

UB Libraries

Today

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Responding to COVID-19

The University Libraries quickly adapt to meet the challenge of a global pandemic.

THE POETRY COLLECTION

New acquisition enhances the William Carlos Williams Collection

DIGITAL LANDSCAPE

Librarian helps UB students shape their digital identity

GEORGE KELLEY

UB alumnus reflects on his lifelong passion for pulp fiction

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Vice Provost for University Libraries

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie

Co-Editors

Kathleen Quinlivan
Denise Wolfe

Creative Director/Designer

Kristopher Miller

Contributors

Charles Anzalone
Barbara Byers
Alison Fraser
Marcene Robinson
Elizabeth Stellrecht

On the Cover:

Christopher Cheung and Omar Brown provide support in Silverman Library's video recording studios.

Cover Photo:

Julie Pavlock

Contact Us

Email: library@buffalo.edu or
US Mail: 433 Capen Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260

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DID YOU KNOW?



While staying home and staying safe in the early months of the COVID-19 crisis, individuals from 22 countries, ranging from Argentina to Vietnam, turned to our **Instant Librarian Chat Service** for answers to their questions.

from **EVVIVA**

A Year Like No Other

During times of great change and ambiguity, it can be difficult to know where to turn for accurate, reliable and up-to-date information when we need it the most. As our community, our country and our world navigate the uncharted waters caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the University Libraries continue to provide outstanding resources and services while promoting and implementing current health and safety guidelines.

In a year like no other, our librarians and staff are responding with creativity and commitment to the challenges of teaching, learning and conducting research in a remote environment. Since the onset of this public health emergency, we have continuously assessed and adjusted to rapidly changing circumstances so that UB students could successfully pursue their academic course work, our faculty could effectively teach their classes, and the university's research initiatives could be supported using a suite of digital tools and expertise available through the Libraries.

In this issue of *UB Libraries Today*, you'll read about some of the ways we have adapted our services, resources and spaces to safely serve the university community during this unprecedented time. You'll discover how we have responded to the pandemic in a variety of ways — from incorporating new health protocols within our campus libraries to introducing an emergency fund for library student assistants who may be experiencing hardships due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Despite the many difficulties and pressures that we are all facing in one form or another, the work of the University Libraries continues. This year marks the Poetry Collection's 85th anniversary, highlighted by the recent acquisition of key primary source materials for the William Carlos Williams Collection. This welcome addition to our Special Collections is featured within these pages.

The staff and faculty of UB Libraries have always been flexible, innovative, collaborative and user-focused — skills that have served us well these last few months. We quickly pivoted to find new ways to deliver our services and we implemented new health and safety measures to protect our patrons and staff. While it is not possible to predict what the months ahead will bring, by continuing to improve how we work together, I am confident that we will meet the challenges that await.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and be kind.

Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, Vice Provost for University Libraries



George Kelley



“This collection brings me joy, and it brings me more joy to know that UB has it, and that you’re taking care of it for the next generation.”

It happened to four-time UB alumnus George Kelley as a boy, when he went away to summer camp. His mother took his absence as the perfect opportunity to tackle the clutter that had overtaken his adolescent bedroom. When he got home, he was devastated to find that she had tossed his entire comic book collection.

“I was crushed. And then I just couldn’t go back to comic books,” Kelley says “I had to move on to paperbacks ... and I became much neater, so my mom wouldn’t throw them away.” A lesson for us all.

That incident, though painful for Kelley, became a boon for UB when he made the decision in 1994 to donate his extensive pulp fiction collection to the UB Libraries. “I earned three master’s degrees and a PhD from UB, so I feel like I should pay back all the amazing things UB gave me. I’ve had a great life.”

Now more than 30,000 editions strong, the priceless collection is a resource for enthusiasts as well as academics studying the emerging field of fandom. “As an academic research library, we’re excited to be the stewards of these amazing materials,” says Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries. “The collection offers many potential research opportunities.”

To some, pulp fiction cover art is even more valuable than the stories inside. In fact, Kelley says, sometimes the compelling – and often provocative – scenes depicted on the cover had nothing to do with the story line. “It didn’t matter. The art sold the book.”

