



Promoting Sustainable Practices, Affordable Course Materials, and a Welcoming Atmosphere

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

Several initiatives are underway at the CMU Libraries to expand our sustainability practices, incentivize the adoption of affordable course materials, and enhance a welcoming atmosphere. We are also developing a 3-year plan that aligns with CMU's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Our initiatives and plans aim to inspire student success and ensure institutional sustainability.

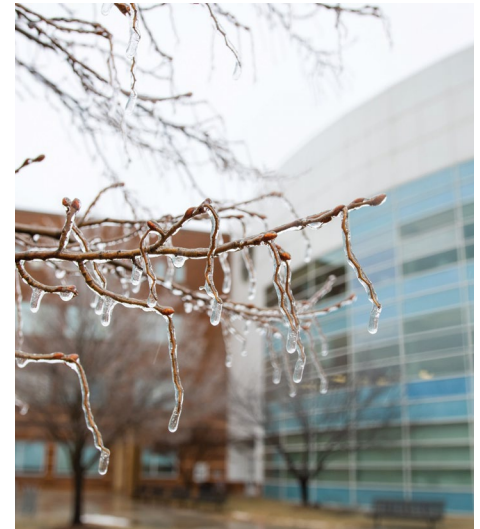
During the fall semester, we assessed our existing sustainability practices using the triple bottom-line framework, which includes practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable. Some of our practices fit into multiple categories. For example, it is economical for the library to purchase one copy of a book for many people to use. When multiple people share one copy of a book rather than each person having a copy, there is a smaller impact on the environment. Finally, any library borrower may use the book, which increases equitable access to resources. Future steps include identifying ways to increase or expand our sustainability practices.

Librarians from the Library Research & Instruction Services department have proposed several initiatives to raise awareness and adoption of affordable course materials. This spring, we will host an Open Education Resources workshop and invite attendees to submit a review of an OER textbook in their discipline. During the next academic year, we will launch a competitive application process for instructors who want to adopt zero- or low-cost materials for one of their courses. We plan to use library gift funds to support these initiatives.

We have several projects underway to enhance a welcoming atmosphere at the University Libraries both physically and virtually. The Libraries' DEI committee has identified several opportunities for enhancing a welcoming atmosphere in the library building, our face-to-face and virtual services, and our collections. The committee will evaluate these ideas during the spring semester, and we anticipate recommending several goals to implement in the next three years.

We recently contracted with Able Eyes to create a virtual tour of the Park Library that will enable visitors to explore accessibility features before they arrive on campus. We anticipate that this virtual tour will reduce anxiety and make it easier for persons with disabilities to navigate from the parking lot to the Park Library and know the locations and accessibility of entrances, restrooms, and elevators. The virtual tour will be uploaded to Google Street View and can be embedded on our website and shared through print publications and social media posts.

During the summer of 2024, two remodels will take place. The first project is to update the 1 North 24/7 study room. This project includes removing wallpaper, painting, replacing the carpet, enhancing overhead lighting, and installing new



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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. 20859 MGX 300 qty (02/24)

individual study furniture. The second project is to construct a one-person restroom in the 1st floor quiet study room that will be accessible 7 days a week when the Park Library is open. Our existing one-person restrooms are in the Clarke Historical Library and are only accessible Monday through Friday during regular business hours. We will be using a combination of library carry forward funds and gift funds to implement these projects.

As Friends of the Libraries, your support is priceless! Everyone at CMU benefits from the endowments and annual gifts entrusted to the University Libraries. We hope you are proud of the impact your gifts have on our students, faculty, and the broader community.



» Winter sunset at Central Michigan University Park Library

CMU Strategic Plan Priorities 2023–2028

University Libraries Goals 2023–2024

Inspire Student and Scholarly Success —

Prepare bold leaders and learners who innovate and adapt in a rapidly changing world.

Explore opportunities for enhancing a welcoming atmosphere in the library building, our face-to-face and virtual services, and our collections.

Explore the University Libraries' role and identify action steps for understanding, experimenting with, and communicating about artificial intelligence tools related to library activities

Engage Communities —

Cultivate and enrich reciprocal partnerships with university stakeholders to ensure a lasting impact in the communities we serve.

The Clarke Historical Library will deeply engage the CMU community as the curriculum evolves.

Foster outreach and collaborative efforts that advance the Clarke Historical Library as a forward-thinking organization.

Enhance Organizational Culture —

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.

Participate in Conversations Worth Having training to enhance library managers' skills having effective conversations.

Ensure Institutional Sustainability —

Embrace sustainable campus operations that ensure wise stewardship of our resources.

