



Reflecting on the University Libraries' Purpose, Mission, and Vision

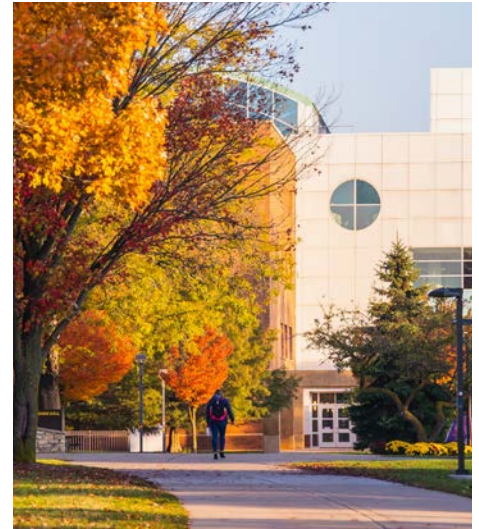
By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

Over my career as a teacher, librarian, and university administrator, my focus has been on helping people learn and achieve their goals. I have found much satisfaction working in academic communities where lifelong learning is a shared purpose and passion.

During the past year, Provost Nancy Mathews led the academic division through a visioning process. The academic vision aims to help learners enhance their skills and talents, address real-world problems, and elevate the human condition. Elevating the human condition involves creating meaningful lives that contribute to something bigger than us. I am excited about this vision and the role the CMU Libraries can play in bringing it to life.

The Libraries' mission and purpose is to help library users develop effective information literacy skills. As the world around us changes, we've responded with initiatives to understand our role in digital literacy, college affordability, sustainability, and artificial intelligence. Our current vision is to "be central to learning and research, inspiring users to interact with diverse ideas and create knowledge." As we explore what an academic library might be 20 years from now, we are open to revising our vision.

For now, we will continue curating collections that support CMU's curriculum and reflect diverse voices and perspectives. We will continue to strengthen our university collaborations to support learning, research, and creative endeavors. Thank you for your continued support! Your gifts to the University Libraries benefit our current and future learners and faculty.



In This Issue:

- Clarke Speaker Series Fall 2024 2**
- 2024-2025 Baber Room Art Exhibitions 2**
- Fostering Learning and Career Development: How Alumni Gifts Augment CMU Students' Learning Outside the Classroom 3**
- Clarke Historical Library: Donors' Lasting Legacy 4**
- CMU Libraries Creates Three-Year Plan ... 6**
- Welcome Gabriella Stuardi, Special Collections Cataloging Librarian 6**
- Committee Explores AI's Impact on Libraries..... 7**
- Library Creates Board Game Collection.... 7**
- 1 North Remodel Increases Variety and Mitigates Sound 8**

Save the Date



Who: Friends of the Libraries

What: Ladies of the Lights, about women lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes.

Presented by Dianna Stampfler, a Michigan writer, speaker, and tourism professional.

Where: Charles V. Park Library, beginning in the Sarah and Daniel Opperman Auditorium followed by lunch in the Baber Room.

When: September 14, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m.



Clarke Speaker Series Fall 2024

All events will be held in person in the Sarah and Daniel Opperman Auditorium, in the Park Library. A reception in the Clarke Historical Library will follow each event. For the full calendar of events and more information, visit clarke.cmich.edu/speakerseries

September 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Opperman Auditorium

The PBB Disaster at 50: Reflections, Critical Lessons, and a Path Forward. Professor Brittany Fremion, CMU, and Professor Ben Peterson, Alma College.

September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
Opperman Auditorium

The David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Lecture featuring award-winning children's book author Christopher Paul Curtis on writing historical fiction for young readers.

Contact us: (989) 774-3864 | Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. | clarke@cmich.edu

2024 - 2025 Baber Room Art Exhibitions



MADLINE DEVANTIER | *Still Divine* | June - August 2024

Recent CMU Fine Arts alumna shares a series of silkscreen prints reimagining Greek mythology.

TATSUKI HAKOYAMA | *August - October 2024*

Michigan-based Japanese artist creates allegorical paintings reflecting on how culture, community, and our environment impact identity and values.

JACKLYN BRICKMAN | *November 2024 - January 2025*

Interdisciplinary artist and educator entangles fact with fiction, employing installation, video, performance, science, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and social engagement to address social and environmental concerns.

