



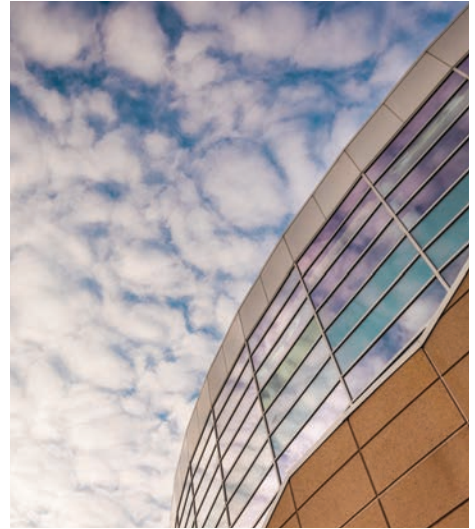
## Increased Use and Steadfast Passion

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

During the past several years, witnessing increased use of the library's study rooms, event spaces, and services has been gratifying. When the 1 North 24/7 study room reopened in October 2024 after a remodel aimed at enhancing the study atmosphere, the number of students using the room doubled compared to the same period the previous year. An increasing number of events in the Opperman Auditorium means engaging more people on a broader range of topics throughout our community. Increased instruction sessions and research guide use suggest that students and faculty value the library's collections and expertise. These indicators confirm that our mission – to foster a dynamic learning and research environment – remains relevant.

Since external change is relentless, we foster continuous learning among the library's faculty and staff. Our 2024-2025 annual goals include new initiatives to assess the accessibility of the Park Library building, to understand student employees' experiences working at the library, and to assess the library's organizational culture. Several goals from the prior year continue, such as encouraging faculty to adopt affordable course materials, extending our sustainability practices, and exploring ways to incorporate artificial intelligence into our work practices and services. Underpinning all our goals is the desire to understand the experiences and needs of learners, researchers, creators, and employees and identify the best ways to support them. Technological changes impact the ways people live, learn, and work. As we adapt to these external forces, our passion for providing excellent library services and resources remains steadfast.

Your support for the CMU Libraries enables us to assist learners and researchers in accomplishing their educational, scholarly, and creative goals. Thank you for your generosity! In the past year, your gifts to the Friends of the Libraries enabled us to remodel the 1 North 24/7 study room, purchase new chairs for the first- and second-floor public computers, and implement Able Eyes (a virtual accessibility building tour). We also used Friends gifts to extend our collections through our annual HathiTrust membership, e-books from a new platform (OverDrive), and a circulating board game collection. Additionally, we sponsored several cultural programs, including the annual CMU International Film Festival and the WCMU broadcast of Ken Burn's Da Vinci documentary. In the current year, we've earmarked Friends funds for the Sustainable Libraries membership and certification fees and the First Floor Quiet Study area remodel. Your belief and trust in the value and relevance of libraries inspires us. Thank you for helping us go the extra mile!



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## CMU Strategic Plan Priorities, 2023-2028

## University Libraries 2024-2025 Goals

<p>1. <b>Inspire Student and Scholarly Success —</b> Prepare bold leaders and learners who innovate and adapt in a rapidly changing world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote awareness and foster CMU faculty members' use of affordable course materials and open educational resources (OER).</li><li>• Explore the University Libraries' role and identify action steps for understanding, experimenting with, and communicating about artificial intelligence (AI) tools related to library activities.</li></ul>
<p>2. <b>Engage Communities —</b> Cultivate and enrich reciprocal partnerships with university stakeholders to ensure a lasting impact in the communities we serve.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify an accessibility audit tool and conduct an accessibility audit of the University Libraries, beginning with, but not limited to, assessing the Park Library building.</li></ul>
<p>3. <b>Enhance Organizational Culture —</b> Raise our national profile as a vibrant and nurturing university community where all members feel valued, empowered to thrive, and experience a strong sense of belonging.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the University Libraries' student employees' work experiences and needs. Identify student employment best practices and ways we might enhance their work experiences.</li><li>• Assess University Libraries' employees current and preferred organizational culture using Cameron &amp; Quinn's Competing Values Framework and identify ways to foster the preferred cultures.</li></ul>
<p>4. <b>Ensure Institutional Sustainability —</b> Embrace sustainable campus operations that ensure wise stewardship of our resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand the University Libraries' sustainability practices by selecting several existing practices that meet one or two factors of the triple bottom line and find ways to extend these practices.</li></ul>

## 2023-2024: The Year in Numbers

CMU Libraries' 2023-2024 operational data showed an increase over the prior year in the number of individuals using the Park Library study and event spaces, equipment available for check out, e-books, and the Clarke Historical Library's digital collections. Library instruction sessions and research guide usage also increased. Use of physical books, journal articles, and interlibrary loan request decreased compared to the previous year.

