2019

Year in Review 2018-2019

Margaret and Herman Brown Library

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Year in Review

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2018 | 2019
Year in Review
Message From the Dean
Dr. John B. Weaver | Dean of Educational Technology and Library Services

Thank you for browsing our 2018-19 Annual Report! This was a year of national leadership for ACU’s Brown Library, advancing the ACU community by shaping national conversations about faculty impact and student success, especially in the areas of digital pedagogy, scholarship, and publication. First, the library led national conversations about faculty scholarship and open access publication, with both the ACU Press and the Scholars Lab recognized by a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Mellon Foundation for innovative efforts to increase the impact of faculty publication in Religion. Second, the library led a national conversation about student success with digital literacies. ACU was recognized this past year as a first Adobe Creative Campus. This has led the Innovation Foundry and the Learning Studio to spearhead a digital pedagogy grant program—funded by Adobe—to introduce new creative tools and literacies into the classroom. Third, the library is growing a national network of supporters who are committed to innovative and impactful library spaces and services. Information Services and the Maker Lab have engaged new donors to build new creative spaces, from the Hansen Reading Commons to a new 3D Printing Suite. This community of support was on full display at the library’s spring banquet with Ms. Laura Bush and Max Lucado, which helped us to realize full funding for the Library’s Packer Forum—a new event venue and collaboration space that will this summer expand further the creativity that connects at the Brown Library.

Dr. John B. Weaver
Dean of Library Services and Educational Technology
Abilene Christian University
Information Services celebrated the opening of the Nancy and Ray Hansen Reading Commons, a space dedicated to connecting ideas and promoting the power of print through author talks, faculty and student creativity forums, and an attractive selection of popular books for recreational reading.

The new space provides opportunity for the Brown Library to strengthen partnerships while collaborating on events that appeal to students which produce attendance of popular series.

This year’s highlighted reading events include Poetry Slam—a public performance of student-created poems that attracted over 100 attendees—a personal conversation with guest author Dr. Shane Wood about the art and meaning of writing; and a poster session from ACU Social Work students on community issues combined with a forum of Abilene city council candidates, which was featured by the local news.

The Reading Commons was funded by a generous gift from Ray Hansen (’53) in memory of his beloved wife, Nancy (Waters ’53).
The Maker Lab
Darren Wilson ('91) | Director of Maker Lab

One of the Maker Lab’s most popular initiatives was the workshop series, which included hands-on sessions that taught participants how to program Arduino microprocessors, build custom stringed instruments from specialty hardwoods, and construct sets of wind chimes.

We continued the annual tradition of inviting the community to Maker Lab events. Homecoming Open House welcomed current students and alumni families for free make-and-take activities and tool demonstrations. Maker Fest featured over 100 presenters showcasing projects from across campus and the Abilene community. The Christmas Make-a-Thon helped volunteers adapt donated toys for children with special needs.

The Maker Lab built a brand-new 3D printing suite, thanks to a generous, anonymous donation. The five new FormLabs 3D resin printers and finishing stations will increase 3D printing capacity and quality for ACU students, faculty, and staff. The new 3D printers deliver high-resolution prints, using a laser to cure solid parts from a liquid photopolymer resin. These printers will allow ACU students, faculty, and staff to explore the world of 3D modeling and printing.

1. Maker Lab’s new 3D printing studio
2. Chai Green teaches during the StrumStick Workshop
3. Make-a-Thon participants show off their creation
The Learning Studio
Dr. Kyle Dickson (’93) | Professor of English and Director of the Learning Studio

The AT&T Learning Studio works with students and faculty to develop creativity and media fluency through digital storytelling. This year we supported media literacy across campus with classes from Agriculture, Art and Design, Bible, Cornerstone, Engineering and Physics, Journalism and Mass Communication, Language and Literature, and Social Work. In all, we conducted 69 training workshops that were attended by over 992 students and faculty.

We hosted a faculty workshop called “Sharing Your Voice: New Audiences for Teaching and Scholarship.” The group was joined by Whitney Gaines (’11), digital communications strategist and ACU alum, to develop new projects and skills.

This was the first year that the Learning Studio directed ACU’s student short film festival called FilmFest. Preparations began in the fall that included a workshop on capturing video and sound for film, and ended in the spring with production teams and actors sharing nine films for a well attended FilmFest Gala at the Paramount Theatre in Abilene, Texas.
The Innovation Foundry
Dr. Marisa Beard | Director of Educational Technology

The Innovation Foundry (IF) focused on the pedagogy of technology integration through Foundry Chats in the Adams Center and Adobe Sessions in the Innovation Foundry. IF also hosted Maker Monday and Tech TuneUp Sessions to increase technology fluency and awareness of available technology at ACU. The IF team collaborated with Dr. Dan Morrison’s Sociology 111 course by offering tutorial sessions throughout the Spring semester. Students also accessed expert help in the IF for their Undergraduate Research Posters and other research activities.

Amos Gutierrez was hired as ACU’s Adobe Ambassador to further promote the use of Adobe Creative Cloud on campus. ACU has been recognized as the first Adobe Creative Campus university in Texas as a recognition of the creative implementation of Adobe throughout the curriculum. As a part of a pilot program, ten students and two staff demonstrated their knowledge of Adobe Photoshop by becoming Adobe Certified Associates. To continue this creative growth, ACU was awarded a grant to fund eighteen Adobe Faculty Fellows through Spring 2021.

A new course evaluation system, Blue by eXplorance, was implemented through Educational Technology that allows greater flexibility in both questioning style and reporting.

1. Dr. Robert Rhodes (ACU Provost) accepts the Adobe Creative Campus recognition on behalf of ACU from Jason Katsoff (Adobe Success Manager)
2. Example infographic from IF tutorial
We reached a significant milestone with the publication on our digital repository of finding aid information for our archival collections. For the first time, online users can browse our collections and discover how they are relevant for research and study. We are also taking our materials to the world, via the web, with continued digitization projects for print and archival holdings.

Also, after being part of a traveling exhibit called “Passages” in Colorado and then in Germany to honor the Reformation as the focal point of Museum of the Bible’s “This is Our Book” exhibit, the restored Waynai Bible made its way back to ACU where it will be on exhibit in Special Collections until next year, at which time it will return to Museum of the Bible for three years, where it will represent ACU to millions of visitors in Washington, D.C.

Max Lucado (’77) and his executive editor, Karen Hill, joined Friends of ACU Library for a tour of two exhibit spaces featuring archival and print materials from the Max Lucado Papers. Participants heard Lucado and Hill share touching and inspiring stories from readers: stories of how God’s grace renews our hope.
ACU Press
Dr. Jason Fikes (’96 M.Div.) | Director of ACU Press

ACU Press secured a $103,000 grant for the Brown Library to digitize and create freely accessible ebooks related to the study of American religion. This project is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the largest funder of the humanities in the United States.

ACU is one of seven universities receiving this grant in 2019, joining the University of Georgia, Brown University, Indiana University, Ohio University, University of North Carolina, and the University of Kansas.

With this grant, ACU Press and Brown Library will partner with the Disciples of Christ Historical Society to produce freely accessible eBooks. We have organized a team of scholars who will review titles previously published by both of our organizations. Then, this advisory group will make recommendations of which books to include in the program.

The ACU Scholar’s Lab will serve as another important partner overseeing the digital conversion process for the new e-publications. The grant will also enable the Press to create a new website to promote this new ACU Press/Disciples of Christ Historical Society collection.

Among its fifteen publications during the year, ACU Press released *Wildcat Football: Three Cheers for the Purple and White* by Lance Fleming (’92). With contributions from coaches and longtime Wildcat journalists, *Wildcat Football* relives the proud history and the greatest moments of the sport on the Hill, from 1919 to 2018. Copies went on sale during Homecoming in The Campus Store and other locations.
The Scholars Lab
Avery Weems (’13) | Director of Scholars Lab

In its very first year, the Scholars Lab completed construction in its new space on the library’s third floor and the installation of two high-powered computers with research software available to all faculty and staff whenever the library is open. The lab offers SPSS, NVivo, and department-specific programs such as the Cambridge Crystallographic Database (Chemistry) and Accordance (Bible) as well as a new digital space, the Scholars Lab Blog.

Our grand opening was observed with an inaugural Faculty Publication Celebration which included a catalog of recent ACU faculty publications. During the school year, the Scholars Lab hosted conversations about SPSS, GIS, and other topics relevant to digital scholarship.

To wrap up the year, the lab partnered with ACU Press and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society to secure a $103,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to digitize 30 scholarly out-of-print titles—a venture that will advance scholarship and communication by making the digital versions freely available to anyone in the world.
Meet our Library Staff

New to Library

Congratulations to Trent and Amanda (Arzigian ’12) Dietz. Daniel “Danny” Simon Dietz was born at 8:22 p.m. on June 17, 2018.

Congratulations to Amos Gutierrez, who joined the library team as the new learning technologist in the Innovation Foundry. Amos will serve as ACU’s Adobe Ambassador, leading outreach to campus for utilization of Adobe’s creative tools.

We are excited to introduce our new budget assistant, Wei Ji.

Congratulations to Alyssa Terrill (’18) for joining the library team as the new Library Acquisitions and Periodicals Coordinator. She is a May graduate with a B.S. in Psychology and plans to obtain a Library Science degree in the future.

We are pleased to welcome Sam Britten (’82) as the new Evening Circulation Desk Manager, working 10pm-2am Sunday through Thursday evenings.