KIMBERLY CHAPMAN | *86 Reasons for Asylum Admission* | February - July 2025

Ohio-based porcelain sculptor, creating work through a female lens that sheds light on dark topics.

We partnered with CMU's Office of Information Technology to host demonstrations of the Apple Vision Pro virtual reality goggles in the Adobe Digital Lounge.



Fostering Learning and Career Development: How Alumni Gifts Augment CMU Students' Learning Outside the Classroom

By Ann Kucera, Manager of Library Systems | By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University
Libraries



Larry Laponsie worked as a student employee in the Park Library's Adobe Digital Lounge from fall 2021 through spring 2024. Majoring in Broadcast and Cinematic Arts and Secondary Education, he was perfectly suited to share his knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud programs with other students.

A recipient of the R&M Schmidt Endowment scholarship in 2023-2024 and the Library Student Employee scholarship in 2022-2023, Laponsie was grateful for both scholarships that he received as a library student employee. These scholarships helped reduce the cost of attending college and helped him develop his career skills while working at the CMU Libraries. Laponsie appreciated the skills and experiences he gained working in the Adobe Digital Lounge. "I have had the opportunity to help and assist students and staff with Adobe software." He observed that his time working in the library gave him "effective collaboration and team building skills," which will support him as he begins his teaching career.

Laponsie will be a student teacher during fall 2024, teaching high school history and social studies classes. He's confident that his experience at CMU Libraries has given him a foundation for learning and growing in the workplace. "I have been able to constantly learn new programs, experiment with new hardware, and learn new ways to help and communicate with people. This has allowed me to maintain a curious mind, and ensure I am always up to date with new technologies and learning strategies."

On March 23, 2024, at CMU's Annual Scholarship & Endowment Celebration, Laponsie had the pleasure of meeting Dick and Marilyn Schmidt, who created the R&M Schmidt Scholarship in 2019.



» *Larry Laponsie with Marilyn and Dick Schmidt*

Dick and Marilyn enjoy meeting the students who have received the scholarship. Dick explained, "Our impression of the students and our interactions with them have been inspiring. Knowing we are helping them, and hearing their gratitude is its own reward." The Schmidts created the scholarship "to help others accomplish their goals. When the monetary pressure of getting a degree is diminished, studying becomes easier."

Dick Schmidt earned his master's degree in management and supervision in 1975 from CMU at the Columbus Air Force Base. He noted, "at that time, CMU was the only institution in central Ohio that offered a master's program for working people. Luckily for me, CMU was ahead of the game!" Between 1972 and 1975, Dick completed his master's degree taking classes on Friday evenings and Saturdays. "The professors were

enthusiastic and taught from a practical hands-on approach. I enjoyed it and learned much that I could apply in my day-to-day activities." According to Dick, the company where he worked emphasized completing an additional degree to receive a promotion.

"Knowing we are helping them, and hearing their gratitude is its own reward."

The Schmidt's scholarship will enable many generations of CMU students to achieve their educational and career goals. We greatly appreciated hearing Larry's and Dick's stories as CMU students. The connection between their stories of applying what they've learned on the job is priceless.

Clarke Historical Library: Donors' Lasting Legacy

By Carrie Marsh, Director of Clarke Historical Library

For 70 years, since Dr. Norman Clarke's foundational gift that established the Clarke Historical Library, our donors, through their generosity and vision, have made a significant contribution to the Clarke's stewardship, research, and educational mission.

GIFTS-IN-KIND BUILD THE CLARKE

The Clarke is a library of collections. Gifts of materials, a.k.a. gifts-in-kind (i.e., books, photographs, manuscripts, and similar) have built the Clarke, from Dr. Clarke's personal library of history and literature to Francis and Mary Lois Molson's pop-up books, Senator Robert Griffin's papers, and the Reed Draper Angling Collection. Perhaps thousands of people have donated materials over the past seven decades. We also preserve CMU's history by collecting records from across the university.

The Clarke's librarians and archivists cherish working with donors, and we learn a lot from them. Donors' knowledge of and passion for their collections are inspiring. Occasionally, donors of gifts-in-kind include funds to support their donated collections, from acquisitions to outreach. One example is Dr. Robert Kohrman, a CMU emeritus professor, who established the Robert E. and Cordelia B. Kohrman Angling Endowment to support his donation of the Kohrman Angling Collection.

