UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®

PATH TO EXCELLENCE
2016-2017 PROGRESS REPORT
Libraries are not static; they must meet the challenges of change. To be a dynamic intellectual resource, healthy libraries grow and evolve over time. Buzzing with energy and a steadily growing number of users, new collections, and an expanding set of services, OU Libraries remain the intellectual hub of the University of Oklahoma.

There are few institutions that have experienced as much transformational change as the library. Whether it is changing information formats, technologies, or user expectations, change is constant, and our strategic plan reflects that reality. This annual progress report is organized around the five pillars of our strategic vision, and it highlights only some of our accomplishments during the past year.

On the accompanying page, we’ve depicted a snapshot of some of the connections and energy flowing through our libraries during a single day, April 10th. As you scale up these activity measures over an entire year, you begin to sense the accelerating pace and the variety of modalities of learning and research at this comprehensive university today.

We have ambitious goals for OU Libraries. Our strategic plan is broadly aspirational and inspirational. We have much still to do, and our future will continue to be guided by the needs of the students and faculty that we work to serve. Our challenging economic environment makes your support more critical than ever, and we thank you for your sustained and generous support.

Looking forward, in September we will open a new major exhibit on the main floor of Bizzell Memorial Library. The Poetics of Invention is the story of the invention of Pinying from its ideation, to its fabrication, to its commercialization through the University of Oklahoma innovation ecosystem. Empowering Chinese English learners to understand Standard American phonetics quickly and intuitively, Pinying is a new, patented method developed by exhibit curator and OU Professor of English, Jonathan Stalling.

As we begin this new academic year in September, the next phase of our facility improvements supporting knowledge creation will be unveiled with three newly renovated spaces: a new undergraduate Learning Lab in Bizzell’s lower level 1, adjacent to the Peggy V. Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center; the Daniel Boorstin Collection, relocated to the original 1928 library on the main floor; and renovation of the 1982 stairwell. Finally, we are on target for a mid-October opening of the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Center in lower level 2 of Bizzell.

Please read on to learn about our progress on key initiatives among the five pillars of our strategic vision, and help us celebrate our continued progress on our path to excellence. I invite you to visit us here either in person or virtually at libraries.ou.edu

Rick Luce
Dean, University Libraries and Professor and Peggy V. Helmerich Chair
Associate Vice President for Research

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CREATING EXCELLENCE IN THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

The following section reviews our progress toward creating excellence in the library experience. But what is the modern research library experience? What do we do every day, and what impact do we have?

What follows is a snapshot of a day in the life of the OU Libraries on Monday, April 10, 2017 across all of our physical and virtual locations.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE OU LIBRARIES

WE HOSTED NEARLY 10,000 VISITORS TO OU LIBRARIES LOCATIONS

1,081 LOGINS TO PUBLIC COMPUTERS

CIRCULATED 601 ITEMS AND RESHELVED 913

DIGITIZED 842 IMAGES AND RECORDINGS

HOSTED 16 EVENTS

THE BOOKMARK SERVED 1,721 PEOPLE AND USED 1,427 12 OZ. CUPS

STUDENTS FILLED RESERVABLE GROUP STUDY ROOMS FOR 191 HOURS (ALMOST 8 DAYS!)

4,335 VISITS TO OU LIBRARIES WEBSITES FROM 43 COUNTRIES, 250 CITIES

TOP 5 DATABASES: 2,025 FULL TEXT DOWNLOADS AND 2,410 SEARCHES FOR A SINGLE DAY

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ORDERED 230 MATERIALS

ADDED 424 TO COLLECTIONS

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DIGITIZED 842 IMAGES AND RECORDINGS

ANSWERED MORE THAN 500 CUSTOMER QUESTIONS

LOANED 177 ITEMS TO PEOPLE IN 35 STATES AND 2 COUNTRIES

BORROWED 162 ITEMS FROM 30 STATES AND 3 COUNTRIES

THE BOOKMARK SERVED 1,721 PEOPLE AND USED 1,427 12 OZ. CUPS

2,321 EBOOKS READ

WROTE NEARLY 500 LINES OF CODE TO SUPPORT DIGITAL RESOURCES

APRIL 10 2017

WE HOSTED NEARLY 10,000 VISITORS TO OU LIBRARIES LOCATIONS
“It was fantastic,” Steve said. “After the tour and a detailed meeting with Dean Luce outlining the vision for the future, we could see where this was headed. We could see the library becoming the central focus of the campus, and all of OU’s colleges using the library in a way that was different from what we and most people grew up with. We said, ‘We want to be part of this. We feel strongly that what you’re doing here helps the whole university become a better place.’”

