



Students' Use of Library Space Continues to Evolve

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

We look forward to welcoming students back to campus this fall and continue to evolve our building and services to meet their needs. Academic libraries across the U.S. noted that foot traffic in their buildings had increased during the past academic year compared to the year prior. We especially noticed more students in the Park Library after spring break when face coverings became optional in public spaces on CMU's campus. Overall, we experienced a 64% increase in building usage during the 2021-2022 academic year compared to the previous year.

Our group and individual study rooms continue to be some of the most desired spaces in the Park Library building. According to the Association of College and Research Libraries' 2022 trends report, many academic libraries have noticed that students are using library spaces differently now compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic began. Many students are attending their online courses while in the library building where they may have better access to equipment, the internet, and a quiet atmosphere. For students who have a mix of online and face-to-face courses, the library is a convenient space to attend their online courses without leaving campus between face-to-face courses. Many libraries have noticed that more students are studying alone rather than in groups and are spacing themselves out more from others. We've noticed these trends in the Park Library as well. As we consider future building remodels, we will continue to monitor these trends to support the changing needs of our students.

This spring, we met with representatives of a student organization with members who are parents and caregivers. They explained their experiences using the Park Library, and we had a great discussion about the ways the library could better support their needs. When they bring their children with them to visit the library, their first priority is to ensure that their children are safe, especially when walking near the atrium. They also need meeting and event space for their student organization's gatherings. All CMU student organizations can reserve and use the Park Library's meeting and event spaces. To provide a safer and more welcoming study experience for students who bring their children with them to the library, we are converting a 400-square foot room on the library's first floor into a family-friendly study room. The room will include study tables, a computer, a children's play area including books and toys, and a small room for nursing. Eligible students will register to have access permissions added to their CMU ID cards. We anticipate that the space will evolve over time as we learn more about the needs of this student population.

CMU's Strategic Pathway #4 focuses on understanding and proactively addressing the dynamic needs of college students. We are committed to finding ways we can learn about and support the changing needs of our students through all our services and resources. During the past year, we piloted a Textbooks in the Library program to support students' academic success and increase college affordability. Our catalogers and metadata specialists have implemented a project to revise subject heading language to ensure the descriptions of the University Libraries' collections are inclusive and respectful. Finally, our librarians provide instruction and research services to ensure our students have the tools they need to be successful in their college career and beyond. They have implemented new pedagogies and outreach methods to address the changing needs of students. We look forward to finding new ways to support our students as the new academic year begins.



» Artist Rendering of Family-Friendly Study Room

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2021-2022: The Year in Numbers

This year's operational data paints a very different picture from last year's numbers. In our report last year, demand for our virtual library services had increased, and the use of physical resources had decreased. As the pandemic protocols evolved during 2021-2022, we saw an increase in the use of study spaces, event spaces, and physical collections. In July 2021, we reopened our group study rooms, increased capacity in study spaces to 100%, and allowed the browsing of our physical book collections. In March 2022, CMU changed its mask policy to make masks optional in public spaces. These changing pandemic policies dramatically affected student use of library services. We were pleased to see more students using the Park Library study spaces, borrowing physical books, and requesting materials from Documents on Demand during 2021-2022.

Another factor to consider when interpreting usage numbers is the fall student headcount. In fall 2021, we had an official headcount of 15,465 students, down from 17,344 in 2020-2021 and 19,431 in 2019-2020. Although research consultations and the use of research guides and online learning objects decreased in 2021-2022, usage is still greater or holding steady compared to pre-pandemic numbers. As students increasingly returned to in-person classes and lived on or near campus, the demand for virtual services was not as great as the previous year but continues to be a convenient service for many.

↑ 69.7% **Park Library Usage**
Up 69.7% compared to the previous year and down 52.2% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

↑ 80.8% **Event Space Usage**
Up 80.8% compared to the previous year and down 53.4% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

↑ 23.4% **Book Checkouts**
Up 23.4% compared to the previous year and down 13.3% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

↑ 13.9% **Documents on Demand**
Up 13.9% compared to the previous year and down 4.4% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