FINANCIAL GIFTS FUND EXCELLENCE AT THE CLARKE

Many friends and donors who are not collectors themselves support the Clarke by contributing financially. Many a donor has had a keen interest in a particular topic, such as Ernest Hemingway in Michigan or the history of children's literature, and they give to an existing fund that supports that area. In doing so, they increase the amount of funding available to support the



» Dr. & Mrs. Clarke at the opening of the Clarke Historical Library in 1954

collection each year. We love it! We are equally grateful for gifts that allow us to purchase materials in areas that do not have a dedicated fund. The Clarke Historical Library Associates Program was established to accept funds that maybe used at the director's discretion. Unrestricted gifts to the Clarke Associates fund have been valuable in helping us purchase scarce local history publications and 19th century books printed in Anishinaabe, as well as a subscription to Ancestry.com for library users in the Clarke Reading Room. Unrestricted gifts have also allowed us to reformat fragile glass negatives and make historical Michigan maps accessible online through digitization.

We know that a passion for history and a sense of responsibility to preserve one-of-a-kind and rare materials are primary

motivations for giving. We also know that the documents, books, maps, and more in the Clarke are resources that can enrich lives. Our donors share these views, and we are grateful they fund the Clarke's programs and outreach efforts. The John and Audrey Cumming Endowment supports the Clarke Speaker Series, which commemorates the Clarke's former director, who served from 1960-1982, and has grown over the years due to annual contributors. The Speaker Series is one of our signature outreach programs, featuring authors and scholars sharing their work and research. The John and Audrey Cumming Endowment allows us to offer such programs for free to everyone. The David M. and Eunice Sutherland Burgess Library Endowment, similarly, brings authors, scholars, and illustrators to campus to discuss the importance of storytelling at the annual Burgess Lecture. This program has featured outstanding authors, such as Carole Boston Weatherford, Matthew Reinhart, and Peter Sís, who shared their stories with CMU and the wider community.

The Cindi J. and Kathryn R. Graham Endowment provides the opportunity to collaborate with professional designers and fabricators on our annual exhibitions, which highlight our collections and engage thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community members. By doing so, we honor the memory of Cindi and Kathryn Graham



» Eunice Burgess



» Professor Robert Knapp

while advancing life-long learning. In addition, we rely on the Clarke Historical Library Associates Program gifts to augment exhibition expenses, such as purchasing book cradles and supports that ensure safe display of the Clarke's rare books in the exhibit cases.

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS CONVERGE IN A RAND EXHIBIT

This year's Clarke exhibition, "Enchanting Collections/Collecting Enchantment: The Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library," features an incredible array of children's books that could only exist because of the thoughtfulness and generosity of our supporters. The Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library was established by Dr. Clarke's collection of 18th and 19th century children's books and has been added to by gifts of other children's collections donated over the past several decades. These additional collections include the Francis and Mary



» Francis Molson and Mary Lois Molson

Lois Pop-Up Book Collection, the Molson Art Collection, and the international children's books collection established by a donation from Dr. Susan Stan. Furthermore, "Enchanting Collections/Collecting Enchantment" celebrates the endowments that enable us to purchase children's materials for the Lucile Clarke Memorial Children's Library. These endowments include the Mary Catherine Rentz Endowment; the Ihor and Christa Kamenetsky Endowment; and the Francis and Mary Lois Molson Gift/Endowment.

A MILLION REASONS TO APPRECIATE THE CLARKE AND OUR DONORS

DigMichNews, the Clarke's database of digitized Michigan historical newspapers, recently surpassed the milestone of one million pages openly accessible online! It is the Clarke's most used online resource; last year, DigMichNews received nearly 2.5 million views. The achievement of one million digitized newspaper pages was years in the making, and due in great part to the many people who have given generously toward preserving and making Michigan's "first draft of history" accessible to everyone on the World

“Our donors’ charitable giving has increased the accessibility and visibility of our special collections for CMU and the wider community.”