The Future of Innovation

Steve and Kathy Swatek’s marriage, friendships and professional lives were each shaped by OU. Through their $1 million bequest to the Library Center of Excellence fund to enable future innovation at OU Libraries, they will continue to shape the lives of young people at OU and Bizzell library users for generations.

During a visit last year, Steve and Kathy toured Galileo’s World: An Exhibition Without Walls and the new Peggy V. Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center. Impressed with the exhibit and renovated spaces, they were also struck by the variety of innovative programs: open access textbooks; the digitization lab; the digital repository supporting citizen science; the Innovation @ the EDGE maker and virtual reality environments.

The Swatek’s gift allows us flexibility to invest in innovation as opportunities occur, helping insure that the OU Libraries remain a dynamic, intellectual engine for the university.
Community Engagement: ArtEDGE

Recently featured in the *School Library Journal*, over 50 7th and 8th grade Norman Public School students visited campus to engage with art in a new collaborative program between the OU Libraries, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and the School of Visual Arts.

Plans for next year’s ArtEDGE program will feature the museum’s architecture and will center around design thinking. The goal for the program is to consistently seek new connections between the museum, emerging technologies facilitated by the OU Libraries and respective disciplines on campus to inspire future generations with crucial technological and visual literacy skills.
A $500,000 gift from The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma will create the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center, a unique space that supports interdisciplinary research, teaching, consultation and collaborative work for OU faculty and graduate students, as well as improve access to the Oklahoma Canyon Garden.

The location of the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center just one floor below our inaugural renovation project, the Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center, illustrates the impact of the generosity and support that fuels our continued progress.

The nearly 21,000 square ft. renovation of the Neustadt Wing in Lower Level 2 of Bizzell Memorial Library is focused on the idea of building community for faculty and graduate students. Featuring both individual and collaborative work spaces, the new center will offer meeting rooms for groups, large research spaces in which materials can be spread out, educational technology and a new collaborative data center to support research.

Rather than traditional study carrels that once were assigned to graduate students for an entire academic year, the Zarrow Center will include reservable personal study spaces and common areas that will allow faculty and graduate students to interact with colleagues in a warm, inviting space that can double as a site for special events.
A public area will also lead to the Oklahoma Canyon Garden, which was previously renovated through a gift from OU President David L. Boren and First Lady Molly Shi Boren. The Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center is scheduled to open in fall 2017.

“The Helmerich and Zarrow families are great philanthropists and friends and do many things in tandem for their communities. These centers are yet another example of this wonderful symmetry.” —Dean Luce
Library Service Center

Our Library Service Center (LSC), which opened fall 2016, provides a space to better preserve our collections and supports physical spaces in OU Libraries locations that enrich opportunities for active learning and engagement. The LSC houses over 500,000 volumes of materials and microform and is the processing center for newly acquired materials. Materials stored in the LSC may be requested through Sooner Xpress and are typically delivered to the patron’s location of choice within 24 hours.

Learning Lab

The Learning Lab is scheduled to open fall 2017 and will serve as the primary service point for students to receive help with research, writing or tutoring. It will support both collaborative and private study with flexible furniture and power to support students’ technology needs.
SUPPORTING OU CAMPUS RESEARCH

Special Collections Impact (2016-2017)

1,268 VISITS 6,108 TOURS

164 CONSULTATIONS 68 CLASSES

Enhancing Access to Promote Digital Literacy

Through a partnership with OU’s Information Technology, OU Libraries introduced free digital access to the New York Times for faculty, staff and students. Additional educator content is available to enhance classroom curriculum.
Supporting Students: 
Undergraduate Research Award

Our Undergraduate Research Award recognizes students who have demonstrated creative use of our resources and collections in exemplary research or innovative scholarship. Nine students from a variety of disciplines, including English, Environmental Sustainability, History and Meteorology, submitted their scholarship in the second annual award program. Winning submissions can be viewed in the Commons @ ShareOK open access repository.

