



Curiosity, Inquiry, and Creativity

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries



What are you most curious about? How do you satisfy your curiosity? According to Mario Livio, author of *Why? What Makes Us Curious*,

“Curiosity inspires the most exciting things in our lives, from conversation to reading books to seeing films. It drives all scientific research, and education. Other species are curious, but they don’t have the ability to ask why. This is uniquely human.”

Hopefully, CMU students are pursuing coursework and degree programs that inspire them and satisfy their curiosity. As lifelong learners, our curiosity influences our experiences, hobbies, and activities. At a university and academic library, students are inspired by knowledge in all its shapes, sizes, and forms.

Former U.S. Poet Laureate, Rita Dove, described a library as “an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door onto the world.” At CMU Libraries, one of our purposes is to spark students’ interest in thinking critically and creatively as they learn about themselves and the world through recorded knowledge. Information literate people evaluate the credibility of information and choose appropriate information sources to make informed decisions for themselves and others.

“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.” ~Zora Neale Hurston

Our curious minds ask many questions. On our smart phones, we can quickly find answers to many questions. Yet, we cannot answer profound questions with a Google search. Inquiry is at the heart of learning and research. According to the principles of appreciative inquiry, simply asking a question creates change. Researchers who answer questions that have not yet been answered create new knowledge.

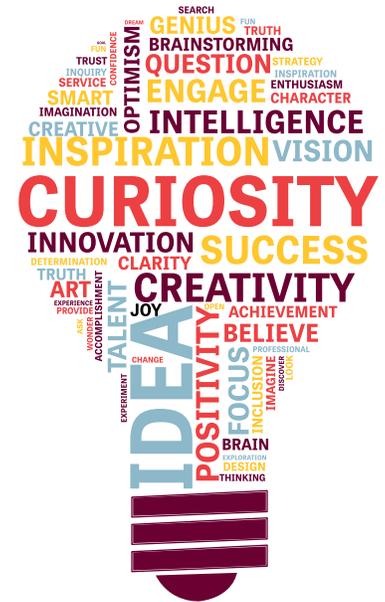
At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, folks at CMU Libraries were focused on the current moment as knowledge about the virus and safety guidelines shifted constantly. Our questions were process-oriented, focused on what to do right now and how. During the past year, we have also taken time to dream about how we will support learning and research in the year 2030. Switching focus between immediate needs and future vision can be dizzying. Our eyes and minds need time to refocus and make sense of the microscopic now and telescopic future.

Living through the year 2020 sharpened our innovation and creative process skills. As you can read in these pages, library employees rose to the challenges presented by the pandemic. They collaboratively asked questions about what was possible and created new ways of being. I am so proud of everyone at CMU Libraries for their courage and can-do attitude. As we look toward the year 2030, we will apply appreciative inquiry principles: Our words will create our world, and positive questions will lead to positive changes.



Curious? Learn more online:

- Mario Livio, <https://www.mario-livio.com/about>
- Mario Livio quote from NYT book review, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/16/books/mario-livio-why-what-makes-us-curious.html>
- Rita Dove, <https://poets.org/poet/rita-dove>
- Zora Neale Hurston, <https://www.zoranealehurston.com/>
- 5 Classic Principles of Appreciative Inquiry. *AI Commons*. <https://appreciativeinquiry.champlain.edu/learn/appreciative-inquiry-introduction/5-classic-principles-ai/>



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You Can Make an Impact

By Jacob Uithoven, Senior Associate Director of Regional Development



The CMU Libraries continue to be a focal point for our students and faculty, no matter the situation. During the pandemic, the library has successfully adapted user services and the work environment. In the future, the Libraries will continue to be innovative in designing user services, creating inclusive learning spaces, and encouraging new ways of sharing knowledge.

We have an opportunity to help the Libraries realize its vision for 2030. As a Friend of the Library, you have already made an impact. Kathy Irwin, dean of University Libraries, and Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library, have identified key initiatives that will support important resources and programs for students, faculty, and community members. These key initiatives include:

» University Library Acquisitions

Especially during the pandemic, digital collections are essential for fostering student success. These resources assist students in completing course work, writing theses and dissertations, and accomplishing their academic goals.