Wide Web. Kudos to Robert and Susan Clarke who endowed a fund to digitize Michigan newspapers through an annual competitive grant award program for Michigan organizations. We are grateful to another donor who, over the past six years, has given funds to digitize the Osceola County Herald and to make it accessible via DigMichNews. To assure online access to local history, especially Clare County newspapers, a dear friend of the Clarke and CMU alumnus, the late Dr. Robert Knapp, set up the Austin and Gail Knapp Genealogical Endowment in memory of his parents to support our digitization



» Professor Robert Kohrman and his dog Abby

program. Dr. Knapp was a writer, historian, and emeritus professor of classics at the University of California, Berkeley. The Knapp Endowment, so far, has enabled us to digitize and make available online more than 20,000 pages of historical Clare County newspapers. The legacy of support from the Knapp Fund will ensure that this work continues well into the future.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

These few examples demonstrate how our donors' charitable giving has increased the accessibility and visibility of our special collections for CMU and the wider community. No matter the amount, all gifts have a lasting benefit on advancing and sustaining the Clarke's mission to collect, preserve, and promote nationally recognized collections. With sincere appreciation for our past, current, and future donors' generosity, the future looks bright.



CMU Libraries Creates Three-Year Plan

By Thad Dickinson, Distance Librarian | By Ann Kucera, Manager of Library Systems

In fall 2023, the Dean of Libraries appointed a committee to create a three-year plan aligned with CMU's four strategic plan priorities:

- **Inspire Student and Scholarly Success**
- **Engage Communities**
- **Enhance Organizational Culture**
- **Ensure Institutional Sustainability**

The committee, comprised of six library employees from five departments, gathered insights and feedback from the library profession and the Libraries' stakeholders. For professional insight, the committee reviewed the "Standards for Libraries in Higher Education" from the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL). Student feedback was gleaned from the 2023 library survey. To collect faculty feedback, the committee

met with the Faculty Senate Library Committee and enlisted the assistance of subject librarians. People from the academic support units housed in the Park Library provided input via an online survey.

Library employee feedback came from two sources: a strategic themes activity conducted in 2019 and three interactive workshops held in March 2024. The workshops were based on a process called "Design for Experience." During the workshops, library employees began by drawing a library user. Using that user as inspiration, they categorized over 60 library cards that described library services, programs, or resources into four categories: Do more of this; Do the same amount of this; Do less of this; and "Unsure." Nearly 90% of library employees participated in the workshops.

After gathering the data, the committee agreed on several themes to guide the goal setting process: Information and Digital Literacy; Information Resources and Access/Collection Development; Library as a Hub of Learning, Research, and Creativity; Do New Things; Library Team; and Library Technology. They proposed several goals for each theme.

In May 2024, the Dean's Advisory Council approved six strategic initiatives for FY 2024-2025, aligned with CMU's priorities and based on the committee's work. These include continuing the initiatives around affordable course materials and the use of artificial intelligence in academic libraries. New goals include conducting an accessibility audit, understanding student employees' work experiences, assessing the libraries' organizational culture, and expanding our sustainability practices.

Welcome Gabriella Stuardi, Special Collections Cataloging Librarian

By Carrie Marsh, Director of the Clarke Historical Library

Gabriella Stuardi joined the Libraries in January 2024 and jumped into learning about CMU, our library systems, and our cataloging practices.

In the Clarke Historical Library, she takes the lead in creating original cataloging records for printed books, microfilm, and other formats. Gabriella also works with the Acquisitions and Resource Management department on cataloging matters and provides reference services for the Library Research and Instruction Services department. Among her library activities, Gabriella serves on the Reparative Cataloging committee, with Marian Matyn and Brady Cramer, which is focused on redressing harmful or problematic description of library materials.

Gabriella brings much experience with her to CMU. For nearly ten years, she cataloged European manuscripts and printed books at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. She also worked with digital projects and was a graduate research assistant in the Medieval Studies Program. She gained valuable teaching experience at Illinois as well, having taught Italian for the Department of French and Italian since 2018, which awarded her an Excellence in Teaching Italian award in 2022. Gabriella has several research projects underway about European manuscripts and the history of the book.

Outside of the library, you may see Gabriella walking Mount Pleasant neighborhoods with her sweet dog, Leone, or at nurseries buying new plants, as she is a devoted "plant person."



