

# ReferencePoint

University Libraries' Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

## Center of the university

### Anniversary marks Libraries' current and future impact

Central Michigan University continues celebrating the 10th anniversary of Park Library's expansion and renovation – a project that converted the library from a storehouse for printed academic materials to a comprehensive, highly technological information center.

"It is only proper that we take this day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of a facility that has transformed how our students learn and our faculty conduct research and the tremendous work each of you do on behalf of our students, faculty, staff and the entire university," CMU President George E. Ross said at a special library staff luncheon Jan. 9, 2012, which marked 10 years to the day that the new library opened.

The transformation enlarged and modernized the library to keep pace with

the learning and research needs of students and faculty as well as to create an academic, cultural and support hub on campus.

The \$50 million library project required 2 ½ years of construction before reopening in January 2002. With more than 1.3 million printed volumes of materials housed on 33 miles of moving shelves, Dean of Libraries Tom Moore says the vision was to create a library to enhance learning and research opportunities of the university for its students and faculty.

"It was important that the university create not only a functional and attractive library, but also serve as a symbol of the university's commitment to teaching, learning and research," Moore says.

He believes that the original vision to modernize Park Library to better assist the

university's academic commitment has been realized. Park Library serves the Mount Pleasant campus community as well as off-campus and online students and faculty, especially through online services and digital resources.

"Today is a celebration of the anniversary of Park Library and the commitment of the university to produce great results for its students and its surrounding community," Moore says. •

See pages 2 and 3 for continued coverage

 [library.cmich.edu/pubs](http://library.cmich.edu/pubs) for more

Students, faculty and staff enjoy cake served in the main hallway of Park Library in early January to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the library's renovation and expansion project.



# Points of pride

## ReferencePoint

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## Celebrating Park Library's past, future decades



Tom Moore

2002 (really, 10 years ago?), it was a delight to recall the gratifying exclamatory reactions of students, faculty, and staff as they entered the new library for the first time.

The anniversary has been a great opportunity to pause and reflect on our progress in offering library collections and services in support of CMU's academic programs.

I'm happy to report that the uniform conclusion of the numerous reports we've prepared over the last decade is that we're doing well in meeting the academic information needs of our university clientele. While we have ongoing challenges, there's much about which we can be very proud, and some reasons for our pride are highlighted in this and previous issues of Reference Point.

An area I particularly wish to note is the Clarke Historical Library. This special library has long offered quality reference services and a rich collection of books, manuscripts, and other materials relating to Michigan and Old Northwest Territory history, as well as historical children's books and resources relating to teaching children to read. But, under the leadership of Dr. Frank Boles, and through the work of a dedicated staff, in the last 10 years it has blossomed in ways that make it the envy of other special collections libraries.

A couple examples. The first is Clarke Library's vigorous public programming, especially through exhibits and speaker events. Clarke has used its contemporary exhibit spaces, and its website for remote users, to great impact in showcasing collection resources

creatively and interpreting topics and themes effectively. It's also used our Library Auditorium to attract and edify students, faculty and staff, and area community residents through dozens of memorable speaker presentations.

Another example of how Clarke Library has extended its service boundaries is its strategic collection enrichment, such as addition of the Hemingway in Michigan Collection, which is already bringing scholarly notice and reputation to CMU.

Since 2002 the Libraries, including our exceptional Off-Campus Library Services and Clarke Library, have compiled a vivid record of library service success through strong collections, remarkable facilities, effectual use of information technologies, and the indispensable talents of our staff. With requisite budgetary support and the generous financial assistance of our appreciated donors, I'm confident in predicting an enthusiastic celebration of the 20th anniversary of Park Library in spring 2022. And what's more, I'm looking forward to it.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Reference Point. As always, let us know if you have comments or wish more information.

Tom Moore  
Dean of Libraries

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# Remarkable resource

## Park Library central for student success

While it isn't engraved for the world to see, there's a table on the second floor of Park Library that almost seems to have Shonda Smith's name on it.

Along the windows overlooking the sidewalk surrounding the facility is where the junior apparel merchandising and design student from Detroit can be found quite often. The muffled intermittent buzz of her muted cellphone is the only noise that disturbs the silence.

"I basically live here," Smith says with a laugh as she looks up from her Accounting 101 textbook. "This is my favorite spot. Park Library is a great place because you have to be productive here. You can't just come here and sit like you could at your apartment or dorm room."

