One for the books: A decade of perseverance and innovation

K-State Libraries

Follow this and additional works at: https://newprairiepress.org/ksulibraries

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 License.

Recommended Citation


This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by New Prairie Press. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kansas State University Libraries by an authorized administrator of New Prairie Press. For more information, please contact cads@k-state.edu.
A decade of perseverance and innovation

Despite experiencing some of the most difficult years in their history, the Libraries have made extraordinary progress towards several strategic goals. Hale Library, the heart of the campus community, successfully underwent a total renovation, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility that benefits all students, faculty and staff. New programs and initiatives were created, and new spaces, such as the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab and the Butler Digitization Lab, advanced campus efforts to increase student engagement and further research efforts.

The Libraries also found new ways to connect students and staff with resources, including the Resource Link at Hale Library, which partners with campus organizations such as the Writing Center to bring more campus resources into a centrally located space.

The Libraries staff, in particular, have shown an inordinate amount of dedication in continuing to serve the community in the face of challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, a declining budget and the 2018 Hale Library fire. Instead of simply accepting the status quo, staff went above and beyond to find creative ways to provide library services and address issues of distance while keeping patrons safe.

A strong example of this is the effort staff went to shortly after the fire when it was no longer possible to serve patrons directly from Hale Library. Staff quickly adapted to communicating and coordinating online, even though many of them were spread out in different buildings across campus.

Throughout these challenges and more, the Libraries continue to serve, educate and connect the campus community and beyond.
You might already know some of the ways that the Libraries collect and provide access to information, but another strategic goal of the organization is to teach students how to find and use information responsibly.

Research can be a complicated process. The massive amount of information available makes it easier for misinformation to slip through. To combat this, the Libraries are developing more resources to help teach students valuable research skills and support instructors and faculty.

Many students come to K-State without the research skills required to succeed throughout their academic career. Librarians at K-State Libraries teach many research classes, but time and resources are limited. So in 2010, several faculty librarians sought to create a self-guided, online platform to increase the number of K-State students they could teach research skills to. The use of online tutorials for broad research and information skills would also allow librarians the ability to focus instruction on more in-depth and subject specific research skills.

Working with other institutions, K-State Libraries created the New Literacies Alliance (NLA). Today, the NLA is a collaborative effort by librarians from multiple institutions across the United States, and their lessons are available for free online to anyone that wants to take them. Lessons currently include topics on understanding authority, search strategies, access to information and many others. The NLA’s working group meets every year to share ideas for potential lessons, using their personal experiences to address student and researcher needs.

“The New Literacies Alliance gives everybody the opportunity to learn scholarly skills at their own pace,” said Melia Fritch, academic services librarian and member of the steering committee. “Lessons from the website integrate into programs such as Canvas that faculty often use, which make them simple to use in classrooms.”

What started as a project to enhance research instruction for K-State students has expanded to support learners across the globe.

“I REALLY APPRECIATED THIS WORKSHOP. FIFTY PERCENT OF MY RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE A LITERATURE REVIEW, SO IT’S VERY HELPFUL TO ME.”

— CHANGMIN (CASEY) LIAO

Master’s student in architectural engineering and construction science, took a workshop led by librarians in preparation for a project.

Athletic training program students Tia Breckenridge, Ray Adams and Talyn Kleweno worked closely with librarians throughout their academic career to gain valuable research skills.

The Libraries created a popular workshop series targeting graduate student research needs.
The Libraries are advocates and stewards of open access and open education initiatives. Unsustainable scholarly publishing models have forced many academic and research libraries across the world to seek creative solutions. K-State Libraries has joined this effort in the last decade by supporting open access initiatives, a key component in the fight to allow free access to publicly funded research and scholarship. This core idea has also led to programs that save students money on textbooks.

Finding new paths to publishing:

As the cost of access to scholarly journals continues to skyrocket, academic libraries have prioritized the need to find new and alternative publishing models. In 2015, K-State Libraries created the Center for the Advancement of Digital Scholarship in part to support new publishing models including Open Access. Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles and other scholarly information coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. While the concept sounds simple, shifting a rigid academic model that has been in place for generations has many challenges.

Dr. Rekha Natarajan created an online textbook for her algebra students using an Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative grant.

Supporting open access isn’t always the easy path but it provides an opportunity for researchers and librarians to help shape a publishing environment that is more sustainable. It also helps keep costs down for users, which includes our K-State students.

— Ryan Otto
Scholarly communications librarian

Overview:
Programs and initiatives supporting open access and open education overseen by K-State Libraries:

OPEN/ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE: Provides grants to instructors for the adoption or development of open education resources for K-State students.

K-STATE OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING FUND: Provides funds to K-State researchers to help them publish in open access journals.

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM: Purchases textbooks for students to borrow so they don’t have to buy them.

K-STATE RESEARCH EXCHANGE: An online, institutional repository for K-State faculty and researchers to store and share their work.

NEW PRAIRIE PRESS: An open access publishing platform for journals, conference proceedings and monographs.

OPEN/ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOK Initiative has SAVED K-STATE STUDENTS more than $10M since 2016.

AFFORDABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY

OVERVIEW: Unsustainable scholarly publishing models have forced many academic and research libraries across the world to seek creative solutions.

K-State Libraries has joined this effort in the last decade by supporting open access initiatives, a key component in the fight to allow free access to publicly funded research and scholarship. This core idea has also led to programs that save students money on textbooks.

FINDING NEW PATHS TO PUBLISHING:

As the cost of access to scholarly journals continues to skyrocket, academic libraries have prioritized the need to find new and alternative publishing models. In 2015, K-State Libraries created the Center for the Advancement of Digital Scholarship in part to support new publishing models including Open Access. Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles and other scholarly information coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. While the concept sounds simple, shifting a rigid academic model that has been in place for generations has many challenges.

Dr. Rekha Natarajan created an online textbook for her algebra students using an Open/Alternative Textbook Initiative grant.

Supporting open access isn’t always the easy path but it provides an opportunity for researchers and librarians to help shape a publishing environment that is more sustainable. It also helps keep costs down for users, which includes our K-State students.

— Ryan Otto
Scholarly communications librarian

OPEN/ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE has SAVED K-STATE STUDENTS more than $10M since 2016.
Overview:

In the last ten years, every K-State library has received updates and renovations. These updates have ranged from investing in new furniture and technology to creating entirely new locations. In 2017, the Paul Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning and Design moved to a new space in the freshly renovated Regnier Hall. And most recently, Hale Library received a complete renovation after a fire damaged much of the building in May of 2018.

Rising from the ashes:

After a fire on May 22, 2018 at Hale Library, K-State Libraries turned devastation into opportunity. A multi-year renovation and restoration project both enhanced traditional library settings and created modern spaces to support student collaboration, creativity and innovation.

Thanks to generous donor support, the Libraries were able to add several new features including a beautiful café, an additional event and lecture space and a 60-person instruction room. The Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons is a hub for student collaboration and features 14 collaboration rooms. Popular with students, the rooms feature large monitors and white board walls.

The Libraries also established the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab. The lab offers all K-Staters the opportunity to use the latest innovative technologies, including 3D printers, laser cutters, a media studio, a professional sound studio, equipment checkout, a video production studio and makerspaces.

In conjunction with new spaces, the Libraries enhanced traditional spaces with the complete restoration of Historic Farrell Library. In addition to the Great Room, two other floors of the original 1927 building were restored to increase access to timeless study spaces with natural light and stunning architecture.

The 2018 Hale Library fire led to a multi-year renovation; today’s building features state-of-the-art study spaces and equipment for community use.

NEW GREAT ROOM WINDOWS WERE INSTALLED IN 2013 THANKS TO THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM MARK CHAPMAN.

The Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons opened on the first floor of Hale Library in August 2019. The Everitts provided the lead gift of $3 million to the renovation project. 

DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, 17 COLLABORATION ROOMS IN HALE LIBRARY WERE RESERVED 16,586 TIMES BY MORE THAN 2,500 DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

NEW GREAT ROOM WINDOWS WERE INSTALLED IN 2013 THANKS TO THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM MARK CHAPMAN.

3D
Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab
Overview: Technology has played a key role in the evolution of the Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections throughout the last ten years. The department now has the ability to make materials more accessible through digitization efforts. But at the same time, technology has introduced new challenges for collecting and managing born-digital materials for the university archives. While technological advances have created both new opportunities and challenges, they have not changed the department’s strong commitment to collecting significant items for its world-class collections.

Keeping records current and accessible:

Gone were the days where university records were almost entirely in paper format. To help address this major shift in university records management, the Libraries hired its first full time records manager. Outreach to K-State departments regarding records management has been a key initiative, and to help meet this goal, a successful training program was launched in 2017. “Strong records management can improve efficiency and ensure records are accessible and usable when needed,” said Ryan Leimkuehler, university records manager.

These efforts included archiving websites to capture the vast amount of information presented in that format. The department even became a leader in developing a statewide consortium for web archiving. Digitization has also been a key focus of the department throughout the last ten years. The Libraries contracted with outside vendors to digitize frequently used K-State records, such as yearbooks and newspapers while some photographs and historical records were digitized in house. In 2021, the Libraries established the Butler Digitization Lab thanks to a generous gift from the Butler Family Foundation. The new lab is outfitted with the technology necessary to accelerate digitization efforts in-house. In 2020, the department also started its first online transcription and translation project with manuscript cookbooks. The project has had more than 2,400 pages transcribed from 31 works.

Digitization has also been a key focus of the department throughout the last ten years. The Libraries contracted with outside vendors to digitize frequently used K-State records, such as yearbooks and newspapers while some photographs and historical records were digitized in house. In 2021, the Libraries established the Butler Digitization Lab thanks to a generous gift from the Butler Family Foundation. The new lab is outfitted with the technology necessary to accelerate digitization efforts in-house.

In 2020, the department also started its first online transcription and translation project with manuscript cookbooks. The project has had more than 2,400 pages transcribed from 31 works.

Digitization has also been a key focus of the department throughout the last ten years. The Libraries contracted with outside vendors to digitize frequently used K-State records, such as yearbooks and newspapers while some photographs and historical records were digitized in house. In 2021, the Libraries established the Butler Digitization Lab thanks to a generous gift from the Butler Family Foundation. The new lab is outfitted with the technology necessary to accelerate digitization efforts in-house.

In 2020, the department also started its first online transcription and translation project with manuscript cookbooks. The project has had more than 2,400 pages transcribed from 31 works.
It’s no coincidence that the amazing success of the Libraries over the last ten years coincides with a banner decade of philanthropic support. Much of what has been accomplished would not be possible without the generosity of donors. In fact, the Libraries surpassed their fundraising goal during the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign by more than $2 million, allowing the Libraries to dream bigger than they ever imagined. In addition to targeted enhancement gifts, the Friends of the K-State Libraries have continued to provide vital point-of-need funding for the Libraries to support technology and furniture updates, employee recognition awards and restoration efforts.

However, it wasn’t just monetary support that propelled the Libraries forward in recent years. In the fall of 2013, the Libraries created the K-State Libraries Student Ambassadors program. The first of its kind for an academic library, the diverse group of K-State students serve both as advisors and advocates for K-State Libraries.

About 30 students represent the Libraries as ambassadors each year. In an effort to make the group as representative and diverse as possible, both undergraduate and graduate students serve as ambassadors.

“Students love that they get to work with peers from different colleges and degree programs,” said Martin. “Our program is also unique in that we want to add new members until the fall, because we want new freshman and transfer students to have representation in the group.”

Lori Goetsch, who retired as Dean of Libraries in 2021, had an enormous impact on the Libraries. Her leadership has inspired resilience and positivity since she started in 2004.

“In 2013, the Libraries established the Kirmser Undergraduate Research Award,” said Martin. “$48,000 has been awarded to 48 students.”

K-State President Richard Linton spoke at the Libraries Gala earlier this year. The Libraries Gala is a signature event hosted by the Friends of the K-State Libraries to raise money and awareness for the Libraries.

“We are so much more connected to the student body because of their efforts.”

— DARCHELLE MARTIN

Director of Communications

and Marketing

Innovation & Inspiration Campaign: $13.1M Raised for K-State Libraries

The Friends Raised $250,000 Towards a New 60-Person Instruction Room in Hale Library

Looking Forward

With a new dean of Libraries and university president, creating a new strategic plan to align with university initiatives is a top priority. The Libraries will begin engaging with stakeholders this fall to help identify top priorities for the K-State community.

If you would like to provide feedback on the future of the Libraries, you can contact Dean Joe Mocnik directly at lib.k-state.edu/about/our-people/joe-mocnik.