

**Hunter Library Annual Report to the Provost
2022-2023
Submitted by Chuck Thomas
Dean of Library Services**

Statistics and Information at a Glance

Hunter Library is the intellectual center of the University and provides information resources, services, spaces, expertise, and opportunities that allow users to explore, grow, and create. Key operational statistics about the library can be viewed on the library's regularly updated online dashboard: <https://tinyurl.com/2n47rxxr>.

Collections

- The library purchased several digital archives (Harper's, Newsweek, New Yorker, and journals from the American Institute of Physics) with one-time funding. These purchases provide perpetual online access for authorized library users.
- Expanded access to more than 200 new films through the Kanopy streaming collection.
- Expanded access to digital books and magazines for curriculum support or leisure reading, through an app provided by the vendor OverDrive. This growing collection provides eBooks, audiobooks, and 4,791 magazine titles.
- The library has a new section on the main floor to highlight new books acquired throughout the year.
- A new batch of letters from the McFee-Misemer Collection was added to the library's online Civil War Collection. These letters were used with ENGL 618 students last fall.

Personnel Transitions

New Employees

- Staff member Allyson Take hired August 2022
- Staff member Kerri Arbuthnot hired October 2022
- Librarian Emily Wros hired April 2023
- Librarian Mandy Choie hired May 2023
- Staff member Chris White hired May 2023

Departures

- Librarian Jill Ellern departed August 2022
- Staff member JoAnn Marvel departed October 2022
- Staff member Elizabeth Marcus departed October 2022
- Staff member Dana Wood departed February 2023
- Librarian Adam Olsen departed May 2023
- Staff member Carol Hicks departed May 2023

Programs and Initiatives

- Librarians Beth Thompson, Erica Barnett, and Ali Norvell began work on an affordable textbook initiative, in support of University Bookstore efforts to help students access supplemental class readings at little or no cost to the students.
- In collaboration with a Biology faculty researcher, the library began initial development of a “FireFLI” project database and website. The database will eventually grow into a comprehensive collection of searchable taxonomic literature on fireflies.
- The library took a series of comprehensive and coordinated steps to help manage the rising costs of shipping materials for distance learners, interlibrary loans, and other print resource sharing.
- Like many other libraries across the nation, this year Hunter Library eliminated most overdue fines normally charged to users, and revised its policies related to replacing lost or damaged items. These changes reduce barriers for low-income users and encourage more usage of the library.
- Due to a mold outbreak caused by significant temperature and humidity fluctuations throughout the building, the library took several steps:
 - Installed temperature and humidity sensors to collect data 24/7 about the library’s environmental conditions.
 - Created a real-time dashboard of current and historical data to detect changes and take actions when necessary.
 - Based on recommendations from external library preservation experts, have coordinated with WCU Facilities to plan for cleaning the buildings HVAC systems.
 - Cleaned, treated, or discarded print materials affected by the mold.
 - For older print journals that were affected by the mold and deemed unsalvageable, the library purchased online access to these online databases:
 - Newsweek Archive
 - Harper’s Archive
 - New Yorker Archive
 - AIPP Journal Archive
 - ProQuest Art database
 - EBSCO Art database

Faculty Successes

- Librarians Liz Harper and Scottie Kapel were awarded tenure and promotion.
- Librarian Adam Olsen was awarded a grant of \$9,310 from the State Library of North Carolina to conduct a usability study of library spaces.
- Librarian Sarah Steiner and Dr. Amanda Wray of UNC-A co-authored and were co-awarded a grant of \$2,884 from the North Carolina Humanities non-profit to train 28 local participants in collecting oral history stories.

- Dean of Library Services Chuck Thomas was awarded a grant of \$148,000 from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to co-lead a multi-institutional research project on diversity in the library workforce.

Community Engagement

- Library employees regularly donated food and hygiene supplies to HomeBase to support students experience a housing or food crisis.
- In September 2022, staff member Jenny McPherson staffed a listening station at the Sylva Pride event, to showcase the library’s LGBTQ+ oral history collection.
- In April 2023, several library employees volunteered after-hours in support of the campus SAGA Pride event. Activities included a storytime, poetry readings, and a listening station showcasing the library’s digital oral history collections.
- Special Collections continued a traveling exhibition program. The Haywood County Public Library hosted the exhibit for three months last summer. Currently, the exhibit is rotating through four branches of the Nantahala Library System. Other displays have been shown in Robbinsville and Andrews, and will continue with Murphy and Hayesville this summer.
- Librarian Liz Harper gave a presentation in March 2023 to the Waynesville Rotary Club in honor of Women's History Month. The talk was about women represented in the Carr and Ruth Hooper collection, the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, and the Misemer Civil War letters.
- Hunter Library participated in WCU’s “One Day for Western” fund-raising campaign by focusing on priorities related to supporting students. In a single day, more than 20 donors donated over \$2,000 to the library.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belongingness Progress

- With support from the Office of the Provost, this year the library hired librarian Mandy Choie as its first-ever Research Fellow. The fellow serves a two-year term, and is tasked with designing, conducting, and supporting research projects related to improving library services to support diverse groups of users.
- Hunter Library partnered with numerous faculty, staff, and students to host community read-ins in celebration of National/International Holidays. These events served as a space for faculty, staff, student, and community members to build connections, hear personal stories from members of WCU, and explore aspects of the library’s collections. Librarian Jazmyne Baylor and staff member Joshua Everhart worked with other colleagues and partners to plan these events. Participating WCU community members included:
 - Black History Month
 - Associate Vice Chancellor William Moultrie
 - Dr. Ricardo Nazario-Colon
 - Dr. Tiffany Jackson

- Dr. David Walton
 - Amber Ellington
 - Megan Brown
 - Asst. Professor Patrice Brown
 - Women's History Month
 - Jazmyne Baylor hosted "Reflecting on the Works of Audre Lorde."
 - Valentines Day
 - Berna Karayaka and Bora Karayaka hosted "Rumi's Love Poetry."
 - National Coming Out Day, and LGBTQIA+ History Month
 - Beulah Land (Student and community member)
 - Rubella Work (Student and community member)
 - WCU Pride Celebration
 - Dr. Travis Rountree
 - Jazmyne Baylor
 - Sarah Steiner
- Librarians Jazmyne Baylor and Erica Barnett presented "Counternarratives and the Civil Rights Movement" as part of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week at WCU.
 - The library conducted an audit of several information vendors to better understand what resources they sell that support researchers on the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
 - Librarian Rebecca Saunders worked with other partners in the Western North Carolina Library Network (WNCLN) to replace outdated, problematic, and racist or exclusionary terminology in the WNCLN shared online library catalog system.
 - Hunter Library employees authored, co-authored, or made scholarly presentations related to the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging:
 - Berkana, J., Saunders, R., & Hallyburton, A. All y'all: Creating inclusive language and image guidelines for an academic library's LibGuides. ACRL Distance and Online Library Instruction Virtual Poster Session. (April 24-28, 2023)
 - Hallyburton A, & Allison-Jones, L. Mental health bias in physical care: An integrative review of the literature. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. February 2023. doi:10.1111/jpm.12911
 - Hallyburton, A. (2022). Diagnostic overshadowing: An evolutionary concept analysis on the misattribution of physical symptoms to pre-existing psychological illnesses. *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*, 31(6), 1360-1372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.13034>
 - Rountree, T. A., Steiner, S. K., Queer Studies Conference, "Recursive Activism: Documenting, Remembering, and Celebrating LGBTQ Voices in WNC," University of North Carolina Asheville, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC. (March 25, 2023). [Peer-Reviewed]
 - Barnett, E. (2022) Collection and Vendor Relationships: Diversity Evaluation and Communication, *Serials Review*, DOI: 10.1080/00987913.2022.2119058

- Kapel, S., & Schmidt, K.D. (2023, March). *It starts with a spark: A phased approach for incorporating DEIA into research guides* [Poster session]. ACRL 2023 Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Saunders, R. “Dropping the other I-word: Indigenous American representation in a network library catalog through local LCSH replacements,” Amigos Library Services: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Cataloging & Technical Services Conference. (February 8, 2023)

Other Noteworthy Events, Programs, and Activities

- Special Collections employees supported the very popular Kephart Days annual celebration in Bryson City by making a presentation, creating an exhibit in the reading room, and attending various events throughout the multi-day event.
- In December 2022 the Friends of Hunter Library hosted a social event in downtown Sylva. Dr. Ben Steere, the 2022-2023 Hunter Scholar, delivered a presentation on his research project on Native American dwelling structures.
- During WCU’s annual Faculty Scholarship Celebration in March 2023, Dr. Luiz Lima Da Silveira of the Biology Department was announced at the 2023-2024 Hunter Scholar. This award will support his research on fireflies.
- The library added a collection of 45 boardgames and expanded its collection of Tabletop Role Playing Game Books. These materials were used to support library game nights in October and February. Over 40 students attended each event. Many students commented on how they made new friends at the events.
- By partnering with the local non-profit Hights, the library has been able to schedule therapy dog visits for students in the library roughly once a month.
- Librarian Cara Barker planned and hosted the library’s first workshop on making and publishing “zines”.

Special Initiatives and Announcements

- Hunter Library joined at least 13 other UNC System institutions’ libraries in a joint RFP to purchase a new shared online catalog system. A final purchase decision is expected before the end of the 2023 calendar year.
- Barbara Kephart Crane (Horace Kephart’s granddaughter) donated \$25,000 to the existing endowment in her name. These funds support Hunter Library Special Collections.