Such an experience is what project planners were envisioning when they developed visions and designs for a renovated and expanded Park Library nearly 13 years ago. Among these plans were to move beyond the building that opened in 1969 and create a welcoming, well-lit, engaging and technologically advanced facility that includes services and resources to enhance the student and community learning experience well into the future, according to Gerry Edgar, CMU Libraries' business services manager.

Edgar worked closely with various contractors, designers and managers throughout the 30-month renovation and expansion project, which was completed with an opening on Jan. 9, 2002.

"We wanted to build something that could accommodate whatever changes would come along years from now," he says. "It still feels new. There are days when I come into the building, look up into the atrium and think, 'This is still pretty darn cool.'"

To better serve the university community, space is available in the building for other academic support units, such as the Information Technology Help Desk and Media Services, Student Disability Services, Faculty Center for Innovative Teaching, the Writing Center and the recently opened Math Assistance Center.

It also was developed to incorporate advanced technologies and electronic resources, including hundreds of public computer workstations, wireless connectivity and electronic resources that are available onsite and online.

"I think we're pretty up-to-date with everything, and we try to keep on top of the newest technology," says Diane Thomas, CMU Libraries' access services coordinator. "Even after coming into this building, we've added a lot of new technology. That's what the students want. It's what they expect."



Shonda Smith

Such a facility with these types of services, collections and resources is exactly what Indian River senior Josh Rorick has needed as he's pursued double majors in religion and computer science.

"This is where I come to do my homework and research," Rorick says. "When I was writing my thesis last spring, this was a very useful tool for me."

Building on a decade of success, Park Library is poised to serve the university community for years to come. •



# Enhancing community learning

## Library resources available to users beyond CMU

Emily Lindsay didn't flinch when she learned that comparing and contrasting 10 creation myths was the topic for her senior honors humanities class research paper.

Neither did her brother Ian when he had to write a paper about different civilizations for his freshman world history class.

That's because they knew that even as Mount Pleasant High School students they, like the rest of the community, have access to CMU's Park Library and its extensive academic collections.

"The university library is very familiar to us," says Emily Lindsay, explaining their favorite location is the fourth floor to use the dual-monitor computers. "It's really easy to find

information on the topics you're looking for, and the atmosphere there really helps you to focus."

The library is located at the heart of CMU's Mount Pleasant campus to best serve university students, but Dean of Libraries Tom Moore is quick to extend an open invitation to people beyond the university to utilize Park Library. This includes everything from the library's in-house and online resources to its periodicals, Clarke Historical Library, government documents and beyond.

"We welcome community users," Moore says. "We are committed to being a resource for the larger community."



The Wall Street Journal usually is the first newspaper Dr. Ara Sheperdigian, a retired physician living in Mount Pleasant, reads each time he visits Park Library.

## Utilizing CMU Libraries' collection

Dr. Ara Sheperdigian is one Mount Pleasant resident who visits Park Library several times each week. The retired physician enjoys walking to campus to read the newspapers and look into online medical journals for current research.

"I like to go for walks but have to go somewhere with a purpose. The library is a great purpose," says Dr. Sheperdigian, who lives less than one mile from campus. "I go to the Reference Desk to check Value Line for my investments every Monday, then I hit the magazine and browsing library. Other times it's great to be in the stacks where there are multiple shelves of books on the same topic."

Clarke Historical Library is included within Park Library and focuses on the history of Michigan and the Old Northwest Territory, published works that shape the minds of young children, and the history of CMU. Among the primary users of Clarke Library are scholars and genealogists external to CMU.

Recently Heather Fisher of Midland utilized Clarke resources for a project in her Wayne State University graduate program.



Library hours and the dual computer monitors are among the features that attract Mount Pleasant High School senior Emily Lindsay, left, to use Park Library resources. Here, Emily is explaining her poetry project to her mother, Marilyn, as her brother Ian sits at the other side of the table and works on a high school assignment of his own. Marilyn Lindsay is a 1992 CMU graduate who worked in Park Library when she was a student.

## Public library connections

Being available to the public does not take away from the services and collections available in area public libraries, Moore says. In many ways, the university and public libraries complement their respective services.

"In the library world, cooperation is critical," he says. "We all have common goals and principles to serve the needs of all our users."