Develop a 3-year plan for the University Libraries that aligns with CMU's new strategic plan and draws on the 2023 library student survey results.

Explore the University Libraries' role and identify action steps for promoting and fostering the use of open education resources.

Use a sustainability framework to identify the University Libraries' existing sustainability practices. Identify opportunities for implementing new sustainability practices.



Taking Sustainability to the Next Level

By Ann Kucera,
Manager of Library Systems

Libraries have always promoted efficiency and sustainability as part of our mission to create an environment for our users to effectively discover, access, and use information. When asked to create a list of sustainable

and climate friendly practices at CMU Libraries, employees quickly named over 25 activities and programs. Providing efficient access to books, articles, and other materials; engaging with recycling of everything from office paper to electronics and batteries; and our ongoing switch to LED lighting have been part of our routine activities for years and sometimes decades.

Recently we have looked for guidance on what else we might do to become more sustainable. We've found support

and encouragement from two organizations. Central Sustainability at Central Michigan University is a "platform dedicated to making the CMU community more sustainable through projects, policy, and programming" and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative empowers "library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities."

Both groups use slightly different definitions of sustainability, although both acknowledge that sustainability is multi-faceted. Environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility are all part of a sustainable organization and sustainable activities. This system's approach acknowledges that to be truly sustainable, the interconnecting parts of the system must all be addressed.

Using the above definition led us to realize that CMU Libraries also participates in many other activities related to sustainability. For example, the Michigan Shared Print Initiative (MI-SPI) is a collaboration among the thirteen academic libraries in Michigan. Each library agrees to keep copies of rarely used books, making it possible for the rest of the libraries to deselect those titles. This allows each library to either grow their print

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2024 Baber Room Gallery Exhibition Schedule

January 29–March 14

Khary Mason, *Friendly Fire: Scenes of Service (Searching for Safety)*. A series of large format photographs by artist and retired Detroit police force homicide investigator, Khary Mason. This exhibition interrogates the artist's own participation in a system at odds with his intentions and everything he was trained to believe.

Artist Talk and Reception: February 1, 7:00 pm, Baber Room Gallery

April 1–May 30

Teresa Dunn, *Recent Paintings*. Teresa Dunn is a Mexican American artist raised in rural Southern Illinois. Her identity, life, and art are influenced by her racial and cultural heritages and

the complexities of being a brown woman in the Midwest.

Artist Talk and Reception: April 4, 7:00 pm, Baber Room Gallery

June 7–August 22

Madeline Devantier, *Recent Prints*, a series of prints depicting Greek myths as told through use of specific objects in contemporary still life by recent CMU art department alumna, Madeline Devantier.

Sept/ Oct–TBD

November/December

Jacklyn Brickman, *Untitled*, artist and professor of kinetic imaging at Western Michigan University, will create an art installation using images, video, and soundscape derived from Michigan's sugar beet crop.

Meet International Children's Literature Research Grant Awardee Katie Clausen

By Carrie Marsh,
Director of Clarke Historical Library

The Clarke Historical Library's 2023 International Children's Literature Research Grant awardee, Katie Clausen, is an advocate for young readers both in her position as Early Literacy Services Manager, Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, Illinois, as well as in her doctoral research, which focuses on the impact of folk stories and fairy tales on young readers, especially young girls.

In her research she seeks to challenge popular and sometimes disturbing interpretations of fairy tales and point to healthier and empowering stories. She reimagines what heroism and empowerment mean for today's generation to highlight "...[a] more complex, inclusive, and diverse narrative landscape — one that offers a broad spectrum of stories for girls and women of all backgrounds — [and] reinforces the fundamental right of



» Katie Clausen, International Children's Literature Research Grant Awardee

everyone to see oneself as the hero of their own narrative."

As she explains, mental health practitioners use folk and fairy tales in therapy practice with adolescents; however, popular versions of these tales too often portray female characters as submissive, beautiful, and thin and may not be healthy or therapeutic. Clausen cites the example of social media platform Twitter's viral "Cinderella Challenge" in which girls encouraged each other to starve themselves to acquire the body dimensions of fictional princesses.

two examples discovered at the Clarke, Clausen, indeed, found some stories with determined and resourceful heroines that can inspire and empower readers.

Katie Clausen has an MLIS degree from Dominican University and a master's in children's literature/MFA Writing for Children from Simmons College; she currently is a doctoral student in the School of Information Studies at Dominican. She also holds a professional certification in Adverse Childhood Experiences. *Library Journal* named her a 2023 Mover & Shaker, a nationwide recognition for her work as an educator.