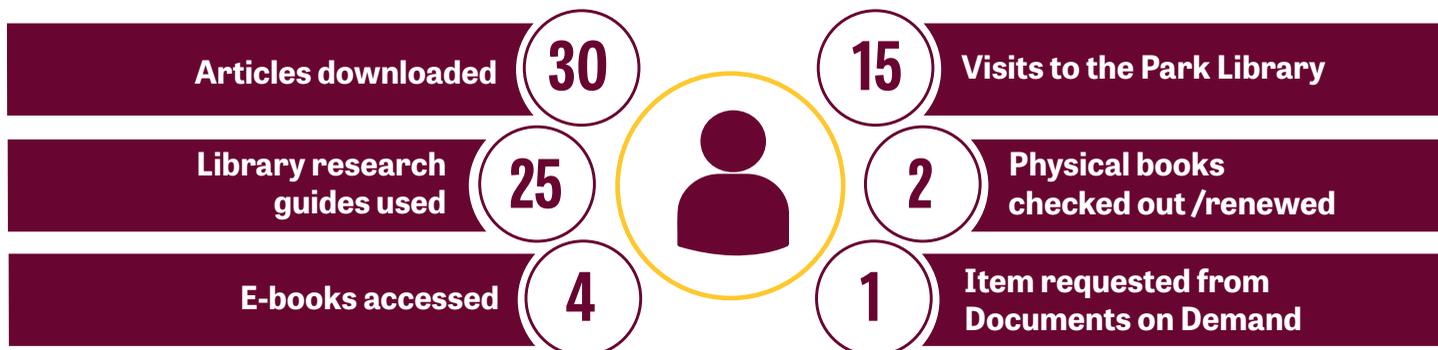
↔ 4,475 **Library Instruction**
Approximately 4,475 students attended a library instruction session in 2021-2022, which is holding steady compared to the previous year.

↓ 3.7% **Research Consultations**
Down 3.7% compared to the previous year and up 14.7% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

↓ 7.9% **Research Guide Usage**
Down 7.9% compared to the previous year and holding steady compared to pre-pandemic usage.

↓ 29.8% **Library Learning Objects**
Down 29.8% compared to the previous year and down 4.5% compared to pre-pandemic usage.

2021-2022 Library Use Divided by Student Headcount



Your Support Makes Things Happen!

Your gifts to Friends of the Libraries enabled us to enhance our building, collections, and programming. Our students and faculty benefit greatly from your generosity!

Park Library building enhancements

- » Upgrading the lighting in the Clarke exhibit spaces

Collections

- » *Words on the Edge: A Broadside Portfolio*. The theme of this collaborative project of poets, writers, and letterpress printers is "nature and its irresponsible destruction."
- » Hathi Trust membership
- » Browsing book rental collection

Events and Programs

- » Sponsorship for WCMU's program, *The Children's Bookshelf*
- » Sponsorship for CMU's International Film Festival

Donor Support Enhances Library Services, Accessibility, and Responsiveness

By Megan Moreno, Director of Engagement and Donor Strategies



Reading this newsletter as a Friend of the Libraries should bring you a sense of pride and purpose. After all, your support has made much of our work possible, work that is solely focused on serving others in their pursuit of knowledge. As stewards of your investment, we are dedicated to informing you about what's happening at the CMU Libraries, the impact of your contributions, and our aims for the year ahead.

Over the years, donors have often asked me how they can direct their giving to the university in a way that benefits students, faculty, staff, and the greater community. What better answer could there be than the CMU Libraries? Essential to supporting the mission and vision of the university, the Libraries exist to serve everyone in the learning process and extend the university's reach to scholars and curious information seekers across the state, nation, and the world. In turn, donors play an integral role in advancing our work – behind the scenes, on the floor, and at the service desk.

Thanks to your support, we've been able to remain responsive to the evolving needs of our patrons. You've helped us to ensure

that the Park Library is a welcoming and accessible hub for collaboration, research, study, and learning in many forms. You've enabled us to increase access to collections and online resources, preserve and share our special collections in the Clarke Historical Library, provide academic support and technical services, and meet the needs of patrons near and far. Because of Friends like you, we enter another academic year well-equipped to support CMU students, faculty, and staff, and to enhance the university community through exhibitions, artist talks, and guest speakers.