Lise Mitchell, director of the Chippewa River District Library System, agrees. In addition to Veterans Memorial Library in Mount Pleasant, the CRDL System also includes libraries in the nearby communities of Blanchard, Rosebush, Shepherd and Winn.

"With the community utilizing Park Library for academic resources and journals, that allows us to focus on the needs the community chose in our strategic plan – such as 'connect to the online world,' which includes better connections to CMU, and 'create young readers,' which fosters even more cooperation with the early childhood resources at CMU," Mitchell says. "It's great having CMU and their willingness to collaborate in our community."

Someone who sees how both libraries connect is Ruth Helwig. The systems librarian at Park Library also serves as vice president of the Chippewa River District Library System board of trustees. Serving on the CRDL board and various committees, Helwig says it is interesting and helpful to see and appreciate the perspectives of the university and public libraries.

"The collections of both libraries serve very different purposes, but I find there is good collaboration between the two, and we can learn from each other," Helwig says.

Collaboration is especially important with the statewide interlibrary loan system, Michigan eLibrary Catalog. Pamela Grudzien, CMU Libraries' head of technical services, says she remembers several times staffing the Park Library reference desk and a student was looking for a book that wasn't readily available at Park Library.

"My first reaction is, 'Let's check the public library,'" she says. "It's resource sharing, and that's one of the best ways to serve the people who use our libraries."

[library.cmich.edu/pubs](http://library.cmich.edu/pubs) for more

Lise Mitchell and Ruth Helwig meet in Veterans Memorial Library in downtown Mount Pleasant to discuss a collaborative library project. Mitchell is director of the Chippewa River District Library System, and Helwig is a systems librarian at Park Library as well as vice president of the CRDL board of trustees.



# Lasting relationships

## Many student employees support Libraries long after graduation

As I meet CMU alums who support the Libraries, I often find that they were employed in the library during their student years. For this reason, I'd like to recognize and acknowledge current and past library student employees.



Megan Moreno

Student employment at the library has provided many generations of CMU students with rich experiences that have enhanced their academic and future careers. Sometimes great and enduring relationships have been formed between fellow co-workers and between employees and their supervisors. The library staff is continually grateful for the hard work done by student employees on a daily basis to make our services a success.

During the Annual University Campaign in 2010, the library staff founded a scholarship for library student employees; it awards two students with funds toward their next

semester at CMU. As part of the application process, student employees are asked to write an essay regarding how working in the Libraries has benefited them, and their responses are extensive and impressive.

We are happy that we can provide such wonderful experiences for students through employment and are pleased to contribute financial assistance toward achieving their academic goals through the future of the Library Student Employee Scholarship.

Furthermore we appreciate that, as alums, many former student employees have decided to give back to the university by supporting the Libraries with their financial gifts. It's a pleasure to speak with donors and discover that many of their great memories about CMU come from their time spent as a student assistant in the library.

For example, 1949 alumna and former library student employee Helen (Holz) Rooney has been a great supporter of the Libraries and shared with me fond memories of her time working under Catherine O'Connell, head reference librarian, with whom she developed a rewarding relationship.

The continued support of former student employees means a lot to the Libraries and has allowed us to create and grow funds essential for our continued success in serving the information needs of the university.

If you're a former student employee of the Libraries, let us know. You're part of a big club, and one that we appreciate very much. We'd love to hear from you and update you on what's new at the CMU Libraries, even beyond what you'll find in Reference Point. Feel free to contact me at 989-774-1826 or via email at [brook1mr@cmich.edu](mailto:brook1mr@cmich.edu).

*Megan R. Moreno*

Megan R. Moreno  
Director of Development and Community Outreach

## Common connections

Nearly 65 years separate the graduation dates of Helen (Holz) Rooney, '49, and Kate Caszatt, who will graduate in May 2012. They've never met – Rooney is from Bad Axe, Caszatt is from Shepherd – but they'd have plenty to talk about should their paths ever cross.

They share experiences as student employees at the CMU library circulation desk.

While the core of their responsibilities is similar, including reshelving and checking out books only to check them back in, facilities and technologies have evolved over the decades.

Rooney reported to work when the University Library was located in Warriner Hall, and Caszatt always has clocked in at the current Charles V. Park Library. Gone are the days of the card catalog Rooney once helped to maintain manually, which has been replaced by an online computer-based system that Caszatt references with the click of a mouse.