» Gabriella Stuardi

Committee Explores AI's Impact on Libraries

By Brady Cramer, Metadata Strategist

Recently, artificial intelligence (AI) has captured the attention of researchers, teachers, governments, corporations, and many others. These entities desire to understand the impact AI will have on society, work, and education now and in the future. CMU Libraries is no different. The CMU Libraries ad hoc AI Committee, comprised of five library employees from four departments, was formed to explore the University Libraries' role and identify action steps for understanding, experimenting with, and communicating about AI tools related to library activities for library users and employees.

To fulfill our mission, the AI Committee started gathering facts on multiple fronts. There are many resources that discuss AI's impacts relevant to our committee. We have curated selected resources in an online research guide, libguides.cmich.edu/ai-libraries. The landing page includes CMU content, while other pages focus on AI in higher education, academic libraries, archives, publications from the Association of Research Libraries, and databases related to AI research. Our goal is to add the latest content and resources as they become available.

Our research is not limited to how AI impacts academic libraries; we are also seeking AI tools that enable this impact. Our research guide links to some AI tools, including Chat-GPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, and more. Because there are numerous expert talks and conferences about AI, we decided to offer library employees hands-on experiences. The first tool we explored was SciSummary, which provides summaries for scholarly research. We also hosted an online seminar by Elsevier, which presented its Scopus AI tool and discussed ethical considerations for AI. We plan to continue offering library employees hands-on experiences with different AI tools.

The Libraries' AI committee members are interested in the future of AI and will continue meeting and participating in AI learning opportunities in the year ahead. Other CMU departments are also exploring AI. The Office of Information Technology implemented an AI chatbot, Ivy.ai, on its website, allowing site visitors to ask questions and receive answers. In March 2024, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support hosted an AI symposium, focusing on how AI might affect higher education.

Library Creates Board Game Collection

By Hytham Dali, Manager of Access & User Services

We're excited to announce board games have made their way to the CMU Libraries! We are dedicated to providing a diverse range of resources and fostering community engagement. Board games allow stories and information to be presented in new formats. They encourage critical thinking and problem solving. Many games rely on communication and thus create grounds for social engagement and assist in social literacy development. These aspects were at the forefront of our decision to create this collection.

Collections and programs such as this have become increasingly more important in libraries. The cost of board games, like any form of entertainment, can be a substantial barrier for students. Through this collection and programming, the library will provide a

safe and affordable space for students to gather, engage, learn, and, most importantly, have fun. It is our hope that through playing these games, students will discover more ways the library is here to serve them. It will help convey the message, "the library is a place for you."

The board game collection includes classic titles such as Catan and Carcassonne and newer games like Wingspan and the Lost Ruins of Arnak. Each game was carefully selected for the collection, considering factors such as player count, game mechanics, language dependence, difficulty, and playing time. Each game provides a unique experience. Some cooperatively pit players against the game and others are purely competitive with each player striving to come out on top.



Students can check out games from the collection beginning with the fall 2024. We intend to host events surrounding the collection, providing a space and time for students to stop in and learn a game or hop from game to game in a large group setting. We can't wait for these games to hit our shelves and see our students rolling dice, drawing cards, and creating new connections!



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859
Permit No. 93

Charles V. Park Library
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

1 North Remodel Increases Variety and Mitigates Sound

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

Students often tell us they want more quiet study spaces in the Park Library. At the same time, they also want collaborative spaces where they can talk out loud.

The original furnishings in 1 North study room included a mix of 4-person tables and individual study carrels. These suggested that the room was simultaneously for group study and for individual study. Since 1 North is available 24 hours a day, it is important to accommodate both study styles and for noise to be self-monitored.

This summer's remodel of 1 North aims to enhance the quality of individual study without eliminating group study. We are replacing the individual study carrels with study pods that wrap around the individual. This new furniture will reduce visual and audible noise. Additionally, we are installing sound mitigation technology to dampen sounds. There will also be height adjustable tables to accommodate students who want to stand or adjust the table to a comfortable seated height. The existing 4-person tables and computers along the north windows will remain, and groups are welcome in the space.

Our hope is that the variety of seating options will fulfill a wider range of students' needs and enhance the study atmosphere for all users.



» *New furniture options included in the 1 North remodel*

CMU, an AA/EQ institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity for all individuals, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation and including but not limited to minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities.