Digitized Quiver yearbooks - the latest in a growing online campus history collection

For 78 years, from 1897-1974, the students of UW Oshkosh, and her predecessor institutions, published an annual chronicling their school year. In the books they called The Quiver, students documented their clubs, sports, social life and even their studies. For many years, these yearbooks include the only photographs we have of the campus and its people. The books tell stories, long-lost inside jokes, and record the names of students and staff long forgotten. Until recently, an interested reader had to either own a copy or travel to one of the few sites where a set was preserved to view them. No longer. In January, Polk Library, partnering with Recollection Wisconsin, has put the full set of The Quiver online.

The Quiver collection joins other collections of digitized content that document the rich history of UW Oshkosh. Digitized Advance and Advance-Titan newspapers, campus photographs, 50th, 75th and 100th year published histories, historical films and the ‘Campus Stories Oral History Project’ interviews, all provide unique windows into our University’s past. Together, the materials help engage alumni, connect current students to the past and assist campus units tell their stories. As UW Oshkosh approaches its Sesquicentennial in 2021, the materials will be used extensively in new and creative ways.

To complete The Quiver project, Polk Library’s University Archives partnered with Recollection Wisconsin, the statewide program that helps cultural agencies across the state digitize and share their unique research materials. Recollection Wisconsin grew out of the former Wisconsin Heritage Online and is today a content partner of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). Recollection Wisconsin shares materials from over 200 public libraries, local historical societies, museums, public and private universities and colleges and government agencies. The Recollection Wisconsin portal provides access to the UW Digital Collections as well as content hosted by other members. The Quiver yearbooks are hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library on their ContentDM
Digitization of the yearbooks was completed by La Crosse-based Northern Micrographics from a set that was disbound for optimum reformatting. While lower quality images are available online, the University Archives preserves high quality versions.

Visitors to the online Quiver collection can browse by volume or search for names or other keywords.

“The University Archives often receives inquiries from family members of alumni,” said University Archivist, Joshua Ranger, “and being able to search the yearbooks by name will greatly enhance their ability to find and learn more about their parents, grandparents and beyond.”

In addition to finding personal connections to the people of the school, browsing the old photos can simply be fun.

“I think it’s important for all our staff and students to understand they are part of a storied institution in this community,” said Ranger. “By just flipping through these books, you understand that better. We are all the continuation of the mission that began here in 1871.”

The Quiver yearbooks online can be found here: https://content.mpl.org/digital/collection/UOWO.

The digitized student newspapers here: https://forrestpolk.newspaperarchive.com/

Photographs and published histories here: https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/uw/uwo/

Campus Stories Oral History Project interviews here: https://www.uwosh.edu/archives/campusstories

In addition to photos of student teams and organizations, The Quiver published individual photos of students. As the campus grew, this evolved to graduating seniors only. For genealogists with alumni for ancestors, the images and profiles can add details to family histories.

As the 1945 Quiver shows, during WWII the campus was drained of a majority of its male (and many of its female) students. The band, choir and all of the student publications were staffed only by women. A thin and spiral bound yearbook was additional evidence of wartime economies. The Quiver, 1945.

Humor—both gallows and otherwise—was a common feature in the early decades of the Quiver when a small student body allowed for inside jokes to be shared more broadly. In December 1904, a smallpox scare brought an early Christmas break for the students of the Oshkosh Normal School. Fortunately, infected student James Jarvis recovered and an outbreak was avoided. The Quiver, 1905.

By the autumn of 1973, The Quiver staff declared the end of the 78 year tradition of a student annual. The previous year the editors changed the format to a serial featuring a combination of traditional yearbook contents, essays and creative photography. It was produced and distributed several times a year and then bound into a single yearbook. Perhaps it grew too unwieldy or perhaps the yearbook idea was too square, but in 1974 the last issue of The Quiver was produced. The Quiver II attempted to revive the publication as essentially a student facebook in 1977 but this attempt only lasted a few years.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Sarah Neises

As UW Oshkosh copes with the financial recovery process, we are seeing the effect this series of budget woes has on Polk Library’s users. And unlike in the past, cuts to the library’s materials budget are now felt immediately due to the access model of today’s electronic resources. At one time, of course, when we purchased books, journals and media we owned them and could access them until they wore out. Now, like other online subscription services (Spotify, Netflix, etc.), when we no longer can afford to renew, we lose access to everything we enjoyed before. This model is by far responsible for most of our resources. Today, less than 3% of our budget is now spent on physical materials. And the 97% remaining is spent on well-used resources. Just in journal content, in 2018, users performed almost 2 million searches across our databases and downloaded nearly a half a million articles.

But while the access model to library resources have changed, their inflationary pressures have not. Like many of their print equivalents, electronic resources increase in cost every year, generally at a rate of 4%. Even in a year of even budgets, this presents an enormous challenge in providing an appropriate and consistent array of quality materials for students, faculty and staff. Fiscal year 2020, however, is no even budget year. As you will read elsewhere in these pages, there are some tough cuts on the table. Users will see a loss of full text content and a weaker complement of resources.