But the common thread connecting the two is the enjoyment that comes with working in a service role at the library and the respect they have for their supervisors.

For Rooney, her library employment was a great way to meet other students, and she developed a close relationship with her supervisor, Catherine O'Connell. For Caszatt, she has developed close relationships with her co-workers and supervisor, Jane Morey.



"I know I will keep in touch with my co-workers and my supervisor, Jane, long after I graduate," says Caszatt, who was among the first Library Student Employee Scholarship recipients. "It has been a great opportunity to work here, and I am extremely grateful for it."

A tale two CMU library student employees includes Helen (Holz) Rooney, '49, as pictured in a CMU yearbook, and current senior Kate Caszatt, as she checks in several books.



# Valued patron

## Local physician uses Park Library's resources

Seeing students studying in Park Library always inspires Somdev Roy, M.D.

It's something the board-certified oncologist and hematologist observes each time he visits the CMU library to relax and read about his favorite topics of history and philosophy at least once every week.

As common as these activities are in the United States, such an educational resource isn't readily available for people in Dr. Roy's home country of India.

"Libraries in India are not free and open to the public," says Roy, who is a doctor at McLaren-Central Michigan's Norval K. Morey Cancer Center in Mount Pleasant. "I believe the library system in the United States is one of the greatest and most valuable aspects of our society."

After attending R.G. Kar Medical College in India, Roy moved to the United States with his wife and son. During his time in the United States, Roy completed medical residencies at Meharry Medical College School of Medicine in Nashville, Tenn., and at St. Joseph Mercy in Oakland, Mich. He also completed a fellowship at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo.

Since coming to Mount Pleasant in 1999 to work at McLaren-Central Michigan, Roy has regularly tapped into the library's collections, programs and author presentations. He in turn has generously contributed toward their continued development through the Friends of the Libraries.

"I am happy to support something I can get so much out of," Roy says.

Time at the library is what Roy says he considers as his "down time." He likes sitting on the fourth floor because he enjoys its quietness.

And it isn't uncommon for Roy to spend as many as four hours researching a topic of particular interest to him that day, not just because he wants to but because it's readily available to him and to the countless others who have access to a wealth of information in the library. •

[A recent Friends of the Libraries annual luncheon provided library supporter Dr. Somdev Roy the opportunity to meet guest speaker and award-winning author Marie Arana.](#)



# Knapp returns to CMU

## Annual Friends event is May 19



Robert C. Knapp

It's not enough to say the 2012 Friends of the Libraries Luncheon speaker is a University of California, Berkeley professor emeritus whose new book was featured in a January issue of The New Yorker magazine.

"Invisible Romans" author Robert Knapp has credentials no previous Friends' speaker can claim.

Knapp is a Central Michigan University alumnus and a member of the Friends.

The 1968 CMU graduate – he was valedictorian of the mid-year graduating class – will return to his alma mater to speak at the annual invitation-only event at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 19, in the Park Library Auditorium. He will speak on "Ordinary People of Ancient Rome: The Empire's 99%."

While Knapp is retired and lives with his wife in California – where his children also live – he still is connected to his home state of Michigan and CMU. He regularly visits northern Michigan to restore an 1888 log home built by his great-grandfather as well as makes extensive use of the Clarke Historical Library to conduct much of his research on Clare, his father's hometown.

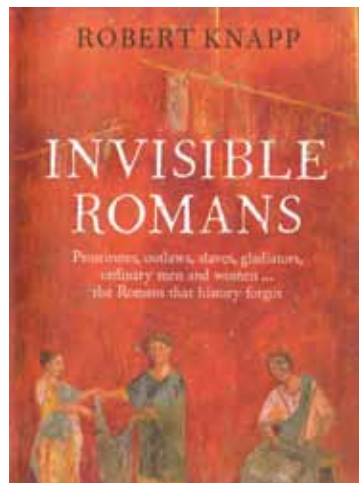
"The Clarke Library has been indispensable to me in my research about the area of central Michigan," Knapp is quoted as saying in a publication for Clarke Historical Library. "Indeed, the Clarke is the most open, welcoming, helpful special collections library I have ever worked in during my over 40 years as a researcher."

Knapp received his Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania and taught Roman history, culture and Latin at the University of California, Berkeley for more than 30 years. His recent book publication – "Invisible Romans" – is the culmination of these efforts to investigate the life experiences of non-elites in the Roman world. It is published by Harvard University Press.

