



2019-2020: The Year in Numbers



**E-journal article downloads**

↑ 1%

compared to the previous year and increased 4.7% compared to two years ago.



**Use of the Clarke Historical Library's Digital Collections**

↑ 40.3%

compared to the previous year and 55.4% compared to two years ago.



**Research Guide Usage**

↑ 4.1%

compared to the previous year and 18.6% compared to two years ago.



**Library Instruction**

5,800

Approximate number of students who attended a library instruction session.



**Research Consultations**

↑ 3%

compared to the previous year and 32.5% compared to two years ago.



**Group Study Room Usage**

↓ 32.5%

compared to the previous year.



**After Hours Study Spaces**

↓ 28.9%

compared to the previous year.

**Slowing Down, Letting Go, and Carrying On**

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

The year 2020 is one we will not forget, and it's not over yet. Despite the ups and downs of the past eight months, here at CMU Libraries, we've learned important lessons about slowing down, letting go, and carrying on.

**Slowing down**

During the Stay Home, Stay Safe period from mid-March to mid-June, I could almost hear the gears of the Earth slowing down. It reminded me of listening to my grandma's hand-cranked gramophone. As the spring unwound, the record played more slowly, and the pitch decreased.

For many of those who could stay at home, something similar happened. We had more time to reflect on what matters most. We learned that many work tasks can be accomplished effectively when working remotely. We've taken time to listen to each other, to express care and concern, and to get to know each other in new ways. Virtually, we've seen our co-worker's home offices and backyards and have met their children, partners, and pets. Some of us may have taken more time to sleep, exercise, or cook. It's been more important than ever to practice good self-care, to breathe, and to be grateful.

For some people, there was no such thing as slowing down. Working parents experienced challenges juggling work and monitoring their children's learning activities. Social justice advocates have been working harder than ever for systemic change. And in some sad situations, staying at home exacerbated experiences of anxiety, depression, and violence.

**Letting go**

In the book, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Grandpa tells a story about how to trap a raccoon. He described creating a trap by drilling a hole into a log, placing a shiny object in the bottom of the hole, then driving nails into the opening. The raccoon can reach in but cannot pull out its fist without letting go of the shiny thing. Letting go of a shiny thing is difficult for a raccoon and for many of us too.

I've asked myself countless times, "Where am I stuck? What am I holding on to? What do I need to let go of?" Normality? Expectations? Being or feeling in control? Having the answers? During the past seven months, so much has been beyond our control. Setting aside what we cannot control, we have focused on the work that is ours to do.

Each of us is responsible for our own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. At CMU Libraries, we are responsible for ensuring library users have access to the services and resources they need to achieve their academic goals. Although we may need to release former ways of performing our work, there is much that can continue in new ways. We are responsible for planning and carrying on.

**Carrying on**

Remaining calm in the face of adversity is more important than ever. Variations on the 1939 British poster, "Keep calm and carry on," come to mind. Keep calm and wash your hands...wear your mask...stay six feet apart from others...disinfect your work surfaces.



## How did a typical student use the library during 2019-2020?

<b>64.5</b>	Articles downloaded
<b>25.3</b>	E-book chapters accessed
<b>2</b>	Physical books checked out/renewed
<b>20.3</b>	Times they used a library research guide
<b>25.4</b>	Times they entered Park Library
<b>1</b>	Time they used a group study room
<b>1</b>	Item requested from Documents on Demand

## Slowing Down, Letting Go, and Carrying On (Continued)

Since mid-June, we've been gradually re-opening physical services and portions of the Park Library building. The physical building is noticeably different. At service desks and in workrooms, plexiglass and physical barriers separate people to ensure 6 feet of physical distance. Although we can see some of our co-workers in person, we can't see their faces behind their masks. We must log on to a Webex or Teams meeting to see their smiles.

We've spent much time planning and implementing new measures for fall semester. We are adapting to new ways of providing user services and a safe work environment for employees. Some things will be different for the foreseeable future. At the Park Library, only individual study is allowed, and users cannot browse the bookstacks or retrieve their own materials.

Many chairs are in storage or zip tied to tables to promote physical distancing. We've implemented a contactless book pick up service and are quarantining returned items for 4 days before reshelving or checking out to the next user. University events have been cancelled indefinitely and we will host some events virtually.

Simultaneously, we've been engaged in short term planning, contingency planning, and strategic planning. We will be innovative as we design tomorrow's library services, create inclusive learning spaces, and encourage new ways of creating knowledge. We appreciate your support in fostering student learning and research endeavors.