It is important to put our budget in context. As part of the University Resource Alignment survey last year, Polk Library bench-marked our library against 32 peer institutions. Polk Library staff used IPEDS data to compare staffing levels, total budgets, and library expenditures by FTE. Due to 20 or more years of cuts to collection budgets and staffing, Polk Library compares poorly to peers in every category. Polk ranks 26th out of 33 in both staffing levels and total budget and 32nd in library expenditures per FTE.

Still, tough budget times are not unique to us as libraries across the nation are grappling with the high cost of resources. The University of California system recently cut ties with Elsevier, a major scientific publisher, after failing to negotiate a satisfactory contract. California objected to Elsevier’s restrictive usage rights and untenable pricing. The University of California system has made a bold statement and is now committed to pursuing Open Access Publishing, which offers more equitable access to scholarly articles and greater author rights. You can read more about California’s position here: https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/ Elsevier is not alone in its predatory pricing, and libraries across the country are finding the situation untenable. Many publishers such as ACS, IEEE, and OCLC are making it extremely difficult for libraries to provide continued access to quality resources.

The Council of UW System Libraries (CUWL) has been exploring the landscape of Open Education Resources (OER) as a system. A survey of OER activities at UW schools was distributed this fall. The CUWL 2018-2020 strategic directions state that the CUWL libraries will “provide leadership, advocacy and expertise in the UW System for the use and production of open access resources and OER.” OER resources are not without their own challenges, but UW Libraries hope to find ways to leverage our consortium to provide OER education and encourage access to open resources.

Polk Library has a wonderful, dedicated staff in all areas of the library. We will continue to think creatively to provide our users with the research and services that they need. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we seek to navigate these difficult times.

Sarah Neises
Financial Pressures Require Collection Cuts

The University’s budget situation requires all academic departments and support units to make important decisions and identify priorities and the library is no exception. In order to balance our collections budget in FY20 Polk Library must reduce our projected expenses by $130,000. These cuts will have a real impact on access to journal content and unique, discipline-specific resources.

While the library budget has been under pressure over the past decade, this is a significant reduction and was made necessary due to a variety of factors: the fiscal recovery process, to be sure, but also increased subscription costs, the end of one-time monies, and some unexpected database expenses last year.

Over the past ten years, to deal with our shrinking budget and beyond-inflationary-increases to costs of our resources, Polk Library moved journal subscriptions from print to online, eliminated standing orders, eliminated a book approval plan, drastically reduced our print book and media budgets, ended our participation as a Federal Depository for Government Documents, and canceled unique journal subscriptions and databases. Polk also eliminated five staff lines. At the same time, Polk shifted remaining resources to embrace streaming technologies, e-books and bundled journal content as well as re-imagined staffing to concentrate on instruction and e-resource management.

Making the necessary cuts for FY20 will be painful and require the elimination of two more personnel lines and a significant reduction in the amount and variety of research collections, including:

- Sage Premier Journal Package
- Oxford E-Journals Package
- $27,500 worth of individual online journal subscriptions
- Alexander Street Press streaming video subscription
- Bio.One database
- Cabells Directory of Publishing Opportunities
- Oxford English Dictionary Online
- Institute of Physics (IOP) database
- Mental Measurements Database
- Oxford Music
- MathSciNet Database

In addition to meeting the obligation to the financial recovery process, these cuts provide a $35,000 surplus necessary for the likely transfer of costs of American Chemical Society (ACS) from UW System to Polk Library.

To be sure, Polk regrets the loss of these important collections and will continue to advocate for a collection budget more in line with our peers (UW Whitewater, for example enjoys a library collection budget 22.5% higher than ours). In addition, Polk Library has requested budget money through the restructuring process and hopes to acquire resources that will benefit both access campus and UW Oshkosh users. The Library will also continue to provide support for our Interlibrary Loan services to deliver articles, books and media materials from around the world to our users.

As always, if you have concerns or comments about the library and its budget priorities contact your department’s library representative or contact Head of Collections and Technical Services, Ron Hardy at hardyr@uwosh.edu or Library Director, Sarah Neises at neises@uwosh.edu.
The Fond du Lac campus library has recently welcomed new pieces of student artwork to our space.

The student artwork was acquired in 2017 from the campus annual Art Momentum event. Art Momentum is student-run, organized, and juried art event open to the community. Students sell their artwork at Art Momentum and commit to donating half of the proceeds from each item sold to the art scholarship fund. The upcoming Art Momentum show is Friday, April 26th.

An Attention Grabbing Book, by Mason Melius.

Large Giraffe, Small Lion, and Small Elephant by Aisha Ullius.

by Missy Motl
‘TITAN NIGHTS’ COME TO POLK

In February, Reeve Union’s popular Titan Nights programming packed their bags and traveled to the island of Polkiki. On a frigid night, a crew of Reeve staff and student workers brought their games, crafts, food and other activities over to Polk for a co-branded, joint operation welcoming students back to campus for the spring semester. Polkiki, of course, is the name of Polk’s tropical-themed miniature golf course. The lovingly-built 9-hole attraction weaved among the many stations of Titan Nights which included a feature film, henna tattoo artists, giant board games, a caricature artist and an escape room.