Kelley’s favorite pulp fiction artist, Robert McGinnis, illustrated more than 1,200 covers and 40 movie posters, including a number in the Kelley Collection. “I consider [books with McGinnis art] to be sculptures,” Kelley says. “Today people collect them, but they might not even read the book. They just want it for the cover.”

Wood pulp, the cheap and accessible paper on which the books were printed, is notoriously fragile. To ensure the collection’s long-term survival, Kelley has also made a commitment to UB for the materials to undergo a deacidification process.

“A collection like this needs meticulous attention,” says Ron Gaczewski, University Libraries’ preservation officer. “Thankfully, George had the foresight to store each book in a Ziploc bag, which was fortuitous. It’s not a solution in and of itself, but it helped,” Gaczewski says. “We are also grateful that he is helping to support the additional preservation work as well.”

library.buffalo.edu/kelley

Celebrating Excellence

UB librarian **Fred Stoss** is the recipient of the 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship which recognizes superior professional achievement, personal dedication, and outstanding service to the university and the profession. A familiar fixture in the University Libraries for nearly 25 years, Stoss is an experienced educator, prolific scholar and international expert on climate change, environmental studies and sustainability.

Earlier this year, UB Sustainability presented Stoss with a 2020 Sustainability Leadership, Innovation and Collaborative Engagement (SLICE) award in recognition of his commitment to providing the university and the community with information on a wide range of environmental issues.



JULIE PAVLOCK

Linda Lohr 1948 - 2020

The University Libraries mourn the loss of Linda A. Lohr, curator of the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection in UB's Health Sciences Library, who died April 24, 2020. Lohr joined the UB Libraries in 1979 as administrative assistant to the director of the Health Sciences Library. She served as assistant to the director from 1983 to 1997, when she was appointed manager/curator of the History of Medicine Collection, which features historical materials in all areas of the health sciences. Prior to her death, she established the **Linda Lohr Endowed Fund for the History of Medicine Collection**, helping to ensure the future of the collection.

library.buffalo.edu/historyofmedicine/donate

SUNY Negotiates New Deal with Elsevier

In March 2020, SUNY and Elsevier, one of the world's largest publishers of scientific and technical journals, reached a new agreement on access to over 250 core titles from the *ScienceDirect* database. SUNY had been spending over \$9 million annually for its bundled journal subscription deal with Elsevier. The new three-year agreement represents a \$7 million savings to the SUNY system.

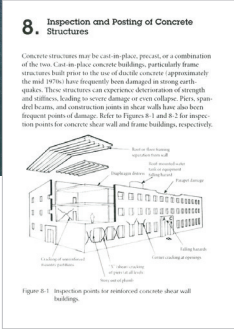
The SUNY Libraries Consortium (SLC), a group of SUNY library members that managed negotiations, approached the agreement recognizing the importance of Elsevier titles in research, teaching and clinical care. The initial goal was cost

savings. In the end, SUNY unbundled its journal subscription and walked away from its "Big Deal" with Elsevier.

"The cost of licenses with Elsevier and other major scholarly publishers is rising at an unsustainable rate," says Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries. "We sought a contract that was affordable, sustainable and transparent, and that will help build a future where scholarly information is openly available."



ELSEVIER



Following the Beirut, Lebanon port blast on August 4, 2020, UB librarians assisted an engineering professor from the American University of Beirut.

An Urgent Request

Following the horrific explosion in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020, an engineering faculty member from the American University of Beirut (AUB) volunteered to provide free consulting services for people affected by this tragic event. He needed to quickly locate a copy of *Field Manual: Postearthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings* (2nd Edition, 2005).

The volume was not available in the AUB library and Carla Chaloub, AUB Library’s head of Access Services, anticipated significant delays in fulfilling interlibrary loan requests due to the combined effects of the Beirut explosion and the COVID-19 pandemic. She contacted Peter Bae at Princeton University

Library to help identify a library in the United States that might provide immediate assistance.

Upon learning that UB Libraries owned a copy of the field manual, Bae asked Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries, if she could assist and the wheels were set in motion. The volume was located and scanned by our *Delivery+* team, and a digital copy was shared with the AUB library within one day, giving our international colleagues the information needed to assist with the rebuilding efforts in Beirut.

What We’re Reading

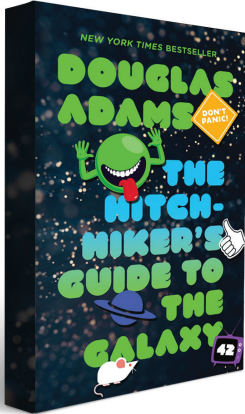
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Think you’ve had a bad day? Meet Arthur Dent, a British man whose house is about to be demolished so that a highway can be erected in its place. Just when Dent thinks it can’t get any worse, he learns that his best friend is an alien, and the Earth will soon be demolished so a space super-highway can be put in its place.

Thus begins a hilarious and witty adventure through space where Arthur meets a race of aliens known for their loving rules and

bad poetry, a depressed robot, a maniacal president who means well, and an earthling he once met at a party. Adams shares many important lessons with readers, such as why one should never forget their towel, and above all, don’t panic.

Elizabeth M. Stellrecht
Interim Head, Health Sciences Library Services



Responding to COVID-19

The University Libraries quickly adapt to meet the challenge of a global pandemic.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the university Libraries are sharing a simple message: we are here for you! Confronted with a series of unpredicted challenges brought on by the coronavirus outbreak, UB librarians and staff were quick to respond, stepping up to help ensure that teaching, learning and research continued without interruption, all while collaborating with the university community to keep everyone safe.

“After assessing the situation caused by the pandemic, our staff searched for creative solutions ensuring that individuals, whether on campus or across the globe, could

have timely access to our collections and expertise,” says Evviva Weinraub Lajoie, vice provost for University Libraries.

Last March, as the university abruptly transitioned to a remote learning environment, delivering course materials successfully and safely was a top priority. Throughout the spring and summer months, with most campus library buildings closed and limited access to physical materials, our *Delivery+* team never missed a beat. Working tirelessly behind the scenes, they processed, scanned and delivered a steadily increasing number of requests for journal articles and book chapters.

To reduce in-person contact, we offered UB faculty, staff and students the option of having print materials delivered to their home address. Overdue fines were temporarily waived and library items borrowed before the pandemic were automatically renewed.

When Lockwood and Abbott Libraries reopened at the start of the fall semester, visible changes were in place including contactless checkout and touchless printing. To further safeguard library patrons, dispensers for disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer were installed, new return drop boxes were placed outside of library buildings, plexiglass barriers were mounted at service desks and library spaces were reconfigured to promote social distancing.

As the coronavirus crisis intensified, the video recording studios in Silverman Library emerged as valuable assets for our faculty and staff. “Faculty recording hours have increased tremendously,” says Christopher Cheung, Educational Technology Assistant. Since mid-March, Cheung and Omar Brown, Silverman Library Evening Supervisor, have helped faculty record over 350 hours of course material.

Cheung and Brown have come to campus almost every day throughout the pandemic to ensure operations and services

New self-service print kiosks, located in Abbott, Lockwood and Silverman Libraries, make our campus a safer place.





Omar Brown, Silverman Library Evening Supervisor, assists students in the library's video recording studios.

continue in Silverman Library. They set up and disinfect studio equipment before each recording session, help edit and upload videos, and guide faculty and students every step of the way in creating class lectures, presentations and podcasts.

The video recording studios' new green screen system gives users the ability to superimpose themselves onto PowerPoint or media presentations as though they were delivering a presentation in person. "The Libraries Recording Studios made my first virtual teaching experience seamless, enjoyable, and highly impactful for my students and me. My students received an educational experience as near to in-person as possible because of what the Libraries offer," says Michael McDowell, Career Coach with UB Career Services.

Though faculty are using the video recording studios more than ever before, our students benefit from the technology and personal assistance as well. Zay Ya Min Yin, a School of Management undergraduate says, "I used the Silverman Library recording studios to record a video presentation for the Undergraduate Management Poster Competition project. My partner and I won first prize in the social innovation category and I attribute this to the quality and production value of the video, which we couldn't have pulled off without the library's facilities."

Perhaps Deborah Chung, professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering sums it up best, "The video recording service at the UB Libraries has provided me high-quality, professional and



Zay Ya Min Yin, Undergraduate
School of Management

"I used the Silverman Library recording studios to record a video presentation for the Undergraduate Management Poster Competition project."



Students studying in Silverman Library observe the requirement to always wear a mask while on campus.



JULIE PAWLOCK

Furniture has been reconfigured and social distancing guidelines are in effect across all UB Libraries' study spaces.

timely service that enabled my effective online delivery of three undergraduate/graduate engineering courses in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020. It was a pleasure to work with the recording personnel there.”

Knowing that students' daily routines were disrupted by the pandemic, library staff searched for ways to ensure everyone would have access to helpful and informative resources in this new environment. One such example is from the Charles B. Sears Law Library. With many UB law students learning and studying remotely in the fall, the Law Library investigated options for providing electronic access to some of the School of Law's print library holdings as well as textbooks. The Law Library now subscribes to the Lexis Digital Library, providing law students free remote access to a number of required coursebooks, along with other primary and secondary legal materials that would otherwise be available only by visiting the library in person.

“This service has saved our students time and money and the risk of further exposure during what has been a very difficult and uncertain year. It also helps us reduce population density in O'Brien Hall as we continue our efforts as a campus community to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19,” says Elizabeth Adelman, director of the Law Library and vice dean for legal information services in the School of Law.

Access to technology required for online education proved to be an urgent issue when in-person teaching was suspended. Last spring, the University at Buffalo received 200 laptops through the SUNY Laptop/Remote Device Grant. With the welfare of UB students in mind, the Libraries partnered with UB Information Technology (UBIT) to distribute these laptops and portable hotspots to students in need. UBIT furnished each laptop with the hardware and software required for students' coursework at UB, while the University Libraries processed the requests and coordinated distribution of the laptops to current UB students.

While working remotely during this unprecedented time, UB Librarians continued to field numerous requests, including a question from Dr. Dori Marshall, associate dean and director of admissions, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Marshall needed data on UB's class that was pressed into service during the 1918 flu pandemic. Pam Rose, web services



UB staff prepare student laptops for distribution. Over 200 laptops were mailed to students at the start of the pandemic.

and library promotion coordinator in the Health Sciences Library, combed through yearbooks to track and record the names of each member of the class, along with their graduation dates and hospital appointments.

Librarian Nell Aronoff, liaison to the Jacobs School, also helped faculty gather vast amounts of information on the 1918 flu pandemic. “As a professor for 44 years, I have always had need of the library and the help of librarians,” says Howard Faden, professor of pediatrics in the Jacobs School. “Nell’s response goes over and above what you might expect; however, it represents what she does on a daily basis.”

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, our commitment to the university and global communities remains as strong as ever. Whether working on campus or from home, we are here to help in any way we can.

The Libraries’ *Delivery+* service offers home office and residence hall delivery options to current UB students, faculty and staff.

UB Libraries Student Emergency Fund

The University Libraries have established an emergency fund to assist library student workers experiencing financial hardships due to the pandemic. The University Libraries Student Emergency Fund supports the immediate needs of library student workers, assisting them with rent, travel expenses to return home, technology and other difficulties that might arise.

library.buffalo.edu/student-emergency-fund





William Carlos Williams and son William Eric Williams, 1917. Photographer unknown.

OPPOSITE PAGE: William Carlos Williams outside his private medical practice with sons Paul Herman Williams and William Eric Williams, 1919. Photographer unknown.