↑ <b>8.2 %</b> - Park Library Usage	↑ <b>2.4 %</b> - Clarke Digital Collection Usage
↑ <b>44.3 %</b> - Group Study Room Reservations	↓ <b>4.7 %</b> - Articles Downloaded
↑ <b>32.6 %</b> - Individual Study Room Reservations	↓ <b>10.7 %</b> - Interlibrary Loan Requests
↑ <b>12.4 %</b> - Event Space Usage	↑ <b>3.0 %</b> - Library Instruction
↑ <b>37.3 %</b> - Physical Equipment Checked Out	↑ <b>4.9 %</b> - Research Guide Usage
↑ <b>11.6 %</b> - E-books Accessed	

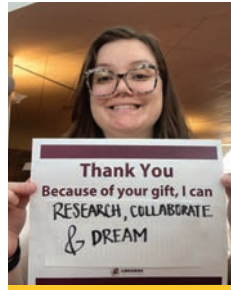
# 2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients



**Hiarimino Rakotoson**  
Gus & Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship



**Fern Borus**  
Gus & Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship



**McKenzie Chapman**  
Gus and Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship



**Nishat Ahmed**  
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award



**Marissa Bloomquist**  
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award



**Hannah Beardsley**  
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award



**Megan Lindley**  
R&M Schmidt Endowed Award



**Mallory Britton**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**MD Minhajul Amin**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Sakshyat Sharma**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Olivia Van Avery**  
Robert & Marily Peterson Scholarship



**Cassandra Daugherty**  
R&M Schmidt Endowed Award



**Callie Chaney**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Lindsey Nguyen**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Gibson Owens**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



## 2023-2024 Library Use Divided by Student Headcount

**25** Articles downloaded

**27** Library research guides used

**~1** Physical books checked out /renewed

**~1** Items requested from Documents on Demand

**4** E-books accessed

**19** Visits to the Park Library



## Clarke Speaker Series Spring 2025

All in-person events will be held in the Sarah and Daniel Opperman Auditorium, Park Library, followed by a reception in the Clarke Historical Library.

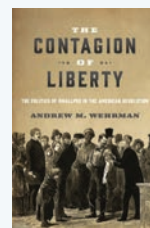
### » *America's First Vaccinators*

**In-Person Event: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Professor Andrew Wehrman, Department of History, World Languages & Cultures, CMU

An exploration of the origins of vaccination in early America, who received vaccination, who did not, debates about vaccination policies

Watch the recording here: [clarke.cmich.edu/wehrman](http://clarke.cmich.edu/wehrman)



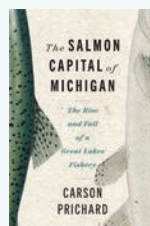
### » *The Salmon Capital of Michigan: The Rise and Fall of a Great Lakes Fishery*

**ONLINE EVENT: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Carson Prichard, Ph.D., Earth and Ecosystem Science, CMU, 2018

A discussion of the impact of the Lake Huron Chinook salmon fishery on the coastal community of Rogers City, Michigan.

Watch the recording here: [clarke.cmich.edu/prichardvid](http://clarke.cmich.edu/prichardvid)



### » *Michigan Railway Company: The Northern and Southern Divisions*

**In-Person Event: Monday, March 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Norman L. Krentel

Electric railway history is an essential factor in Michigan's industrial development. Hear about the rise and fall of Michigan's most significant electric railway.



### » *From Aladdin to Sears: America's Kit Homes*

**In-Person Event: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.**

Ron Campbell, AIA, Planner/Principal Architect, Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs

Learn about the amazing history and ongoing legacy of kit and mail order homes in America.



Contact us at [clarke@cmich.edu](mailto:clarke@cmich.edu) or 989.774.3864 if you need accommodation. Learn more at [Clarke.cmich.edu/SpeakerSeries](http://Clarke.cmich.edu/SpeakerSeries)

# Douglass Houghton Journals Description Project

By Allison Bohr, Clarke student assistant, Anthropology major, CMU

The Clarke Historical Library is proud to hold a collection of seven manuscript journals created by Michigan's first state geologist, Douglass Houghton. Within these journals are survey notes from 1837 through 1841, a time when Houghton created important maps of the Lower Peninsula and reported on copper deposits in the Upper Peninsula. As part of the Clarke's efforts to increase online access to our materials, we undertook a project to digitize the Houghton journals and place them online for public use.

Picking up the project after the Clarke's Microfilming and Digitization Services staff completed the scans, I was tasked with reading Houghton's journals and creating descriptions, also known as metadata, so that when they are uploaded to the Clarke Digital Collections repository, researchers can find the journals with relative ease through a web search. I was also asked to verify that all the digitized journals were complete, that the pages were oriented right-side-up, and that the pages were in the correct sequence.

At first, it seemed like a simple task, reading, taking notes, then writing summaries for each volume. After going through just one volume, I realized there was more to the story. There were several places that Houghton mentioned that I had never heard of; for example, Wabeshance Point, which today we call Waugoshance Point, located in the far northern Lower Peninsula.

To keep track of his whereabouts, I used the David Rumsey Map Collection, an open access historical map database, to find Michigan maps from the 1830s to 1850s, so I could identify the places Houghton described using the language of the time in which Houghton was living. Because place names have changed in the 180 years since Houghton wrote about them, a current map on its own would not suffice. Thinking about how I made such great use of the historical maps to make sense of Houghton's Michigan, I was struck by an idea that would benefit researchers: to annotate the path of his travels on a current Michigan map to give researchers context as they read the journals and navigate Houghton's survey expedition.

I also added editorial notes to help researchers make sense of Houghton's descriptions. In some cases, I spent a lot of time researching a location, or figuring out the French word that Houghton used for a location and pinpointing the place today. Rather than make a researcher do the research all over again, I thought that a note about these place names could be useful.

I am an Anthropology major at CMU, and I study the human experience. My knowledge of my field was valuable when I read Houghton's impressions of his interactions with several Indigenous communities. In one journal entry, he described watching a ceremony, and he noted that the "trinkets" that were used were "of no value." This is an example of ethnocentrism, which is making a judgment about a culture



» Allison Bohr, Clarke assistant, Anthropology Major, CMU

using one's own culture, values, and standards. The items may not have seemed of value to Houghton, but they were to the individuals in that community.

What I learned by working on the Douglass Houghton project will help me as I pursue my degree and career. I have learned that research requires patience. Even though I can read cursive handwriting, it took me some time to grow accustomed to Houghton's handwriting and style. This project also taught me that research does not go smoothly. For a location Houghton mentioned that I could not find on any map, I consulted other staff in the Clarke. They helped me understand that Houghton used the long S in his writing, which is an archaic way to write the lower case of the letter s, and I was not familiar with it. This project also increased my knowledge of my state's geography. Spending a lot of time with maps helped me become familiar with locations in Michigan I was not aware of before this research project. I now know more locations in Michigan than I did when I started.

This project helped me gain skills like navigating maps, digitizing materials, and handling fragile manuscripts, and it encouraged me to be curious. Houghton met with a man who told him about a sawmill he had built by White Lake, north of Muskegon on the west side of the state. I wanted to find out more. I did some research, and I figured out the man's name was Herrick. Unfortunately, I could not find his full name. During his geological expedition, Houghton met several individuals, and Herrick's account of his business hardships adds to Houghton's story. When the project is complete and Douglass Houghton's journals and the descriptive metadata are available to the world, there will be a link to the source I used to identify Mr. Herrick.

I plan to take everything I have learned from this project with me as I pursue my academic and career goals. I am excited for my next project.

## 2025 Clarke Exhibition: Build It Yourself: The Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan

On view **February 24, 2025**, through **January 9, 2026** at the Clarke Historical Library

A pioneer of the affordable prefab kit home, the Aladdin Company was founded in 1906 by two brothers, William and Otto Sovereign, in Bay City, Michigan. Although Aladdin houses, designed and milled in Bay City, are prevalent throughout Michigan and the U.S., the American-style designs like bungalows and four squares that Aladdin marketed can also be found outside the United States. The exhibition will explore the Aladdin Co.'s domestic and international reach, from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, to 1923 Tokyo, Japan, to Fort Brady at Sault Ste. Marie in the 1940s, to Birmingham, England's Austin Village in the 1910s, and more. Over more than seven decades, thousands of people purchased an Aladdin home and built it themselves.

All are welcome. Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Making CMU Libraries a More Accessible Space One Project at a Time: CMU Libraries' Accessibility Committee Embarks on a Large-Scale Assessment

By Lee Parker, Instruction and Outreach Librarian

Over the past few months, the CMU Libraries' ad hoc Accessibility Committee has embarked on several tasks to assess whether our spaces and services are meeting the needs of patrons who are physically, intellectually, or emotionally disabled. Comprised of six library faculty and staff, the committee has been exploring how well we adhere to ADA guidelines, getting firsthand feedback from students on how the library is or isn't meeting their needs, and publicizing the relevant resources we have available.

Formed in July 2024, this committee's inaugural project was the development of an accessibility audit checklist of our collections, services, and physical building. Consisting of over 130 individual components and divided up into 12 parts, committee members completed this checklist and identified a number of interesting findings. Although we ultimately found that CMU Libraries was meeting broader accessibility requirements, there were certain areas such as door force, wheelchair usage, and elevator and stacks signage font size that we found were lacking. These discrepancies, though minor, nevertheless illustrate how ensuring accessibility of our spaces, collections, and services is an ongoing process that requires careful monitoring and assessment.

Our assessment is not limited to merely following a checklist. We have also reached out directly to students through registered student organizations, such as the Autism Spectrum Club, and through the Student Disability Services Office for their feedback. Doing so has provided a wholistic picture of the effectiveness of our resources and has resulted in relatively positive feedback.

In addition to assessing the accessibility of the library's physical spaces and services, the committee has also focused on promoting these resources through revising the library's Accessibility Services webpage. Set to be uploaded in late spring or early summer of 2025, we anticipate that the revised webpage will better enable users to learn about these resources and take advantage of them.

The Accessibility Committee is proud of what it has accomplished up to this point. Yet, we also realize that accessibility is a broad topic that will stretch outside of this committee's scope. Regardless, we feel that the committee's work so far has set a positive foundation for future library-specific accessibility initiatives.

# Happy Retirement to Amie Pifer!

By Tim Peters, Associate Dean of Libraries



Longtime library employee, Amie Pifer, retired on January 6, 2025, after 26 years of service to the CMU Libraries.

Amie joined the library in May 1998 as a Serials Bookkeeper before being promoted to Coordinator of Serials Operations in September 1999. In August 2003, she became the library's Office Manager for library acquisitions and has spent the last six-and-a-half years as the Director of the Acquisitions and Resources Management department.

During her time at CMU, Amie was a part of many significant library initiatives. More than 500,000 new books (both print and electronic) were processed through her department and added to the collections since 1998. She learned and worked in three different library management systems. She was involved in moving the Instructional Materials Center and Music Resource Center collections to the Park Library from Ronan Hall and the Music Building, respectively.

Amie and her departmental colleagues remained in the library building during the Park Library renovation and expansion from 1999 to 2001. Completing their work amid the racket and dust of construction crews gutting the building and building it anew from the ground up was an adventure unto itself. More recently, she processed older materials out of the collections as part of several space remodels, including the Copeland Suite in 2016, 3 East in 2019, and the 1st floor Quiet Study area remodel, which is soon to be underway.

We are grateful for Amie's dedication and quality service, which has had a positive impact on library users over the years. We wish her a very happy retirement!

## 2025 Baber Room Art Exhibitions

### JACKLYN BRICKMAN | *Cossettes* | November 2024 - January 2025

Interdisciplinary artist and educator entangles fact with fiction, employing installation, video, performance, science, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and social engagement to address social and environmental concerns. Watch recording at: [bit.ly/Cossettes](https://bit.ly/Cossettes)



### KIMBERLY CHAPMAN | *Eighty-Six Reasons for Asylum Admission* | February - July 2025

Through delicate porcelain sculpture and vintage tintype images, Kimberly Chapman sheds light on difficult topics including historical narratives of what women endured in mental asylums. See the event dates and times at: [library.cmich.edu/exhibits](https://library.cmich.edu/exhibits)



### MIRA BURACK | *August - November 2025*

New Mexico-based artist using photography, textiles, installation, and communal experiences to conjure a felt, lived experience which shares the physical, psychological, and poetic qualities of daily life, comfort, rest, and pleasure.



Charles V. Park Library  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

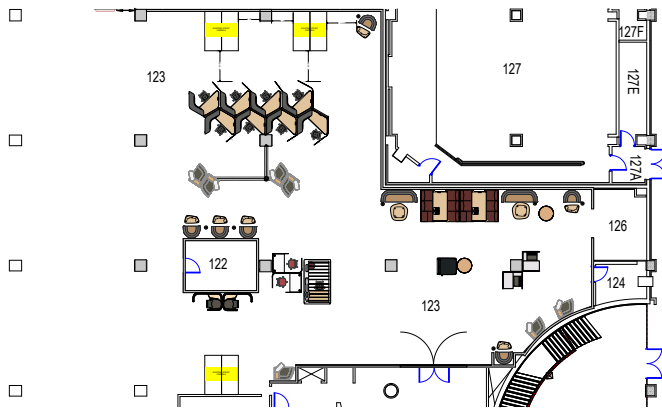
## FIRST FLOOR QUIET STUDY AREA REMODEL CONVERTS SHELVING INTO COZY STUDY SPACE



EXLIND NOOK  
FLEX HEIGHT ADJUSTABLE APPLICATION WITH SCREENS AND POWERED PANELS



ON THE QT TELEPHONE BOOTH  
ASPECT THREE PERSON SEAT WITH ELBROOK COLLABORATIVE TABLE  
LAGUNITAS BOOTH SEATING WITH SIMPLE WORK-HEIGHT TABLES



ASPECT SINGLE SEAT WITH ELBROOK PERSONAL TABLE  
EXLIND NOOK



ORANGE BOX AIR 3

CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity for all individuals, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation and including but not limited to minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities.