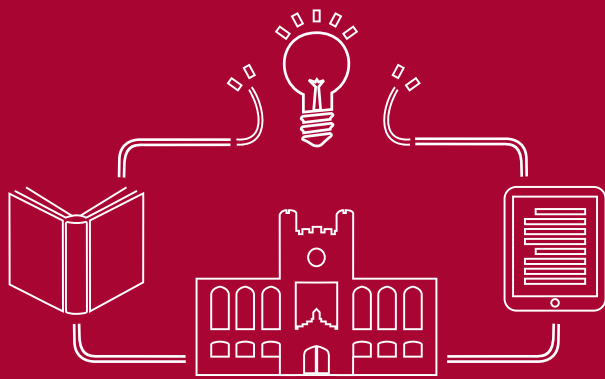




2017-2018
PROGRESS REPORT



INSPIRATION
INNOVATION | IMPACT

CONTENTS

3 CREATING EXCELLENCE IN
THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

7 BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE
IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

10 SUPPORTING OU CAMPUS
RESEARCH

14 CHARTING A NEW ROLE
FOR SCHOLARLY
COMMUNICATION

17 STRENGTHENING SKILLS
AND CAPABILITIES

ON THE COVER: Original plan drawing for the library building for the state university of Oklahoma done by Layton, Kicks and Forsythe Architects in Jan. 1928. The American School Archive is a recent addition of architectural drawings, paintings and documents from the '50s and '60s. *Renegades at Bizzell: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture* exhibition opens fall 2018.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

We invite you to join us as we reflect on the past year's initiatives as they demonstrate our progress and impact along the five pillars that make up our strategic plan: a commitment to creating excellence in the library experience; support for OU research; charting a new role for scholarly communication; embodying excellence in special collections; and investing in our personnel to strengthen our skills and capabilities to ensure our organization remains agile to meet the needs of our diverse scholarly community to support innovative research and pedagogy.

Libraries are dynamic. We strive to create research-enabling spaces that inspire and engage. Our professionals are experts who amplify our scholars' skills and knowledge, and we recognize our duty to preserve and make available the intellectual works that represent valuable historic, cultural and academic resources.

From the inspired idea of a "collaboratorium," where students could engage in social learning and supportive technologies for research and study, we set the standard at OU and across the world with the Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center. This fall, we expanded the success of this model to create a Learning Lab, a single point of service where students can bring their questions and obtain help with research, writing and tutoring, both from librarians and campus partners. In its first semester, success with this model has proven the need to further expand the Learning Lab this summer to better support our students.

The opening of the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center again proved the realization of an idea that transforms how an academic library can support research and teaching. In the few short months the space has been open, we have been gratified by the response and impact the center has had.

Our investment in innovation and emerging technologies continues to transform pedagogy. OU Libraries has been awarded a second "Education Futurist" designation, receiving



LEFT: OU Libraries Dean Rick Luce is the inaugural recipient and namesake of the Richard E. Luce Transformational Leadership Award for his contribution to the revitalization of the OU Libraries. This award will recognize future leaders who significantly and positively redefine organizational leadership.

the 2017 *Innovators Award* for Innovation @ the Edge, which highlights our Oklahoma Virtual Academic Laboratory. OVAL is a virtual reality learning platform that is now being used by four other universities to support VR learning and teaching, and has led to OU Libraries becoming a national leader in virtual reality and emerging technologies.

Maintaining a focus on community outreach, we continued our partnership with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art to teach design thinking and innovation to Norman Public School's 7th and 8th grade students through the ArtEdge program, and we learned of an El Reno Public Schools 2nd grader whose inspiration from our *Galileo's World* exhibition ignited a love of reading, inspiring her to develop a heartwarming story of a new constellation, *Hoot the Owl*.

We unveiled *Poetics of Invention*, an exhibition exploring the cultural context and process of innovation from ideation to fabrication and commercialization through the lens of the OU invention "Pinying," an application for Chinese speakers to learn English phonetically.

Thanks to a nearly \$50,000 "Recordings at Risk" grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, we will be able to digitize and make available a long-held valuable cultural resource in our Western History Collections, the "Indians for Indians Hour" radio program. The program was broadcast weekly over OU's WNAD station from 1941 through the early 1970s and includes over 400 hours of

content on 152 open-reel tapes. We are also thrilled to welcome the inaugural cohort of fellows to our Western History Collections fellowship program. Five research fellows will begin study in the collections this summer.

Our open initiatives continue to shift paradigms in scholarly communication. Our Alternative Textbook program continues to break records with a now cumulative student savings of over \$1.9M in textbook costs saved through the creation, adoption or modification of open educational resources that have replaced traditional textbooks. Our open educational resources coordinator developed a Markdown Converter, a tool that simplifies the creation of open access materials and has received notable acclaim to advance the open access movement to support low cost education.

Our director of web services is the latest OU Libraries team member to receive the national "Mover & Shaker" designation from *Library Journal* for transforming what it means to be a librarian. Additionally, four OU Libraries employees have been selected for nationally recognized leadership development programs since 2017.

When we began this journey, it was with grand ideas – ideas to rethink what a top-tier academic library at a public research institution could and should be. At the kernel of those grand ideas was the aspiration to fully become the intellectual crossroads of the University of Oklahoma. Now, as my tenure draws to its close, I know this library will continue to grow and evolve to meet the challenges of change. Please join me as we celebrate our accomplishments of the past year and take note of the impact our transformation has had on OU.

Rick Luce
Dean, University Libraries and
Professor and Peggy V. Helmerich Chair

CREATING EXCELLENCE IN THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

We seek to create a library experience that reimagines what a modern research library can be. We are creating spaces that enable collaboration and innovation. We provide resources and services which stimulate knowledge creation. Building on the inspiration and impact of the Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center, the creation of dedicated exhibition space, and locations which encourage engagement and interaction with special collections, we continue to transform the OU Libraries. The Learning Lab

is both a physical space and intellectual hub for research guidance. The Zarrow Family Faculty & Graduate Student Center is a space dedicated to supporting the research and teaching needs of OU faculty and graduate students. Read more about the impact of these innovative spaces below, as well as our ongoing partnership with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art introducing visual literacy and emerging technologies to Norman Public School's 7th and 8th graders.

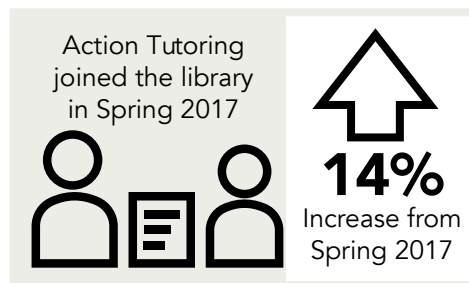
LEARNING LAB



ABOVE: Students studying and collaborating in the completed Learning Lab which opened August 2017.
BELOW: A 3D rendering of the Learning Lab expansion to open in fall 2018.



The Learning Lab on Lower Level 1 of the Bizzell Memorial Library supports both collaborative and private study with flexible furniture. It provides a single source for research guidance from library personnel, as well writing and tutoring assistance from campus partners. The overwhelming success of this addition since its opening in fall 2017 has inspired an expansion of the Learning Lab over the summer to open fall 2018.





LEFT: Students working in the graduate student reading room. RIGHT: Faculty having a discussion overlooking the Oklahoma Canyon Garden.

ZARROW FAMILY FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

The University of Oklahoma libraries is the intellectual crossroads of the university. Its central location on campus, and centrality as the informational commons of campus, enables us to support a community of scholarship. Our recent renovations have created spaces where scholars and researchers can be successful in their academic pursuits, whether working independently or collaboratively.

The Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center was designed with this relationship in mind. Where the Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center provides dynamic spaces for undergraduates to work socially, the Zarrow center provides spaces for graduate students and faculty to focus, to dive into materials and structure their study without disruption while maintaining the sense of community and the inspiration of being surrounded by peers working toward the common goal of adding their mark to our collective knowledge. One such student, a veteran and Indigenous Peoples Law graduate student, Michael Kaseca has found community here.