Your support of the Libraries strengthens Central Michigan University in many ways, with numerous beneficiaries of your generosity. We hope you feel good about what we've been able to do, with what you've been able to give. Your continued support will enable us to be innovative and responsive to the needs of those we serve. If you would like to discuss how you can make the most of your donation or how you can support a specific initiative, we would be pleased to speak with you. Please contact the Library Dean's office at (989) 774-3500 or visit library.cmich.edu/support

2022-2023: Scholarship Recipients



Valerie Schafer
Gus and Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship for Library Students



Allyse March
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award at CMU Libraries



Zoe Reddick
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award at CMU Libraries



Abby Wanless-Nagy
Library Student Employee Scholarship



Jarrett Kelley
Library Student Employee Scholarship



Larry Laponsie
Library Student Employee Scholarship



Vamshi Reddy
Library Student Employee Scholarship



Lucas Warnke
R&M Schmidt Endowment Award



Nova M.
R&M Schmidt Endowment Award



Susan Powers Retires from the CMU Libraries



» Susan Powers
Manager/Librarian for Access
and User Services

Susan Powers, the CMU Libraries' Manager/Librarian for Access and User Services, retired from CMU on May 31, 2022.

Susan joined the CMU Libraries in January 2009 as a Reference Specialist in the Clarke Historical Library, where she helped researchers find the materials they needed. In 2011, she became the Coordinator of Documents on Demand and oversaw the library's document delivery and interlibrary loan operations. Under her leadership, the department added such services as article and book chapter scanning for all CMU patrons, RapidILL, and Reprints Desk. With each of these changes, users received materials more quickly.

In 2017, she became the Manager and Librarian for Access and User Services, where she continued to oversee Documents on Demand and the library's public service desks, circulation, course reserves, and building spaces including library hours, study rooms, and events. In 2020, responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, her department created the contactless book pickup service, which allowed quick, touch-free pick-up of requested materials. She also enjoyed serving as the subject librarian for the Betty McDonald Children's Literature Collection in the Park Library.

In retirement, Susan plans to relocate to the Lansing area where she can be closer to her family, including her new granddaughter. All of us in the University Libraries thank Susan for her collegiality and her many contributions over the years and wish her a very happy retirement!

Meet CMU's New Business Librarian

Jennifer Rundels, the new business librarian at Central Michigan University, started her role as liaison to the College of Business Administration in January 2022. She succeeded Judy O'Dell who retired on December 31, 2021, after 42 years with CMU Libraries.

Jennifer joined the CMU Libraries in 2008 as a librarian with Off Campus Library Services. In this capacity, she assisted students and faculty from a variety of Global Campus programs, including Doctor of Health Administration (DHA), Educational Leadership (EDL), Education (EDU), and Master of Science in Administration (MSA). She also provided library services for students and faculty at CMU's satellite campuses and traveled to locations throughout the state of Michigan, to domestic U.S. military bases, and to Canada.

Jennifer is excited about her new role as liaison to the College of Business Administration (CBA) and has already noted some differences in student and faculty expectations. Business students are much more interested in finding data as opposed to scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles. Fortunately, students have access to the data they need through CMU Libraries' business database subscriptions, such as *DemographicsNow*, *IBISWorld*, *MergentOnline*, *Mintel Academic*, and *ProQuest One Business*. Although she has used these databases in her previous positions, she has come to realize that most database users are only seeing the tip of the iceberg. Since becoming the business librarian, she has been working with database vendors to gain additional knowledge of database features and content. Jennifer is eager to share what she learns with CBA students and faculty via library instruction sessions and research consultations.

During her short tenure as the business librarian, Jennifer has already had several interactions with CBA students and faculty. In January, she promoted the Libraries' resources and services at the New Venture Competition Resource Fair where she met several Entrepreneurship students who were eager to share their ideas. In turn, Jennifer enthusiastically demonstrated where students could find demographic data and market research to support their new ventures. She has also delivered a half dozen library instruction sessions and nearly a dozen research consultations for students from various CBA departments and programs, including Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business Information Systems, and Master of Business Administration. Earlier this summer, Jennifer spoke to several faculty who are developing and revising online courses and explained how librarians can create customized online course guides featuring targeted resources. Jennifer also welcomes opportunities to collaborate with faculty on scholarship. Previous collaboration with CBA faculty resulted in an article published in the journal *Business Horizons*.

Jennifer believes targeted outreach, exceptional service, and word of mouth will be vital for success in her new role. She looks forward to building collaborative relationships with faculty and students and hopes to inspire more "library champions" in the process.

Prior to her appointment at CMU, Jennifer was Manager of Content Preparation Services at Portico, ITHAKA's digital preservation service in Princeton, New Jersey. She also held librarian positions at General Motors and DaimlerChrysler in Metro Detroit. Jennifer received her Master of Arts in Educational Technology from Central Michigan University in 2012, her Master of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University in 1995, and her Bachelor of Arts in English with honors from Oakland University in 1993. She is currently an active member of the Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS) of the American Library Association (ALA) and serves on the Libraries' Data Management Committee.



