasons, some students opt not to purchase their required textbooks. According to a Florida Virtual Campus (2012) report, 64 percent of 20,000 polled students reported having not purchased a textbook because of the high cost and 23 percent reporting doing so frequently. Considering these statistics, affordable course materials is increasingly more important to student success.

Kent State University Libraries offers multiple options, services and access to a variety of affordable alternatives to traditional textbooks. The university’s membership to the Open Textbook Network, through OhioLINK, provides access to online textbooks that can be freely used, adapted and distributed. For information on local workshops, news and grant opportunities, visit OhioLINK’s Affordable Learning guide at http://affordablelearning.ohiolink.edu/guide.

Electronic reserves and Core Textbooks on Reserve are provided by Course Reserve Services at University Libraries. Digitized and copyright-cleared course readings are available on the Ares platform at https://kent.ares.atlas-sys.com/ares. Links may be embedded in Blackboard Learn. Core Textbooks, often high in cost, which are used in multiple Core courses with high enrollment and multiple sections, are available to students for in-building use at two-hour intervals. Visit www.library.kent.edu/reserves for more information.

Instructors are encouraged to consult with Subject Librarians to explore options for quality, affordable course materials, including databases with full-text, streaming video sources, electronic books and journals.

As part of the ongoing initiative to build student success through college affordability, University Libraries hosted an Affordable Course Materials Summit last November. The day-long event featured Kent State faculty who have successfully implemented affordable alternatives in their courses. Kathryn Wilson, Ph.D., professor of economics, presented on her experiences with OpenStax textbooks.

Meghan Naxer, Ph.D., assistant professor of music theory, talked about co-authoring the textbook, How Music Works: A First-Year Theory Textbook. View the publication on Kent State’s institutional repository at https://digital-commons.kent.edu/oerbooks/1. David Robins, Ph.D., associate professor of library and information science, described the backward-design process used in his online courses which frequently eliminates the need for a textbook. In addition to Kent State presenters, Glenda Thornton, Ph.D., director of the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University, presented the keynote, citing statistics on the positive impact of affordable materials. Stay tuned for future programming on this topic coming in fall 2018.

For more information on affordable course materials offered at University Libraries, contact Cindy Kristof, head of copyright and document services, at ckrystof@kent.edu, 330-672-1641 or www.library.kent.edu/acm.
Known: Dianne Centa

What is your title and department?
Senior Library Associate in the Acquisitions Department

When did you begin your employment at Kent State?
45 years ago in February 1973

What is your home town?
Norton, Ohio

Where did you earn your degree(s)?
I attended what is now called Ohio Dominican College for two years and earned my bachelor’s degree from Kent State.

How does your position contribute to University Libraries’ mission to deliver unparalleled opportunities for success in learning, research and discovery to our users wherever they are in the world?
I do that “behind-the-scenes” work that enables our users to locate the physical items which University Libraries owns. I help maintain the catalog so that it accurately describes what we own and where it is.

Please share a personal goal that you would like to accomplish (does not have to be work-related).
I’d like to stand atop Mt. Everest, but I have a problem being in high places that don’t have handrails; so I think I’ll master the luge instead.

New: Susan Wadsworth-Booth

What is your title and department?
Director, Kent State University Press

When did you begin your employment at Kent State?
September 11, 2017

What is your home town?
I’m originally from Fairmont, West Virginia, but spent most of my adult life in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I first moved there to go to graduate school.

Where did you earn your degree(s)?
I received my bachelor of arts degree in English from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana; I received my master’s of fine arts in writing degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

How does your position contribute to University Libraries’ mission to deliver unparalleled opportunities for success in learning, research and discovery to our users wherever they are in the world?
The University Press and University Libraries represent different, but complementary parts of the scholarly information ecosystem. The Libraries gather and curate information to make it available to all who need it, and the Press is tasked with creating information that can be gathered up and disseminated. Because of the Press’ mission to publish high-quality work in a variety of subject areas, we provide an important outlet for research, which can then be used by others for discovery and learning. Our books, with the help of University Libraries and others, reach audiences throughout the world. It’s fascinating to see how publishers, libraries, bookstores, online sites, universities and individuals intertwine to facilitate the flow of information, and a main challenge of the Press is to discover how to improve that information flow.

Please share a personal goal that you would like to accomplish (does not have to be work-related).
Given the current polarized nature of our society, one of my main goals, both professionally and personally, is to find meaningful ways to have real and helpful conversations in contexts where there’s misunderstanding or disagreement. So when any of our Kent State University Press books can help someone understand an issue better, see a viewpoint or a group of people more clearly or realize there’s a piece of history or a situation they never even knew about, we’re facilitating those conversations. As university press publishers, we can choose to publish books that contribute to knowledge and understanding. We’re always crossing boundaries and we can’t be locked into little boxes of how or what to think.