“It gives me peace of mind,” says Kaseca. “There is less traffic. I can adjust the lighting. I use the grease board to organize my outline and my work just writes itself.”

Michael says that post-traumatic stress made studying in other locations challenging, but the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center helps him and others who use

the focus rooms be more driven and diligent. And while he credits access to the focus rooms to his becoming a more efficient and effective student, the benefit of community is equally impactful.

“I would have never gotten this experience anywhere other than at the University of Oklahoma,” says Kaseca. “I’m joined by students from other countries and cultures. A student from Bolivia has shared with me about the terrain and the temperature. You learn so much about the world just from being here.”

Michael, a student in the indigenous peoples online law program, says without this space it would have been a challenge to leave his apartment.

“It challenges me to get out of my comfort zone,” says Kaseca, “to get out and be a part of the community. I find myself enjoying the learning materials more. I’m being more efficient and have more energy to complete tasks.”

Michael also credits many along his educational path for helping provide the tools for him to make the most of this space. He graduates next summer with the goal to help everyone “rise together.” Aided in part by having a place in the library, this student and veteran will be able to take his experiences building community with his fellow scholars with him as he works to change the world.



LEFT: View of the Oklahoma Canyon Garden from the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center. RIGHT: View of the scholars lounge in the Zarrow center.

ZARROW FAMILY FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

The Zarrow Family Faculty & Graduate Student Center is, simply put, the best place on campus to study, write, and collaborate. Walking in, I passed two rows of gorgeous Eames chairs flanked by new periodicals, altogether a throw-back to a relaxed and humane era of intellectual exploration. I toured through the lounge with its beautiful furniture arranged around a fireplace, purpose built to encourage discussion and socializing. I was able to read comfortably by full length windows with natural light coming in from the garden.

It was only after spending time in these common areas that I found the quietest and most functional work spaces at OU. Each study room is equipped differently: some with reading chairs, some with spacious desks, others with standing desks, and even desks with walking treadmills. Each room has been designed with the working scholar in mind. They are light and inviting, with personal whiteboards and a happy excess of outlets. The corridors are spacious, and the whole complex is soothing and sublime. This impression is reinforced by my favorite part, the glass walls — I can see others working and moving about, which contributes to the openness of the space and the feeling of being in a hive of intellectual activity.

Other modes of study are also envisioned: large communal tables with bookshelves for each reader — a reminder of the Great Reading Room upstairs and the venerable model of

working shoulder to shoulder with fellow scholars. I need both models, quiet isolation and communal activity, at different times, and both are catered for there. Overall, I feel like every detail has been curated to stimulate my thinking and encourage my research.

I have come to see the Zarrow center as a message of support, a love-letter from the university and library to the faculty and graduate students. My own work has already benefitted immensely from this space. Whether it is catching up on email over a cup of coffee, grading essays, or reading and writing for my current book project, I find that I look for opportunities to spend time there. I find the Zarrow center to be my first port of call when I need to focus on writing or even to relax my mind. It is as welcoming as it is egalitarian — no distinction is made between faculty, from adjunct to emeritus — and graduate students now have a collective home base for their intensive research.

Having burrowed deeply into the best libraries in the world — the Bodleian, Widener, the Library of Congress — I have yet to come across a single working space as conducive to scholarship as this one.



*Scott Johnson
Associate Professor of Classics and Letters
College of Arts & Sciences
The University of Oklahoma*



50 Norman Public School's 7th and 8th graders participated in the fall 2017 ArtEdge program combining visual literacy, creativity and emerging technologies.

ARTEGE 2.0

ArtEdge, a collaborative program between the OU Libraries and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, joined with the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture to bring Norman Public School 7th and 8th graders to campus to learn design thinking and innovation.

This three-part program began with a visit to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art to encourage design thinking using the museum's unique architectural spaces. Students created designs for an imaginary space inspired by Barbara Hepworth's sculpture *Two Figures* from 1968.

