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Mansfield Library Newsletters

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CONNECTIONS

An annual newsletter published by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is a vibrant well-used academic library. Last fiscal year (2022) there were over 3,500 library building visits on average each week. Library users engaged in over 12,000 reference and research consultations with librarians (in person, online chat, email, and Zoom sessions). When I began working at the Mansfield Library long ago as a Science Librarian in 1990, there were 137,000 items (print books, print journals, course reserve materials, etc.) checked out. In 2022 there were over 2 million uses of the library's electronic resources – the catalog, databases, journal articles, books, and ScholarWorks (the University of Montana digital institutional repository) by 7,500 UM faculty and students, as well as many other researchers regionally and internationally.

I hope you are inspired by the stories in this newsletter. The people, collections, services, studios, and study spaces of the Mansfield Library serve as essential resources for research, teaching, and learning. The library provides access to a wide range and variety of information, expertise, instruction, technology, and materials, including books, journals, databases, digitized publications, government information, archives and special collections, and multimedia resources. The Mansfield Library supports students, faculty, researchers, and writers and plays a crucial role in preserving and promoting cultural heritage.

As the interim dean of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, I am writing to appeal to your generosity in support of the library's mission to design and implement specialized services, instruction, and programs to nurture scholarship and creative activity, and provide our campus and community members with opportunities to understand the past, analyze the present, and prepare for the future as globally engaged citizens. We need your help to ensure that our library can continue to provide the high-quality services, collections, and resources that are essential to our university's mission. Your donation will help us to purchase new books and journals, upgrade our technology and equipment, and provide

training and professional development opportunities for our employees. We are deeply grateful for any support you can provide. Whether it's a one-time gift or a recurring donation or endowment, every contribution makes a critical difference. Thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Barry Brown

Interim Dean of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

MANSFIELD LIBRARY EMPLOYEE RECOGNIZED BY STATEWIDE LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Shelley Ramberg has worked at the Mansfield Library for 21 years, where she's helped the library adopt new technology systems that help students and faculty succeed in their research. Anyone using Mansfield Library resources benefits from Shelley's work. Her work extends outside of the library as well. For several years, Shelley has been involved in TRAILS, the Treasure State Academic Information & Library Services consortium, working alongside other colleagues in libraries around the state. In her TRAILS work, Shelley represents the Mansfield Library as one of the consortium's leading members. With Shelley's efforts, her supervisor John Greer, and the Mansfield Library's electronic resources manager Jennifer Rusk, the library has become a key member in leading TRAILS into new innovative digital library tools and technology. For example, the library has access to certain databases and high-functioning digital tools to help use library resources more effectively because of our TRAILS partnerships.

In 2022, Shelley and her colleagues were awarded the TRAILS Award of Appreciation for leading TRAILS members through a transition into a new library search tool, Primo VE. Her work alongside Terence Kratz (Carroll College) and Hannah McKelvey (Montana State University-Bozeman) was key in making decisions in a large, consortium-wide migration project.

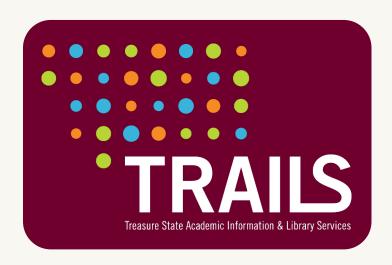
Migrating to this new system required that all libraries work together, communicating and following a timeline until the implementation date. Each TRAILS library oversaw its own migration, but Shelley and her group worked to keep the process flowing and organized, did research when there were questions, and took care of the consortium-level configurations.

The group's task wasn't a small one. TRAILS consists of 17 different libraries, all with different needs and uses, which meant that small variations needed to be accounted for as Primo VE was implemented. Without the care and dedication Shelley and her group put into the project, the transition may not have gone smoothly or even been functional for some libraries. Shelley has made huge

impacts on several libraries. For this reason and so many others, Shelley says she "loves working with people across our TRAILS consortium, and I love that it doesn't matter that we're all on different campuses. Collaboration is vital for libraries, and everyone in TRAILS does a great job of working together to provide the best possible service for our users."

Shelley's working group no longer meets, their mission successful, but since all three of them learned all they could, they continue to assist when libraries have questions. In addition, Shelley specifically handles ongoing TRAILS-level maintenance related to the project, which means continually serving the library community and making experiences better for library users. Shelley has become an invaluable statewide resource for other TRAILS members and libraries across the state.

TRAILS recognized individual library employees with the Award of Appreciation for the first time at this year's Montana Academic Library Symposium. Shelley and her colleagues at Carroll and MSU were the first to receive this award for the "exemplary & outstanding service provided to TRAILS colleagues." Shelley is exceptionally grateful for the recognition by the library community and said, "The award was a very pleasant surprise!"





CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY USING THE SEED LIBRARY

The Mansfield Library Seed Library has been active since spring 2021, and in the summer of 2022, the library participated in a series of workshops in collaboration with the UM Food Pantry.

"Growing in Place" was a free, four-part workshop series centered on low-cost food access and food sovereignty while highlighting the Food Pantry and the Seed Library as campus services. Each workshop focused on teaching attendees skills they could use to grow, find, or learn more about food.

According to Chloe Runs Behind, the library staff member who pursued the opportunity with Food Pantry employees, the collaboration felt like a natural fit.

"Seed libraries connect us to a free and local way of sharing seeds that, I think, brings us closer to the sort of communitybased mutual aid that humans and the plants we tend to have relied on for thousands of years," Chloe said "Seed libraries help put the tools to grow food back into people's hands!"

Using the seed library as a starting point, Chloe worked with Food Pantry employees to create the workshops, and led two of them. One of the workshops, Seed Stories, taught attendees about seed-saving practices, seed sovereignty,

and how seeds and libraries make a perfect match. Chloe led this workshop and used library materials and seed library materials and information to teach attendees that seeds and libraries are natural partners.

Like books and other media material, seeds contain valuable information we can learn from, and that information should be freely available to everyone, Chloe said. "Knowing how to access seeds, like all the other information freely available in the library, is a skill worth teaching – and worth knowing."

Another of the workshops supplied attendees with supplies to make a simple milk jug "greenhouse." Using the expertise and resources of both Food Pantry and library employees, the workshops were practical, successful, and entertaining.

The workshop series was held during the summer in an outdoor space right next to a community-run garden managed by the Food Pantry. Over 40 people from the UM campus and Missoula communities participated in the workshops. The interest in and value of these activities is coupled with the fact that, in 2022, there were over 620 seed packets checked out from the seed library.

The success of the Mansfield Library's seed library led to the creation of a seed library at the Payne Family Library at Missoula College. The smaller seed library also will serve library users and create a larger growing community. Library users end up checking out seeds that the library sources from all over the Missoula community and beyond.

In addition to the donations from individual seed library users, the library gets seeds through the generous donations of local ACE Hardware stores and local growers like Native Ideals in Arlee, Montana, and local groups like Seedlings for Solidarity. The seed library also connects the library to other folks on campus, like the PEAS Farm and Campus Dining. In fall 2022, the library received sunflower seeds from Campus Dining's garden, where they grow and harvest their own sunflowers alongside other fruits and vegetables during the growing season.

Campus Dining has been a fantastic supporter of the seed library since its launch, offering resources and seeds to the library when possible. The library's partnership with Campus Dining is just one of many flowering relationships the seed library has helped create. As the seed libraries see more use, the library is eager to grow and cultivate new and existing relationships with community and campus groups.