» Illustration from the story "The Toy Princess"

Clausen spent the first week of August 2023 at the Clarke looking for empowering stories that could resonate with young readers today. In a talk to the Clarke staff at the end of her research week, she highlighted a couple of stories among those illustrating her thesis. From a 1912 compilation, she found a story titled "The Rags of Queen Cophetua" that challenges notions of identity, love, and loss. In "The Toy Princess" (1877) a princess escapes her father's emotional tyranny with the assistance of her fairy godmother who puts an 'obedient' toy in the princess' place at court. Given these

The International Children's Literature Research Grant is a competitive grant that funds travel for a scholar to the Clarke Historical Library to conduct research using the Clarke's Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library, especially its international children's literature resources. The ICLRG honors Dr. Susan M. Stan, a renowned expert in international and multicultural children's literature and a professor at CMU. She created this research grant at the Clarke to promote research by North American scholars who often have limited access to original editions of international children's books.

Consider visiting the Clarke Historical Library in-person or online to find more stories, historical projects, and exhibits.

clarke.cmich.edu



ENCHANTING COLLECTIONS/ COLLECTING ENCHANTMENT

The Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library



On view at the Clarke Historical Library February - December 2024

Organized by Carrie Marsh, Director of Clarke Historical Library, Dr. Anne Hiebert Alton, Professor, English Department, and Bryan Whitledge, Clarke Public Services Librarian

For its 70th anniversary year, the Clarke's 2024 exhibition showcases the Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library, a world-class children's literature collection at CMU. Exhibition visitors will learn about Dr. Clarke's passion for collecting and his library of rare children's books that he gave to the university in 1972 in honor of his wife, Lucile. In addition to American books, especially pre-1821 imprints, his gift included significant British books from the 16th through the early 20th centuries. The exhibition also explores the ways that subsequent acquisitions have built on Dr. Clarke's gift, enhancing the Lucile

Clarke Memorial Children's Library's value for not only scholars and students but also the public. Collections such as pop-up and moveable books and original illustration art came to the Clarke through the gifts of CMU professor Francis Molson and his wife Mary Lois. The International Children's Book collection was donated by the late CMU professor Susan Stan, a renowned expert in international and multicultural children's literature and a jury member for not only the Hans Christian Andersen Awards, conferred by the International Board on Books for Young People, but also the Caldecott Medal, granted by

the American Library Association. Significant purchases the library has made include the Mary Harbage Collection of Arthur Rackham, which the library acquired in 2005. This exhibit presents materials from the Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library that demonstrate the multiple ways that authors, illustrators, and publishers have been educating, edifying, entertaining, and enchanting young readers for over 500 years, and it honors the generous collectors and donors who entrusted their collections and funds for the Clarke to steward for research, teaching, and study.

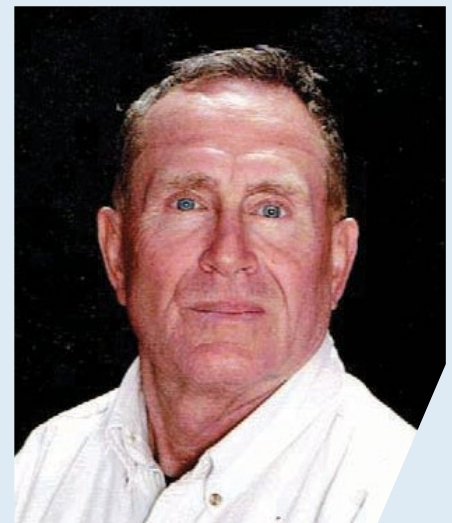
In Memoriam

Robert Knapp, 1946–2023

Robert Knapp, CMU alum ('68) and Professor Emeritus of Classics and of Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley, was a long-time donor to the Clarke Historical Library supporting his interest in preserving Michigan history. Robert wrote a series of books about Clare and Michigan history, and his most recent book was about CMU's laboratory schools; he utilized the Clarke Historical Library's collections for these local history writing projects. Robert was a member of The Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who have included CMU in their estate plans. His legacy will live on through his endowment, the Austin and Gail Knapp Genealogical Fund, which supports the digitization of and public access to Clare County and Michigan newspapers and genealogical materials.



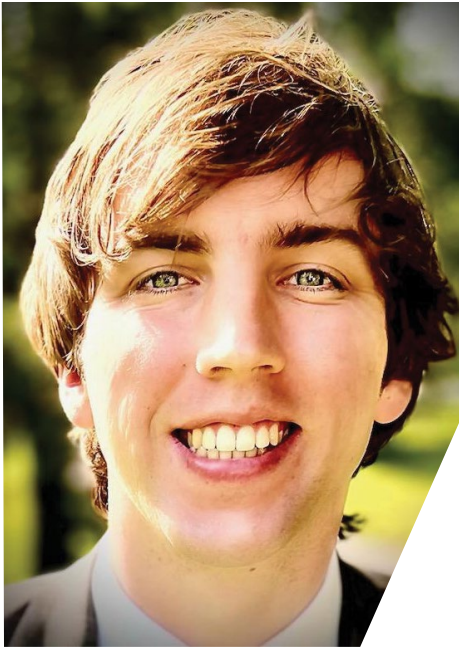
» Robert Knapp



» Charles Knapp

Charles Knapp, 1944–2023

Charles Knapp was a CMU alum ('66) and the brother of Robert Knapp. An avid Hemingway fan, Charles was a long-time donor to the Clarke Historical Library's Michigan Hemingway Endowment. He was also a member of The Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who have included CMU in their estate plans.



» Lee Parker

Welcome Lee Parker

By Tim Peters,
Associate Dean of University Libraries

The Libraries would like to introduce Lee Parker, our new Instruction and Outreach Librarian. In this position, Lee will guide the library's instruction efforts, including providing leadership for LIB 197, the library's one-credit library skills class. He will also spearhead outreach to academic support units and other offices on campus in hopes of strengthening relationships and improving support for students.

Prior to joining CMU, Lee worked as a Cataloging Assistant in the Fine Arts Library at Harvard University and as a Reference Assistant at Boston College. He has also worked as an Academic Mentor at Maryville College in Tennessee. Lee also spent time as an educator at Boston's Old North Church, where he provided site tours to groups.

Lee was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Maryville College and Master of Arts and Science from Simmons University in Boston. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, working with animals, cooking, and reading. Lee is a former Division III cross-country athlete and hopes to take up running again as a hobby.

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collection without adding additional shelving or to repurpose library space. The books are available to anyone in the state through interlibrary loan which serves the social equity aspect of sustainability. The reduction in the need for shelving serves both the environmental and economic aspects of sustainability.

Central Michigan University's most recent strategic plan highlights institutional sustainability as one of four priorities. As we think of how to align the Libraries' goals with this priority, we are

considering long and short-term activities. For example, in partnership with CMU's Office of Information Technology, we are measuring the energy use of our computers. The 300+ computers in the library are left on with monitors in 'sleep mode' until someone uses them. This decision has been made with student convenience in mind. Analysis of energy use will help us determine if we should consider turning off the computers some or all the time. Once we have data on both energy use of computers in sleep mode, energy use of computers when turned off and back on, and the additional time needed for

the computer to be ready to use, we plan to gather student input about the tradeoffs between potential energy savings and convenience.

The Libraries also plan to strengthen our partnerships with both Central Sustainability and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. As we learn more about sustainable practices, we can then examine our collections, spaces, and services from a sustainability lens and make decisions that provide even more long-term benefits for our users.

**CMU Park Library
Fly-Through Tour**

View the fly-through tour of the library: library.cmich.edu/fly




Spring 2024 Clarke Speaker Series

**February 8: Opperman
Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**

*Michigan's Company K: Anishinaabe
Soldiers, Citizenship, and the Civil War*

Dr. Michelle Cassidy, CMU Professor,
History, World Languages and Cultures

February 27: Online event, 7:00 p.m.

John and Audrey Cumming
Endowed Lecture

*Great Women of Mackinac:
Trailblazers in the 19th Century*

Dr. Melissa Croghan

**February 29: Opperman
Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**

David and Eunice Sutherland
Burgess Lecture

*Collecting Children's Books: Where
We've Been, Where We're Going,
and How You're a Part of It*

Rebecca Romney, Co-Founder,
Type Punch Matrix

**March 20: Opperman
Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.**

*The Enemy Within: American
Democracy and the Normalization of
Mob Violence*

Dr. Fred Johnson III, Guy Vander Jagt
'53 Professor of History, Hope College

A reception in the Clarke Historical Library follows each in-person event.

For more information or to register, visit clarke.cmich.edu/speakerseries

Repurposing Library Spaces for Students

After merging the second-floor service desk operations north of the elevator in 2022, the former Research Help Desk was repurposed as a study space during summer 2023.

» **Right:** Before, Research Help Desk

» **Below:** After, Study Space





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Between 2018 and 2023, the University Libraries received gifts from 1,034 donors living in 47 U.S. states. Thank you for your support!