» Library Student Employment Scholarship

Gifts to this fund help library student employees with their college expenses. Undergraduates who work on campus are more likely to complete their degree in four years than those who work off campus.

» Friends of the Libraries

Gifts to this fund may be used at the discretion of the dean for a range of projects, such as upgrading technology,

remodeling portions of the Park Library, and purchasing wish-list scholarly resources.

» Clarke Historical Library Newspaper Digitization

The Clarke Historical Library annually digitizes approximately 200,000 pages of historic Michigan newspapers, which are then made freely available through the web. Gifts to this fund extend the library's ability to accomplish this important initiative.

» Clarke Historical Library Outreach and Enrichment

Gifts to this fund bolster the Clarke Historical Library's cultural outreach on campus and in the community through on-campus exhibits, traveling exhibits, and a speaker series.

» Clarke Historical Library Acquisitions

Seventy-five percent of the Clarke Historical Library's new acquisitions are gifts. But some items of great historical importance must be purchased. Your gifts support the library in collecting one-of-a-kind gems.

For more information about these initiatives, or to find out how your donations have been used in the past, please contact me at 989.774.1615 or by email at Jacob.Uithoven@cmich.edu.

We are excited for the new opportunities and the renewed hope 2021 brings us and it is our wish that this year does the same for you. As always, from everyone here at the CMU Libraries, your support means the world to us and we thank you for everything that you do.

Developing Creative Skills and Spaces

By Ann Kucera, Systems Librarian and Kari Chrenka, Coordinator of Marketing and Branding



MAKE IT WITH
CREATIVE CLOUD.

Written and verbal communication skills are consistently among the top ten attributes that employers look for when hiring college graduates (NACE, 2018). As technology evolves, the ability to communicate using images, writing, sound, and video can give new graduates an advantage as they enter the workforce.

To foster students' digital literacy skills, Central Michigan University became an Adobe Creative Campus in fall 2020. Adobe Creative Campuses are preparing students for success in the classroom and in the modern economy. Every CMU student now has access to over 40 Adobe tools that can be used for course projects, hobbies, internships, and extra-curricular activities. Students studying any topic can leverage the Adobe tools to help them tell their story.

CMU Libraries is proud to be a part of the Adobe Creative Campus initiative at CMU. In partnership with the Office of Information Technology, the Libraries designed and launched a website to help students find training resources and creative spaces on campus. In collaboration with CMU faculty, the library is developing programming and services to support the CMU community.

Plans are underway to create an Adobe Creative Lounge on the Park Library's second floor. This space will help students leverage the tools needed in the digital economy. Students and faculty will be able to share ideas and learn about equipment and software. Online services will be available to assist students with Adobe products beginning in spring 2021, and the Adobe Creative Lounge will open in the fall 2021.

Reference

NACE. (2018). *Employers want to see these attributes on students' resumes.* <https://www.naceweb.org/talent-acquisition/candidate-selection/employers-want-to-see-these-attributes-on-students-resumes/>

Celebrating Art: An Interview with Janet Danek



Image: Janet Danek and student Drake Smarch set up the exhibition entitled (dis)ABLED, in 2018.

When Brad Stambaugh, Business Services Manager, announced Janet Danek's retirement to library employees in December 2020, he said, "Janet's dedication to her work has expanded and enhanced the libraries' arts and culture immensely. Through designing and implementing excellent exhibitions, acquiring art, and orchestrating programs, her efforts have made the library a premier cultural center. Janet has been a tremendous colleague and friend to me and others."

Janet's thoughts about her efforts looked at her work through a different lens. "I am often thanked for making the library look good through the art exhibited on every floor," Janet recently told me. "Ironically, making the library look good has never been my objective. My goals have been to create and exhibit a good art collection that is diverse, inspiring, and presented in an appropriate manner, so that it may surprise and challenge the viewer whenever possible. The by-product of achieving these goals is creating an environment that 'looks good.' It's a win-win situation."

Before coming to CMU, Janet had spent 35 years designing museum exhibits. That experience greatly benefited the Clarke Historical Library. Reflecting on the Clarke exhibits she designed, Janet said, "The challenge and teamwork required to develop the last 18 exhibits for the Clarke has been a highlight of my time at CMU. It has provided me with the pleasure of working with the Clarke's talented staff and esteemed collection. We have done some good work."

