Boys like girls who make Seven-Up "Floats"
In the summer of 1960, one of these decidedly dated advertisements appeared in Reader’s Digest, Saturday Evening Post, LIFE, Look, and other popular magazines of the time. The other one ran simultaneously, but only in Ebony. The ads are part of an exhibit, Let’s March Forward Together: The Rise of Black Advertising Professionals and Consumers, now on display in the Rubenstein Library’s Mary Duke Biddle Room. Beginning with early efforts at targeting Black audiences—like casually substituting Black models for white ones—the exhibit explores how Black creatives gradually broke into the advertising industry and helped bring about a more inclusive consumer culture from the inside. Their contributions ultimately helped major brands like 7-Up appeal to more customers without falling flat. The exhibit runs through August 1.
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On the cover: “This Is What a Librarian Looks Like,” a book spine poem from the shelves of Perkins and Bostock Libraries.
Current Exhibits

Mandy Carter: Scientist of Activism
Jerry and Bruce Chappell Family Gallery
THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2023

Mandy Carter is a Durham-based Black lesbian activist who has been a central figure in the American struggle for social justice for five decades. This exhibit honors Carter’s life and work, a legacy of social change defined by nonviolent resistance, Black freedom movements, and queer liberation.

Let’s March Forward Together: The Rise of Black Advertising Professionals and Consumers
Mary Duke Biddle Room
THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2023

This exhibit explores how Black men and women in the advertising industry helped to create a more positive and inclusive consumer culture. The exhibit focuses in particular on the work of five Black advertising executives whose papers are held by the Rubenstein Library’s Hartman Center.

The Horrors and Heroes of Hiroshima
Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Room
THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2023

This exhibit explores the horrors of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, but also the heroic doctors who treated patients after the first use of nuclear weapons on humans. At its center is Hiroshima Diary by Dr. Michihiko Hachiya, a Japanese doctor’s perspective on the day of the bombing and its immediate aftermath.
Residue: The Early Coal Mining Photographs of Earl Dotter

Rubenstein Library Photography Gallery

THROUGH OCTOBER 1, 2023

Last year, the Rubenstein Library’s Archive of Documentary Arts acquired the papers of photographer Earl Dotter. Since the late 1960s, Dotter has dedicated his career to documenting the challenges of the American worker. This exhibit highlights his early work in the Appalachian coalfields, depicting an industry defined by hazardous working conditions, camaraderie, community, resilience, and even death.

Congrats to Our Student Book Collectors!

For nearly seventy-five years, we’ve sponsored a book collecting contest to encourage Duke students to build their own personal libraries. Anyone may enter, and you don’t have to be a serious “collector” to win. Collections are judged on adherence to a unifying theme, not rarity or monetary value.

We are pleased to announce this year’s winners of the Andrew T. Nadell Prize for Book Collecting. In addition to cash prizes, all winners receive a Grolier Club book of their choice and a three-year membership in the Bibliographical Society of America.

Undergraduate Category

1st PLACE: Javah Xie for “A Philosopher’s Collection; Or, A Collector’s Philosophy”

2nd PLACE: Lily Elman for “The Wounded Storyteller: Disability, Illness, and Memoir”

HONORABLE MENTION: Rebecca Schneid for “Barely Hidden, Yet Always Here: Queer Poetics and Queer Poetic Influences”

Graduate Category

1st PLACE: Joshua Shelly for “Alte Bücher in Haifa: (Re)building a German Jewish Library in the 21st Century”


The Nadell Prize is named for Dr. Andrew T. Nadell M’74, who began collecting rare books when he was a student at Duke. He credits his interest in book collecting to two of his Duke mentors, G. S. T. Cavanagh (Professor of Medical Bibliography) and Gert Brieger (Professor of the History of Medicine).
7 Dictionaries That Are a Little Different

If you’re reading this magazine, we suspect you possess a formidable vocabulary. (Forgive us for being so bold, but you have that look about you.) Whether you’re a whiz at Wordle, a grammar geek, or a student of the sesquipedalian style, you probably welcome the occasional excuse to reach for your favorite dictionary. As a library, we have thousands of dictionaries, in every language from Albanian to Zulu. But not all lexicons are alike. Here’s a selection of specialized dictionaries you should know about, when an ordinary word search just won’t do.

**CONCEPTUAL DICTIONARY:** Sometimes known as a reverse dictionary or descriptionary, a conceptual dictionary is good for when you know what something is, but not what it’s called. Somewhat like a thesaurus, entries are organized by concept—such as art or nature—rather than alphabetical order, with broad categories gradually narrowing down to more specific terms and expressions.