Next, students traveled to Innovation @ the Edge in the Bizzell Memorial Library to learn how emerging technologies, including 3D printing and virtual reality, contribute to contemporary architectural design. In this space, students combine their designs in VR to create a collaborative group project.

Finally, students met with Professor Elizabeth Pober to create an architectural model inspired by their ideas. The group projects were then displayed in the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art from December 2017 through March 2018.

BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

OU Libraries Special Collections provide students, faculty, researchers and visiting scholars with world-class primary and secondary resources. Our rare books, manuscripts,

maps, photographs, sound recordings and artifacts support learning, scholarship, and community engagement, and are put to work in remarkable ways by a range of users.

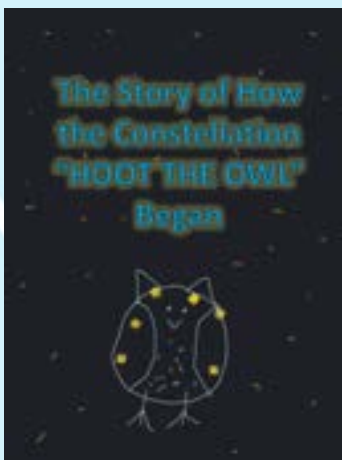
HOOT THE OWL



LEFT: Anna Todd with her book *Hoot the Owl*.
RIGHT: Anna Todd and Stacey Stevenson.

Stacey Stevenson, an educator who visited *Galileo's World* with the NASA Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium's "Mission to Planet Earth" program, inspired a 2nd grader's imagination and evoked a love of reading and appreciation for the stars.

Inspired by materials from *Galileo's World* and our History of Science Collections, El Reno Public Schools 2nd grader, Anna Todd, decided to write her own story and create a new constellation. Her story is two-fold, the adorable, heartwarming narrative of *Hoot the Owl* and her demonstration of the impact a dedicated educator can have on a child's love of learning. We are proud to be able to support educators and research through our History of Science Collections and exhibition program. We are grateful to Stacey for sharing with us this story. Read Anna's book *Hoot the Owl* at bit.ly/Hoottheowl.



Excerpts from *Hoot the Owl*. Read the full story online at bit.ly/Hoottheowl.



LEFT: View of *Poetics of Invention*. RIGHT: Visitors to the *Poetics of Invention* exhibition opening in Sept. 2017.

POETICS OF INVENTION

OU Libraries second exhibition, *Poetics of Invention* explores the process of invention from ideation, to fabrication, and to commercialization. The exhibit narrates the perspective of an OU professor, inventor, and entrepreneur as he attempts to make English more accessible to the 350 million Chinese learners through merging the world's two most-spoken languages at the level of their phonetic DNA. The exhibition is on display in the Bizzell Memorial Library through July 2018.



In 2016, Pinying launched as a mobile application that enables Chinese speakers to learn English in an entirely new way. Professor Jonathan Stalling's creation was added to the Apple App Store, patented by the University

of Oklahoma, and presented with a "Best Inventor Award" from the Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth at OU. This exhibition explores the invention from its ideation to its fabrication and to its commercialization through the OU innovation ecosystem. Learn more about this exhibition at poeticsofinvention.ou.edu.

IDEATION

The process of conceptualizing, developing, and sharing new ideas is an essential part of the design process. In the case of Pinying, the inventor was inspired to recreate and update ancient technologies and methods developed over 1,000 years ago in China. *Poetics of Invention* recreates the ideation process by staging the invention as it would have existed 1,000 years ago, 100 years ago, and as it exists today.

FABRICATION

The next section focuses on the material process of invention at OU, revealing the inventor's efforts at the initial disclosure of the invention, through its patenting process, and on to rapid prototyping and testing in OU's Innovation Hub and Innovation @ the Edge.

COMMERCIALIZATION

Finally, *Poetics of Invention* explores how OU student interns in the Ronnie K. Irani Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth helped create and test hypotheses for the needs of the target market, ultimately launching the Pinying app in the Apple App Store, as well as founding a new company under the leadership of OU, the Forest Path Studio.



A selection from the "Indians for Indians Radio Hour" recordings.

WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS RECEIVES GRANT TO DIGITIZE "INDIANS FOR INDIANS RADIO HOUR"

One of only 16 programs selected for funding, *Preserving Native Voices from the Airwaves: Digitizing the Indians for Indians Hour Radio Program Recordings, 1942-1976* contains the full catalogue of over 30 years of weekly radio broadcasts from the OU WNAD station.

The path-breaking program was created by Don Whistler, a chief of the Sac and Fox tribe, as a forum for Native American expression, and it reached a wide audience in Oklahoma and the region, featuring segments on local and national significance. The original recordings feature songs, stories, commentary and interviews with elders, activists, tribal leaders, youth groups, and performers across the state and region. Digitization of the extant recordings will enable scholarly and community researchers to engage with a rare audio resource to study Native American self-representation, history, language and community life in the twentieth century.

Our Western History Collections holds 400 hours on 152 open-reel tapes, many of which are in deteriorating condition. The grant will enable us to create digital copies, improve metadata for the collection, and make the recordings freely available in 2019.

"This grant affirms the significance of the Indians for Indians Radio Hour broadcast recordings as a crucial archive of Native American voices in Oklahoma," said Bridget Burke, OU Libraries associate dean for special collections. "The recordings are part of a rich landscape of Native American language and cultural resources at OU. Their fragility has been a barrier to making them easily accessible to communities and scholars. We are grateful to CLIR for this opportunity to digitally preserve and ensure continued access to these cultural artifacts."

SUPPORTING CAMPUS RESEARCH

Through innovative pedagogy, collaborative partnerships and emerging technologies, OU Libraries remains the intellectual crossroads of the University of Oklahoma. In 2017, we opened the Data Analytics, Design, and Evaluation Consortium to support data management and skill development. We partnered with Ex Libris, Lancaster University, the University of Iowa, the University of

Miami, and the University of Sheffield to collaborate on the development of a new research services platform, Esploro, that aims to help unify workflows and bridge communication across academic libraries, university research offices, and researchers themselves. Please read on for more information about the impact of our work supporting campus research.



“A dedicated space in the University of Oklahoma’s Bizzell Memorial Library connects community members to cutting-edge digital tools they can use in new learning experiences and innovative knowledge creation.”
— *Campus Technology*

OKLAHOMA VIRTUAL ACADEMIC LABORATORY

OU Libraries created the Oklahoma Virtual Academic Laboratory (OVAL) learning platform, using Oculus Rift headsets, that allows students and researchers to upload and manipulate 3D models. This platform has led to the donation of 10 Oculus Rift headsets and Touch controllers from Oculus VR, LLC. OVAL is now being used at the University of Central Oklahoma, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, and the University of Miami.

Just at OU, OVAL registered 3,200 unique VR sessions throughout 2017.

Our partnership with the Innovation Hub, as well as our OVAL virtual reality stations in the OU Law School, the Architecture Library, and our 3D printing station in Couch

dorms helps make these technologies accessible and supports research and teaching across campus.

In Fall 2017, OU Libraries led the first-known multi-state, multi-campus, curated virtual reality class collaboratively with the University of Central Oklahoma, the University of Arizona, Tucson and Archeology Southwest (Arizona). During this VR class, the partner institutions along with OU students in two separate physical locations, connected in shared virtual reality space, bringing together 15 individuals to tour a private, publicly-inaccessible cave to view rare archaic cave art. This successful and exciting opportunity for students has paved the way for future plans for other collaborative VR courses, including an instructor-led tour through the Palmyra ruins in Syria in May 2018.

2017 CAMPUS TECH AWARD ACCOLADES

OU LIBRARIES SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

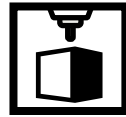
3,207

VR Sessions



1,160

3D Prints



23

Papers and Presentations



22

Workshops



41

Class Visits



6

Software Carpentry instruction sessions teaching basic coding to faculty and grad students



LEFT: A 3D print being developed. MIDDLE: Innovation @ the Edge student worker Hadia Karim loading filament to a 3D printer. RIGHT: A class using VR in the Edge.