Frank Boles, the Director of the Clarke, appreciated Janet's wide experience in exhibit design and her ability to think creatively about exhibits. Boles said, "We have been extraordinarily fortunate to benefit from her wide experience in exhibit design and her ability to think creatively about exhibits. As anyone who has watched the Clarke exhibit space over the years knows, changing exhibits are not 'new stuff, same look' events. Each exhibit has a new dimension and a different feel." A bit tongue in cheek, he added, "Janet has graciously taught all of us in the Clarke, particularly long-winded directors, that people only read about 100 words on a wall, so get to the point. Janet has listened patiently to my unimaginative suggestions to color between the lines, level everything, and work in nice rectangles, and then explained why we should do it her way. And her way meant our visitors always had a richer and more fulfilling experience."

In working with more than 100 artists and curators who have exhibited in the Park Library's galleries, Janet said she learned a great deal and made many friends. As enjoyable an aspect of the work as this was, Janet shared several stories not about the artists, but about the transformative power of their art:

- » A student wrote to Janet about a quilt exhibited in the Park Library, which illuminated gun violence against the LGBTQ community. Exhibiting the piece and making it a part of CMU's Art Collection were acts the student took as evidence that the University was genuinely committed to inclusivity.
- » A person seated next to Janet said, at the conclusion of an artist's talk, "I don't even care for her art, but now that I have heard her story and understand her inspiration and journey, I want to have a piece of her art in my home."
- » One of the readers at the annual *Readings from the Clarke's International Children's Book Collection* event, where international students read out loud from a children's book published in their native language, expressed her joy at having this opportunity. She told Janet that she called her mother in Denmark to help choose the book to read. She and her mother were both excited to be able to publicly share their culture with the CMU community, a chance she had never before had.

In addition to her work exhibiting transformative art, Janet worked closely with many students. She enjoyed working with them, especially giving them a wide range of experiences:

- » A student interested in Black History Month researched and developed the interpretation for our corridor showcase.
- » A student majoring in history had the semester-long task of designing and installing the Native American cases.
- » An art student had the responsibility of content development for a Clarke exhibit.

"Providing these opportunities was very rewarding to the students and became part of their credentials. And they enjoyed the process. It was a pleasure to work with and get to know students who are eager to learn and are open to new experiences. I miss each of them when they graduate and have enjoyed staying in contact with several."

Art inspires and transforms peoples' lives. Artists communicate without relying on words, and their art works have the power to change peoples' perspectives and opinions. At the Park Library, art works displayed throughout the building ignite ideas and foster learning much in the same way as our physical and digital library collections and archives.

During our last team meeting, Janet advised, "You get what you give." Janet has given much to CMU Libraries and all of us who worked with her, and we hope she has received much in return. We will miss her graciousness, quick wit, vision, talent, energy, and patience. We wish her much happiness in retirement!

We are going to miss Janet tremendously!

What's for Lunch?

By Frank Boles, Director of the Clarke Historical Library



We all eat. What we eat tells us about ourselves, our culture, and Michigan's history.

Opening March 11, *Michigan Foodways: The Things we Eat - the People we Become: Exploring History Through Memories of Food*, will explore our cuisine and the meaning behind it. We hope you will help us in that exploration.

In addition to a physical exhibition in the Clarke Historical Library, because of COVID-19 concerns, we have designed a web exhibit to accompany what will be in the library. We hope onsite and online visitors will enjoy both and will share a favorite Michigan food memory with us to be added to the exhibit online at <https://is.gd/ClarkeFood>. What memories are we interested in? There are as many possibilities as the things you have eaten.

- » Maybe your memory is something from a childhood vacation.
- » Maybe it is something you discovered after relocating to Michigan as an adult.
- » Maybe it is a recipe an ancestor brought with them that has been passed down in your family.
- » Maybe it is a product that you can only get in the Great Lakes State.
- » Maybe it is something else.

Whatever it is, it has a history. Consider the Mexican restaurants in the Thumb region that are considered some of the best in the state. Although few people would associate the Thumb with Mexico, before World War II, sugar beet farming, which is concentrated in the Thumb, relied heavily on migrants from Mexico to harvest the crop. Migrant workers often came as families; some stayed and their culture and foodways have become part of the culture and foodways of Michigan.