**Jeffrey Terry**, an OU National Merit Scholar and senior English major, won the grand prize, a $1,500 award, for: “The Epistemological Limitations of Google’s Knowledge Graph.”

**Tanya Woody**, a senior majoring in Environmental Sustainability, received a $1,000 award for: “Earth Conscious Behavior of OU Students.”

**Jacob Waugh**, a junior in the Political Science department, earned a $750 award for “The Evolution of Marriage Equality as a Policy Issue and as a New Social Norm in Latin America.”
SHAREOK

SHAREOK is a joint institutional repository serving as the home for the intellectual output for the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma. It features digital theses and dissertations, faculty publications, open access publications, open educational resources, institution–specific content and much more.

10,296 Uploads
8,731 Downloads
Added 2 New Open Journals
Began including masters theses, the first digital presence for such works
OU Libraries Alternative Textbook Grant, one of our Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives, helps reduce students’ costs by supporting faculty members in the adoption, modification, or creation of affordable course content.

In addition to being an academic leader in the OER movement, the support received from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Price College of Business has modeled a standard for other academic intuitions.

The result is that within 4 years of the program, or one student’s undergraduate career, the OU Libraries Alternative Textbook Grant has saved students over $1.6 million in textbook costs.

The impact of the creation or adoption of OER extends far beyond one semester or one classroom. Each new semester introduces the OER, and the cost savings, to a new cohort of students, compounding the impact. OU Libraries provide a one-time grant, but the resource can be used semester after semester.
“Thanks to the Alternative Textbook Grant we received, OU’s transition from the old memorization-based, Europe-centered Art History survey to the current team-taught, multicultural Introduction to Art History has been a resounding success. The students that first term and in the years since have been delighted—they tell us so in their course evaluations—with both the affordability and flexible scope of the readings they’ve encountered as a result.”
—Kenneth Haltman, Art and Art History

“As a result of the Alternative Textbook Project Grants I received and have now implemented, the open educational resources I developed for the Media Law and Media History courses I teach mean that in a time of rising tuition and fees, some 400 students in my courses annually are now saving an estimated $20-40,000 in textbook costs.”
—Robert Kerr, Journalism
Faculty are increasingly expected to demonstrate the impact, reach, and scope of their research. “Research impact” refers to the measurable influence of a scholar’s work, including how widely work is being cited by other scholars, how widely works are being accessed and read, and how published work compares across platforms.

Several measures are available to help researchers quantify the impact of their work so they can better understand how it is being used and how it fits within the scholarship of their respective fields.

One way OU Libraries helps OU faculty find, apply, and interpret a variety of metrics for measuring research impact is by creating detailed reports that provide researchers with quantitative metrics for their individual publications and summaries of their overall impact and influence. Librarians also work with faculty to build online profiles that update their metrics as their research continues to be used.

Our partnership with three departments so far, the College of Education, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology, has helped us develop custom approaches to tailor these assessment metrics to respect the differences among fields of study, and we continue to consult with departments on how best to understand and apply research impact metrics to their unique needs.

Altmetric.com is a service that tracks tweets, blog posts, news stories and other content mentioning scholarly articles, and assigns scores based on that activity, displayed as a multicolored badge.
Supporting Open Access

While open access to information is one of our goals, we understand that publishing is not free. In the traditional publishing system, journal publishers recoup expenses by charging subscription fees. This traditional system has created a barrier to information access. One way we can help lower this barrier is through our support of a different publishing model.

Open publishing allows access to the free, immediate, online availability of research. In the past decade, several different models of sustainable, open access publishing have emerged. In one common model, publishers don’t charge a subscription fee, so research articles are published for anyone in the world to discover and read immediately.

