The Expanding Role of Libraries in the Research Life Cycle

Libraries have always been the first place a researcher goes when starting a project. Library resources naturally stand near the beginning of the research life cycle that includes hypotheses or ideas, scholarship review, data collection, analysis and assessment. And libraries play a role after publishing as well by acquiring the research for our collections and contributing to its dissemination. At Vanderbilt, the role of the libraries in the research life cycle has expanded to include a broad array of collections and services from data analysis tools to open access publishing. The skill sets of our librarians are also evolving to meet the needs of students and faculty.

As partners in research, we endeavor to provide the breadth, depth and diversity of resources needed by our academic community, from rare archival collections to datasets. Many of these collections are on our campus in one of nine libraries or auxiliary depositories, whereas others are available digitally, and still others can be obtained from collaborating institutions thanks to the Heard Libraries’ valuable consortial relationships and interlibrary loan. As technologies have advanced, the role of the libraries has grown and now touches nearly every phase in the research life cycle. For example, Vanderbilt’s librarians not only provide advice on such things as search strategies or resources, but also partner with scholars in areas where specialized skills are needed, such as data management, GIS, provenance research, digital visualization and preservation, or dataset retrieval and storage. The libraries are also involved in publishing and encouraging open access of research results (see the story on new library journals and see vanderbi.lt/staffscholarship for librarians’ research).

With the help of the libraries, students are transformed into scholars. Librarians work with faculty, but also with first-year students (see VUceptor story), with students as they declare a major (Personal Librarians), and with graduate students at every level (New Study Spaces). Vanderbilt’s librarians are in classrooms and labs, and on course websites; we work with faculty on campus and around the world; and we help researchers at every level find their way in the ever-growing world of information. As Albert Einstein advised, the only knowledge required for serious research “is the location of the library.” Libraries keep the research life cycle spinning.

Valerie Hotchkiss
University Librarian
Professor of English

On the cover: Preserving history and historical artifacts is a critical responsibility of libraries. This massive flag, which measures over 150 feet, was hung in the campus Memorial Gym in the early 1960s, becoming the backdrop for a number of historic events, including the first years of the Impact Symposium, one of the university’s oldest lecture series. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, Allen Ginsberg and John Glenn were among the speakers who stood before the flag.
Library Climbs in National Rankings

The libraries continue to climb in the Association of Research Libraries rankings, rising to the No. 36 spot in the newly released 2018 data.

Vanderbilt’s libraries jumped seven places in the ARL Index from 2017 to 2018, and moved up a total of 21 places since the university’s Future of the Library Report in 2015—that’s a 37 percent increase since 2014. Established in 1932, the ARL is a membership organization of libraries and archives in major public and private universities in the United States and Canada. The ARL ranking system evaluated data from 116 member institutions based on dollars spent for total library expenditures, including salaries and wages and library materials, as well as the number of professional and support-staff employees.

Contributing factors to Vanderbilt’s improved reputation among research libraries include:

- Increased acquisitions budgets, in particular the 2018 Provost’s Collection Initiative that allowed faculty and librarians to work together on several major acquisitions
- Improved search and discovery tools, specifically the implementation of a new integrated library system, library catalog, and website redesign
- Expansion of digital humanities support and digital scholarship tools and training
- New rank and promotion system for professional librarians that incentivizes engagement and development
- Improved facilities for research, study, and collections

“One of our strategic goals—to be included in the top third of all North American research libraries—has been achieved,” University Librarian Valerie Hotchkiss said. “I am very proud of the collaborative and considerable efforts of library staff that have resulted in this increase. It is also a testimony to university support as we build a great research library.” She also notes that Vanderbilt libraries have been hiring a new generation of diverse and tremendously talented staff members, increasing collections budgets, and working hard to reorganize the libraries in ways that have increased both efficiency and innovation.

“While we intend to continue to improve and evolve, this new ranking offers us a moment to reflect on our accomplishments.”

The Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries and the Vanderbilt Reserve Officers’ Training Corps participated in a flag ceremony in conjunction with Veterans Day. When weather moved that ceremony inside, ROTC students graciously agreed to join library staff during the summer to unfurl and refold the historic flag for our cameras. Photo by Anne Rayner/VU Communications.
Our Crowd: Student Life at the University of Nashville

University life in the 19th century was quite different from today’s modern campus. Each aspect of students’ lives was regimented in order to shape young men into productive members of society, and rules and regulations permeated every aspect of student life. Students learned by recitation and their detailed notes reflect close attention in daily classes, from Latin composition to spherical geometry. During the spring semester, sophomores Sharonda Adams and Eric Asen, two Buchanan Library Fellows, explored how students lived, studied and managed to have fun in 19th-century Nashville, culminating in the exhibit Our Crowd: Student Life at the University of Nashville.

