

ESSENTIAL LIBRARY

THE NEWSLETTER OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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Black United Students' publications newly digitized

By **Amanda Faehnel** – Interim University Archivist, Associate Professor

University Libraries is excited to announce that Special Collections & Archives has digitized the Kent State University Black United Students' publications. Eighty-one publications were professionally digitized and are now accessible in our digital archive. [For easy access to the Black United Students' publications, see the collections' finding aid for links to each issue.](#)

The publications, written and created by members of the Kent State organization over a span of 50 years, have undergone three name changes throughout their history: *Black Watch* (1969-1978), *The Spectrum* (1979-1989) and *Uhuru* (1989-2019).

Black United Students was founded at Kent State University in 1968 and has

remained consistently active to the present. From its inception, members of the organization have advocated for the equality of Kent State students of color, including addressing fair facilities, budget allotments, student enrollment, faculty representation, academic programming, departmental organization and social justice concerns, among many other issues in its decades-long history. The KSU Black United Students archives have been heavily used by researchers around the world.

We are proud to be able to provide this meaningful resource in a newly accessible way. For more information about this collection, please contact the [Department of Special Collections & Archives](#).

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Welcome to the spring 2021 issue of the *Essential Library*. This issue is a shout-out to the great researchers at Kent State and an expression of the many ways University Libraries can support their innovative work. Since 2016, our university has increased extramural research funding dramatically. We have launched six cross-disciplinary research institutes and initiatives, including the Design Innovation initiative and its newly constructed HUB. We increased student research opportunities with the SURE program and very active undergraduate and graduate research symposiums. Kudos to Kent State's faculty and student researchers. Your work is changing our world!

Of course, University Libraries has always been friendly to researchers, providing core journals and books, and more recently, data sets and support for digital theses and dissertations. University Libraries is intentionally endeavoring to increase our support for institutional research and innovation.

In this issue, you will read more about Open Access Kent State (OAKS), our new institutional repository platform, as well as learn about library support for data management planning. We also provide an update on our statistical consulting services and numerous ways your subject librarian can help with your research. We continue to preserve unique content and make it accessible to

researchers. Our cover story introduces the newly digitized Black United Students' publications, covering 1969 to 2019. Another article discusses our grant-funded project to preserve May 4 recordings at risk.

To further introduce our research services and answer your questions, we will host a Library Research Support Services webinar on April 22 at 4 p.m. for all Kent State faculty and students. [Register to receive a link for the Research Support Showcase](#). We look forward to learning about your research needs and discussing how we can best support them.

As always, we are grateful for your support and hope to see you, whether online or in person, in our libraries soon.

Ken Burhanna

Dean
Kent State University Libraries



Research Support Showcase

Presented By Kent State University Libraries and Co-Sponsored by Research and Sponsored Programs

Thursday, April 22, 2021 • 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Join us for an overview of the many research support services available through University Libraries, followed by an opportunity for questions.

You will learn about:

- Data Management Planning
- Data Visualization
- Researcher Identity Support
- Statistical Consulting Software & Analysis
- Open Access Kent State / Institutional Repository
- Copyright and Publishing Support
- Innovation Novelty and Patent Protection
- Recently Published Research from Kent State

For more information, contact [Mary Lovin](#).

REGISTER TO RECEIVE A LINK FOR THE RESEARCH SUPPORT SHOWCASE

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4 REASONS to talk to a statistical consultant - *before* you collect data

By Kristin Yeager – Manager, Statistical & Qualitative Software Consulting

Statistical Consulting at Kent State University Libraries can help you with any of the university's supported statistical or qualitative data analysis softwares. But did you know that Statistical Consulting can also help researchers *before* there is data to analyze? Here are four reasons you should talk to a statistical consultant *before* you collect data.



#1: TO FIND THE BEST SOFTWARE FOR YOUR NEEDS

A consultant can recommend software that balances your needs as a researcher with your preferences of an operating system, collaboration tools and user interface.

#2: TO RECEIVE ADVICE ABOUT STATISTICAL METHODS

The consultants at University Libraries specialize in software but are also trained in statistical and qualitative data analysis. Kristin Yeager, the manager of Statistical Consulting, holds a master's degree in applied statistics and Victoria Reynolds, this year's Statistical Consulting graduate assistant, is a doctoral candidate in sociology.

#3: TO REVIEW YOUR SURVEY'S DESIGN OR QUALTRICS CONFIGURATION

A consultant can suggest ways of setting up your Qualtrics survey or data collection process to minimize the amount of data cleaning needed so you can begin effectively analyzing your data.

#4: TO MAKE THE MOST OF OTHER RESEARCH SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY

Statistical analysis is just one small part of a researcher's work. A consultant can refer you to additional research services in the library that will help with other parts of the research process. For example, a subject librarian in your discipline can assist you with using the library's licensed research databases to locate research-quality data or find literature for a systematic review.

When you're ready to talk with a statistical consultant, [sign up for an appointment](#) or contact [Statistical Consulting](#). The service is free and open to all current Kent State faculty, students and staff!



Grant helps preserve May 4 titles at risk

By **Haley Antel** – Digital Initiatives and Outreach Librarian, Special Collections & Archives, Assistant Professor

In spring 2019, Kent State University Libraries was selected by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to benefit from a \$30,561 award through the *Recordings at Risk* grant program, generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant provides funds to digitize more than 400 audio and audiovisual recordings from the May 4 Collection, which documents the Kent State Shootings and is housed and administered by Special Collections and Archives. Haley Antell, digital initiatives and outreach librarian, and Virginia Dressler, digital projects librarian, are the grant's co-primary investigators.

Many of the materials included in the grant are recorded on legacy formats, such as magnabelts, that cannot be played or digitized onsite at Kent State. Through the grant, the recordings were sent to a vendor that specializes in historical AV formats.

Prior to sending the more than 400 recordings to the vendor, each item was organized, labeled and extensive metadata was created. Finally, the materials were carefully packaged and sent to be digitized. Batches of the AV files were returned in digital format over the following months. The final batch was received in spring 2020.

An intensive workflow must be completed to prepare the digitized content for public use. This includes quality assurance, copyright analysis and creation of descriptive metadata to allow materials to be searched and browsed in the online environment. This extensive work to complete the grant objectives is expected to be finalized by May.

As a result of this grant, approximately 300 of the newly digitized May 4 recordings are already available online and are currently accessible in the following subcollections: [LeRoy Satrom papers](#), [Kent State University Police records](#), [B. Earle Roberts papers](#), [John P. Rowe papers](#), [Commission on KSU Violence records](#) and [Kent State University Communications and Marketing May 4 records](#). Follow the Department of Special Collections and Archives' Facebook and Twitter accounts for updates on new recordings as they become available.

This Special Collections and Archives project has been generously supported by University Libraries colleagues Anita Clary, Katie Clements, Dave Elswick, Cindy Kristof and Tiffany Richardson.

From acorns to towering timber, OAKS has sprouted

By **Cindy Kristof** – Head, Copyright and Scholarly Communication, Associate Professor

What is OAKS?

Open Access Kent State, or OAKS, is Kent State University Libraries' new institutional repository (IR). An institutional repository is more than just an online platform that users visit to find digital artifacts. In its mature state, it's "a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members" (Association of Research Libraries, 2003). Another way of looking at this is that an IR is a place that presents and preserves digital records of scholarly and other activity related to the university. As per its name, OAKS is an open access institutional repository, meaning the digital materials it houses can be accessed free of charge and are often free of typical copyright restrictions.

Why would someone at Kent State want to use OAKS?

OAKS serves as a place to permanently archive the research and scholarly output of members of our University community, including faculty, staff and student researchers, as well as subject- or thematic-based collections from regional and community partners. Materials hosted include previously published materials, like articles and book chapters, conference proceedings and unpublished scholarly works, videos, images, figures and data files. One example of this is the [COVID-19 Collection](#), which includes Kent State faculty publications on this topic from a variety of academic disciplines. If you are a KSU researcher and are interested in having your work included in this collection, [we welcome your content submissions](#).

Additionally, OAKS serves as the host for a number of Open Access journals edited and published by our very own Kent State faculty.

How do I begin using OAKS?

[Contact the OAKS team](#) to contribute your materials. Our scholarly communications team will help assess what materials you have that can be deposited and assist in doing so. If you have an [ORCID ID](#), even better, as OAKS can scan the internet for your publications and add links to your articles in the system.

[Explore OAKS today!](#)



Scholarly Works



Journals



Collections

Research support from your subject librarian

By **Virginia Dressler** – Digital Projects Librarian, Assistant Professor
and
Anita Slack – Life and Health Sciences Librarian, Assistant Professor

Librarians are not only here to assist students in achieving academic success, but also to support faculty success and research. Take advantage of your subject librarian's assistance with these services, many of which may interest faculty who are preparing reappointment, tenure and promotion files.

SUBJECT LIBRARIANS ...