Instead of charging the traditional readership access fees, some publishers charge an article processing fee (APC) to cover publication. To help our faculty, staff and students continue to publish their scholarly, peer-reviewed articles in fully open access journals, we provide an open access (OA) subvention fund that helps subsidize article processing fees.

One of the program’s goals is to help authors become more familiar with open publishing environments and raise awareness of the benefits of open publishing and open access to information. To date, we have helped nearly 60 faculty members publish their work in OA journals.

“I really appreciate that the University supports open access publications. This was my first open access publication and I was very pleased with the process.”

—Dr. Elizabeth A. Bergey, Biologist, Oklahoma Biological Survey, Associate Professor, Department of Biology
Chinese Literature Translation Archive

The Chinese Literature Translation Archive provides a wide range of rare books, reference materials, drafts, correspondence, notes, ephemera, and other important historical materials so that researchers and readers alike can gain a deeper understanding of Chinese literature in the West. The mission of the archive is to change the material conditions for translation studies, comparative and world literature by helping these disciplines move beyond narrowly constrained comparison-based approaches to historically informed research methods supported by the richly textured intellectual environments within which translation takes place. The archive currently houses over 10,000 volumes and thousands of documents from some of the greatest Western translators of Chinese literature.

What if English was learned in China 1,000 years ago?

See the exhibit Poetics of Invention and explore the relationship between history, culture and innovation.
Western History Collections

WHC manuscript collections facilitate advanced scholarly research into the history of Oklahoma’s Native American residents, the evolution of community life since the first Euro-American settlements, and the economic development of the Southern Great Plains. Our most significant resources in the realm of manuscript collections include:

**Western History Collections**

The Native American collections run the gamut from typescripts of speeches, correspondence, proclamations and newspaper articles by and about chiefs of many different tribes to substantial bodies of records from individual tribes and tribal agencies and much more.

### WHC Manuscript Collections

- **NUMBER OF COLLECTIONS**
  - NATIVE AMERICANS: 120
  - LAW: 120
  - MEDICINE: 30
  - BANKING: 30
  - POLITICS: 35
  - PETROLEUM & MINING: 40
  - AGRI-CULTURE: 50
  - EDUCATION: 50

### WHC Cultural Resources

The WHC possesses equally impressive visual cultural resources that extend opportunities to delve deeply into the history of the university, the locality, the state and the region across many topics:

**WHC Cultural Resources**

- **NUMBER OF COLLECTIONS**
  - COMMUNITIES: 150
  - NATIVE AMERICANS: 40
  - FAMILY LIFE: 25
  - UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA: 15
  - ECONOMY: 100
  - TRANSPORTATION: 50
  - AGRICULTURE: 50
  - POLITICS: 20
Bizzell Memorial Library Special Collections

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE COLLECTIONS

The History of Science Collections includes holdings of nearly 100,000 volumes from every field and subject area of science, technology and medicine that range chronologically from Hrabanus Maurus, *Opus de universo* (1467) to current publications in the history of science. The Darwin collection consists of all of Darwin’s works in their first editions and several autographed letters, as well as hundreds of subsequent editions and translations. The Galileo collection, the centerpiece of the ongoing *Galileo’s World* exhibition, features all 12 first editions by Galileo, two of which contain his handwriting.

BASS BUSINESS HISTORY COLLECTION

Bass holdings span from the beginning of printing to the present and include important works in the history of business such as Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* and Pacioli’s *on accounting*. In addition to holdings in the areas of travel, trade and exploration, the collection also includes the institutional records of an important 19th investment banking firm, J & W Seligman and Company.
JOHN AND MARY NICHOLS RARE BOOKS & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This collection comprises over 13,000 rare books and special materials dating from the 15th century to the present. Although noted for its works by key American and British authors of the 19th and 20th centuries (Austen, Doyle, Twain, Whitman), the Nichols Collection also holds significant works from the early modern period, especially British history and literature including such notable figures as Shakespeare, Hobbes, Jonson, and Milton. The Dickens Collection includes many of the first printed editions in book and serial forms of the author’s major works. The wide-ranging scope of materials also includes a 17th century Spanish manuscript book of correspondence, Mad Magazine, and a poetry book with handwritten corrections by Lord Byron.