STUDENT EMPLOYEE RECEIVES FITZGERALD SCHOLARSHIP



Tristan Boyar received the annual Fitzgerald Scholarship in 2022 during the library's Winter Employee Appreciation Potluck. Dean Brown and library employees recognized him for working at the Mansfield Library for over three years, and at the Payne Family Library at Missoula College for over

two years, where Tristan helped library users with research, designed library marketing graphics and library displays and worked to complete several large projects, including working on a large government documents project.

"Tristan's kindness and professionalism know no bounds," said a library employee who formerly supervised Tristan. "Every library user and library employee that interacts with Tristan has a chance to meet not only someone exceptionally proud of the work they do but also a person who takes great care in the way they interact with and treat others. The library is, without a doubt, a better place with Tristan working in it."

Tristan has been a student at UM since 2018 and will receive his Bachelor of Arts this spring with a major in German and art and a minor in European studies. Tristan mentioned that working at the library "really shaped my time at UM. Both practically, through learning and developing research skills that have helped me enormously, as well as spiritually, through providing a safe and quiet place of refuge on campus. I'm very thankful for the opportunities that I've had working at the Mansfield Library, and am definitely excited to carry the skills I've learned here into the future."

The Fitzgerald Scholarship will help Tristan make his way through his last semester at UM. The library is grateful for the ability to give the Fitzgerald Scholarship to students annually. Since the Fitzgerald Scholarship Fund was created in 2005, the library has given out 32 Fitzgerald Scholarships to library student employees.

LIBRARY WELCOMES NEW PARTNERS TO THE BUILDING

Over the past several years, the library has welcomed new partners into the library building, including Testing Services and the Writing and Public Speaking Center. In the fall of 2022, the library worked to make room on Level 4 for two new building partners: the Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) and an extension of the Mansfield Center, Defense Critical Language & Culture Program (DCLCP). Both programs serve students in innovative ways and will bring more of the campus and community population through the library's doors. Construction began on Level 4, adding new offices and classrooms to the floor with construction set to complete early this summer.

LIBRARIAN ENTERS UM INTO NATIONAL INSTITUTE

Professor Wendy Walker authored the successful application for UM's participation in the American Association of Colleges and Universities 2022-2023 OER Institute and will serve as part of UM's five-member institute team. Involvement in this one-year institute will help UM leverage the library's foundational work with Open Educational Resources (OER) over the past five years to work towards widespread adoption and creation of free, high-quality textbooks and course materials by UM instructors. OER reduces student costs and ensures equitable, day-one access to course materials for all students.



THE MANSFIELD LIBRARY AT THE MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Montana Library Association's Tri-Conference took place in Missoula, Aug. 3-6. The Tri-Conference was hosted by the Missoula Public Library and programmed by the Montana Library Association, Pacific Northwest Library Association, and the Mountain & Plains Library Association. The four-day conference took place during the beautiful Missoula summer weather where library employees from across the region came to discuss new, innovative ways to support and serve users. Conference goers were invited to UM and the Mansfield Library, where they were welcomed to listen to a performance of live music, receive tours of the building, and network with other librarians. Over 200 conference-goers and Mansfield Library employees attended the evening reception and explored the exciting and innovative library spaces.



FINALS WEEK IN THE LIBRARY

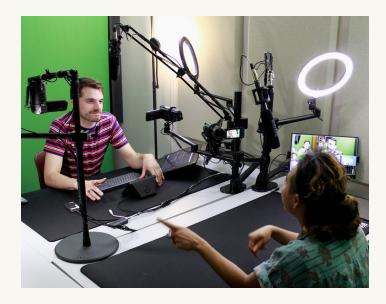
The library supported students during finals week in the spring and fall semesters by giving them extended access to quality study spaces and with stress-reducing activities like therapy dogs, free food and coffee, and a puzzle table. Over 14,800 library users entered the library during finals week in 2022! Some came for the free food and coffee, others to relieve stress by visiting with therapy dogs, and others just need a nice, comfortable place to study. For the over 14,800 users that came to the library during finals week, library staff were there to help them through their exams, finals papers, and deadlines. The library continues to serve as a vital student support service during finals week, especially as the library stays open longer than any other building on campus.



LIBRARY EMPLOYEES HAVE FUN TOO

The past year gave library employees lots of opportunities to work together both at work and outside of work. In June, several library employees decided to participate in a race together, Mountains to Meadows! As you can see, the rain couldn't stop these library friends from having fun and taking on the elements.

LIBRARY'S TECHNOLOGY STUDIOS GAIN NEW GROUND



Providing access to equipment and space to create audio and video content has been a focus of the Studio Support team at the Mansfield Library. Starting in 2015, an intuitive video studio was installed that allowed users to record with a simple press of a button, the One Button.

Soon thereafter a second studio was created that allowed users to write and diagram seemingly in air as they faced the camera, as well as the ability to blend digital items into the feed like infographics, pictures, and presentation slides.

The Studio Support team also created a space for podcasting and vodcasting after feedback and trends justified the addition. The popularity of the addition spurred a revamped, full-featured podcast/vodcast space that opened for use in the fall 2022 semester.

Multiple cameras, microphones, and software integrations serve as the basis of this new robust studio space. Using specialized hardware, the multiple video, audio, and computer feeds are simultaneously recorded, allowing for robust editing latitude using high-quality recordings. The library's program manager and support crew worked with the campus community to provide help on how to edit content and the potential of the studio spaces, as well as the deployment of additional studio spaces on campus within individual departments.

Faculty, students, and staff can reserve and use Studio 1, containing both the One Button recording space and podcast/vodcast space, or Studio 2, containing the Lightboard Studio. Open houses are held regularly, but custom tours can be arranged, along with help getting started in how to use screen capture software like Camtasia and Panopto. Email the Studio Support team at library. studiosupport@umontana.edu for more information.

"The library serves an important role in technology access for campus," said Glenn Kneebone, the program manager of the studios. "By leveraging our extensive resource management expertise and focusing on the fundamentals of access, the library maximizes the exposure and impact of a resource at minimal cost. Studio spaces are an example of this in action. With thousands of hours of content and utilization from across disciplines and demographics, the results have been impactful and also efficient for campus. I will continue to push for innovative new technology access while we continue to improve and refine our current services."

Already, people have used the podcast studio over 150 times since its launch in early Fall 2022. Its uses have varied from recording interviews to creating student podcasts.

Introducing new ways for students to learn in this increasingly virtual and digital age is vital to ensuring UM students succeed. Giving students the opportunities to explore new technology allows them access to skills usable now, in the future, and in their careers. Learning how to use technology means getting the opportunity to use it. The library strives to give students these learning opportunities where they're free to explore their interests, creative and otherwise.

At the library, we make sure people feel comfortable building those skills, like recording audio and fine-tuning multiple camera feeds from different perspectives by ensuring access to in-person studio support. Glenn, along with student employees, act as support staff for studio users, whether it be their first time or the one-hundredth time. For first-time users, in-person studio support can be invaluable and essential. Studio support can give users the confidence and skills to continue to utilize the studios and then tells their friends and colleagues about this library resource.

As digital technology evolves, the library strives toward valuable and innovative services that take full advantage of new technology. The podcast studio certainly won't be the last innovation the library sees.

CELEBRATING SCHOLARWORKS: 10 YEARS, TEN MILLION DOWNLOADS

Ten years after its launch, ScholarWorks is on track to reach 10 million downloads in 2023! That means that users throughout Montana, the United States, and around the world have collectively downloaded –10 million times – content that UM has made available online via ScholarWorks. It's an exciting milestone!

ScholarWorks is a Mansfield Library service that centralizes, preserves, and provides access to the research, creative scholarship, and unique resources produced and curated by UM faculty, students, and staff. It includes faculty publications, research datasets, podcasts, student theses and dissertations, conference proceedings, open access journals, oral histories, university publications, and much more. ScholarWorks makes these resources easier to find, share, and use.