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New Acquisition Enriches William Carlos Williams Collection

A key collection of the papers of William Carlos Williams, one of America's greatest poets, has found a new home in the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries. Perhaps the last major collection of the writer's papers still in private hands, the new collection was acquired from Williams's granddaughters, Daphne Williams Fox and Erica Williams Gilbert. Once processed, the papers will be made accessible to the public for the first time. The collection will provide rich new insights into Williams's medical career, family life, and personal interests, as well as his literary life. It complements the Poetry Collection's William Carlos Williams Collection, one of the world's largest collections of Williams's papers.

"These materials offer new resources for understanding William Carlos Williams as a writer, a doctor and a person," says curator of the Poetry Collection James Maynard, "and we are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with the poet's granddaughters in bringing this significant collection to the Poetry Collection."

Williams was a central figure of early 20th-century literary modernism and has continued to be an enduring influence today. Famous for poems like "The Red Wheelbarrow" and "This Is Just to Say," which are on everyday subjects and written in colloquial American English, Williams published over 30 books of poetry, novels, plays, translations and an autobiography, and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1963. Williams was also a full-time practicing

"The job of the poet is to use language effectively, his own language, the only language which is to him authentic."

- William Carlos Williams

physician who owned a private practice and was on staff at Passaic General Hospital in New Jersey, delivering over 3,000 babies between 1912 and 1955.

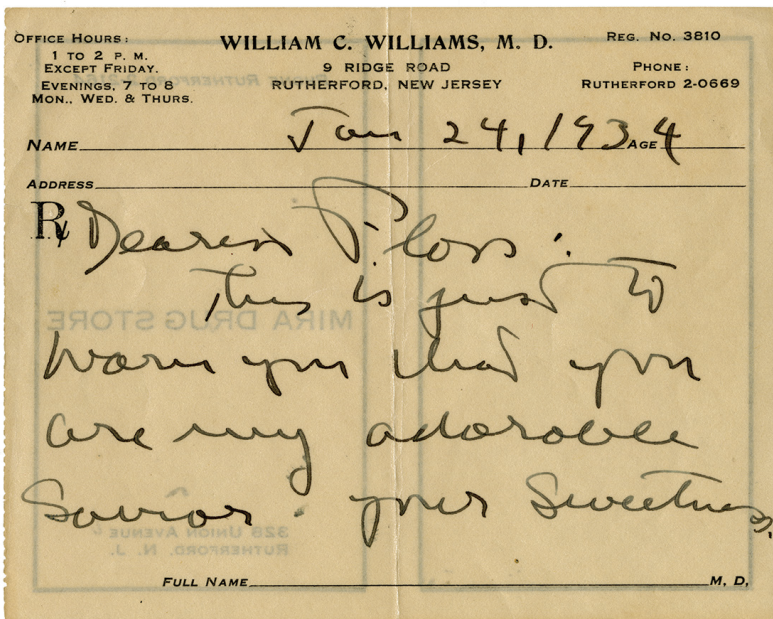
To Williams, poetry and medicine were "two parts of a whole." This new collection illustrates the truth of that statement. A central part of the collection are the voluminous notes written on index cards that Williams compiled during the early stages of his career. Over 1,250 of these are related to his medical practice, detailing diagnoses,

treatments, medical instruments and other related topics.

While Williams originally kept index cards as an aid for medical study, he quickly realized that they could be useful in other areas of his life. He kept notes about topics as various as contemporary English drama, summaries of possible plays, his daily walks, and books he intended to purchase. The index cards also record his observations of his own yard, demonstrating that for Williams the ordinary was the source of poetic inspiration. For example, in May 1908, he noted that the "Mulberry tree [was] not yet in full leaf. Certainly a dainty light tree. Reminds me of Boticcelli [sic]." Williams returned to this idea nearly twenty years later with his poem "The Botticellian Trees."

The collection also offers an unprecedented view of Williams's family life. It includes a letter from Williams to his wife, Floss; sketches by Williams's younger





First page of a draft of a letter from Williams to his wife Floss, Jan. 24, 1934.

Today, the Poetry Collection is one of the largest poetry libraries of its kind in the world, and holds important original work by Dylan Thomas, James Joyce, Robert Graves, Helen Adam, and Robert Duncan among its 150 archival collections.

