UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ACTIVITY REPORT
MAY - JUNE, 2020

PLANNING FOR A SAFE REOPENING

The Libraries drafted a reopening plan in April through a collaborative process. The plan includes a phased-in approach for resuming on-site, in-person library operations and services in a way that will permit essential access to the Libraries' physical resources, services, programs, and spaces, while maximizing safety for library users and library personnel. As soon as the plan is approved by UMD administration, firm dates and details will be shared with our users and the Maryland community. The latest updates will be available on our website: lib.umd.edu/about/coronavirus-updates.
In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and the anti-Black racism protests sweeping the nation, University Libraries joined with all 15 colleges and schools across campus in the grassroots #shutdownacademia initiative on June 10. We silenced our social media, adjusted our services, and encouraged our staff to use that time to reflect, educate ourselves, begin a plan of action to combat racism, and also to allow our Black colleagues the chance to take some time to heal. Additionally, the Libraries’ Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee compiled antiracism resources shared via social media and our website and hosted a library-wide “Step Up” forum to engage our faculty and staff in discussions around an anti-racism action plan for the libraries.

“All of us at the UMD Libraries join in solidarity with campus and community members who are saddened and angered by the brutal killing of George Floyd and other Black people by the police. We join with those who rise up to protest these injustices and who hope to counter anti-Black racism and other damaging ideologies and systems that dehumanize and oppress people. We reaffirm the importance of our work together as a higher education community, of creating new knowledge and learning from one another, and doing all we can to create a better society, free from violence, hate, and fear.”

— Dean Adriene Lim

The Libraries’ IDEA Team recommended antiracist resources shared via social media during the protests over the murders of George Floyd and other African Americans by police.

Images from the Libraries’ collections document the history of African American activism on campus and in society, such as these from the University Archives and the Baltimore News-American Photo Collection.

Clint Smith TED Talk: A deep dive into the harm of white silence

How the Body Can Shape Social Protest

By using their bodies to resist and respond to violence and social injustice, protesters literally embody their cause.

How to Be an Antiracist

Ibram X. Kendi

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IDEA TEAM RECOMMENDS:

Date of report: June 25, 2020
Library Website (lib.umd.edu)

- **206,661** pageviews
- **51,286** unique users

Library Research Guides (lib.guides.umd.edu)

- **121,005** pageviews
- **29,795** unique users

Usage statistics from 80% of our major databases, e-journals, and other e-resources in April & May 2020

- **254,076** searches
- **461,847** downloads

Institutional Repository “DRUM” (drum.lib.umd.edu)

- **226,090** unique users
- **52** theses and dissertations added

The Libraries’ COVID-19 Crisis status page

- **2,261** total page views
- **1,921** unique users
- **2:16** average minutes spent on page

“I consider the library to be the center of learning at any Institution of Higher Learning. Whether it is research or teaching, I always reach out to the library for any references and/or publications that I need. The library at the University of Maryland goes way above and beyond simply providing me with basic needs. I am very impressed with the caliber and the assistance that I receive from the librarians.”

— Nadine Sahyoun, PhD, ADVANCE Professor for the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

“I’m so grateful for everything the Library has been doing to keep advancing our intellectual work!”

— History faculty member

“I think the Libraries are doing a great job at responding to the COVID-19 crisis. My colleagues and I have been turning to the Libraries’ helpful web pages throughout this transition. Thanks to them, our lab was able to quickly get into the flow of working from home.”

— Deena Shariq, Faculty Research Assistant, University Library Council

YOUR DIGITAL LIBRARY
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RESEARCH

- Since classes moved to a virtual environment, Teaching and Learning Services (TLS) has led 70 teaching activities in 26 subject areas for 1,850 student participants. TLS developed a new instructional dashboard that visualizes the scope and scale of our teaching during COVID-19.

- The summer UMD Libraries Fearless Teaching Institute will focus on preparing instructors for fall teaching during uncertain times. The Institute supports the professional development of our library teachers through workshops, brown bags, and programming. This summer, each of the mini-workshops focuses on a different active learning tool or pedagogical technique to support teachers in both online and in-person learning environments.

- Video tutorials for ENGL101 viewed over 150 times each on Youtube. This is a strong indicator of the success of the new online information literacy learning plan for ENGL101 that was implemented after spring break.

- Libraries’ staff build strong virtual partnership with the Gemstone Program. We worked with Gemstone Program Directors to adapt the Gemstone Library Awards and other high-profile elements of our partnership to an online environment. We paired 11 librarians with new Gemstone Research Teams.

Our librarians are empowering faculty with tools for their research.

"It was such a wonderful experience to learn from you and finally understand how all these library search engines work and so thrilled that it will make my research life easier especially as I go into my research and sabbatical leave next year. You are a great instructor."

— College of Arts & Humanities Professor to Judy Markowitz, Librarian for Government & Politics, Public Policy, LGBT and Women’s Studies
Teaching Innovation Grants

Two library-related projects have been awarded a Provost’s Teaching Innovation Grant.