I’d also like to finish at least half the books on my “Want to Read” list, but that’s probably not an attainable goal right now — the list is too long!
University Libraries’ pilot program encourages strategic resources for faculty and students

University Libraries’ new pilot program was launched to present departments with an exciting opportunity to request scholarly resources that will greatly benefit their faculty and students. The Strategic Collections Fund focuses on acquiring resources that align with one or more of Kent State’s five university-level priorities.

There are numerous, highly valuable resources that departments can request, such as Lynda.com, an online library of instructional videos that cover the latest software, online tools and features, including audio mixing, marketing, business and education. This innovative program supports distance education and aligns with the university’s priority of Students First.

Learn more about the Strategic Collections Fund pilot and submit your departmental requests for new acquisitions:

www.library.kent.edu/about/departments/technical-services/strategic-collections-fund-pilot.

Kent State Priorities:
Students First, A Distinctive Kent State, Global Competitiveness, Regional Impact, Organizational Stewardship
HTTP://STRATEGICROADMAP.KENT.EDU

Project to digitize archived content from Kent State shootings nears completion

Kent State University Libraries are close to completing a two-year project, through the support of the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC), to digitize content from more than 35 sub-collections – roughly, 50,000 pages – that are part of the May 4 archive pertaining to the theme, Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions.

The digitization of these documents will allow users to explore these events and the context surrounding them through free, online access from anywhere in the world.

This theme reflects content generated from administrative, faculty, staff and student-centered collections. To date, 26 collections have been digitized and made accessible via Special Collections and Archives’ digital collection site and through collection finding aids. The focus of the digitalization project has primarily been on textual documents, but also includes artwork and other materials that commemorate May 4, such as the Simple Gestures Installation, the Large Scale Enameling Workshop and George Segal’s Abraham and Isaac Sculpture.

Additionally, the project team has made a number of modifications to its Omeka site to accommodate a large digitization initiative, with more detail in the article, “Extending Omeka for a Large-Scale Digital Project,” published in code4lib, issue 37. The project team has also worked to highlight this work via Kent State University’s Special Collection and Archives’ social media channels, located at Facebook.com/KSUSpecialCollections and Twitter.com/KentStateArchiv.

Learn more about the Kent State Shootings: Actions and Reactions project at www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/nhprc.
The Kent State University Press, together with the University Libraries, is proud to highlight important contributions to knowledge during Women’s History Month in March.

Throughout the month, a wide variety of Kent State University Press books — covering topics as disparate as women writers of the Antebellum era, army flight nurses during World War II, the first women journalists and the historical importance of women’s pantaloons — are offered at a 25 percent discount in both print and ebook formats.

Students are welcome to meet with a librarian to discuss their report and any questions they may have. The librarian may suggest that students who require writing assistance should visit the Writing Commons, located on the fourth floor of the library.

To discuss University Libraries’ plagiarism education programming, please contact Vanessa Earp at vearp@kent.edu or, if you are an instructor on a regional campus, you may contact your campus librarian. Visit https://libguides.library.kent.edu/plagiarism for more information.

For a 25% discount on selected titles, use Coupon Code: WOMEN2018.
SPRING 2018 EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public.

School of Theatre and Dance’s Tamara Honesty, Music and Media Librarian Peter Lisius, exhibit curator Kevin Rigdon and Interim Dean Ken Burhanna pose during the January 2018 opening reception of the Vortex of our Dreams exhibit.

Vortex of our Dreams Exhibit

JANUARY 5 – APRIL 5
Monday - Thursday, 8 am - 8 pm
Friday, 8 am - 5 pm
Sunday, 3 - 8 pm

Performing Arts Library, D-004, Center for the Performing Arts

Kent State Mini Maker Faire

Explore new technologies and creative works from nearly 40 exhibitors, from engineers to artists to scientists to crafters.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13
NOON – 4 PM

University Library, 1st floor & surrounding areas

The 2017 U.S. Poet Laureate event was attended by Kent State students, faculty and staff, as well as several community members.

7th Annual U.S. Poet Laureate Q&A Session - Featuring Natasha Trethewey

APRIL 18, 1 – 2 PM

University Library, Garden Room, 1st floor

FOR THE LATEST EVENT UPDATES, VISIT: WWW.LIBRARY.KENT.EDU

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@KENTSTATE_LIB

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