“Working with the librarians helped me make sense of the historical objects and piece together a meaningful story out of each one.”

–Eric Asen, sophomore in the College of Arts and Science

The 1854 Literary Department (today called Lindsley Hall) still stands on Rutledge Hill near downtown Nashville, one of the last remaining historic structures of the University of Nashville on the old South Campus. Peabody College traces its roots to the school and its predecessor, Cumberland College. The Vanderbilt Special Collections Library contains archival holdings for both of these institutions. The Buchanan Library Fellows visited the building with architectural historian Robbie Jones to help understand what it was like for students attending classes more than 150 years ago. Our thanks go to the Metro Nashville General Services Department, which graciously allowed our Vanderbilt students to tour the building.
How Far Fair Use?

Copyright and fair use in research and the classroom are hot topics on campuses around the country. Last fall, the libraries and the Center for Digital Humanities hosted two of the nation’s most prominent copyright lawyers/librarians to address these topics. Melissa Levine, lead copyright officer at the University of Michigan, discussed current copyright cases and their impact on the educational environment, emphasizing teaching, research, and use of library-held materials. Kyle Courtney, copyright adviser for Harvard’s Office for Scholarly Communication, expertly hosted “You Make the Call Copyright Game,” with panelists and audience responding—in game-show format—to important, arcane, and sometimes inane (but real) questions about fair use and copyright.

“One of the beautiful things about fair use is how it can soften the copyright act, which is in many ways highly structured and rigid, to provide flexibility for new, innovative technology.”

—Kyle Courtney, Harvard University, speaker at Vanderbilt Library Conference
Copyright Clearance Charges 2015–19

Thanks to savvy librarians and new copyright rulings that allow for a broader understanding of fair use, the Heard Libraries are seeing significant savings for the libraries and the university.

Internet Privacy: Skills for Encrypting Your Online Activity

In this increasingly open and connected world, does privacy really exist? Does it matter? If so, what are the links between privacy and intellectual freedom? The Vanderbilt libraries invited Alison Macrina, the founding director of the Library Freedom Project and an internet activist to talk about normalization of online surveillance—and its implications. Privacy experts then fanned out to help attendees manage their privacy online, installing password managers, anonymous browsing with Tor, location privacy, and secure/encrypted messaging software and practices.
Connections from Day 1: Vanderbilt Visions and VUceptors for Incoming Students

The dedicated subject librarians in each of the nine Vanderbilt libraries collaborate with students and faculty in a variety of ways to impact teaching and learning on campus. Beginning in fall 2019, Vanderbilt librarians became part of the Vanderbilt Visions program, teaching sessions focused on critical thinking and digital literacy to about 150 first-year students.

To extend the partnership, Associate Provost and Dean of Residential Faculty Vanessa Beasley invited Vanderbilt librarians to serve as VUceptors in fall 2020. Leslie Foutch (Peabody Library), Sara Manus (Music Library), and Ramona Romero (Central Library) are meeting with first-year students on a weekly basis, leading discussions on the Commons Reading, and guiding the students as they begin their Vanderbilt careers.

“We are thrilled to have librarians as VUceptors. An early connection to library resources is essential for student success at Vanderbilt.”

—Vanessa Beasley, associate professor of communication studies, associate provost and dean of residential faculty

Research, Writing, and Relaxation Night at the Central Library

Central Library helped students conquer finals last spring with research, writing, and relaxation. Subject librarians and Writing Studio consultants were on hand from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. to help find scholarly resources for those final papers. Relaxation techniques, free chair massages and snacks helped students to de-stress and approach finals in the right frame of body and mind. The first-time event was co-sponsored by the Vanderbilt libraries, the Writing Studio, the Center for Student Wellbeing, and the David Williams II Recreation and Wellness Center.
Partners in the Educational Mission

Libraries Sponsor First-Year Writing Award

For the first time, the Vanderbilt libraries sponsored a First-Year Writing Research Paper Award at the Writing Studio’s Undergraduate Writing Symposium. Librarians David Golann, Kasia Gonnerman, Melissa Mallon, Paula Covington, and Sara Manus helped judge submissions and select the winner, “The Modernization of Paris, Gendered Spaces, and the Sexual Politics of Looking: A Comparison of Mary Cassatt’s In The Loge and Edgar Degas’ Woman in a Cafe: Evening” by Isabelle Towle (22). The VU libraries also worked with John Bradley, director of the Writing Studio and Tutoring Services, to set up and host a digital journal for student work, Scaffold: A Showcase of Vanderbilt First-Year Writing.

Isabelle Towle

My VU Libraries: The Student Library Advisory Council

Joe Lovinger, chair of the Student Library Advisory Council, offers a few tips on Vanderbilt libraries

Just what does the Student Library Advisory Council do?

I look at the Student Library Advisory Council as a friendly intermediary between Vanderbilt’s libraries and students. In one direction, we gather opinions from as diverse a cross-section of the student body as possible, including students of all four colleges and the graduate schools. We then convey key takeaways to the University Librarian and library staff so that they can better tailor the library experience to students’ wants and needs. In the other direction, we help optimize the library’s messaging and community outreach efforts so that students know about and take advantage of all that the libraries have to offer. Whether it’s compelling speakers, new research tools, or an
ever-expanding trove of books and special collections, the libraries offer incredible resources for every type of student on campus; we help those students find them.

**Your insider tip on the best place to study?**

I’m partial to the Periodical Reading Room on floor 6 of Central Library. I can always find a table, there are beautiful bookshelves lining the entire room, and when you need a study break you can roam the periodicals and find just about any magazine in circulation for some leisure reading.

**What role do the libraries play in your studies?**

As an English and political science double major, I’m almost always researching for essays, writing essays, or both. The libraries play a role for me at every stage of the process. Initially, I pull from their many databases, journal subscriptions, and books on hand to build a wide-ranging catalog of information. Next, I consult with the ever-helpful research librarians as I develop my thesis to help narrow my scope and identify resources I may have missed on my first sweep. At that point, I usually migrate to a study carrel in Central Library so I can focus in on what is to me the hardest part of writing a paper: drafting. Finally, draft in hand, I’ll move to a reading room or study hall where, surrounded by clicking keyboards and turning pages, I convert the draft to prose and finish up the paper.

**What’s the best way to begin your research for a paper?**

Researching for a paper is like eating vegetables; many of my friends refuse to do it, and their health suffers immensely as a result. So, while it can be hard getting started researching, I always try to remember how much easier it makes the rest of the paper-writing process when I have solid research as my foundation. It cuts out all the stress and lack of sleep that comes with cobbling together a paper the day before it’s due. If you’re still struggling to cut through the huge amount of information available to you at the start of the research process, talk to a research librarian. They help you identify relevant tools and information, which makes research way less stressful.

**MeeScan**

The libraries have long offered a self-checkout kiosk for users who prefer to do it on their own. This year, the Central, Divinity, Biomedical and Peabody libraries are launching a new method for self-checkout that allows users to check out library materials with their mobile devices.

*Self-checkout is easy and convenient and consists of three simple steps:*

1. **Download the Android or iOS app (checkout@VandyLibraries)**
2. **Scan items with the phone’s camera**
3. **Deactivate the items at a library kiosk**
Connecting Collections and Campus

Exhibitions and curator talks are two important ways in which our community connects with cultural heritage materials in Vanderbilt's collections. Since 2010, the Vanderbilt libraries have highlighted rare and unique materials through archival exhibitions. Many of our exhibits are curated by students who work with librarians to gain hands-on experience with curatorial methods. The libraries curate more than 60 cases across campus and have this year begun to look at ways that the libraries and the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery can collaborate on exhibitions and programs. Here are a few of the 16 exhibitions curated over the past school year.

Vanderbilt Silver

For centuries, silver was considered a luxury reserved only for the elite, and master silversmiths came to be revered for the remarkable craftsmanship and design in their work. But silver showed more than just wealth: it was also a symbolic embodiment of affluence, taste and education.

The history of silver at Vanderbilt University begins with Cornelius Vanderbilt, who made his fortune in railroad and shipping industries. This exhibition shared dazzling examples of silver and gold that celebrated our founders’ achievements and made way for a tradition of using precious metals to mark important ceremonies and award deserving recipients at the university.
Embodied: Mosaic Arts International 2019 Invitational

Embodied: Mosaic Arts International 2019 Invitational surveyed figurative works by leading contemporary mosaicists. Through meticulous manipulations of glass, stone and ceramic, these detailed works do not stray far from those from antiquity in their media or their stories. Scenes presented share timeless themes of love and family, conflict and war, spirituality and society. This exhibition was supported, in part, by the Society of American Mosaic Artists.

Michael Kruzich, “Refuge” 2017, stone, Italian smalti, gold. Collection of the Artist. Inspired by the tragic drowning of a refugee in Venice which occurred while others looked on, the artist imagined a different outcome with someone reaching out to offer a hand.

Telling Our Stories: Graphic Medicine and the Intersection of Art and Healthcare

The Eskind Library staff are preparing for a VU/VUMC-wide event in April 2020. Telling Our Stories: Graphic Medicine and the Intersection of Art and Healthcare will be an exciting opportunity for patients, students, staff and faculty to express creatively their experiences with their health or the health care system, in general. The art will be on exhibit in the fall in the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center. Once the exhibit is over, each submission will be scanned to become part of a permanent online library exhibit and community archive.
Arts & Science, literally!

A spring exhibition of ancient Latin American artifacts was curated by undergraduate students as part of a semester-long course led by Markus Eberl, associate professor of anthropology. Focusing on the connection between nature and culture among pre-Columbian Mesoamerican people (ca. 500 to 1500 C.E.), the exhibition challenged the term “noble savages,” a reference to Western portrayals of ancient Mesoamerican peoples in a subdued and romanticized form. The class collaborated with the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science to scan and replicate three art objects for an exhibition on ancient Mesoamerican artifacts. The items were scanned in the institute’s state-of-the-art PET/CT scanner to allow for the creation of 3D polymer replicas. The replicas allowed visitors a more tactile experience while viewing originals behind glass in museum cases. “It’s a way for visitors not just to get nearer to the objects, but also to come closer to the psychology and experiences of the people who originally used them,” noted Emily Weiner, interim curator of the Fine Arts Gallery.

“It was exciting for us to partner with the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery to do something completely out of the box,” said Seth Smith, associate professor of radiology and radiological sciences and associate director of VUIIS. “Our new relationship was brought about because of the existence of a new imaging device within VUIIS. This is a bridge we don’t often get to see, and, personally, I find it to be fascinating and encouraging.”
Public Domain Day “Pop-up” Exhibit

Public Domain Day on January 1 marked the first time in 20 years that films, books, artworks and more that were created in 1923 came into the public domain. Studies have shown that public domain books are less expensive, available in more editions and formats, and more likely to be in print. This includes beloved Robert Frost and Kahlil Gibran poems, novels by Carl Sandburg and many other works. The expiration of copyright means that scholars can use these materials for education, for research, or for creative endeavors. “Pop-up” exhibits such as this celebrate significant events with short-term displays.

The libraries hosted Curator’s Talks, a lecture series designed to engage the campus and the community with some of the libraries’ special resources. Topics included: “Zero Hour: The 2003 Invasion of Iraq” (the Vanderbilt Television News Archive); “(Mis)understanding the New World: Conquerors, Travelers and Explorers in Latin America” (Latin American Collections), “Bringing the Vanderbilt Cuneiform Tablets Collection into the Light” (Divinity Library) and “Bear with Me: The Case of Thomas Hobbes’ Leviathan” (Sevier Collection).
Edible Archive Today: Recipes from Vanderbilt’s History of Medicine Collection

Already known for our annual Edible Book Contest, the libraries are now highlighting our Cookbook Collections on social media. From raspberry cake for Valentine’s Day to figgy pudding in December, the libraries’ new blog series, Edible Archive Today shares recipes from the History of Medicine Collection’s cookbooks dating from the 16th century to the present. E.A.T. editor Leanna Myers, the communications coordinator in library administration, is the recipe tester, and each dish is accompanied by a history of the book and its donor.

Hoppin’ John is a classic southern New Year’s dish, but where does the name come from, and why is eating it considered good luck? Hoppin’ John is traditionally made with black-eyed or field peas, rice and pork fat, served alongside greens. Black-eyed peas are a variety of cowpeas, which were brought to the southern United States by enslaved West Africans, probably in the 18th century. One important clue lies in the cultural role of cowpeas in the Senegambia region of Africa. In Rice and Beans, food historian Michael W. Twitty notes that cowpeas and rice, both staples of the West African diet, “stood as symbols for divine protection, good fortune and survival in times of hardship.” It’s not hard to understand how these associations embedded themselves into southern American culture. And it’s not unreasonable to expect that good luck traditions manifest at the beginning of a new year, but there the historical record is unclear. As for the name, there are a variety of folk etymologies, but it may derive from a corruption of the French pois (peas) or from the Haitian Creole word for pigeon peas, pois a pigeon.
Japanese Bookbinding: “Can We Have It Every Week?”

On a cool day in November, Central Library hosted a Japanese bookbinding workshop in the Community Room. The event attracted 62 participants—students, staff and members of the local community—along with many observers. The workshop began with a brief introduction to Japanese printing history from Bryan Lowe, assistant professor of religious studies, and continued with a hands-on bookbinding activity led by Lesley Patterson-Marx, artist and educator. Participants left with attractive notebooks that they had sewn themselves. Judging from a post-event survey and blogs written by Japanese-language students who took part, the event was a great success. One student even said, “This is so much fun. Can we have it every week?”

“I remember being utterly transported,” notes Professor Kate Daniels, director of creative writing. Daniels reflects on the first book she bought, Louisa May Alcott’s Little Women, and the importance of strong female characters for young readers. To see the full interview, visit vu.edu/book-love-kate-daniels.

Book Love

What was your favorite book as a child? Does it still have power when you reread it? How did it help to mold who you are? The library vlog Book Love celebrates reading and how books shape and connect us. Clips of interviews with faculty, students, staff and visiting speakers about their favorite books are a weekly presence on the libraries’ social media channels. You may learn about new books and authors or simply enjoy hearing that your favorite book is loved by others—and why. Originally begun as an exhibition, the project has become an engaging way to connect readers across campus and beyond.
Leaders in the Profession

Over the past year, Vanderbilt libraries have hosted several important conferences for local, regional, national and international audiences, demonstrating the centrality of information studies in society and the importance of libraries in the Information Age.

Cultural Heritage at Scale: The fourth annual conference took place May 2–3 in the Community Room of the Central Library. The focus of the conference this year was encoding cultural heritage using the Text Encoding Initiative as well as the Music Encoding Initiative standards. Plenary talks included Digital Editions between Text and Data, Poetesses in Perpetuity: the ARCScholar Digital Edition Publishing Cooperative, From Text to Data and Back Again: Modeling Syriac Heritage with TEI and Linked Data, The Digital Edition Publishing Cooperative for Historical Accounts (or DEPCHA), and The Way They Play It: Encoding Music Performance Data.

Workshops were also held on introductory and advanced topics related to digital text encoding and digital preservation, including CETEIcean, the Digital Documentation Process, Schematron, and TEI Publisher. The conference was co-sponsored by the Center for Digital Humanities and the Cultural Heritage Research Cluster at Vanderbilt University.

Southeast Science Boot Camp: In May, Vanderbilt hosted the Southeast Science Boot Camp for librarians, a biannual event sponsored by STEM libraries in the southeastern United States. The 2019 program focused on ethics and privacy in scientific research and included Overexposed: Genetic Privacy at the Multiplex; Surveillance, Capitalism and You; Power, Privacy, and Participation in the Panopticon; Challenges and Opportunities to Inclusive Governance of the Smart City; Privacy Risks and Resolutions for Big Data; The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence; and Astrophysics Research in the Era of Big Data.

Partners in Progress: Support Staff as Leaders:
The libraries hosted the first Partners in Progress conference, bringing all library support staff together for a day of discussion, learning and professional development on themes that covered library skills and organizational health. The conference was so successful that it has evolved into a regional event for the Nashville Area Library Alliance with Vanderbilt’s libraries leading the way.
Mellon Foundation Grant to Expand Access to Vanderbilt Library Collections

Vanderbilt is among seven universities awarded a $1 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to foster library collaboration in supporting the learning needs of students with print disabilities. The grant, which is spearheaded by the University of Virginia, will develop Educational Materials Made Accessible, a database specifically designed for delivering remediated texts in a variety of formats to people with print disabilities. Book chapters, articles, videos, and other resources that have been remediated by the Student Access Services offices of the Mellon partner universities will receive expert metadata from librarians before being loaded into the Internet Archive, HathiTrust or Bookshare. Copyright restrictions, by law, do not apply to texts that are made accessible to people with disabilities. Through EMMA, access service departments can avoid duplicative efforts, while providing a larger body of material—as well as on-demand texts—to students and faculty with print disabilities.

Big News/Big Data: Vanderbilt Television News Archive Taps into New Technologies

Thanks to a grant from the Buck Foundation, the Vanderbilt Television News Archive has upgraded its digital capture infrastructure and is implementing new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to improve access. The goal is to provide full transcripts of over 50 years of TV news broadcasts (including commercials), thereby creating a powerful new source for big data analysis and digital scholarship. The VTNA now automatically names, sorts, transcodes, and timestamps with the help of cloud computing. After several trials, the team used Trint.com, an automated speech recognition platform, to aid in the monumental task of transcribing and editing transcripts.
A Magic Painting: Early Maps of Colombia

Francisco José de Caldas (1768–1816), an enlightened citizen of the Spanish Kingdom of New Granada, wanted to unite its disparate citizens and reveal to the world the many “natural wonders” of what is now Colombia. To help spread the word, Caldas undertook the creation of a large-scale map, noting geological and botanical features and undertaking scientific explorations in a similar vein to those he had previously made with Alexander von Humboldt and José Celestino Mutis. Caldas referred to the map as “a magic painting” that could be used to ignite “a patriotic flame … in all hearts” and result in “the prosperity of this country.” In the early 1800s, Caldas saw the issues Colombia would come to face as a result of geographic obstacles to uniting the country. His explorations, scientific inventions, and writings on astronomy, geography, and natural history were done with the support of the Spanish government. However, after he played a role (as newspaper editor) in the 1810 rebellion, he was executed by the Spanish. Many of his maps and botanic and scientific collections were confiscated and sent to Spain. The library owns what are believed to be Caldas’ field notes and three of his maps. Two additional Caldas maps were recently donated by Byrd Helguera.

Hand-colored Edition of Les Métamorphoses du Jour (1829)

Les Métamorphoses du Jour, published in 1829, and illustrated by J. J. Grandville, is a recent acquisition of the distinguished French collections at the Vanderbilt libraries. Jean Ignace Julien Gérard (J. J. Grandville, 1803–1847), established himself in Paris as a skillful political cartoonist with interests in human character and physiognomy. The newly acquired Les Métamorphoses du Jour is exceptionally rare and includes previously suppressed plates. The hand-colored plates contained within this oblong folio capture the foibles and follies of humanity with the metaphor of the menagerie. Its influence was immense. For example, André Breton, founder of literary surrealism, acknowledged Grandville as an important inspiration and precursor. Moreover, Grandville’s innovative format influenced the development of the graphic novel. This new acquisition and other works from the French collections will be highlighted in an exhibition in the Central Library in spring 2020.
Thinking 3D: Exhibit and New Acquisitions Focus on the Brain

In June 2019, Vanderbilt’s History of Medicine Collections acquired a first edition of Sir Humphrey Ridley’s *The Anatomy of the Brain*, published in 1695. The first work of neuroanatomy written in English, this landmark book includes five exceedingly beautiful copper plate engravings of illustrations by the surgeon William Cowper. Ridley had a keen sense of observation, using the brains of executed criminals to detail new anatomical descriptions and expand on the works of his predecessors. The book was on display through October 2019 in the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library as a part of the *Thinking 3D* exhibition, a collaborative, international, year-long initiative with Oxford University, the University of St. Andrews and the Royal College of Physicians, London, among others. The collaborative project explored the history of the concept of three-dimensionality and its influence on human perception and technological development. Vanderbilt’s exhibition focused on the origins of modern neuroscience, from the 16th-century works of anatomist Andreas Vesalius to stereograms and the latest 3D scanning techniques, examining the physical and virtual ways that scientists have sought to depict and explain brain anatomy and function.

Haunted Hills of Mildred Haun

The libraries delved a little deeper into our archive of the literary papers of Mildred Haun to find new texts and new meanings in the work of the Cocke County author and ethnomusicologist. Haun enrolled in Vanderbilt in 1931 and was encouraged by John Crowe Ransom and other Fugitives at Vanderbilt to write the stories of her childhood in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Despite her early death, Haun produced a novel and several short stories, published posthumously. Our archives include these manuscripts as well as unpublished letters, photos, and diaries of this multifaceted Appalachian author.

Singing the Praises of the New George R. Miller ’18 Collection

Last year, Richard Miller, president of the Metropolitan Opera Guild and a longtime supporter of the Anne Potter Wilson Music Library, worked with the libraries to obtain Guild letters, realia, and other documents at Christie’s auction house for Special Collections. Included in the new collection, which is named for Richard’s son George R. Miller, BMus’18, are such treasures as a 1927 Alban Berg letter, a late 19th-century piano piece by Jules Massenet, and Enrico Caruso’s silver cigarette case.
The News Desk

Reading award-winning news stories in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal is now easier for the Vanderbilt community, thanks to a News Desk portal added to the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries’ homepage. “Citizens need reliable and diverse sources of news and information,” said Central Library Director Kasia Gonnerman. “It is our duty as an educational institution to champion the crucial value of informing oneself as fully as possible. We hope that by providing campus-wide access to the Times and The Wall Street Journal, as well as links to other valuable news sources, we contribute to thoughtful discourse on the issues of the day.” The portal or bar includes two radio buttons for accessing those papers and three other buttons that connect to the Vanderbilt Television News Archive, a research guide with other news sources available through the libraries’ subscription databases, and a research guide with tools for determining news accuracy and objectivity.

Gear2Go at Stevenson Science and Engineering Library

The Stevenson Science and Engineering Library is now the home of Gear2Go, a technology lending service. A variety of tech devices, including DSLR cameras, point and shoot cameras, camera tripods, Go Pro cameras, 360 cameras, lavalier microphones, boom microphones, VR headsets, audio kits, lighting kits, and maker kits, are available for checkout. Director of the Science and Engineering Library Honora Eskridge summed it up: “Use these technologies for projects and class work, to try before you buy, or just to learn something new. And let us know what else we can provide to enhance your research and learning.”

New Open Journals

The libraries, led by the Library Digital Technology Services and Digital Scholarship and Communications teams, collaborated with campus groups to promote scholarship through publishing using open journal systems. The two new journals introduced this year were: Scaffold: A Showcase of Vanderbilt First-Year Writing, an extension to the Undergraduate Writing Symposium (see p. 6), and Iris Journal of Scholarship, a graduate student research journal for the Peabody campus.
Collections Statistics

4,681,657 VOLUMES IN THE COLLECTION

16,660 ILL NUMBERS
Loans to other libraries

15,401
Loans from other libraries

138,524 ITEMS CHECKED OUT

124,261 # electronic journals
(electronic serials)

17,012 AND 19,232 MILES

Longest distance traveled by ILL items:
ILL Loaned: 17,012 miles  To the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, and back
ILL Borrowed: from Monash University in Clayton, Victoria, Australia, 19,232 miles round trip

772 DATABASES

4.03M E-JOURNALS DOWNLOADED

2.5M # of catalog searches since we migrated to new catalog

26,734 NEW TITLES ADDED
and 82,773 volumes added
Waaayyy into the endzone:
the equivalent of 1,145 football fields of book stacks run through the library system

Fine Arts Gallery Now Part of the Libraries
As of July 1, the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery moved from the College of Arts and Science and joined the Heard Libraries to take on a more university-wide role under the provost’s office. Working with Associate University Librarian and Acting Gallery Director Celia Walker, two new staff have joined the gallery since the transition: Emily Weiner as interim curator and Kali Mason as collections manager and registrar. The new structure allows the libraries and the gallery to collaborate in new, exciting ways.

New Study Space in the Stevenson Science and Engineering Library
The Stevenson Science and Engineering Library undertook a variety of space improvements over the last year. In the public spaces, the former map room has been repurposed into a 24-seat seminar room with up-to-date screens for collaborations and presentations. As some of the print collections have been digitized or moved offsite, a growing portion of the periodical room has been converted to study space. This summer, all of the library’s study carrels were replaced, and approximately 20 new carrels were added. This, along with other new seating purchased this year, further increases the library’s capacity, which has more than doubled to keep up with demand during the past two years.
Central Library Adds Carrels and Study Spaces

The Central Library began the new academic year with substantially renovated spaces offering brand-new graduate carrels to replace the old models, greatly improving the carrels’ comfort and aesthetics. In addition, students now have access to five new large-group study rooms equipped with technology for collaborative work, and six additional small meeting rooms. The library also now offers a graduate lounge, several ADA-accessible offices for students with disabilities, and numerous clusters of comfortable furniture (study pods or booths) interspersed throughout as cozy nooks for lounging and studying.

28,626
RESERVED ROOMS

Study Room Reservations
Central..............................1,602
Science & Engineering.................433
Peabody.............................1,469
Divinity.............................650
Music.................................151
Management.........................17,350
Biomedical..........................4,278
Law.................................2,648
Special Collections..................45

2019 class project by human and organizational development undergraduates asked peers about study habits—and libraries won by a landslide.

Great Turnout for Voter Registration Event at Central Library

On October 8, volunteers from the Nashville League of Women Voters assisted Vanderbilt students and staff with the voting registration process at the Central Library. The turnout was great, and the league representative ended up delivering 28 registration applications to the Davidson County Election Commission. Volunteers also registered eight new voters online and assisted nine others with voter verification and the downloading of absentee ballots for other states. They helped others with the GoVoteTN app on their phones.
An Evening of Stories & Songs

In April, the Belcourt Theatre sold out the house for a Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries benefit concert, “An Evening of Stories & Songs” by Marshall Chapman, Matraca Berg, Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle. Since 1998, Smith and McCorkle, both New York Times best-selling authors, have performed with Nashville-based songwriters Chapman and Berg on the rare occasions their schedules permitted. The collaboration began when their musical Good Ol’ Girls premiered in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The New York Times called it “a feminist literary country music review.” Adapted from the fiction of Smith and McCorkle and featuring 14 songs by Berg and Chapman, Good Ol’ Girls opened off-Broadway in 2010. The Belcourt event was such a “happening” that it was covered by The New York Times in a May 20 article by Margaret Renkl.

Antiquarian Rare Book and Manuscript Road Show

Have you always wanted to know more about that volume of poetry that belonged to Cousin Blanche? Wondered how to preserve Uncle Joe’s letters from the front? Or maybe you just need some tips on starting that rare book collection? These questions and more were answered by a panel of professional librarians, conservators, and appraisers at the Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries Antiquarian Rare Book and Manuscript Roadshow on November 7, 2018. Attendees learned such things as how to identify a first edition, why marginalia can increase the value of an old book, and how to preserve their family’s archives.

Map expert Murray Hudson (right) tells visitors about their treasure.
“Censors at Work: How States Shaped Literature”

Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian, emeritus, Harvard University, presented to a big crowd on “Censors at Work: How States Shaped Literature.” The event was sponsored by the Wild Bunch Lecture Fund of the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries, the W. T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, the Department of French and Italian, and the Department of History at Vanderbilt University.

What Would Mrs. Astor Do?

Cecelia Tichi, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English, took attendees through the many “do’s” and “don'ts” of Mrs. William Astor’s rules of manners in Tichi’s latest book, What Would Mrs. Astor Do? The Essential Guide to the Manners and Mores of the Gilded Age [New York: NYU Press, 2018]. While many may think of the late 19th century as a simpler time, Tichi showed that it was anything but simple to follow the many social rules required for those fortunate 400 whom Mrs. Astor identified as New York society.
Established in 2017, the Vanderbilt Libraries’ Staff Service and Excellence Awards program recognizes and celebrates staff, professional librarians and teams for exemplary contributions to the university and libraries. While the dedication, creativity and hard work of all library staff are vital to the success of the university and libraries, there are times when a person or group goes above and beyond, deserving special recognition. The Staff Service and Excellence Awards program not only recognizes the important work of library staff, but also raises morale and contributes to a sense of community. Three awards are given annually: the **University Librarian’s Award** recognizes a library assistant, associate or support staff member who made a difference in a library or department; the **Jean and Alexander Heard Award for Distinguished Librarianship** honors a professional librarian for distinguished service and leadership; and the **Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries Award** recognizes the work of a team, committee or task force that developed and followed through on an idea resulting in streamlined workflows, cost savings, enhanced services or boosted morale in a department or library or across the libraries, while also recognizing collaborative work and collegiality. Join us in congratulating the 2019 Staff Service and Excellence Awards recipients:

**The University Librarian’s Award**—Bryan Kurowski

**The Jean and Alexander Heard Award for Distinguished Librarianship**—Paula Covington

**The Friends of Vanderbilt’s Libraries Award**—Web Refresh Team: Carla Beals (ACE), Matt Dillingham (LTDS), Jodie Gambill (LTDS, chair), Kasia Gonnerman (Central), Zach Johnson (Special Collections), Ramona Romero (Central), Philip Walker (Biomedical)

**2018 Special Recognition**—Dale Poulter, for leading the implementation of the new integrated library system

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**Joseph L. May History of Prints Fund**

When Nashville legend Jack May turned 90 this summer, his family celebrated at the library and announced the creation of the Joseph L. May History of Prints Endowed Fund, which is intended to enrich the history of prints, printing and graphics in the Vanderbilt libraries and Fine Arts Gallery. Through acquisitions and programs, the libraries and gallery will build upon an established focus of our book and art collections, bringing recognition to this strength. Items acquired with this fund will include the catalog line, “Acquired with funds from the Joseph L. May History of Prints Fund, a gift from his family in honor of Jack’s 90th Birthday, 27 May 2019.”

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Paula Covington

Jack and Lynn May
Philip Walker, 2019 Friend of Nursing

Philip Walker, director of the Eskind Biomedical Library, received the 2019 Friend of Nursing award during the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nursing Honors Award Ceremony in May. This recognition is given annually to a non-clinician who demonstrates creativity and collaboration with VUMC nursing. Philip not only provides excellent support to nursing through library resources, he also serves on the editorial board for The Empowered Nurse: Peer-Reviewed Journal for Innovative VUMC Nursing Research.

Librarian-Scholar Spotlight: Clifford B. Anderson

Cliff Anderson, associate university librarian for research and digital initiatives, exemplifies 21st-century academic librarianship in his work with digital humanities, computational thinking, and theory. With a library science degree and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, Cliff is well prepared to publish and present on topics as varied as text encoding initiatives and the phenomenology of memory. Cliff holds secondary appointments as professor of religious studies and adjunct professor of computer science, and his commitment to collaboration keeps Vanderbilt’s libraries connected on many fronts. Cliff’s forthcoming book (co-authored with Joseph C. Wicentowski) is titled XQuery for Humanists and will be published by Texas A&M University Press in the spring as part of a series on Coding for Humanists. Read more about recent publications by Cliff and other members of the Heard Libraries staff at vanderbilt.edu/staffscholarship.

Personal Librarian Program

At last year’s Student Design Competition, students suggested that a good time to forge a relationship with a librarian is the moment when they declare their majors. From this idea, we have created the Personal Librarian program to connect Vanderbilt students with their subject librarians at the critical moment when students have declared their major(s), usually by the spring term of their sophomore year. All majors and minors have their own library subject specialist(s) who offer students expert disciplinary research support.

Soon after their declaration, students receive a “library care package” with a note from their personal librarian, a bookmark, and fun and useful library swag, in addition to an incentive to meet with their librarian as soon as possible (a visit includes a cookie coupon). Making these connections early in a student’s career can make all the difference in a student’s success at Vanderbilt.
Partnering on Discovery in Israel

The library was proud to support the second season of Vanderbilt’s excavations in Israel at the archaeological site of Caesarea Maritima, the capital of Roman Judaea and a thriving port during the Islamic Middle Ages and the Crusades. The project, directed by Joseph L. Rife (Classical and Mediterranean Studies) and Phil Lieberman (Jewish Studies/ClaMS), takes 25 students every summer to participate in Maymester, offering a unique immersive experience overseas. Geospatial Librarian Stacy Curry-Johnson joined the team this past summer. Using a variety of methods facilitated by the library, including theodolite survey and drone photogrammetry, she led colleagues and students in documenting architecture, stratigraphy, and landscape.