BIZZELL BIBLE COLLECTION

Former OU President William Bennett Bizzell collected the 665 Bibles and related works comprising this unique special collection. Notable editions in the collection are the Koberger Latin Bible published in 1479 in Nuremberg, and the King James Bible (several editions, published in 1611), and several pages from a 14th century manuscript Bible. Languages represented in the holding include Arabic, Hebrew, Muskogee, Syriac.
STRENGTHENING SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

Moving & Shaking

Each year, Library Journal highlights changemakers transforming what it means to be a librarian by selecting the top “Movers & Shakers” from libraries across the country.

We are proud to have two outstanding individuals who have been recognized in the “Digital Developer” class for their contributions to reinventing the library experience.

2017 | SARAH CLAYTON
“SUPER-SYNERGIST”

Sarah was recognized for her work on the Presidential Dream Course, “Making Modern America: Discovering the Great Depression and New Deal” with Professors David Wrobel and Keith Gaddie and for being one of OU Libraries’ first Software Carpentry certified instructors. She is one of only 52 people selected from 350 nominations.

2015 | MATT COOK
“MINDFUL INTERACTION”

Matt was selected for his creation of an interactive meditation tool that projects a variety of labyrinths onto the floor for a 5-minute mindfulness exercise, and his contribution to creating the OU Libraries NavApp, a free application for mobile devices which guides users throughout the Bizzell Memorial Library navigating them to resources, service desks, event spaces and more.
Contributions to the Profession

14 EMPLOYEES PUBLISHED

3 BOOKS

9 JOURNAL ARTICLES

28 PRESENTATIONS

Received national recognition for our 2015-16 Progress Report

Received Campus Technology’s Innovators Award for the NavApp

Taught Software Carpentry at the Library of Congress

Galileo’s World received 3 awards from the Oklahoma Museums Association for best exhibit design, education outreach and best technology media.
Thomas and Cathy Luccock Excellence Award Recipient: Matt Stock

The highest honor conferred by OU Libraries recognizes an employee who demonstrates a pattern of excellence and ongoing contribution of service is generously funded by, and named for the Luccocks, who are great friends of the OU Libraries.

MATT STOCK, FINE & APPLIED ARTS LIBRARIAN AND ARCHITECTURE LIBRARIAN

Responsible for the administration of two distinct department libraries, each with their own facilities, collections and academic needs, Matt continuously works to improve the relationship between these two branches and their respective departments, as well as looks to implement new programs to enrich the library experience.

“(Matt) consistently demonstrates outstanding guidance as a knowledgeable and caring mentor for the multitude of students and faculty that ask for his assistance on a regular basis.”—Paula Conlon, associate professor of musicology

Each year, our organization also recognizes students and staff who demonstrate exceptional commitment to our values of collaboration, diversity, engagement, integrity, learning and organizational agility. Special recognition was merited for:

**Bridge Builder Award**: Magen Bednar and Kristal Boulden

**Collaborative Spirit Award**: Jenny Watson (chair), Starla Doescher, Twila Camp, Katherine Wong, Fred Reiss, Larry Myers, Richard Fitzpatrick, Ryan Hill, Jim Hirst, and Quinn Davis

**Customer Commitment Award**: Quinn Davis

**Innovation Award**: Matt Cook, Cody Taylor and Stacey Dunn – Emerging Technology Librarian Team

**Library Partner Award**: Professor Keith Gaddie, Chair, Political Science

**Outstanding Graduate Assistant**: James Burns

**Outstanding Student Assistants**: Karen Martinez-Soto, Ryan Dobbins, Stephanie Ma
Bizzell Library Society

The members of our Bizzell Library Society are essential partners in helping realize the vision of the OU Libraries as a leader in academic research libraries. As the intellectual crossroads of the University of Oklahoma, we strive to empower, engage and spark the creativity of our faculty, staff and students and to take an active role in knowledge creation, preservation and access.

Your support ensures that we continue on our path to excellence and is a promise that we will steward the next generation of scholarship to enrich our community and foster an informed citizenry.

Thank you for your contribution to the initiatives outlined in this report.

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