» Jennifer Rundels
Subject Librarian



» Katie Edmiston
Subject Librarian

Introducing Katie Edmiston

In February 2022, Katie Edmiston joined the CMU Libraries' faculty as the subject librarian for Art, Broadcast & Cinematic Arts, Communication, Fashion Merchandising & Design, Interior Design, and Journalism.

Katie majored in Art at Spring Arbor University and earned her library degree at Wayne State University. Although her goal was to become an academic librarian, her first professional position was at the Novi Public Library. When she saw CMU's job posting, she thought it was written for her. The job matched Katie's background in arts and her interests in MakerSpaces and the Adobe Digital Lounge. She had strong affinities for the other disciplines, too, so she felt the position would be a good fit.

In her first few months in her new role, Katie has enjoyed settling into her office and getting to know her new colleagues. She finds folks are down-to-earth and easy to talk with; however, meeting everyone has been a challenge because of COVID-19 precautions. When asked about similarities she has observed working in a public library versus an academic one, Katie replied, "You never know what questions you will be asked." Katie is user-centered and enjoys being around others who are likewise. She sees the library "offering both quiet study areas for folks who want that and collaborative spaces where people can work together. I like that a lot."

Away from work, Katie is focusing more on making art than she has been able to the past few years. She works primarily with oils, but also uses chalk pastels. She enjoys expressionist landscapes and is abstracting landscapes more. She plays with shape and color and plane and field, all of which attract her to the natural world. When on her honeymoon in the Upper Peninsula in 2020, she took lots of pictures that are now inspiring her newest works.

In the coming year, Katie intends to continue getting to know her library colleagues and the faculty in the departments to which she liaises. She wants to connect with the latter group about courses and assignments. She is also getting more involved with digital literacy initiatives in the University Library and is helping plan the Adobe Creative Jam, which will be held during Fall Semester. Katie also plans to continue attending more campus events and getting a better feel for the CMU and Mt. Pleasant communities.

A Library Collection on Lake Michigan: The CMU Biological Station on Beaver Island

By Rebecca Renirie, STEM and Medical Librarian



"Long-term data and knowledge, often accumulated by scientists and students over decades at field stations, may be the only basis on which we can document and understand the nature and pace of ecosystem, regional, and global changes in environmental conditions and in the Earth's biota" (Michener et al. 308).

The Central Michigan University Biological Station (CMUBS), located on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan, first offered classes in 1960; still active, biology, physics, and honors courses are scheduled for Summer 2022. Among its laboratory, teaching, and living facilities, CMUBS has an on-site library. This includes nearly 2,700 books, as well as journals, government documents, and maps. The collection was created from generous donations, including from faculty (such as Dr. James Luteyn) who have researched and taught on the island for over 60 years.

From 1964 through 2016, work at CMUBS has produced at least 75 peer-reviewed papers, 45 Masters theses, and over 100 independent research studies (Bland and Gillingham 460-461, 495, 517). Some of this material is held within the CMUBS library collection, including *Guide to Flora of Beaver Island* by Dr. Matthew H. Hohn (1977). This definitive key to plants of the bogs, dunes, and beaches of the island has been used by generations of students and researchers.

In addition to faculty work, the library houses student work both

published and unpublished, a record of classwork and research and also of the plant and animal life of the island. This work contains information about changes of climate and habitat in northern Michigan, some of which can be found nowhere else.

Over the past five years, and together with station manager Mr. John Gordon and director Dr. Donald Uzarski, I've been working to organize and describe these collections. While much of my work is remote, I visit the station during the summer. It is a great privilege to work where so many others have worked before me, and to stay in the wonderful faculty housing on the beach with my husband and daughter.

Now that most of the collection has been described, the next step is to create a searchable list of titles available to students and researchers at the station. With greater accessibility, the CMUBS library can hold both the information of the past and keys for future research on Beaver Island.

Bland, Roger, and James Gillingham. *From Old Main to New Terrain: A History of the Department of Biology and Biological Station at Central Michigan University*. Mill City Press, 2019.

Michener, William K., et al. *Biological Field Stations: Research Legacies and Sites for Serendipity*. BioScience, vol. 59, 2009, pp. 300-310. JSTOR, doi:10.1525/bio.2009.59.4.8.

Critical Cataloging and Reparative Description at CMU

By Melissa James, Metadata Manager,
Marian Matyn, Archivist - Clarke Historical Library
Laura Thompson, Cataloging and Music Librarian



Accurate, inclusive description of library collections is vital to their discoverability and accessibility by users. Many libraries, archives, and other cultural heritage institutions are undertaking reparative description projects to address problematic language and dismantle systems of bias and exclusion in their collections. In Fall 2021, Central Michigan University Libraries began its own reparative project.

Library of Congress Subject Headings, or LCSH, are what librarians refer to as a controlled vocabulary, which help organize library resources by topic. Essentially librarians decide which term is the most appropriate for a topic or concept. A good example is film. You might refer to it as cinema, movies, film, motion pictures, or moving images. Film can also refer to the format used in a camera to capture still or moving images. Having and consistently using a preferred term that groups materials together across systems and catalogs helps researchers find materials on the same topic without having to search for each term individually.

The way in which a subject heading is established varies depending on the environment, context, and expertise of the librarian. The creation of subject headings can result in potentially exclusionary or inaccurate terminology, especially concerning historically marginalized and excluded groups of people, cultural practices, and customs. Updating LCSH terms takes time. Subject headings can be changed more quickly and on a much smaller scale at individual institutions.

In Fall 2021, Melissa James, Marian Matyn, and Laura Thompson formally began addressing problematic LCSH in CMU's library system, starting with the subject heading Indians of North America. We replaced this subject heading with Indigenous peoples of North America. We are currently working on addressing a list of 264 other LCSH headings that also include the term

"Indian." Thirteen subject headings have been changed so far, impacting over 10,000 bibliographic records.

There are some limits as to what we can and cannot change. We cannot change the following: terminology that is transcribed from the item itself, such as published titles; corporate and legally established names for example, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe; and shared bibliographic records.

It is important to note some of the challenges to this work. First, and most importantly, we are not necessarily members of the communities that these headings are intended to describe. We may lack perspective and knowledge and must think very critically, intentionally, and mindfully about cataloging and descriptive practices, the subject headings addressed, how the changes are made, and who we are collaborating with to make decisions. We must continually strive to ensure that we are centering and involving the affected communities.

The scope of the changes needed is another challenge. Terms related to the LGBTQ+ community, gender and race qualifiers, race and ethnicity, disability, and immigration, and others, will need to be addressed.

Determining how to address this terminology where it occurs in parts of the bibliographic record other than the subject headings, and in the encoded finding aids of archival collections is another challenge. Our goal is to incorporate these critical cataloging and reparative description principles more broadly into cataloging and descriptive work at CMU. Doing so allows us to more effectively intervene and disrupt various systems of bias and privilege built into cataloging systems in libraries and build a more equitable and inclusive space for the CMU community.

If you have suggestions of LCSH subject headings we should review, please contact us at laura.thompson@cmich.edu.

2022 - 2023 Exhibitions and Speaker Series Events

Baber Room Gallery Exhibitions:

- » **May - July:**
Steve Jessmore, Birds Doing Stuff, Photography Exhibition
- » **August - September:**
Taurus Burns, Self Evident, New Drawings and paintings
- » **October - November:**
Charles Pompilius, Works from the Collection of CMU, a gift from Doug Baker, Drawings and Paintings
- » **November - January 2023:**
Brian Nelson, New Sculptural Installations
- » **January - March 2023:**
Judy Bowman, Large-scale collages

Clarke Speaker Series - Fall 2022

- » **Dr. Robert Knapp** CMU '68, author of *Community of Learning: History and Memories: The Laboratory School Central Michigan University 1895-1970*
- » **Barbara J. Barton**, author of the award-winning book, *Manoomin The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan*
- » **Dr. Susan J. Bades**, Professor of Museum Studies, Art History & Visual Culture, Michigan State University, author of the book *Mid-Michigan Modern: From Frank Lloyd Wright to Googie*.

For the complete schedule of speakers, visit clarke.cmich.edu/speakerseries. All Clarke Speaker Series events are free and open to the public. Those in need of accommodation should call (989) 774-3965 or email clarke@cmich.edu.



The Library Provides Essential Research Support

By Tim Peters, Associate Dean of University Libraries

In addition to their essential teaching and learning role, American universities contribute to society through their research output. Findings in health sciences, engineering and technology, physical sciences, social sciences, and more are shared beyond the university and help deepen our understanding of the world and improve the quality of life for so many people.

Central Michigan University is no exception when it comes to research. Through its laboratories, workshops, and classrooms, the university regularly engages in discovery and the creation of new knowledge in a variety of disciplines. And a key partner in the research process is the CMU Libraries.

The library offers several services to help faculty advance their research. One of the first steps undertaken by a researcher is becoming familiar with the existing research on a topic. What is already known? What are the most recent discoveries? What are the latest trends, or the new directions in which the research is going? At this point many researchers meet with a subject liaison librarian to discuss a literature search or a systematic review. These are exhaustive database and collection searches which expose the researcher to the sum total of existing research done on their topic. The librarian's expertise in search strategies and information discovery ensures the researcher understands the magnitude of existing research on a topic before proceeding.

The library's collections also play a key part in research. By offering access to journal articles, books, and datasets, the

library provides researchers with the background information they need to support and advance their own research. Having immediate access to these materials allows researchers to keep their investigations moving forward at a good pace.

If the CMU Libraries does not own a particular article or book, the Documents on Demand office will get a copy of it from another library. To put it plainly, CMU-affiliated individuals have access to the collections of not only libraries across the United States but worldwide. And since many interlibrary loans are processed electronically, researchers can have their requested materials delivered to them in as little as two or three hours. This ability to borrow materials from other libraries is an essential service provided to researchers by the CMU Libraries. During the 2021-22 academic year, Documents on Demand has obtained more than 13,000 items for CMU researchers. And it's worth pointing out they have also filled just over 14,000 requests from individuals at other institutions who need to borrow something from our collections.

The support provided to CMU researchers by the Libraries is occasionally recognized in the final research publication. In the past, librarians and Documents on Demand have received mentions of thanks from article and book authors, and, in some cases, librarians have been credited as co-authors on articles in recognition of the role they played in the production of the research. It's an honor to be recognized like this, and a testimony to the important research support role played by the CMU Libraries.

Clarke Historical Library External Funding

By Carrie Marsh, Director of the Clarke Historical Library



The Clarke Historical Library and the CMU Libraries have been the grateful recipients of significant gifts and awards in 2022. Earlier this year, we were selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide for the American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which was an emergency relief program to support humanities programs at libraries that were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clarke Historical Library used the \$10,000 grant to build the current exhibit, *Abundant Waters: Our Relationship with Michigan's Most Precious Resource*. The Clarke Historical Library and the CMU Libraries have a long tradition of being strong humanities institutions, and this competitive award has helped support the Libraries' ongoing programs and services related to culture, history, literature, and other humanities subjects.

The Clarke Historical Library is one of eleven U.S. historical and cultural institutions to receive Congressionally Directed Funding in the Federal U.S. spending bill signed by President Biden on March 15, 2022. In the spending bill, the National Archives and Records Administration's National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) received \$5,265,000 to support initiatives related to the preservation and publishing of historical records. The Clarke Historical Library was named in this earmark, receiving \$135,000 to digitize historical Michigan newspapers. We are grateful to Senator Gary Peters for putting forward

the earmark, and to Senator Debbie Stabenow for her strong support as well. In a recent CMU News article, Sen. Peters is quoted: "...I'm also pleased to have supported efforts to digitize Michigan newspapers that will allow Michiganders to easily access our state's rich history."

The Clarke Historical Library's Congressionally Directed Funding grew out of the efforts of archival advocates who have been working with legislators in the U.S. Senate and House to find ways to increase support for cultural heritage institutions.

We are extremely thankful to the Meijer Foundation's Trustees who have given \$100,000 to the Clarke Historical Library to support our digitization efforts. This gift will accelerate the digitization of the Clarke's Michigan history collections, building on the success of our recognized program of digitizing historical Michigan newspapers. Researchers expect historical research materials to be available with a few simple mouse-clicks anywhere and at any time. The Meijer Foundation gift and the Congressional Directed Funding contribute significantly to our efforts to reach the widest group of researchers we can—whether they are local to Mount Pleasant and cannot find a convenient time to visit the Clarke, or they are thousands of miles away and do not have plans to visit mid-Michigan to study the materials in person. Together, these recent awards and gifts move the Clarke Historical Library forward in building a critical mass of Michigan history materials that are freely available and discoverable online.



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Charles V. Park Library
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859



In collaboration with Academic Planning, Curriculum & Instructional Support, the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and CMU's Sign Shop, we designed and installed new signage for CMU's annual teaching, research, and service awards.