“The evening was a great way to combine our back-to-school efforts,” said Joe Pirillo, Polkiki organizer, “and it allowed Reeve to experiment with a different venue. Titan Nights attracted many more people than the miniature golf course could on its own.” Fun was had as over 200 students took part. Polk librarians were impressed with the Reeve staff’s operation and, in turn, the Union gained an appreciation of Polk’s creative putt-putt construction skills.

LED tiki torches bid welcome to students looking for a brief tropical respite from their arctic realities.

STAFF NEWS

Ane Carriveau, UW Fox Valley Librarian and Kelly Johnson, UW Fox Valley Librarian are presenting “Connecting with Your Mission and Creating Student Centered Spaces on a Dime” at the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians 2019 Conference in Eau Claire in April.

Erin McArthur, Online Learning Librarian, co-authored with Dr. Shelly Lancaster (College of Nursing), Dr. Ben Artz (College of Business), Erin Stillmank (DNP student) and Katie Bloesl (Nursing, Northwest Technical College), the article “A Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Community Free Clinic,” to be published in the Spring 2019 issue of the Journal of Community Health Nursing.

Ted Mulvey, Information Literacy Librarian, and Erin McArthur, Online Learning Librarian presented “Library Services for Adult Learners: Improving Information Literacy and Preventing Plagiarism” at the Adult Student Recruitment and Retention conference in Madison, WI, March 4, 2019.

Joe Pirillo, Information Literacy/Online Learning Librarian, has a busy month of professional growth ahead. In April, Pirillo is attending the Association of College and Research (ACRL) Conference in Cleveland, an opportunity funded through the Academic Staff Professional Development Fund. He then heads to Eau Claire for the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians annual meeting. Later in the month, Joe’s traveling to the University of Michigan representing ACRL’s Value in Academic Libraries Committee at a workshop on learning analytics.

Joshua Ranger, University Archivist, helped organize (as Vice President) and attended the Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting in Detroit, MI.

Michael Watkins, Public Services Librarian, retired in December after 30 years at Polk Library. A three-time UW Oshkosh graduate, Mike held a number of positions at Polk over his career including the head of the government documents department. Most recently, Mike worked in the archives processing the Congressman Thomas Petri Papers and university photographs.
They asked the Polk Library Newsletter not to do it: don’t profile Sam Goldben! Several times now, individuals in Sam’s position as Library Services Assistant in Circulation have been profiled in these pages only to leave the job months later for other opportunities. It’s a mark, they say. A hex. A kiss in Gethsemane. Well, this newsletter is a publication of (library) science and will not surrender to such superstition. We, without fear, present this staff profile of Sam Golden.

Actually, one of the reasons Sam’s position has been so fluid is that it often attracts younger individuals interested in pursuing library careers and education. Like others before her, Samantha Goldben is enrolled in an online library Masters program, in her case from the iSchool at UW Madison. This has been a dream of hers for many years.

Originally from Madison, Goldben moved around a lot as a child. For a child starting at many new schools, libraries proved to be a familiar sanctuary for Sam, regardless of the community. A love of books followed as did an affinity for the library staff who welcomed her. After high school, Sam started at UW Fox Valley and then transferred to UW Oshkosh for its well-regarded English Department. Following her interest in a library career, Goldben worked as a student at Polk, transitioning after graduation in 2017 to an LTE. Showing promise and responsibility, Sam was hired on as Polk’s “late shift,” Circulation Library Services Assistant where she assists patrons, manages library operations in the evening, and supervises students.

Working at Polk gives Sam a chance to practice what she is learning in her online courses. The iSchool distance program required a different approach to learning but Sam quickly got the hang of it. Next semester, as part of her Reference coursework, Sam will be able to complete practicum hours at Polk, doing more in-depth reference work than she typically sees at the Circulation desk. It will be important practice as Goldben hopes to become a reference librarian in an academic library some day.

While she works later than the rest of the staff, she does still go home eventually. And when she does, Sam enjoys gaming, crocheting, and reading. Rumor has it she has a novel she’s working on as well.

Exploring Faculty Research Services

by Erin McArthur

As part of our strategic plan, Polk committed to explore the un-met service needs of our faculty. While our librarians already support many faculty members with their research and scholarship, we think there’s even more we can do to help! Support services we are exploring include literature searches and article retrieval, data management, journal selection and evaluation, and citation management -- just to name a few. Last fall, we met with 25 faculty members across various departments to gauge their interest in using library research support, and their response was overwhelmingly positive. This spring, we are conducting a broader faculty needs assessment survey to help us determine which services are most needed, with the goal of formally rolling out a menu of faculty services in Fall 2019. Faculty members can take our brief survey here: https://goo.gl/forms/K0RZQO8FV8NxQ9CG2.