- Help create a unique researcher identifier ([ORCID](#)) for faculty members. [Submit your ORCID](#) with the institutional repository ([OAKS](#)) to include and highlight your research publications.
- Assist with literature reviews.
- Provide tips for identifying predatory journals and evaluating scholarly publications as potential places to publish. Give guidance around journal impact factors.
- Identify where a faculty member has been cited.
- Create search alerts in databases.
- Aid with locating funding opportunities.
- Support faculty through library research management tools: [Zotero](#), [EndNote](#) and [Mendeley](#).

Use the online directory to identify the [subject librarian](#) assigned to your department.

NEW Data management planning service

By **Michael Hawkins** – Data Librarian, Map Library

University Libraries' new data management planning (DMP) service aids researchers in creating sound data plans for grant funding across a broad spectrum of agencies.

As we see more and more federal grant-funding agencies become stricter on their required DMPs, plans need to be more solid with clear evidence of actions taken. For example, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has started to implement more stringent checks on a grant's DMP at certain intervals during the grant life cycle.

As the NSF starts to take the data management plan more seriously, other agencies are starting to follow suit, such as the NIH, DOD, DOE, NASA and NOAA. University Libraries' excellent DMP initiative offers researchers the opportunity to sit down with a librarian and think through the creation process. We work with everything from fixing small issues on grant DMPs to assisting faculty who have never written a DMP.

University Libraries has also added a tool to help researchers with DMP templates and required information. The [DMP tool](#) is a database of templates for various federal and private grant agencies. With more than 53,000 plans and almost 300 partnering universities and institutions,

this tool offers blank and example templates to help with the creation of a DMP. It is an excellent resource if you have no idea where to begin or are not a seasoned DMP writer. Often, grant writers use the DMP tool as a way to form the base of their plan and then schedule a meeting with the data librarian to help finalize their DMP.

This is just one of many services offered in these areas. Our research initiative programs cover everything from systemic review help to data visualizations. University Libraries is also offering various workshops on data, copyright and more. If you are interested in learning more about University Libraries' DMP services, contact [Data Librarian Michael Hawkins](#).

Projects, pivots and prospecting:

Using entrepreneurial thinking to help colleagues solve problems

By Tabitha Messmore – LaunchNET Interim Assistant Director

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Our objective is to bring together innovative and entrepreneurial solutions, making them easily accessible to everyone in a way that can be applied to a wide variety of “problems” that need to be solved.

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Pivoting to new ways of working, learning how to do even more with less and taking account of new landscapes around the university can be a lonely business. It can be that much more difficult to come up with new ideas, see alternative perspectives and figure out how best to tackle a new project without our usual go-to colleagues in the office next door.

After presenting a webinar for Human Resources last fall (called “Entrepreneurial Thinking for Grownups”), the LaunchNET team found ourselves doing slightly new work with some colleagues across the university. We’ve been calling it “consulting;” however, it involves nearly similar kinds of advising that we’ve always done with our entrepreneurs, who range from students, staff, faculty to alumni. For these new clients, we help them think through new ideas and

ways to address problems, as well as how best to construct and evaluate their plans of attack for new projects. Sometimes all you really need is another brain or two to add a new perspective, a non-judgmental sounding board or help in discovering useful tools of which you weren’t aware - which is exactly what LaunchNET does!

We recently began developing Project Canvas to better serve those who have less entrepreneurial-focused objectives. With this new tool, we will help our colleagues across the Kent system create plans, conduct research and make the necessary decisions to complete successful, well-rounded projects. Our objective is to bring together innovative and entrepreneurial solutions, making them easily accessible to everyone in a way that can be applied to a wide variety of “problems” that need to be solved.

Following the HR webinar, Lori Lee and Ed Trebets, coordinators of Kent State Ashtabula’s Viticulture and Enology degree programs, reached out to us for assistance with new initiatives and growth directions for their department. Our Project Canvas has given them the opportunity to “think out loud” about potential options, to approach new ideas and to document how each possible path will benefit the programs and their students. We are grateful to them for helping us flesh out this new tool and adapt it to the various departments throughout the university.

Are you looking for supportive new insights on a project or initiative that you or your department are facing? We will be happy to help! Contact the [LaunchNET team](#) to discuss how our Project Canvas can help you reach your departmental goals.



**Statistical
Consulting**



STATISTICAL CONSULTING IS HIRING

We are looking for doctoral candidates who will be registered as full-time students for the full academic year 2021-22 with strong statistical data analysis skills (any discipline). Interested applicants should send a CV and letter of interest to [Kristin Yeager](#).

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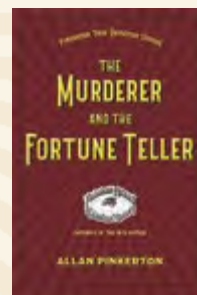
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