To learn more about this event or how you can become a Friend of the Libraries, contact Megan Moreno, director of library development and community outreach, at

• 989-774-1826

• [megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu](mailto:megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu)



## CMU Libraries' exhibits and events calendar

[lib.cmich.edu/exhibits](http://lib.cmich.edu/exhibits)

### 'Continuum'

Featuring works by Cam DeCaussin and Caitlin Freeman

- Through March 29
- Baber Room, Park Library

### 'Primary Visions: Foundation Art Students' Exhibition'

Representing student work produced in CMU's Department of Art and Design Foundations Program

- Through March 30
- Third Floor Exhibit Area and Extended Hours Study and Student Gallery, Park Library

### 'Red Dirt and Blue Salt: Portraits in Rock'

Highlighting research specimens collected by CMU's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

- April 1 through May 31
- Third Floor Exhibit Area

### 'The Moment'

Featuring student work produced in class taught by Artist-in-Residence Jill Marie Mason

- April 2-27
- Extended Hours Study and Student Gallery, Park Library

### 'The Ordinary People of Ancient Rome: The Empire's 99%'

Featuring Friends of the Libraries luncheon speaker Robert C. Knapp

- May 19
- Auditorium, Park Library

### 'A Delightful Destination: Little Traverse Bay at the Turn of the Century'

Exploring the region's transportation, cultural and economic growth during this colorful period

- Through May 31
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
- [clarke.cmich.edu](http://clarke.cmich.edu)

### 'Presidential Signatures'

Examining the handwritten signatures of United States presidents

- June through December
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
- [clarke.cmich.edu](http://clarke.cmich.edu)

# Up north is Pure Michigan

## Exhibit explores Little Traverse Bay from 1890 to 1920

While the state's Pure Michigan marketing campaign looks to drive Michigan tourism, Clarke Historical Library is demonstrating how a similar concept impacted northern Michigan more than 100 years ago.

Through vintage maps, photographs, books and postcards the current Clarke exhibit – "A Delightful Destination: Little Traverse Bay at the Turn of the Century" – explores the region's transportation, cultural and economic growth during this colorful period between 1890 and 1920.

"We think people will see their own part of northern Michigan in this exhibit," says Michael Federspiel, CMU history faculty member and primary researcher for the exhibit that premiered in February. "When people who visit the Clarke exhibit learn about what people did at the turn of the century, they're likely to think, 'We still do that,' in Alpena, Traverse City or other places around the Great Lakes or inland lakes."

Near the turn of the century, passenger ships on the Great Lakes, as well as train lines that ran from as far away as Kansas City, Kan., and St. Louis, Mo., brought people to Petoskey, Harbor Springs and the surrounding areas to vacation in northern Michigan. Visitors made quick day trips, weeklong getaways, or extended month- and season-long vacations.

"It was an area searching for what it would become," Federspiel says. "We're trying to tell the story of the region and how it dealt with the transition from a past lumbering place to a summer paradise."

Federspiel hopes the exhibit encourages visitors to investigate for themselves since many of the attractive elements that drew visitors to Michigan in the past still draw them today.

## Connecting with northern Michigan

### Exhibit also appearing in Harbor Springs

Strengthening its outreach to northern Michigan, Clarke Historical Library will present "A Delightful Destination: Little Traverse Bay at the Turn of the Century" at the Harbor Springs History Museum in June after it closes in the Library's exhibit galleries.

The exhibit directly ties into a documentary about the Little Traverse Bay region that CMU Public Television produced and will debut at the International Hemingway Society Conference June 17-22 in Petoskey.

"To me this is a tremendous example of a win-win situation for both the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society and Clarke Historical Library," says Michael Federspiel, a CMU history faculty member.

Federspiel worked closely with both entities when he developed his book, "Picturing Hemingway's Michigan."

Through the ongoing relationship, Clarke Historical Library's collection now includes many digital versions of the photographs from the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society's permanent collection.

"Relationships like this are extremely important in networking smaller, local organizations with larger established organizations," says Mary Cummings, executive director of the Harbor Springs Area Historical Society and Harbor Springs History Museum. "Now people doing scholarly or personal research through the Clarke Library or its website can get a glimpse into our historical society's collection. Also, through the upcoming exhibit, our local museum visitors and members have an opportunity to learn more about our area's history from a new perspective."