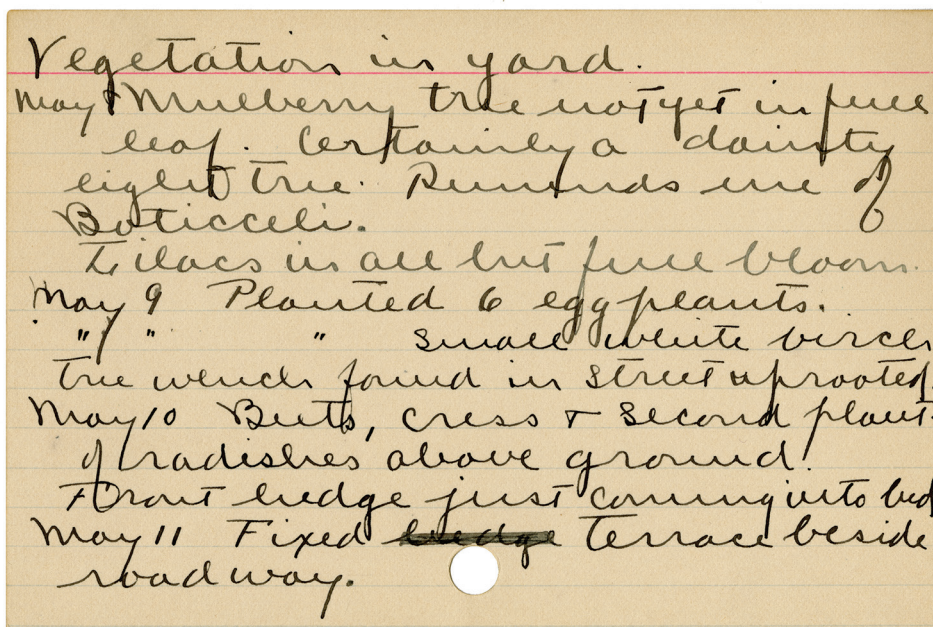
One of the first poets Abbott approached to contribute to the Poetry Collection was Williams, to whom he wrote in the fall of 1936. Williams's response was enthusiastic, and he deeply understood Abbott's vision and the value to literary study the Poetry Collection would offer. Over the course of their 25-year friendship, Williams sent Abbott over 20,000 pieces of paper from the 1920s through 1950s, including manuscripts, correspondence, notebooks, photographs and other significant materials that have been a rich source of scholarly discovery and poetic inspiration for generations of scholars, poets and students. The two developed a strong friendship, and Williams was a frequent guest at Abbott's home in Western New York at the Gratwick Highlands, which Williams described as "like nothing I have ever seen in this country."

In his forward to the descriptive catalogue of the William Carlos Williams Collection, poet Robert Creeley explains that one of the values of this collection is the "intimate revelation" of examining Williams's manuscripts. This new acquisition offers even more possibility for intimate revelation through its insights into the larger scope of Williams's life and work. As Curator James Maynard explains, "Arriving more than 75 years after Williams himself began donating manuscripts in 1943, this new collection of materials expands the archival record of the poet's life and work while at the same time acknowledging the rich and continuing history of the Poetry Collection as conceived by Charles Abbott."

brother Edgar; postcards from Williams to his parents; and over 100 photographs of the Williams family.

An important resource for the study of modernism and American literature, the Williams Collection is also central to the history of the Poetry Collection. Founded in 1935 by the University Libraries' first director, Charles Abbott, the Poetry Collection was designed to be "a kind of research laboratory for the study of the poetry of our times." Abbott's innovative plan was to collect all first and other bibliographically significant editions of poetry written in

English since 1900. His plan also called for collecting "little magazines" and other poetry journals, broadsides, anthologies, and works of scholarship in order to create a comprehensive print collection for the study of contemporary poetry. In addition, Abbott had the revolutionary idea to create a systematic collection of poets' working papers. Abbott noticed that manuscripts were "as often thrown away or lost," and he began asking poets to send their drafts to the Poetry Collection instead, where they "could be used later to piece out an understanding of [poets'] lives and methods of work."