"We are thrilled to see the rapid growth of ScholarWorks," said Mansfield Library Dean Barry Brown. "The 10 million downloads over the past 10 years is a testament, from researchers around the world, to the high-quality research being done by UM faculty and students and the value of making that research easily accessible to everyone. The Mansfield Library is committed to continuing to promote and support ScholarWorks and to working with UM researchers to ensure that their work is properly archived and made widely available."

But downloads are just one measure of the many ways ScholarWorks expands UM's reach and connects UM faculty, students, and staff with each other and with the world. At its heart, ScholarWorks is about providing long-term, open access to UM research and scholarship, in its many forms, so that this content can be used to inform and inspire research, individual interest, and lifelong learning.

For several years now, we've asked individuals who download content from ScholarWorks how that content benefits them. We expected to hear how they used the content in research, teaching, and learning. We were surprised and delighted to hear that people around the world have also used ScholarWorks content for work-related projects of all kinds – for creating policy, for personal hobbies, for genealogical research, for learning more about Montana, and for reminiscing. As scholarship continues to transform to include not only traditional journal articles, but also research datasets, code, apps, and multimedia, ScholarWorks evolves to make it all openly available.

Here is a small selection of the comments we've received:

"WOW! I am located in Portland, OR, so I don't have good access to a regional library. But I have found several KEY pieces of information for my research on Plains Indian rock art through this scholarworks site. Keep up the GREAT work."

RESEARCHER, UNITED STATES

"I've never been affiliated with an institute of higher learning, so I greatly appreciate being granted free access to educational tools otherwise denied to independent researchers."

WRITER, NEW ZEALAND

"Thank you for access to The Mathematical Enthusiast! It's been very helpful in helping me (not a mathematician) prepare to teach ethics to applied mathematics students."

FACULTY, THE NETHERLANDS

"Thanks to your university's open access policy, I will be able to share this tourism survey with California legislators in our weekly newsletter. Your study will help inform other policymakers. We appreciate this!"

RESEARCHER, UNITED STATES

"I searched on the internet for my father, [found] this UM newspaper, informing me that my father was retiring vice director of the local student chapter of the physics honor fraternity, something I could not have found out another way."

INTERESTED PERSON. UNITED STATES

"I was searching for any and all info on Robert Cray performing at the Top Hat back in the day (early '80s). I am so happy to have found the old papers online!"

ALUM & TOP-HATTER, UNITED STATES

LIBRARY AIMS FOR INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY

In January 2023, the library saw the completion of a long-aspired project to bring 12 aisles of shelving on level 2 into ADA compliance.

In the Fall of 2017, during a Universal Design review of the library, it was recommended to reconfigure the stacks on level 2 to widen aisles because they were not wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair. At that time, it was not feasible for several reasons, including cost and shelf capacity in the library. However, library employees kept it on their radar.

During the 2020-21 academic year, the library removed duplicated journals or journals with permanent electronic copies, removing enough material from level 2 to make the project possible. Next, a massive undertaking occurred during fall 2022: the entire collection on Level 2, all 51,534 feet of books, nearly 10 linear miles, was shifted. This enabled library employees to widen the aisles, bringing this part of the library into ADA compliance.

The work to make this part of the library accessible comes as one of many efforts to help improve the library building and services, creating a more equitable experience for all library users.



LIBRARY EXTENDS HOURS

This past fall, the library returned to pre-pandemic service hours and was open until 1 a.m. Monday through Thursday allowing students to use the library late into the night. The library was also open 106 hours a week, providing library users access to study spaces and collections every day of the week. Opening the library for students during hours both early and late, as well as on the weekend, helps provide the flexibility students need in their academic pursuits.