**DICTIONARY OF CLICHÉS:** Whether you employ clichés like they’re going out of style or avoid them like the plague, you can identify nearly 4,000 of them with this handy reference. A helpful tool for trimming flabby prose and making your writing crystal clear.

**DICTIONARY OF SIMILES:** When your search for the perfect analogy leaves you as empty-handed as a tree in winter, and the best comparisons you can think of are about as exciting as broccoli, a dictionary of similes can help. All you need is some inspiration to remind you that analogies are as abundant as salt in the sea, and without them the English language would be as bland as hominy grits.

**DICTIONARY OF LAST WORDS:** Looking for a good kicker for that last will and testament? Allow us to recommend a list of notable figures who met their final deadline in quotable style. As Groucho Marx aptly put it, “This is no way to live!” Truly a subject on which there’s always more to be said.

**SLANG DICTIONARIES:** Whenever you’re in the mubblefubbles (low spirits), do what we do. Get out of your nerd box (study cubicle) and peruse one of our dictionaries of slang. Soon you’ll be grinning like a long-tailed beggar (a cat) and feel like everything is lovely and the goose hangs high (everything’s great). Forget Urban Dictionary. Historical slang dictionaries aren’t online, and that’s where you find the best flub-dub-and-guff (rhetorical embellishments).

**DICTIONARY OF ONE-LETTER WORDS:** Of the twenty-six letters in our alphabet, one of the most versatile is X. It has more than seventy different definitions. X marks the spot on a pirate’s map. It’s an incorrect answer on a test, a power of magnification, a female chromosome, and a kiss at the end of a love letter. The dictionary of one-letter words reminds us that even the smallest words in the English language carry a large range of meanings.

**DICTIONARY OF OLD TRADES, TITLES, AND OCCUPATIONS:** What exactly is a buddle boy, and what does one do? When was the last time you saw a claque or a dobber on the job? And who even knows what a hokey pokey man or rogue spotter is? History is full of bygone vocations and specializations. When you need to know more about them, it’s this dictionary’s job to inform you.

*Above: Detail, Webster’s New International Dictionary of the English Language, 1941.*
For National Library Week, Holding Court on NPR, RBG, and a 50-Year Friendship

Few people have a more nuanced understanding of the nation’s highest court than Nina Totenberg. With more than forty years’ experience at National Public Radio, she has won every major journalism award in broadcasting for her legal affairs reporting.

This past April, the Duke University Libraries invited Totenberg to campus for National Library Week to discuss her bestselling new book, Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendship, about her nearly 50-year relationship with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Speaking before a sold-out Page Auditorium, she was interviewed onstage by Frank Bruni, New York Times contributing opinion writer and the Eugene C. Patterson Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy at Duke University.

The evening with Totenberg and Bruni was presented as the Weaver Memorial Lecture, an occasional speaker series hosted by the Duke University Libraries in memory of William B. Weaver, a 1972 Duke graduate and former member of the Library Advisory Board.

““This court has an agenda in almost every field of endeavor, and they are pushing it quite aggressively. These are folks who believe the Supreme Court has been wrong for fifty, sixty, seventy years about many, many things. And they want to change that. Elections have consequences, and this is one of those consequences.””

Nina Totenberg

NPR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT, SPEAKING AT THE 2023 WEAVER MEMORIAL LECTURE
The Duke Endowment Awards Additional $10 Million to Lilly Library Renovation Project
Duke University has received a second $10 million award from The Duke Endowment for the renovation of its historic Lilly Library on East Campus. In 2020, The Duke Endowment gave an initial $10 million to support the renovation project.

The university will preserve the library’s historic Georgian style while updating the building’s interior and exterior and increasing its footprint by 78%—from 31,500 square feet to 56,300—resulting in more seating, collaborative study spaces, and technology-equipped project rooms.

Construction is expected to begin in 2024 with an anticipated completion date of 2027, just in time for the 100th anniversary of the library’s opening.

“We are grateful to The Duke Endowment for this transformational gift and their continued support for Lilly Library,” said Duke University President Vincent E. Price. “This is an exciting moment in Lilly’s nearly 100-year history, as we look forward to the many ways the renovation will enhance the East Campus experience and support our first-year students’ success.”
The renovation project will also update heating and cooling systems, lighting, technology, and furnishings to meet contemporary standards for safety and accessibility. The library’s well-loved reading rooms will retain their historic charm while their infrastructure is enhanced. New features will include an assembly space for events, a second entrance on the southwest side of the building that will connect with the residential “backyard” of East Campus, and a café space where students and faculty can meet over coffee.

“While Lilly Library is beloved and popular with many of our users, it simply wasn’t designed to meet the needs of today’s students and researchers,” said Joseph Salem, the Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs. “We’re so pleased that The Duke Endowment is enabling us to bring to East Campus the kind of modern library spaces, services, and programs that have been so successful in Perkins, Bostock, and Rubenstein libraries on West Campus.”

Lilly Library opened in 1927 on East Campus as Duke University’s first library while West Campus was being constructed. It served as the Woman’s College Library for more than 40 years, but when the Woman’s College merged with Trinity College of Arts & Sciences in 1972, the library was renamed the East Campus Library.

In 1990, philanthropist Ruth Lilly, the last great-grandchild of pharmaceutical magnate Eli Lilly, made a gift to renovate the library—leading to the naming of the library in her honor.

“Lilly Library is a rich part of Duke’s history and has played a critical role in the evolution of Duke Libraries,” said Charles C. Lucas III, Chair of The Duke Endowment Board of Trustees. “Lilly is an important part of the student experience, especially on East Campus, and is vital to teaching, research and learning at Duke. The Duke Endowment is proud to continue supporting Duke University’s goals of restoring and enhancing Lilly Library for generations to come.”

The Duke Endowment’s continued support of the university energizes the campus, said David Kennedy, vice president of alumni engagement and development.

“I couldn’t be more grateful for what is to come for everyone in the Duke community who will experience Lilly Library. The Duke Endowment has been an integral part of making that happen,” Kennedy said.

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds, and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than $4.3 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

Top: One of the most dramatic new features is the addition of a new entrance on the southwest side of the building, leading to a café where students and faculty can meet over coffee and snacks.

Bottom: A rendering of the Booklover’s Room, a comfy spot for casual reading.
“I really love Lilly Library! I study there every day and it’s an irreplaceable part of my life at Duke.”

MASTER’S STUDENT

“I proudly don a Lilly sticker on my laptop. Some of the biggest things I’ll miss at Duke, when it’s time for me to go, are the libraries.”

PH.D. CANDIDATE

“I always feel welcome in Lilly Library in particular—the staff is welcoming and friendly, and I always feel safe and comfortable there.”

SENIOR UNDERGRADUATE

“What Students Are Saying About Lilly

Every couple of years, we survey the student body to understand how they view our services, spaces, and materials, and how satisfied they are with their overall library experience. (The short version: very satisfied, if we do say so ourselves.)

This year, approximately 2,500 Duke students responded to our call for feedback—about 15 percent of the total student population—evenly split between undergraduates and graduate students. Their answers were both candid (“I can never find an open group study room in Perkins”) and imaginative (“NAP PODS! This would be a game changer”).

Some of the most interesting findings were in the open-ended comments, where students could share anything they wanted us to know. The things they had to say about Lilly Library, in particular, reveal the fondness many students have for the East Campus library and its staff. But even Lilly’s most devoted fans found plenty of room for improvement in the current condition of the aging building, driving home the need for the upcoming renovation and expansion.

“I like the study spaces on the first floor at Lilly Library because of how open the space is, so there are people watching out for each other. It makes me feel safer.”

MASTER’S STUDENT

“Lilly Library has a bit limited collaboration space, which is filled up very quickly around the time of midterms and finals.”

FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE

“The staff at Lilly is fantastic and I love going in to pick up books for my research, but as a workspace for graduate students it leaves a little to be desired.”

PH.D. CANDIDATE

“Get nicer chairs with some padding in Lilly, and please upgrade the Lilly basement.”

FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE
University Librarian Joe Salem gets a lift from Earl Alston, Access and Delivery Coordinator at the Library Service Center, during a recent tour of the facility by the Duke Library Advisory Board.

Most people never see the Library Service Center, or LSC for short. Tucked away in an industrial park a few miles south of downtown Durham, it looks like just another warehouse. But inside, a massive steel door rolls back to reveal the biggest bookshelves you’ve ever seen. Each one is three stories tall and half a football field long. Aisles of densely packed books seem to go on—and up—forever. Alston and his co-workers zip around on special hydraulic lifts, beeping friendly horns as they pull titles requested by patrons.