Index card, "Vegetation in yard," 1908.

Cindi Tysick teaches “Framing Your Digital Identity in the Age of Google,” a course for UB freshmen. Photo: Douglas Levere



Embracing the Digital Landscape

UB librarian advises students to “follow the breadcrumbs” when using social media.

For Cindi Tysick, helping UB students shape their digital identity and elevating their information literacy skills is all about giving them hope. “Staying positive, seeing an end, and envisioning a future are drivers of hope,” says Tysick, associate librarian and head of the Libraries’ Education Services Team.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the educational playing field and remote learning is the new standard, at least for now. That means students must learn to thrive in this remote environment, or risk falling behind. Tysick embraces the new learning reality, and she sets out to use it in the best way possible.

One of Tysick’s recent course offerings for freshmen is: “Framing Your Digital Identity in the Age of Google.” Upbeat music starts each class. Breakout rooms encourage early group discussions, and students work on digital group projects using such tools as Google Docs and Google Meet. Small groups choose a current event, such as sports fantasy leagues or politics, and

follow the discussion on Twitter or another platform. Then, using social media, they investigate backgrounds of the people in this community talking about this subject.

“They don’t tell me about the story,” Tysick says. “They tell me about people interacting with the story.” Tysick calls it “following the breadcrumbs.”

The students learn how people drive marketers to push content. They also realize how what’s shared on social media becomes a privacy issue. “Their digital identity is being formed in a participatory culture,” Tysick says. “Our students begin to reshape their digital identity and see themselves as global citizens, capable of leveraging what’s learned in the classroom and through experiential opportunities.”

“Leveraging their education has really resonated with them,” she says. “I am so proud of our students for embracing this bump in the road and staying on their academic path.”

The Relax-A-Cizor



Invented by William J. Browner, this device was popular in the 1950s and '60s and was marketed for use in weight loss and fitness. The theory was that a person could “exercise” without trying, and wearing the device did all the hard work. Electrodes from the device were attached to the skin, which sent electrical pulses through the pad causing muscle contractions by way of electrical currents. The directions recommended using the device at least 30 minutes daily for each figure placement area, and suggested that the user might use it for longer periods if they wished. The device was offered in a number of different models which were powered either by battery or household current. In 1970, Relaxacizor Inc. was brought to trial for various health problems caused by the device including ruptured blood vessels, epilepsy, paralysis and miscarriage. The device was banned by the United States Food and Drug Administration as it was deemed to be potentially hazardous to health.

Electric Chest and Lung Protector Vest



Using the “Voltaic Galvanic Principle,” the Electric Chest and Lung Protector Vest was an early 20th-century device that claimed to prevent diseases in the lungs and chest. A pink cloth vest with 20 metal buttons on the front and another 20 buttons on the back side of the vest was placed over the back and chest area. One shoulder had a tie to adjust to the size of the patient. Reportedly, the protective electrical current was activated via the secretions of the body as one came into contact with the metal discs of the device. Created by the Electric Appliance Co. (Burlington, Kan.)

The artifacts pictured on this page are part of the **Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection** located in Abbott Library on UB's South Campus.



I'M thankful

I've always loved walking into a library and challenging myself to find a book among the stacks of publications. Yet libraries are more than physical books. Libraries are places that house all sorts of different resources, and the most valuable resource I have found is not in print— it's the librarians.

As a UB faculty member, I partner with my colleagues in the Libraries to enrich my students' learning. The librarians know what assessments I assign in my courses and can guide students,

not only in the traditional sense of providing sources for student papers, but also in creating learning experiences. I've collaborated with librarians on projects such as reducing textbook costs for students and creating an interactive classroom innovation sprint.

I'm grateful to have such fantastic librarians who help me to become a better teacher by collaborating and working to create an enriching experience for students.

Your generosity affirms the vital role the UB Libraries play in learning, discovery and service to society: library.buffalo.edu/support



Flashback
UB History

Students on skis are towed by a car during the UB Winter Carnival in February 1950. The Veteran's Administration Hospital is visible in the background. Photo: University Archives