Opening the exhibit via WebEx on March 11 will be Abra Berens, author of *Ruffage: A Practical Guide to Vegetables*. The book was one of the *New York Times* twelve best new cookbooks in the spring of 2019 and was named a Michigan Notable Book in 2020.

Berens grew up on a farm in Wisconsin and started cooking in Ann Arbor's Zingerman's Deli while she was in college. After studying culinary science in Ireland, she returned to the United States and became a chef in Chicago. But while in Chicago, she began to think about getting back to the farm and cooking with local ingredients. "It was that desire to have my food be of a place. I had been talking with my husband Erik about these ideas. Then he went to Ann Arbor and had a beer with Jess, [who became] my business partner. Jess had just started farming for Zingerman's." In 2009, they co-founded Bare Knuckle Farm in Northport. From 2009 to 2014 she had two homes, moving to Michigan in the spring and then back to Chicago in the fall.

In 2015, Berens left Northport to open the café at a supermarket, called Local Foods, in Chicago because it made more "fiscal sense." But in 2017, she relocated to southwest Michigan and joined the team at Granor Farm in Three Oaks. There, she combines her love of farms and restaurants to create dinners on the farm that celebrate southwest Michigan's diverse agriculture.

Berens' desire to root her cooking in Michigan soil merges with our exhibit's hope to explore Michigan food memories. We hope to take

memories you share with us, post them online, and see what magic we can add to explain why you ate a wonderful Mexican meal in Standish, how grandma's well remembered baked goods may link to our immigrant past, and, because we know someone is going to share a trip to "Cereal City" in Battle Creek and that little box of Frosted Flakes they got as a souvenir, why Tony the Tiger settled there; a fascinating tale of early twentieth-century health food and late nineteenth-century religious movements.

Share your memory before the exhibit opens or see what others have shared and then add your fond reminiscence to the list. We hope the online memories will grow throughout the exhibit.

Images: (Right) Cookbook author Abra Berens (Below) *Ruffage: A Practical Guide to Vegetables* by Abra Berens



Exhibit opens on Thursday, March 11. Opening address begins at 7:00 p.m. Register for Berens' talk via Webex at clarke.cmich.edu/SpeakerSeries2021

Libraries Maintain High Service Level During Pandemic

By Tim Peters, Associate Dean of University Libraries



When the pandemic hit in March 2020, we made a multitude of decisions in a very short amount of time to adapt to our new reality and ensure the safety of our employees and library users. Then, as the State of Michigan issued pandemic guidelines and CMU moved its courses online, we had new decisions to make. It was a hectic, rapidly changing situation and the beginning of what we will remember as the most unique and challenging year of our professional careers.

The Park Library building closed to the public midway through the spring semester in response to the State of Michigan's stay home order. It remained closed to the public until August 3, at which time it reopened in preparation for the fall 2020 semester.

During the summer months, we prepared the building for reopening. In compliance with emergency orders, we removed much of the public seating. The public areas of the building were limited to 25% of their normal capacity. We posted signage throughout the building to remind users of mask and social distancing policies and to promote safe movement through the building.

The 1 North Study Room remained open 24 hours on weekdays from mid-March through early August, providing a space for students to study and use computers and printing services. This study room has a separate entrance from the main library, so we could offer students some library access without allowing users into the main building.

Due to the restrictions on group gatherings, all in-person events and meetings were canceled. This safety measure remains in effect today. One exception is the use of the Opperman Auditorium where CMU Admissions staff host in-person student recruitment

FACE MASKS/COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED IN THIS SPACE.

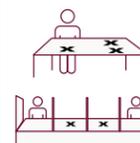
+ FACIAL MASKS/COVERINGS INCLUDE:



Together we can help slow the spread of COVID-19

SOCIAL/PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED IN THIS SPACE.

STAY 6 FEET AWAY FROM OTHERS AT ALL TIMES.



+ One person per table.

+ One person per designated carrel workspace.

+ Do not move chairs.