More than six million books, documents, and archival materials reside at the LSC. About half of them belong to Duke. But the facility also manages millions of volumes on behalf of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina Central University, the Durham County Library, and other community partners. It’s another example of how rival universities actually cooperate all the time, strategically sharing storage and staffing costs.

But the LSC is running out of space. Built in 2001, it has been added onto twice and is now nearing 95 percent capacity. As usage keeps going up, it will need to be expanded again soon.
Unless you’ve been living under a rock, you’ve heard the buzz about ChatGPT. It can write papers! Debug code! Do your laundry! Create websites from thin air! While it is an exciting tech development with enormous possibilities for applications, understanding what’s under the hood and what it does well (and not-so-well) is critically important.

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched for public use in November 2022. While other AI chatbots are also in development by tech giants such as Google, Apple, and Microsoft, OpenAI’s early rollout has eclipsed the others for now—with the site reaching more than 100 million users in just two months. For some perspective, that’s faster than TikTok, Instagram, and many other popular apps achieved widespread adoption.

What you may not know about ChatGPT is that it has significant limitations as a reliable research assistant. One such limitation is that it has been known to fabricate or “hallucinate” (in machine learning terms) citations. These citations may sound legitimate and scholarly, but they are not real. It is important to note that AI can confidently generate responses without backing data, much like a person under the influence of hallucinations can speak confidently without proper reasoning. If you try to find these sources through Google or the library, you will turn up—NOTHING.

Why does it do this? ChatGPT is built on a large language model and has been trained on a huge dataset of internet sources. It can quickly and simply generate easy-to-understand responses to any question you throw at it. But the responses are only as good as the quality of input data it has been trained on. Its core strength lies in recognizing language patterns—not in reading and analyzing lengthy scholarly texts. Given that, it may not be the most reliable source for in-depth research. The following is a shortlist of what we’ve observed ChatGPT is good for and not good for.
**What It’s Good For**

**Generating ideas for related concepts, terms, and words about a particular topic.**

We asked ChatGPT, “What are some keywords for the topic of AI literacy?” It replied with: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Deep Learning, Neural Networks, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Robotics, Data Science, Big Data, Predictive Analytics, Ethics of AI, Bias in AI, Explainable AI, Human-AI Interaction, and Cognitive Computing. These are all great leads for terms you might use to look for articles and books on this topic.

**Suggestions for databases where one could find literature on a topic.**

We asked ChatGPT, “What are some good library databases I could search to find more information about the topic of AI literacy?” ChatGPT replied with: IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, ScienceDirect, JSTOR, Proquest, arXiv, and Web of Science. It also suggested checking with my local library to see what’s available. A more direct route to this type of question would be consulting one of the Research Guides on our website, or connecting with a library subject specialist already familiar with the resources we have available on any given topic.

**Suggestions for improving writing.**

As ChatGPT has been trained on a large corpus of text, it has accumulated a range of dictions and writing variations within context. We have found it particularly useful for checking grammar and sentence structure in American English, and for suggesting alternative phrasing, synonyms, or quick translations of writing in another language. Additionally, we have experimented with asking ChatGPT to rewrite entire paragraphs, but if it produced an unexpected response, it may indicate that some part of our writing does not make sense in that particular language. Nonetheless, it is important to thoroughly review the text and ensure that it meets your criteria before accepting it.

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**What It’s NOT Good For**

**DO NOT ask ChatGPT for a list of sources on a particular topic!**

ChatGPT does not have the ability to match relevant sources to any given topic. It may do okay with some topics or sources, but it may also fabricate sources that don’t exist.

**Be wary of asking ChatGPT to summarize a particular source, or write your literature review.**

It may be tempting to ask ChatGPT to summarize the main points of the dense and technical 10-page article you have to read for class, or to write a literature review synthesizing a field of research. Depending on the topic and availability of data it has on that topic, it may summarize the wrong source or provide inaccurate summaries of specific articles—sometimes making up details and conclusions.

**Do not expect ChatGPT to be aware of current events or predict the future.**

ChatGPT’s “knowledge” is based on the dataset that was available before September 2021. Therefore, it may not be able to provide up-to-date information on current events or predict the future. For instance, when we asked about the latest book published in the U.S. by Haruki Murakami, ChatGPT responded with *First Person Singular*, which was published in April 2021. However, the correct answer is *Novelist as a Vocation*, which was released in November 2022. Additionally, ChatGPT did not seem aware of any recent developments beyond September 2021. It’s worth noting that Murakami’s new novel, *The City and Its Uncertain Walls*, was released in April 2023—but only in Japanese.