Harbor Springs History Museum



# Embracing e-books

## Libraries enhancing collections electronically

An American Library Association report indicates that approximately 66 percent of the public libraries in the United States offered e-books in 2011. This number is up from 38 percent only two years prior.

"According to Library Journal, 60 percent of libraries that do not currently offer e-books expect to do so within two years," states the ALA report prepared by its Office of Information Technology Policy E-book Task Force.

E-books are mostly digital versions of printed books, and for several years CMU Libraries have included e-books in the collections to meet the growing demands for online books from their patrons.

E-books are providing students information that is only a click away.

Being able to search the library catalog online and to click on a link to see if a book meets their needs "gives students more flexibility with their hectic schedules," says Matthew Ismail, director of Park Library collection development.

## Serving students of today

Years ago, college was a vastly different experience that enabled students more time to go to the library and pick out the books they needed. Today's students are pressed to the limit with time demands, from working more than one job to being involved on campus and taking a full course load, as well as students who are working full time and enrolled in online and off-campus programs.

"E-books are important because many students do not have the same college experience as I did," Ismail says. "They have a lot more going on, which often makes getting to the library to retrieve resources difficult."

Having such resources available online is important to the mission of the Libraries and university. And students today are more inclined to use technology to support their academic work and projects.

"The generations accustomed to printed materials only are fading away," says sophomore Shelby Shafer, who utilizes CMU Libraries' electronic resources.

When the Libraries purchase an e-book, users can access it through a URL created for the university's electronic copy, according to Pamela Grudzien, Libraries' head of technical services. Users can access it through their personal computing devices, and by establishing an e-book account through the Libraries can highlight information and make notes in the text.

Grudzien says library officials are meeting with book publishers to pursue expanded options for users to access and download e-books.

E-books are important for flexibility and serving the needs of today's students, but print books will continue as timeless and reliable sources of information.

"I only read books in print," freshman Sarah Johnson says. "I believe a storybook has more character when you get to feel the pages. I love being able to flip to the next page because it just adds to the experience." •



Timothy Peters responds to a question he received online while staffing Park Library's Reference Desk.

## In touch online

### Students communicate with librarians via instant messaging

Just the second day of the spring semester, a student asks a question of Timothy Peters, the Libraries' director of information services, who is staffing the Reference Desk at Park Library. It's a typical question – "Does the library have the North American Journal of Fisheries Management?" – but it's a relatively new experience.

Peters never sees the student to whom he's responding because the entire conversation is conducted online.

In recent years University Libraries have implemented methods for students to utilize library services virtually, including reference librarians. Such developments offer patrons the opportunity to use the Internet and

cellphones to instant message librarians with questions about the library's numerous resources.

"We are trying our very best to make Park Library accessible to students in a mobile age," Peters says. "Students want to talk to librarians but are doing it in a different way than before."

These new technological developments also have offered students access to information through downloading articles or requesting online versions of books whenever and wherever they happen to be.

"I like how I am able to get the resources and help I need from librarians on my own time," says senior Nichole Humes, who uses these forms of communication with Park Library.

Peters says he thinks the Libraries are keeping up well with the changing technology to meet patron demands and expectations.

"The ability for students to chat with librarians electronically is only aiding us to accomplish our goal of providing resources and help to patrons," says Peters who, by the way, confirmed to the student mentioned earlier that the library not only has the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, but has it available in a convenient electronic format. •

As the library continues to incorporate digital resources into its collections, more books are available to patrons in print and online.

## New director implementing change in collections

Providing students with the information sources most valuable for their work is one of Matthew Ismail's primary concerns.

"I really want to reach out to students to get a better idea of how to integrate their interests with what we provide," says Ismail, the Libraries' new director of collections development. "It is a time of fundamental change in the library service profession."

Among the fundamental changes in library collections is the shift to online resources. Ismail says the use of printed materials is declining because many users are accessing library collections electronically. Because students don't always have time to do extensive library research, Ismail says he is trying to make such information more readily available online.



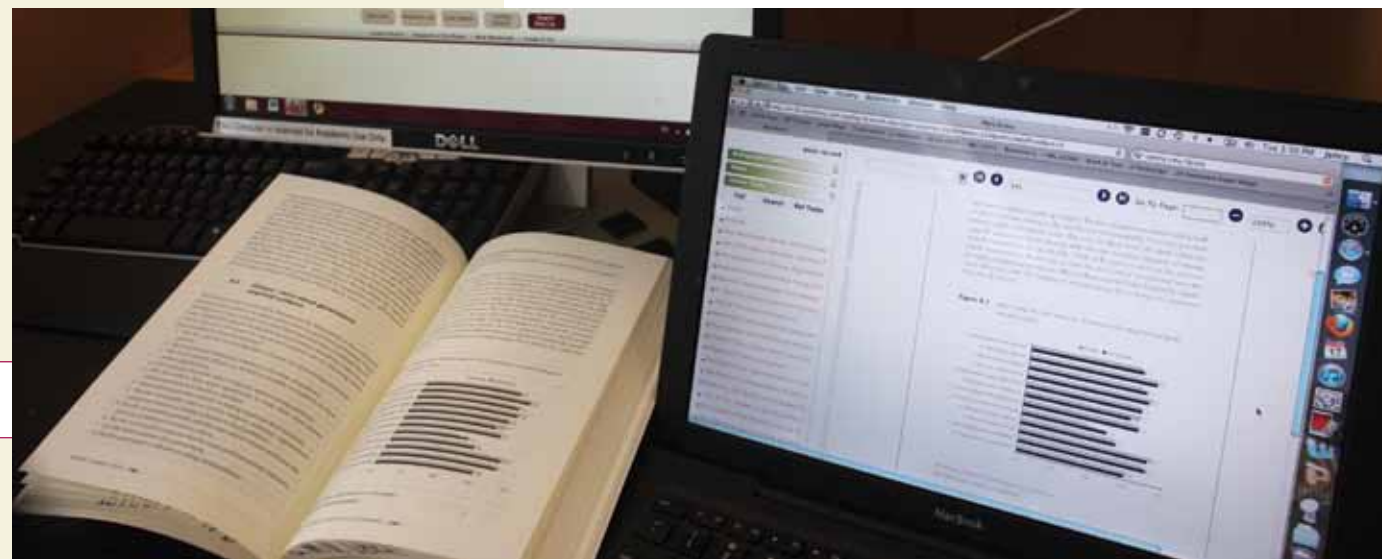
Matthew Ismail

Having learned much about collection development working for twelve years overseas, Ismail saw the position at CMU as an attractive one. While many industries are facing cutbacks due to the economy, he says he appreciates the university's continued commitment to its libraries.

"The university understands that you need a great library," he says.

Prior to coming to CMU, Ismail served as head of collections at the American University in Cairo and the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern studies from Hiram College in Ohio, he earned master's degrees in Middle Eastern history at The Ohio State University, humanities at the University of Minnesota, modern European history at the University of Chicago and library science at Kent State University. •



University Libraries  
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# Distance-learning librarians' connection

## Libraries hosting biennial national conference

The growth of digital materials has drastically changed how college professors and instructors make information available for their students.

Just ask Rebecca Hill, a CMU off-campus librarian who works directly with faculty members to help provide course materials for their students enrolled in off-campus and online programs.

"Library users are moving away from traditional print resources," Hill says. "More and more material is available online, and a lot of people are relying on library services to locate the information they need."

Hill is among the many professionals presenting at the Distance Library Services Conference April 18-20 in Memphis, Tenn.

She is co-presenting the paper, "Mining e-Reserves Data for Collection Assessment: An Analysis of How Instructors Use Library Collections to Support Distance Learners," with Michele Behr of Western Michigan University.

Library professionals of similar backgrounds come together for this biennial conference to share insights and experiences related to off-campus programming and services.

Since 1982 CMU Off-Campus Library Services has sponsored the CMU Libraries and Off-Campus Programs conference. Formerly the Off-Campus Library Services Conference, the event name was changed recently to better reflect the nature of the issues it encompasses.

"CMU created the conference with the vision of providing distance learning services professionals the chance to come together and learn from each other's experiences," says Timothy Peters, CMU Libraries' director of information services. "This conference stands out to me because it focuses only on distance learning library services, unlike other conferences that touch on an array of topics."

Nearly 275 librarians attended the conference held in Cleveland in 2010, and Peters hopes to have even more at this year's event. Visit [ocls.cmich.edu/conf2012](http://ocls.cmich.edu/conf2012) for conference information. •

Rebecca Hill, a CMU off-campus librarian, is among the presenters at the national conference in Memphis, Tenn.