Darren Wilson became the Director of the Maker Lab, and Nil Santana (’00 M.S.) was appointed the Associate Director of Design.

Melinda (Stucker ’93) Isbell was appointed to ACU Library Faculty as Assistant Professor and the title of Research and Instruction Services Librarian.

Celebrating Milestones

Congratulations to our budget assistant, Jan Bower, who retired after 15 years of service to Brown Library.

Congratulations to administrative coordinator Penny Ruot, who celebrates 10 years on our staff.
Thank you

Contributions to the Brown Library enable ACU to build on its tradition of academic excellence through innovative education, real-world learning opportunities, and faculty-guided research. We rely on a combination of endowments, gifts of collections, and cash gifts to supplement and build upon the budgeted support from the university. Your gifts, no matter the size, make you a Friend of ACU Library (FACUL) and offers support for a wide range of programs, activities and fundraisers. Thank you for your support!

AEP Texas
Anonymous
Diane Atchison
Robert and Melissa Atkinson
Lisa Barnes
John and Mary Barton
Batjer & Associates, Inc.
David and Marisa Beard
Carisse Berryhill
Dale Brown
Bill and Virginia Chambers
Dian Graves Owen Foundation
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Becky Douglass
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Scott and Sandy Ferguson
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Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
James and Carolyn Thompson
Hugh Thompson
Jacque Tobin
UpWords
Jimmy and June Walker
Jodie and Goldye Wallace
Weatherl Associates
Mike and Cathy Williams
The Brown Library renovated the east side of the Learning Commons into a community space for book browsing, reading, and special literary events. ACU welcomed Ray Hansen to campus to celebrate the dedication of the Nancy and Ray Hansen Reading Commons with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Retired librarian and ACU alumna Karen (Nelson ’65) Hendrick was honored at a 2018 Friend of the Year luncheon by Friends of ACU Library in recognition of her 32 years of service and dedication in mentoring students, faculty, and staff.

Former U.S. First Lady Laura W. Bush headlined “Voices of Hope,” the Friends of ACU Library’s Spring Banquet in the McCaleb Conference Center. It featured her special remarks, an interview conducted by ACU alum Max Lucado, and a presentation to her of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The FACUL dinner raised money to complete fundraising for the proposed Barry and Diane Packer Forum, a new conference space planned for the east side of Brown Library’s top floor. The Packer Forum is named for former ACU board chair and trustee Dr. Barry Packer (’78) and his wife, Diane (Stephens ’77).

1. Dr. John Weaver, Ray Hansen, Dr. Royce Money
2. Karen Hendrick
3. Former U.S. First Lady Laura W. Bush
Selected Works by Library Faculty and Staff


Darren Wilson ('91) “So You Want a Makerspace? What’s Next?” and “How Can a Makerspace Build Community?” Texas Computer Educators Association Innovative Learning Strategies Conference, Austin, TX.
By The Numbers

Library Collections
Total items held:
  Print: 419,872
  Electronic: 183,284
ACU new items added:
  Print: 6,258
  Electronic: 35,071
22,869 Audiovisual Collection (CDs, DVDs, etc.)
5,823 Archival Collections (in linear feet)
58,586 E-Journal Subscriptions
70 Current print journal subscriptions

Special Collections
487 Collections
62,000 CRS/Campbell cataloged items
5,823 Linear feet - Center for Restoration Studies
6,246 Linear feet - University Records
4 Public exhibitions on display
4 Permanent displays
4 Items on permanent display

Innovation Foundry
8 Foundry Chats
6 Maker Monday
4 Adobe Sessions (hands-on)
6 Tech Tune-ups
24 Infographic tutorial sessions
43,441 Blue eXplorance student course evaluations
2,599 Blue eXplorance summary reports
54.7% Student course evaluation response rate

Learning Studio
15,495 Hours of student collaboration in Learning Studio rooms
2,318 Checkouts of cameras, microphones, and advanced media gear
121 Student and faculty headshots with new pro photo studio
69 Training workshops
992 Training workshop attendance

Maker Lab
10,000+ Maker Lab visits
3,305 Tool reservations
926 New maker accounts

ACU Press
$428,755 Total Sales
$22,279 Online sales
19,932 Website sessions
18,608 Website visitors

Library Services
24,895 Print Checkouts / In-Library Use
1,093 E-Book - Entire Book Downloads/Views
29,305 E-Book - Chapter/Section Downloads/Views
333,972 E-Resource - Articles/Documents Downloads/Views
3,489 Reference Transactions
692,715 Number of Library Visits
9,118 Laptop Checkouts
2,938 Interlibrary Loan (borrowed)
4,636 Interlibrary Loan (lending)
869 Students receiving library instruction
53 Classes receiving instruction from librarians
147,638 Library Home Page Views
123,154 Library subject guides views (LibGuides)