AI chat technology is rapidly evolving, and it’s exciting to see where this will go. Much like Google and Wikipedia helped accelerate our access to information in their heyday, the existence of these new AI-based tools requires their users to think about how to carefully and ethically incorporate them into their own research and writing. If you have any doubts or questions, ask real human experts, like your nearest librarian.
Honoring a Duke Trailblazer and LGBTQ+ Advocate
“A safe space for all,” reads a new plaque on the fourth floor of Perkins Library. Fitting words for someone who made countless students feel safe and seen during their time at Duke—Janie K. Long.

Dr. Long retired in 2020. She had worked at Duke since 2006, first as Director of the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, then as Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, making her arguably the most senior “out” administrator at Duke. For years, students consistently ranked her classes in Women’s Studies and Sexuality Studies among the university’s top 5 percent.

Today, thanks in part to Dr. Long’s efforts, Duke is a more inclusive and equitable environment for all. The Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity—which Long led until 2014—now has a prominent location in the Bryan Center. Duke’s Lavender Graduation celebration for LGBTQ+ graduates—which Long established—and Duke’s annual National Coming Out Day celebration are both longstanding and beloved campus traditions.

After she retired, some of Dr. Long’s friends and former students began discussing how they could honor her many contributions to Duke. They soon found an enthusiastic partner in the Duke University Libraries.

“It is impossible to overstate the impact Janie has made on the hearts, minds, and lives of Duke students,” said Howard Menaker T’74, one of a small group of Duke alumni who organized the effort to celebrate her legacy. “We wanted to find a way to honor her in a permanent way, and the Duke Libraries offered a wonderful way to do so.”

Their plans finally came to fruition this past April, when friends and well-wishers gathered to dedicate a library study space in Long’s honor—the first in our history named for an LGBTQ+ Duke administrator. Her legacy of working for a more diverse and inclusive Duke will also live on through the Janie K. Long Lecture Series, a newly established speaker series focusing on topics of interest to queer communities and highlighting library collections on the history of women, gender, and sexuality.

The first talk in the series took place after the dedication ceremony, featuring a panel discussion on queer student activism at Duke. Panelists included Mandy Carter, Durham-based Black lesbian activist and the subject of our newest library exhibit in the Chappell Family Gallery; Angel Collie, Director of Duke’s Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity; Liam Miranda T’16 SPP’21, Senior Director of Research and Training at the Inclusion Playbook; and Janelle Taylor T’19, Policy Consultant at the Georgetown University Law Center.

The panel was moderated by Steven Petrow T’78, contributing columnist for the Washington Post and author, who helped to raise funds for the study space and lecture series named in Dr. Long’s honor.

“Her story is really part of our story,” said Petrow, who befriended Long shortly after she came to Duke in 2006. “I was a history major at Duke, so I always believe in the importance of understanding our history to understand our present and perhaps better indicate where we are going. Janie Long is really fundamental to the history of LGBTQ+ individuals at Duke. I think it’s crucial that we remember her and her many contributions.”

Opposite page: Scenes from the dedication ceremony of a new study space and speaker series honoring Dr. Janie K. Long (middle), who retired from Duke as Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education in 2020.
Libraries Announce Senior Leadership Appointments

Earlier this year, the Duke University Libraries announced two appointments to our senior leadership team, after dual national searches. Both will serve as members of the Libraries’ Executive Group, reporting to the University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs.

**Jameca Dupree** has been named Associate University Librarian and Director of Financial and Facility Services. In this role, she will have overall responsibility for the financial affairs and administrative operations of the Libraries, overseeing a $36 million operating budget and providing leadership over a division that includes Business Services, Facilities and Distribution Services, and the Library Service Center.

Dupree has worked at Duke for twenty-one years, including seventeen in the Libraries, in progressively responsible administrative, budget, and financial oversight roles. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from North Carolina Wesleyan College, and a MBA from Fayetteville State University—both of which she earned while working full-time in the Libraries.

Dupree’s appointment coincides with another addition to the Libraries’ Executive Group. **Emily Daly** has been named Associate University Librarian for Research and Public Services. In this position, Daly will provide leadership, vision, and strategic direction to advance the core teaching, learning, and research services of the Libraries. The division she oversees is broadly responsible for providing individualized library help and outreach to students, faculty, university staff, and the general public. Research and Public Services includes Access and Delivery Services, the East Campus Libraries, International and Area Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and the Marine Lab Library.

