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# UL Annual Report 2018-2019

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The University of Akron  
**University Libraries**  
University Press | Instructional Services

The  
University  
of Akron

# Annual Report

## FY2018-19

### MISSION

University Libraries provides resources, services, and expertise to support and enhance teaching, learning, and research.

### VISION

To be known and valued as a collaborative partner essential to the educational and research processes, and fundamental to the success of the university community. As an intellectual asset for the campus, our creativity and adaptability will foster innovation in services, teaching and learning, technology, and resources.

### YEAR IN REVIEW

This report highlights some of the ways the Libraries help students succeed, supports faculty research, and provides valuable cultural and educational opportunities for the UA community and the region. The faculty and staff of University

Libraries work as a team every day to help students enhance their information literacy skills, locate and evaluate resources, use technology, and create new knowledge.

Our textbook affordability initiative is a state model. Newly-added manuscripts and archives document the university and region's history and provide the underpinning for tomorrow's researchers. As a research library, we support authors through every stage of the scholarly communication life cycle. We make a difference to students through our textbook affordability programs, distance education services, and exam week stress busters. We are committed to strategically stretching our capabilities to meet the university's growing needs and interests.

## By the numbers FY2019

**822,353**

Visits to  
Bierce/S&T

**54,053,053**

Searches on  
Library-owned  
databases

**46,446**

Tests  
administered  
at CBAE

**21,524**

Technology  
items lent

**7,937mi**

Furthest distance  
traveled by a  
resource loaned  
by UL

**18,849**

Group study  
room  
reservations

**11,253**

Items borrowed  
from other  
libraries for UA  
researchers

**6,407**

Questions  
answered at  
the desk

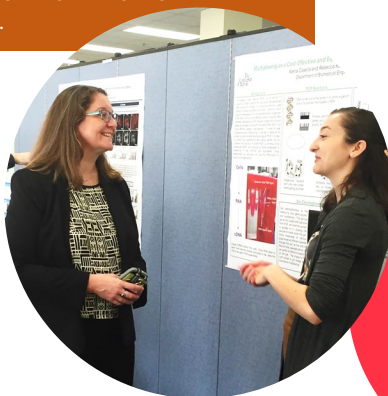
**4,026**

Hours of 3D  
printing in the  
MakerStudio

# MAXIMIZE STUDENT SUCCESS

The highly successful **Ada Lovelace Day** continued into its fifth year, aiming to confront bias and systemic barriers to inclusion in the STEM fields by presenting the experiences, perspectives and research from women in science and technology.

12,441 students enrolled in online courses, a **138% increase since 2014**. Our Instructional Designers help faculty design and support the 700+ UA classes that are offered online.



We hosted three practicum students completing their MLIS and gave them **hands-on experience**: researching and designing an original exhibition from Archival materials; performing original cataloging with electronic theses and dissertations; and, developing a manual for digitizing glass plate negatives.

Since 1997, **Outstanding Student Employee Awards** recognize exemplary contributions to the Libraries by current students. Two awards of \$1000 each come from the Friends of the Library Endowment, established to provide scholarship support for students working at the University Libraries and encourage them to consider pursuing an advanced degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS).

The MakerStudio completed **646 academic 3D-print jobs** supervised by **36 faculty** members from **14 disciplines**.



## AFFORDABLE LEARNING AT UA

What students are saying...

The Libraries' **Affordable Learning Initiative** empowers and supports faculty working to innovate pedagogically; enhance access for UA students to **high-quality, tailored educational materials**; and reduce the financial burden of expensive textbooks. It has become a state model for open education, saving UA students more than a quarter of a million dollars to date.

We hosted the first annual **Affordable Learning Ohio Summit** in August, attracting more than **100 librarians and designers** from **35 institutions** across three states.

"I loved having course materials readily available!! It makes the learning process so much easier, and saves time from searching for a good deal on a book."

"The book allows for equal opportunity learning and succeeding for all students no matter their financial situation."

"I wish every class had this option. It was one less book I had to purchase and it was super easy to use."

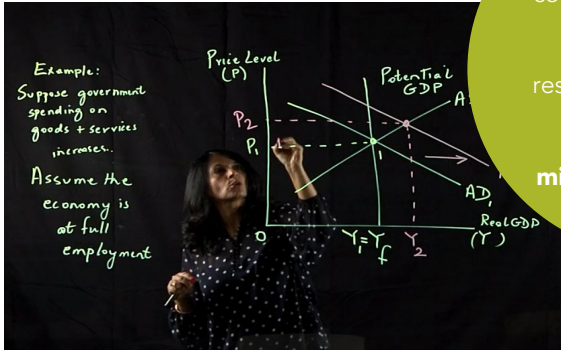
In Spring 2019, **eleven faculty** across five teams received grant funding to adopt open textbooks **saving UA students \$620,075** in textbook cost with the added benefit of improved course quality.





# SCHOLARSHIP

Adoption of new technology like the **Learning Glass**, a transparent whiteboard paired with a video recording system, encourages pedagogical innovation making learning a more engaging experience for both on campus and online students.



Our fourth annual New Explorations in Teaching **(NEXT) Conference** brought together more than **200 people from 28 institutions** to share new ideas and explore topics that affect teaching in higher education.

The Libraries' investment in research collections has a direct impact on the productivity of researchers at UA. This year researchers **downloaded 1.4 million** journal articles and e-books.



IdeaExchange, UA's institutional repository, was accessed by nearly **13,000 institutions from 209 countries**, disseminating worldwide scholarly output from both students and faculty here at UA.

Library events and workshops focusing on research and scholarship brought together students and faculty from across disciplines, offering opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and new connections.

The Libraries delivered targeted workshops covering topics on **academic integrity issues, copyright, research and scholarship.**

# COMMUNITY

We teamed up with the Akron-Summit County Public Library and Michael Spikes from the Center for News Literacy to host a free, three-day **News Literacy Summer Institute**, a workshop focused on teaching news literacy for high school and college educators.

"The instructor presented the material in a fun and engaging way and I'm excited about implementing the activities I created... Thank you for offering this course!"

- Program Participant (Sarah-Jayne Studer, School Library Media Specialist, Canton, Ohio)

Distance Learning Services continues to grow its partnerships with local communities. We now partner with **17 high schools in 6 counties** to deliver College Credit Plus (CCP) classes. The Distance Learning Network generated more than \$1million dollars for UA in 2019.

RePlay for Kids, a local organization that repairs, modifies and creates toys for children with disabilities used **MakerStudio tools and supplies** for their volunteer projects.

Two poets, Leslie Harrison and Aimée Baker, **published by The University of Akron Press** received multiple awards for their respective works "The Book of Endings" and "Doe."



"Lost Voices of the Great War," a documentary film produced by Archival Services and Design & Development Services in partnership with Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and other community partners, **won two awards from the Ohio Museums Association (OMA)** at its annual conference and awards dinner held in Akron on April 14. The partners took home OMA's Best Community Partnership Award and an OMA Visual Communications Award Honorable Mention.

# LOOKING AHEAD

UA will be hosting the **Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarian Conference** welcoming more than 150 librarians from Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky in May.

As UA nears its 150th anniversary, we are giving a voice to those who worked, studied, and made memories here — from students, faculty and staff to sports fans and concertgoers, the employers of graduates and the vendors of goods and services.

These stories will be considered for inclusion in the commemorative coffee-table book and paperback versions that will be published by the UA Press during UA's **150th anniversary celebration in 2020**.



Funds from the estate of Pauline Franks will be used to renovate Bierce Learning Studio 279 to support **flexible learning space equipped for media production**. Faculty can record content on the Learning Glass for a flipped classroom approach or teach face to face. Franks, who retired from UA in 1983 as University Librarian, saw seismic changes occur in library sciences during the 1960s and 1970s. Gifts such as this provide us with opportunities to add value to the services and collections we deliver to students, and the flexibility to be innovative in how we invite students to engage with the library.

## Honors, Accolades, and Grants

### HONORS:

- Collections and Content Strategy Librarian, **Sean Kennedy** was selected by ATG Media and the organizers of the Charleston Library conference as one of their Up & Comers.
- **Wendy Lampner**, Manager of Design and Development Services was inducted into the School of Social Work's Phi Alpha National Honor Society as an honorary member.
- **Tammy Stitz** was honored as the faculty winner of the 2017-18 Exemplary University Service Award.
- "Lost Voices of the Great War" received an **Emmy Award nomination** in the documentary film category from the Lower Great Lakes Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- Life Sciences Librarian **Marilia Antúnez** received The Innovative Library Classroom (ILC) Conference Travel Grant to attend the June conference in Virginia.

### GRANTS:

- National Film Preservation Foundation (\$37,310) — to reformat and digitize 14 nitrate motion picture films from **The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Collection** that document the construction and operation of the dirigibles U.S.S. Akron and U.S.S. Macon.
- Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (\$4,680) — to process and preserve the papers of the late **Opie Evans, a local African-American photographer** who documented the history of Akron's black community.
- Ohio Humanities Council (\$14,957) — in partnership with Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, to produce a documentary titled "Lost Voices of the Great War: Summit County in World War I," which documents **Akron and Summit County's contributions to the First World War**.
- Library Services and Technology Act (\$4,999) — conservation work on the three-quarter-length **portrait of Charles Goodyear** by noted American portrait artist George Peter Alexander Healy.



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