Like any library service, invaluable library employees make these new extended hours possible. The circulation department employs five full-time staff members who, along with student employees, help staff the information center and keep the building open for 106 hours a week, seven days a week, throughout the entire semester

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PROJECT MAKES HISTORIC AERIAL PHOTOS DIGITALLY AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Some of the earliest aerial photographs of Western Montana and the region will soon be publicly available on the internet for the first time. The thousands of aerial photos date from the 1930s to the 1950s and constitute a treasure trove of information about Western Montana's built and natural landscapes.

Although the images were initially taken for the United States Forest Service, the Mansfield Library's Archives and Special Collections (ASC) may now hold the only remaining copy of many of them. In 2022, ASC took a big step towards making these nearly 100-year-old images digitally accessible.

ASC staff members recognized the photographs' high research value and knew they could make this collection publicly available online. But first, the obstacle of the film's format had to be overcome. Safely scanning aerial images on film 9 inches wide and as much as 200 feet long, spooled on metal reels, was nearly impossible without a custom scanner. Protecting the unique film is an overriding factor in the project. If the film is damaged or scratched, Archives staff could do little in the way of repair.

The impossible became possible when library employees teamed up to create a custom frame to hold a large format scanner. Blaine Belcher, a Systems employee, saw an opportunity to lend his skills and volunteered to build the brackets needed to make the scanning from the large 9" reels a reality. Blaine knew bringing the project to life would be hard – "the parts are made of 100% 'unobtanium.'"

Blaine found a way, however. He spent a lot of effort fabricating and tracking down parts for the scanner platform. He got parts from several entities and sources, including the company Aerial Surveys International in Colorado and online, primarily using eBay. Blaine successfully built the frame, which required sizing, positioning, and fitting all the pieces together precisely to protect the film.

Once the scanner's custom frame was delivered to ASC, Mark Fritch, the Archives and Special Collections photograph curator, began managing the aerial photography scanning process. User requests for individual images currently drive decisions about scanning, but the project is ramping up to include entire flight lines consisting of hundreds of images.

ASC will make the scanned images available via the Montana History Portal (formerly the Montana Memory



Project), as it has done with thousands of other historic images from ASC collections. It also plans to geotag the images (adding latitude and longitude), making them available via an ArcGIS Online map.

ASC anticipates a variety of uses of the aerial images by individuals, nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses. For example, researchers could compare nearly 100 years of tree growth in areas of Western Montana, determine when a road was built through a section of land, or understand how the flood plains of Missoula have evolved due to changes in the built environment.

Donna McCrea, head of Archives and Special Collections, spoke about the project and its future, saying, "Our goal is to make unique and valuable archival content available for research and personal use. My conversations with Montana NRIS (Natural Resource Information System), the U.S. Forest Service, the UM Spatial Analysis Lab, and institutions nationwide that have made similar imagery available confirmed for me that these aerial images have high research value. We're fortunate to have had some excellent volunteer and intern assistance over the last several years as we set up this project and determined our infrastructure needs. We're also grateful to the Montana History Foundation for grant funding that will help us take this project to the next level."

Mansfield Library faculty and staff would like to express our deepest gratitude to our donors during 2022. Your donation provided for the continuity of the Mansfield Library's commitment to support UM students.

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Mansfield Centennial Library Fund

Mansfield Library Impact Fund



DONOR IMPACT

In 2022, donors and endowments provided the library with \$271,236. Some of the library's most valuable services and collections rely on these funds, and the generosity of individual donors, like you. The library relied on these funds, not only to purchase items for our collection – both digital and physical – but also to support our employees and library users.

For example, donors allowed us to support students during finals week, offering them late night coffee and study supplies the weekend before their final exams began. Donors also made it feasible for library employees to host events outside in the spring, where librarians spoke directly to students and handed out support kits and food. Without the help of donors, librarians wouldn't have means to meet students outside of the building at engaging events, which often provide opportunities to talk with students about how the library can best support their needs both as students, and as people.

A big thank you to the Tri Delta chapter of Theta Rho whose members met in the library, spoke with Dean Brown and the head of the Archives, Donna McCrea. The library is thankful to have such ardent supporters.



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