In addition to her work in the Libraries, where she has served in both librarian and managerial capacities since 2006, Daly has an extensive record of service to Duke. She currently serves on the Master’s Advisory Council and has been an academic advisor to pre-major Duke undergraduates since 2010. Daly holds a bachelor’s degree in English from North Carolina State University, and a master’s in Library Science from UNC-Chapel Hill.

*Above: Jameca Dupree (left) and Emily Daly (right)*
Residency Program Launched for Early Career Librarians

As part of our commitment to embody the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work, the Duke University Libraries has launched a new residency program for early career librarians. The program seeks to provide meaningful work placements in specialized fields of librarianship, aligning the professional goals of residents with the strategic goals of the Libraries. While learning on the job, residents will work with colleagues who are highly skilled in these specialized areas and receive relevant development and training.

As a member of the ACRL Diversity Alliance, the Libraries established the Residency Program as part of our organization’s commitment to “diversify and thereby enrich the profession” and “to build an inclusive organizational culture supportive of Black, Indigenous and People of color (BIPOC).”

The residency program guarantees professional development funding to residents to fund travel, conference attendance, presentations, and other activities related to skill-building and their ongoing career trajectories. Residents are placed intentionally with the goal of their positions becoming regular, ranked librarian positions if successful during their three-year terms.

We are happy to announce the appointments of our first two residents. Adhitya Dhanapal has been appointed as Resident Librarian for South and Southeast Asian Studies, effective December 1. And Zhuo Pan will serve as Resident Librarian for Resource Description, effective August 14. We are delighted to welcome them both to Duke!

Duke University Libraries Selects New Library Enterprise System

Although most library users won’t notice any difference, changes are coming to an important back-end system the Duke University Libraries use to handle everything from checking out books to managing thousands of databases and online resources. Between now and summer 2024, we will sunset our legacy library enterprise system and transition to the Ex Libris Alma Library Services Platform.

Most large research libraries like Duke’s rely on various commercial and open-source software products to handle the everyday work of library staff, integrating systems for broad interoperability and accessibility while at the same time providing a high-quality user experience to library patrons.

While Duke has long contributed to the development of open-source library technologies (we were the founding institution of the Open Library Environment and a charter member of FOLIO), the decision to implement Alma was made after an extensive internal review of the specific library needs of the Duke community, including the separately administered libraries serving the schools of Business, Law, Divinity, and Medicine, as well as Duke Kunshan University Library.

“We are in a better place today because of the contributions and work of our staff, who have laid the foundation for stronger, more sustainable library system at Duke,” said Joseph Salem, Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs. “These investments, collaborations, and projects have been worthwhile in preparing us for an impactful future serving the Duke community.”

“We have a notable history of innovation through leveraging and integrating multiple technology platforms for library users,” said Tim McGeary, Associate University Librarian for Digital Strategies & Technology. “We remain proud of FOLIO, our contributions and collaboration, and of our colleagues that have fully implemented FOLIO. We will work with the FOLIO community during this transition to minimize impact on leadership and staff collaboration, and we will fulfill the financial commitments we have made in shared development projects. We also remain proud of our partnership with Index Data, which will continue through hosting and supporting the Library Data Platform. Index Data’s dedication to FOLIO, Project ReShare, and open-source technology development in libraries is strong, and we look forward to future partnerships.”

Project plans for implementing Alma are being developed and will be communicated soon.
A Week in the Life of a Library Intern

By: Jovana Ivezic, Senior Conservation Technician

This summer, the Libraries’ Conservation Services department was delighted to welcome to Duke our newest HBCU Library Alliance intern, Angela Nettles.

Angela is a rising senior at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she is studying Africana Women’s Studies. The internship program, sponsored by the University of Delaware and the HBCU Library Alliance, places interested undergraduates from historically black colleges and universities with host institutions, where they learn hands-on library preservation skills under the mentorship of professional conservators and library staff. By providing students from HBCUs with specialized and marketable skills, the program ultimately aims to diversify the library profession.

After two years of conducting the internship online due to COVID, it was refreshing to have an intern onsite again, and Angela dove right into work. During her first week, she assisted the Libraries’ Exhibition Department with setting up our new exhibit in the Chappell Family Gallery, Mandy Carter: Scientist of Activism. From sanding walls to setting up exhibit cases and adjusting overhead lights, Angela eagerly took part in every step of the process. She also spent time in the Verne and Tanya Roberts Conservation Lab, learning about how conservators make treatment decisions for general collections, and even performing some treatments herself. Interns like Angela spend four weeks onsite at their host institutions, in addition to two weeks of virtual classes with their fellow interns around the country.

This is the fifth year Duke has participated in the HBCU Library Alliance Summer Conservation/Preservation Internship Program, and we look forward to seeing what else Angela will accomplish in her career!

Top to bottom: Intern Angela Nettles prepping exhibit gallery walls, posing with Exhibition Services staff Meg Brown (left) and Yoon Kim (right), and assisting with collection treatments in the Conservation Lab. Photos by Jovana Ivezic.
While doing research for his new life of King, author Jonathan Eig made a significant discovery in the papers of Alex Haley held by Duke’s Rubenstein Library.

What he found was that a harsh and oft-quoted criticism King once leveled at Malcolm X had in fact been made up by Haley. The fraudulent quote has been widely circulated in print and taught in history classes, influencing perceptions of the two leaders for decades.

The source of the revelation is the original transcript of Haley’s interview with King, later published in Playboy in 1965. It was the longest interview King ever granted to any publication and extensively covers his thoughts on the Civil Rights Movement. Among other things, King never said he felt “Malcolm has done himself and our people a great disservice,” by employing “fiery demagogic oratory in the black ghettoes, urging Negroes to arm themselves and prepare to engage in violence.” King did say some of those things at different points in the interview, but not in that context, and not directed at Malcolm X.

The finding, originally reported by The Washington Post, takes up only a paragraph in Eig’s book but may have profound implications. It is expected to reshape historians’ understanding of King’s and Malcolm X’s relationship and raise additional doubts about Haley’s credibility, which has come into question in recent years amid other allegations of plagiarism, fabrications, and manipulated quotes.

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Q&A with Jodi Psoter, Librarian for Marine Sciences

The Pearse Memorial Library at the Duke Marine Lab is our only library with an ocean view. Meet the new librarian at the helm.

After serving since 2017 as Librarian for Chemistry and Statistical Sciences on the main campus in Durham, Jodi Psoter relocated to Beaufort, North Carolina, to take over the library at Duke’s year-round coastal campus there. We recently sat down with her to ask how she’s settling in, and to understand how the small, specialized library she leads supports important Duke research on climate change, marine conservation, and environmental policy.

It’s been about six months since you moved from Durham to Beaufort. Looking back, what have been some of the best parts about the transition?

I’ve loved moving to a new environment. I’ve lived in the mountains, when I worked at Williams College in Massachusetts. Then I moved to the Piedmont, when I first started working for Duke. Now I live at the beach! I just keep moving down in elevation. It’s a smaller community than Durham, but it’s sunny and there’s no snow, which is a delight for me. It also turns out that when you move to the beach, people you don’t talk to every day start talking to you. I didn’t realize how many people across the Duke Libraries have connections to the students and faculty at the Marine Lab and the research they do here. So I’ve enjoyed getting to work with new colleagues, both here and back at the Durham campus.

Another cool thing is that when people tour the Marine Lab, the tours always come through the library. So I meet a lot of people that way!
Who uses the Marine Lab Library?
The faculty, students, and staff at the Marine Lab all use the library, but they use it in different ways. The faculty come in and chat for a while, or pick up books they’ve requested, but they’re not usually working in the space. The students tend to use the library as a change of scenery. They come here to relax or study together. We have a “creativity corner” for them with puzzles, coloring books, Sudoku, and other mental distractions, because that’s how I like to work. It helps to stop every now and then, use a different part of your brain, and refocus. As for the staff of the Marine Lab, they tend to use the library for pleasure reading. We have a nice collection of popular new releases right near the entrance, so they draw people in.

As a Marine Lab newbie, you’ve been getting to know your new community. What have been some of the more interesting discoveries you’ve made?
The views never get old. If you sit in the librarian’s office, you can watch tugboats guiding the big cargo ships into port. You can also see dolphin pods and wild horses on the islands across the channel (seen below). The other day I was teaching a workshop, and I looked out the classroom window and said, “Oh, the horses are back!” Everyone stopped and turned to watch for a minute. The students see them all the time, but it never ceases to delight them.

Another discovery is that I have to plan library workshops around the weather. If it’s supposed to be sunny and beautiful, the students are going to be out on the research vessels doing fieldwork, not in the classroom or in the library. That’s something I never had to think about in Durham!

You’re basically a staff of one, so you have to do a bit of everything. Can you give us an idea of what that entails?
I do everything a regular subject librarian does: research, instruction, building the collection. But because I’m new here, I’m also doing a lot of outreach. A good bit of what you do as a new librarian is prove yourself to your faculty. They need to be confident in your skills before they give you any class time with their students, because that time is valuable. So I’m spending a lot of time getting to know my faculty and letting them know what I can do for them, for their research and classes.

I also personally shelve all the books. As a subject librarian, I hadn’t shelved books in years, so I had to refresh myself on our call number system!

Nobody at the Marine Lab does just one job. Because it’s such a small community, you have to participate in different ways. That’s what I like best about it. I get to be the librarian, but I do other stuff like volunteering my services for field trips on the research vessels. Some might consider those things peripheral to the library, but in fact it’s essential to making the library a part of the community here!

Last year the university announced the Duke Climate Commitment, uniting Duke’s education, research, operations and public service missions to focus on climate change solutions. What are some ways the work of the Marine Lab Library supports that initiative?
It’s always been our job as librarians to support new university initiatives. We’re always naturally supporting the Duke Climate Commitment, because that’s the research that our faculty and students are already working on. And it’s not just the Marine Lab Library. I work very closely with my colleagues in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Department of the Libraries, and their students and faculty are all working on issues related to climate change in some way.

That being said, there’s a noticeable shift in the way climate research at Duke is becoming more interdisciplinary. You have traditional sciences talking to different disciplines. I think that’s where the really interesting support for the Climate Commitment is going to come in. When we librarians can pool our interdisciplinary resources and share those with researchers, that’s when we’re going to have the biggest impact.
What’s one of the more memorable experiences you’ve had while living in Beaufort?

I got to meet the grandson of Arthur Sperry Pearse, who founded the Duke Marine Lab. The library is even named for him! He came into the library one Friday afternoon with his wife and new baby. The baby hadn’t visited the Marine Lab yet. So we took pictures at all the Arthur Pearse memorials. Then they wanted to buy some souvenirs. So I’m running around looking for someone who can open the store for Arthur Pearse’s grandson, and we eventually found someone, so the baby was happy with its new Marine Lab T-shirt.

What’s coming next at the Marine Lab Library?

I’m doing an inventory and collection analysis, in order to figure out where the library’s collection needs to go in the future, and how it needs to be formatted. When you look at our collection over the last fifty years, you can see how research at the Marine Lab has changed. Back in the day, Beaufort was known for its fisheries and canning industry, which had a large impact on the local flora, fauna, and water. Today there’s only one fishery left. But at one point the library had tons of books and resources on fisheries. Now the research is moving toward coastal erosion, climate change, and policy. It’s interesting to see how the research done at the Marine Lab reflects changes in the local community, which is then reflected in the library collections we buy to support the research.

But the biggest news is that the Marine Lab Library turns fifty next year! Possibly, depending on how you look at it. The architectural plans say 1974, and 1976 is when the building was dedicated. But I turn fifty next year, too, and so does my friend Gilbert, the Campus Services Coordinator for Duke Dining and Residence Life here at the Marine Lab. He and I both want to have our party with the library, so we’re going with ’74! We’ll definitely have a second celebration in 2026.

Last question: Have you gone out on a Duke boat yet?

Yes! I actually ended up going out on a research vessel with some students to the Duke Aquafarm recently. It’s Duke’s other “campus farm,” where they grow oysters instead of produce. I made sure to wear the life jacket Santa got me for Christmas, because fun fact—I don’t swim very well!

Left: Jodi Potter at the helm of the Kirby-Smith, a research vessel at the Duke Marine Lab, on a recent trip with students to the Duke Aquafarm.
As you might have heard, this university has a big birthday coming up. Next year marks one century since Trinity College formally became “Dear Old Duke.”

The celebrations will last all year. But one thing we’re especially excited about is scoring some sweet centennial swag—for official archival purposes, of course.

Indeed, we hold a sizable collection of Duke memorabilia and swag of yore, including this set of genuine Wedgwood china, featuring scenes from the university’s early days. Three hundred sets of twelve plates were commissioned for an earlier centennial celebration in 1938, commemorating one hundred years since the establishment of Brown’s Schoolhouse in Randolph County, North Carolina, the institution to which Duke traces its origins. In addition to Duke blue, you could order them in green, pink, and mulberry.

Now that’s some collectible merch—plus a fairly good metaphor for the rich and colorful history our archivists are always dishing up, centennial after centennial.
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