Suzy Wilson, Teaching and Learning Librarian, will work on a Teaching Innovation Grant to support adapting information literacy instruction to an online environment. Each year, UMD Libraries teaches more than 4,000 first-year students through our instructional partnership with the Academic Writing Program (ENGL101). In the fall, this partnership will provide high-quality asynchronous learning materials as well as hundreds of synchronous online learning sessions with incoming students.

Joshua Westgard, Systems Librarian, is part of a team of four instructors for INST326 (Object-Oriented Python Programming for Information Science) who have been awarded a Teaching Innovation Grant sponsored by the Office of the Provost. The team will create a shared syllabus and learning modules for the programming course using flipped-classroom and “hyflex” teaching models with the goal of enhancing student learning and engagement with course content regardless of the mode of delivery.

University Libraries courses added to Open Learning. Courses in the University of Maryland Open Learning environment are self-paced, have ongoing enrollment, and are free to all University faculty, staff, and students. Library offerings currently include introductory courses in Python, R Language Programming, Adobe Audition, and Adobe Premier.

The UMD Libraries Research and Teaching Fellowship prepares summer launch of alumni network to support past and current fellows.

Since 2015, the UMD Libraries Research and Teaching Fellowship has equipped graduate students in the Master of Library and Information Sciences program with the skills and knowledge to become academic librarians.

“Without the RTF, would I even be a librarian? There are days I wonder. The fellowship prepared me for the gauntlet of academic library interviews and helped me become a more confident and reflective teacher, librarian, and human.”

“The Research and Teaching Fellowship was the single most important program that prepared me for a career in academic libraries.”

“Participating in the Research & Teaching Fellowship had a profoundly positive influence on my professional path to academic librarianship, and my satisfaction currently as I work as a subject librarian.”
University of Maryland Libraries joined the Collaborative Archive & Data Research Environment (CADRE) as the 10th Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) partner-institution. UMD faculty and students will now be able to access CADRE’s powerful cloud-based text- and data-mining services to conduct and enhance their research using large datasets. Read more at go.umd.edu/cadre.

HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access made available to UMD students, faculty, and staff. HathiTrust, a partnership between academic and research libraries to provide access to millions of digitized items, provided an Emergency Temporary Access Service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing students, faculty, and staff at member institutions to access digital materials that were previously unavailable. As a result, over 900,000 new digital titles have been temporarily added to the UMD online catalog for our users while access to physical collections remains limited.

University Archives to document COVID-19 pandemic at UMD. The Archives launched a story-collating initiative in May to create a historic record of the coronavirus pandemic at UMD, with a particular emphasis on documenting the student experience. Read more about Shell-tering in Place: Terp Stories of COVID-19 at go.umd.edu/covidstories.
UMD PACT
Progress is being made on the Libraries-led UMD PACT (Publishing, Access, and Contract Terms) initiative, a project co-sponsored by the Senate-based University Library Council, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and the Division of Research. PACT was formed this year to review current and changing UMD scholarly publishing practices and will be developing recommendations on ways to improve equitable access to UMD’s research, scholarship, and data. During the COVID-19 crisis, PACT completed its first phase of information gathering on transformative negotiations and agreements with publishers, and met virtually with leaders from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of California, and the University at Albany, a member of the SUNY Libraries Consortium, to discuss their strategies and experiences related to breaking “big deal” agreements with Elsevier.

Undergraduate Research Day Goes Virtual
The Annual Undergraduate Research Day (URD), hosted by the Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research, was hosted online this year through the Libraries DRUM (Digital Repository at the University of Maryland) platform. URD is Maryland's largest, most visible, and most diversified showcase for undergraduate research accomplishments. Explore undergraduates’ remarkable research accomplishments at go.umd.edu/urd2020.

Terp Crossing
Fans of the popular quarantine diversion Animal Crossing video game were invited to add some Terp flair to their island from our special collections to score exclusive UMD swag for their characters. Read more at go.umd.edu/terpcrossing.

 UM Logo 1978” image from University Archives hangs on a wall in Animal Crossing game.

UMD Libraries honored as Top University Library at National Virtual Event
The University of Maryland Libraries was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award in the University Category by the Association of College and Research Libraries at a national “Together Wherever” virtual event in early June. An on-campus celebration will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so. University Libraries, which won in the university category, was lauded for its contributions to digital humanities scholarship, culture of innovation, and engagement with students, faculty and outside partners.

Student Employees
Hundreds of student employees assist with critical operations and programs of the University Libraries throughout the year — their contributions during the COVID-19 closure were no exception. Students worked on projects remotely, supporting digitization efforts, usability testing, reviewing and updating resources, data entry, and more. While we couldn’t send off our graduating student employees in person this year, this video message was shared to express our gratitude and celebrate this milestone.

Congratulations CLASS OF 2020

Date of report: June 25, 2020