Amanda Stephens

I walked in thinking I was about to look like the biggest nerd in the entire world... I probably did... but it was SO COOL! I did the sculpting app, where I was taken [sic] a tutorial and then got to use virtual clay to make little sculptures. Once I got the hang of the hand controllers, it was pretty easy. But overall, I really enjoyed it.



Karsen Flies

Going to the edge was a really fun experience. I have never done VR before and the students working there helped me out tremendously. I will definitely be going back to check it out again in the future!

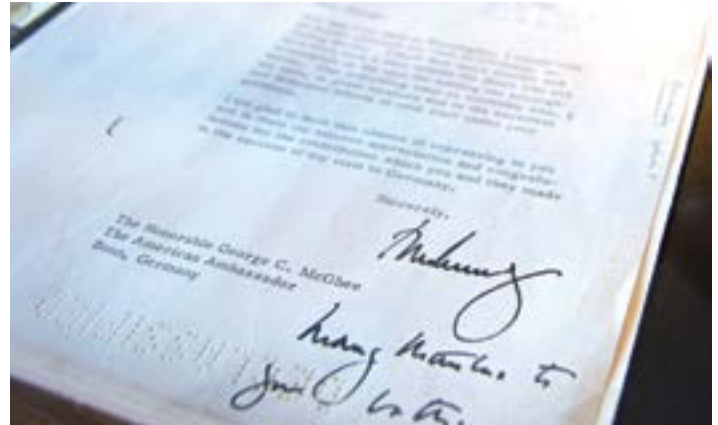


Emily Dunford

I thought The Edge was really awesome! Not only was the virtual reality stuff cool, but the 3D printing as well. Who would've known that those awesome technological innovations were right inside of the biz! In the virtual reality lab, I drew different things with stars, fire, dots, snowflakes etc. It took a little bit for me to get used to the entire 3D aspect of being able to turn and go through objects if you will. In all it was a great experience and the staff is super excited about the innovations as well.



WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTIONS NAMES 2018 FELLOWS



The University of Oklahoma Libraries Western History Collections selection committee has awarded five research fellowships for summer 2018. Three new fellowship categories support research residencies in the Western History Collections and are designed to connect researchers to the collections' rich archival, print and visual resources.

"The fellowship endowments grew out of conversations between Dr. David Wrobel, the then faculty curator of the Western History Collections, and two families with a long association with the WHC," said Bridget Burke, OU Libraries associate dean for special collections. "These fellowships first and foremost ensure the collections' use by a range of students and scholars and support deep and sustained research."

The Masterson Fellowship, endowed by Conrad and Ellen Masterson of Cee Vee, Texas, provides opportunities for visiting scholars to conduct research in the Western History Collections for one to three months. The fellowship is open to advanced graduate students, faculty or independent scholars engaged in an original research project of significant scholarly merit that will benefit directly from the utilization of materials in the Western History Collections.

The Masterson Fellowship has been awarded to two recipients for summer 2018:

- **Frank Bellizzi** of Texas Tech University for his project *Meta Chestnutt Sager and her School in the Chickasaw Nation*.

- **Joel Zapata** of Southern Methodist University for *The Mexican Southern Plains: Creating an Ethnic Mexican Homeland on the Llano*.

The Jack Haley Fellowship, endowed by Fred and Patricia Schonwald of Oklahoma City, provides fellowships for graduate students in the Department of History in the OU College of Arts and Sciences. The two recipients of the summer 2018 fellowship are:

- **Lindsay Marshall** for her work *Teaching Us to Forget: American History Textbooks, the Plains Wars, and Public Memory*.
- **Joseph Schiller** for *From Divining Rod to Department of Geology: Knowledge, Expertise, and the Discovery of the Picher Mining Field*.

The Dale Society Fellowship, supported by the Association of Western History Collections Endowment, supports graduate students in other OU graduate programs outside of the Department of History. This year's recipient is:

- **Sarah Warmker**, a master's degree candidate in modern languages and literature, also in the College of Arts and Sciences, for her project, *Seeds of Influence: Early Chicana Journals and the Chicana Feminist Movement*.

Applications for summer 2019 fellowships are welcome through Jan. 15, 2019 for the Masterson Fellowship, and March 25, 2019 for the Haley and Dale Fellowships.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

OU Libraries Undergraduate Research Award recognizes students who have demonstrated creative use of our resources and collections in exemplary research or innovative scholarship. The recipients used library special collections, research consultations, finding aids or databases and thoroughly

detailed their research and resource evaluation process. This year's award is supported, in part, through funding received from the 2018 OU Women's Basketball Dean's Challenge. Works by current and past URA recipients can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/ShareOKemergingscholars>.

Our 2018 Undergraduate Research Award recipients are:



Laura Pott received the grand prize, a \$1500 award, for *The Way of Death: Abortion's Path to Criminalization During the Middle Ages*. Laura's research explored medieval legal attitudes towards the termination of pregnancy and examined the criteria that defined abortion in the Middle Ages. She wrote about early medieval abortion laws, and how they used very different criteria to define an abortion.

Laura is a freshman National Merit Scholar from Denver, CO and is double-majoring in anthropology and Russian.



Sawyer Jack Robertson won second place, a \$1,000 award, for *Spectral and Stochastic Solutions to Boundary Value Problems on Magnetic Graphs*. Sawyer developed a solution to a classical differential equation concerning the behavior of molecular systems under the presence of magnetic potential, in the finite setting of graphs.

Sawyer is a Norman, OK native and a mathematics sophomore. He has been participating in undergraduate research for one academic year and has presented at conferences in four states. He is a recipient of National Merit, Court, and Rust scholarships.



Lauren Johnson received third place, a \$750 award, for *Bad People or Harmful Pasts? A Look into How Abuse Affects Deviance*. Lauren analyzed a prison population and how physical or sexual abuse impacts the deviant nature of these prisoners. Her research also explored gendered differences between the types of crimes according to whether or not the prisoner had ever been physically or sexually abused.

Lauren is a senior criminology major, with a focus on statistics, going on to a master's in criminology at OU with a focus on quantitative methods and family, gender, and crime.

CHARTING A NEW ROLE FOR SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Our partnerships with OU faculty help keep OU affordable through the creation, modification, and use of open educational resources. Digital resources and tools ensure preservation and access and help measure the impact of OU's collective intellectual content.

Learn more at open.ou.edu.



ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOK GRANTS SAVE STUDENTS \$1.9M

OU Libraries has awarded Alternative Textbook Grants to 13 faculty members for implementing open educational resources for their classes in the 2018-2019 academic year. The grants from these projects alone are projected to save OU students more than \$850,000 over the next three years. Previous recipients of the Alternative Textbook Grant have saved OU students over \$1.9 million since the program began in 2014.



OPEN EDUCATION AWARD: LEX HOLMES

Dr. Alexander Holmes received OU Libraries first Open Education Award for his work modifying an OpenStax *Introductory Statistics* book that replaced a traditional textbook and removed the cost to his students. OpenStax is a global platform populated with educational content that can be used, modified and shared to support teaching and learning. Additionally, he has since been working with OpenStax to create a new freely available statistics textbook based on his modified version, amplifying the impact to students across the world.

The Open Education Award recognizes an OU faculty member who engages the OU Libraries to enhance their teaching and scholarship while contributing to the larger open access movement, which seeks to make scholarship more widely available.



“OU Libraries wanted to improve the ways in which open education content creators can make content available for revision and to be remixed”, says Taylor. “Users upload a Markdown file to the site, select their desired output format, and apply a style sheet all with the click of a button instead of through the command line. Converted files are downloaded in the browser.”

MARKDOWN CONVERTER

OU Libraries emerging technology librarian and open educational resources coordinator Cody Taylor developed an open-source Markdown Converter designed to help make open content more widely shareable. By using the Markdown Converter, well-structured documents can be converted into PDF, HTML, EPUB, and DOCX file formats with an easy-to-use web interface instead of the command line.

Markdown is a markup language that simplifies authoring for the web. Its syntax is both easy-to-read and easy-to-write using tools that come installed on all computers. Publishing open educational resources (OER) in Markdown allows for easy editing, and then using the Markdown Converter to provide OER in multiple formats enables students to access OER content more readily. The source code for the converter can be obtained via [GitHub](#).

Cable Green, director of open education for Creative Commons says, “the open education community has created and openly licensed content that can be reused, modified and redistributed by anyone for 15 years, but we’re not always thoughtful about sharing in open, editable file formats. When we share OER as PDF, for example, downstream users can’t easily edit the document. Using Markdown and the Markdown Converter helps open educators get their openly-licensed content into a common, standard, editable format so it can be easily revised and remixed by them and others. I look forward to watching and learning how OER creators and remixers use the Markdown Converter.”

The Markdown Converter is available for anyone to use on the OU Libraries website at <https://tools.libraries.ou.edu/markdown>.



Scott Curtis
[@ScottCurtis10](#)

Great talk on Markdown @OKCody_ Very interesting idea to make OER as open as possible



Robin DeRosa
[@ScottCurtis10](#)

This sneaky person is teaching me to code. Hey- I bet I will be totally prepared for the 21st century workforce now!! #OpenEd17 @OKCody_



Cristina Colquhoun
[@EdTecknowledgy](#)

Kudos to OU & @OKCody_ for creating a user-friendly interface for converting markdown to various outputs. Awesome! #OpenEd17



OU LIBRARIES JOINS THE DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Statewide partnerships formed around ShareOK, the central home for works including digital theses and dissertations, faculty publications, open access publications, open educational resources, and institution-specific content from OU Libraries, Oklahoma State University Libraries, and the University of Central Oklahoma Max Chambers Library, now also support the efforts of the Digital Public Library of America.

The Oklahoma Hub of DPLA represents a collaboration between OU, OSU, the Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Together, these collections offer unique new resources, particularly in the areas of Native American history and culture, environmental and agricultural science, and the lives and experiences of generations of Oklahomans. Visit the OKHub at link.ou.edu/dpla.

80,406

Site visits
to shareok.org



18,229

Open Journal
article downloads



14,266

Open Journals
*American Review
of Politics*
article downloads



STRENGTHENING SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

We believe that the strength of our organization is measured by our personnel. Just as we seek excellence in our facilities, collections and resources, our employees strive to be excellent ambassadors, experts and community members, consistently presenting a model for librarianship across the country.

MOVING AND SHAKING



TWILA CAMP

Twila Camp, director of web services, has become OU Libraries third “Mover & Shaker” for her work developing the digital exhibition, galileo.ou.edu.

The *Galileo’s World* digital exhibition was previously awarded by the Oklahoma Museums Association in 2016 for “best technology media.” Camp joins two previous “Mover & Shaker” recipients: digital scholarship specialist Sarah Clayton (2017) and emerging technologies librarian Matt Cook (2015).

THOMAS AND CATHY LUCCOCK EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT: KAREN STARK

The highest honor conferred by OU Libraries recognizes an employee who demonstrates a pattern of excellence and ongoing contribution of service. This award is generously funded by, and named for Tom and Cathy Luccock. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Luccock for their generosity and support.



KAREN STARK

This year’s recipient, Karen Stark is someone who has committed to teamwork through the arc of her career. In her long tenure with OU Libraries Karen has embodied outstanding service to the library, the university, and the community. She demonstrates excellence in her job performance daily, striving to uphold a high standard in all the work she completes. As a supervisor, she is attentive and supportive, providing training and excellent guidance. She is always available to help, and is a champion for the staff.



BIZZELL LIBRARY SOCIETY

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

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

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

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