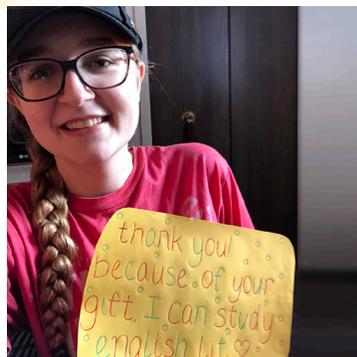
## Student Employee Scholarships



Taryn Shepler



Valerie Schafer



Megan Peterson



Graham Govitz



Lauryn Grace



Thomas Graham



Emma Davis



Isabelle Crane

### Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award

- **Thomas Graham**, Library Research and Instruction Services
- **Graham Govitz**, Access Services
- **Amanda Meinke**, Access Services
- **Taryn Shepler**, Access Services

### Gus and Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship

- **Lauryn Grace**, Access Services

### Library Student Employee Scholarship Fund

- **Isabelle Crane**, Documents on Demand
- **Emma Davis**, Access Services
- **Megan Peterson**, Access Services
- **Olivia Salik**, Documents on Demand
- **Valerie Schafer**, Acquisitions and Metadata Services

# Your Support Makes Things Happen!

Gifts to the Friends of the Libraries enabled us to enhance study spaces and expand our collections during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Without your support, we would not have been able to accomplish these projects. Our students and faculty benefit greatly from your generosity.

## Park Library building enhancements

- **Implemented After-Hours Access** to the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Quiet Study Area. Work on this new access door connecting Java City to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor study area was completed in January 2020. We were grateful to have this new access point ready when on-campus classes resumed.
- **Replaced worn lounge furniture** on the Park Library's second floor.
- **Remodeled Mary Dow Reading Room** to enhance individual study. Students greatly appreciate the quiet study atmosphere in the Mary Dow Reading Room, so we removed unneeded shelving and installed new study furniture to accommodate a wide range of user needs. The new furnishings create a cozy study space that reduces visual and noise distractions. The individual cubicles along the east wall include adjustable height tables and marker boards. The project also included new carpet, updated overhead lighting, and replacing the wallpaper with a warm, golden paint color.
- **Upgraded the Baber Room's original track lighting** with energy-efficient and versatile modern fixtures. The LED lights improve and expand the options available for lighting art without damaging it. In addition to consuming less energy, the new bulbs have a longer lifespan and will reduce operating costs. Janet Danek, our Art and Exhibits Coordinator, reported, "From a curatorial perspective, the fixtures are easy to handle, as they are cool and well-designed. And most importantly, the quality of the light is excellent, enabling us to present the art respectfully, as the artists intended."

## Collections

- **Purchased several digital archives:** Part 4 of *Sexuality and Gender*; Part 2 of *Women's Studies*; Series 6 of *American Historical Periodicals*; and the *National Geographic Magazine Database*.
- **Purchased the historic archives of *The Michigan Chronicle*,** a Michigan-based Black newspaper. Includes newspaper issues published between 1936 and 2010. Students and faculty exploring African American studies and the history of race relations in Michigan will find this new resource useful for course assignments, scholarly activities, and beyond.
- **Expanded our collections related to antiracism** to support CMU's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. We purchased multi-user licenses for e-books we already owned, e-books for print books we already owned, as well as new titles in either e-book or print formats.
- **Purchased Jill Ault's *Amaryllis* quilt** for the library's art collection. Ault is an artist and teacher who explores the multiple means of patterning fabric such as shibori, silkscreen, embroidery, piecing, painting, and digital printing.

## Events and Programs

- **Co-sponsored CMU's International Film Festival,** February 2020.
- **Funded CPR/AED training** for 19 library employees.



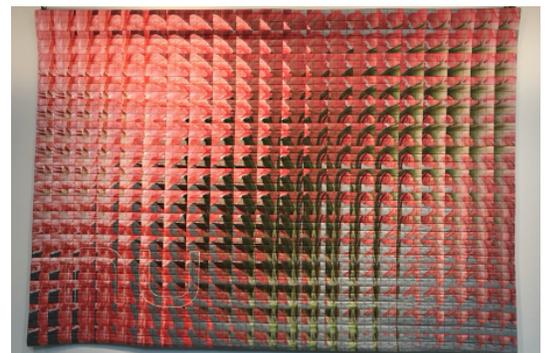
Digital Rendering of the Mary Dow Reading Room Remodel



New access door connecting Java City to the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Quiet Area



Baber Room Artwork Pictured With New Track Lighting Features:  
*Dino Bubbles*, by Danielle Saigeon



*Amaryllis*  
Quilt by Jill Ault

## 2019-2020 Accomplishments

**In collaboration** with CMU's Center for Applied Research Studies (CARRS), we developed a focus group protocol to understand the experiences subpopulations of students have had with CMU Libraries. This spring's focus groups included African American students and students who are veterans. We plan to continue hosting focus groups with different student populations during the next several academic years and will use the results to revise and enhance our services and resources.

**We continued to raise awareness** of freely available scholarly journal articles, research data, and open education resources (OERs). Librarians regularly assist faculty in locating open resources for their courses and consult with faculty participating in online course development. Rebecca Renirie surveyed CMU faculty and graduate students about their knowledge, practices, and needs regarding research data management and open data. The survey results will inform future library services and programs.

**The Clarke Historical Library established a membership** in the Hathi Trust, [hathitrust.org](http://hathitrust.org), which holds the largest set of digitized books in the world managed by not-for profit organizations. It includes over 8 million book titles and almost 70,000 serial titles.

**Clarke Historical Library partnered** with WCMU to record and air twelve segments on public radio and television featuring gems from the Clarke's collections. Segments, which may be watched online at [radio.wcmu.org/term/lets-go-back#stream/0](http://radio.wcmu.org/term/lets-go-back#stream/0) highlight a broad range of the Clarke's holdings including birds eye view maps, a bronze replica of Abraham Lincoln's hand, Sault Ste. Marie history, Aladdin Homes, and a first edition copy of *A Christmas Carol*.



**In early January 2020**, we installed automatic door openers on the restroom doors on the second, third, and fourth floors.

**Despite the COVID-19 pandemic**, library employees adapted well to changes in their work routines. Given our investment in electronic collections and virtual services, we are well-positioned to provide support in a virtual environment. Throughout the Stay Home order, students also had physical access to the 1 North after-hours study room and the Java City seating area. Beginning mid-June, students also had access to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Quiet Study area.

**Library employees** have created several online exhibits and videos:

- Although the 16th Annual Book Recognition event was cancelled this year, we created a virtual presentation of this year's honorees to celebrate their accomplishments.

- Chief Diversity Officer, A.T. Miller, who is also chair of CMU's Art on Campus Committee, interviewed Janet Danek about art exhibits at the Park Library. Together, they narrated descriptions of the paintings in Jill Egger's exhibit, *Forest Sutras*. Miller and Danek also created a video walking through the *Wonder of Pop-up Books* exhibit which will be on display through January 2021.



**Art On Campus Committee Interview:**  
Virtual exploration of *Forest Sutras* -  
the work of Jill Eggers

- In April, we hosted a virtual art exhibit of artistic works created by library employees. Curated by Janet Danek and adapted for online viewing by Eric Bellmore, the exhibit showcases the talents and interests of library employees.

## Selected Goals and Projects for 2020-2021

- **For the first time ever**, we are offering online sections of Introduction to Library and Information Research (LIB 197) in Fall 2020. We will use an open textbook to save students money and to model adoption of Open Educational Resources (OERs).
- **Access Services received funding** from the President and Provost's Fund for Program Innovation and Excellence for a Textbook Affordability Program. Launching in January 2021, this program will offer students an alternative to purchasing costly textbooks by making available for checkout physical copies of textbooks from high enrollment first- and second-year courses.
- **Migrate the libraries' websites** to the new CMU platform and deploy CMU's new branding campaign. The University Library website includes 32 subsites and 191 webpages, and the Clarke Historical Library website includes 162 subsites and 1,765 webpages. We will review, revise, and consolidate many pages during the migration while ensuring that pages containing historic content from our special collections remain accessible.
- **As a member of CMU's Adobe Creative Campus initiative**, the library will support digital creation and digital literacy development. We will establish a digital creation lab, offer virtual support for students, and install sound-proof recording rooms. These resources will be open to all CMU students and employees as well as community members offering space where people can learn, practice, and get help using Adobe tools and other CMU software systems.

## Announcements

- **The Friends Appreciation event** planned for September has been postponed. We hope to reschedule the event in spring 2021. I encourage you to read Gregory Rushkoff's book, *Team Human*, prior to his presentation next year.
- **The Clarke Historical Library's fall 2020 speaker's series** will be hosted online.