Together we can help slow the spread of COVID-19

events and Academic Senate streams their bi-monthly meetings. These events and meetings are smaller in size following gathering size limits. Once employees began returning to work onsite in June, they rotated days working onsite and telecommuting from home. This change promoted physical distancing among library employees and meant fewer people in the building, which was especially important for employees working in shared workspaces.

Fortunately, many library services and programs are available electronically. Librarians can answer student and faculty research questions online, and interlibrary loan personnel can fulfill requests for digital materials online. We offer more journals, books, and media items in digital formats than in physical formats. Electronic services and collections have become the norm, and during the pandemic they have become our primary way of serving students and faculty. Employees who manage the library catalog can work onsite or remotely. The Clarke Historical Library shifted their fall speaker series online and will stream the spring series online as well. Access Services developed a new contactless pickup service, and some art exhibitions have online components.

This year has certainly been unusual and unprecedented. The CMU Libraries is well-positioned to provide services and collections remotely as we have developed our virtual services and collections over the past two decades. We pivoted quickly and successfully to 100% online delivery during the stay home order, and our users received the same high level of library service they have been accustomed to.



Library Reference Services During a Pandemic

By Stephanie Mathson, Coordinator of Library Research & Instruction Services, Faculty/Research & Instruction Librarian

Looking back twelve months ago seems so quaint. My colleagues and I enjoyed having quick chats in our office corridor, and we were happy for the occasional call to go to the Research Help Desk to assist patrons in person. Those activities suddenly stopped March 17, when Michigan's Stay Home, Stay Safe Order went into effect. While the library building was closed, librarians started providing 100% online reference and instruction services from home.

Fortunately, it was easy to make this pivot because so much of what we do is virtual. We have long utilized email and chat to assist patrons with their research questions. Similarly, we have long used WebEx and other online meeting platforms to work one-on-one with patrons and even to meet with entire classes.

At the beginning of the Stay Home Order, we downloaded software that lets us answer our office phones via our computers from the comfort and safety of our own homes. In addition, the web-based platforms we use to perform other job duties can be accessed from anywhere.

We also use WebEx and Microsoft Teams to hold department meetings and keep in touch with one another. For many of us, technology has helped reduce the sense of isolation we feel in our lives.

There has been a significant downturn in our reference statistics during the past ten months. That is due to several factors, including: A nearly five-month long library closure, from mid-March to August 3; a decline in university enrollment; and an extra-long library closure between Fall and Spring semesters. During these closures, we had no student employees working at the Research Help Desk, but librarians were on duty virtually. On a positive note, use of librarian created subject and course guides and the number of research consultations conducted have remained constant over the past couple years. We market our services to faculty and students, and our efforts are reflected in those metrics that have remained steady.

With high infection rates and the slow roll-out of vaccinations, COVID-19 will likely be with us for a long while to come. However, library reference and instruction services will continue, and you can count on my colleagues and I to perform our jobs well from wherever we are working.

LIB 197 Online

By Caitlin Benallack, Faculty/Research & Instruction Librarian

In 2020, many instructors were thrown into the deep end of online teaching when colleges pivoted to remote learning in response to COVID-19. For the libraries, 2020 was a big year for online teaching for another reason. Fall 2020 was the scheduled launch of an online version of LIB 197: Introduction to Library Information Research, the libraries' information literacy course. LIB 197 online is a project years in the making. The class has been taught face-to-face by CMU Librarians since 1971. Over the years it evolved to reflect changes to the library, new ways that students search for and interact with information, and current information literacy teaching practices. An online version of LIB 197 will be available to more students, including those who attend classes at Global Campus locations, those who are 100% online, and students with busy schedules.

I first began thinking about LIB 197 online in December 2017, when I was invited to interview for my current position as Instruction Librarian at CMU Libraries. It was clear that teaching, developing, and coordinating the course would be a big part of the job. After I joined the library faculty, my priority was gaining a better understanding of the course. I observed colleagues as they taught, reviewed syllabi, and began talking to the other librarians about what they liked and did not like about the class. Ultimately, I taught several sections of LIB 197 face-to-face myself. The first step in getting ready to develop LIB 197 online was working with the Library Curriculum Committee, a group of faculty librarians, to update the Master Course Syllabus.

Developing LIB 197 Online

At the start of 2020, with the newly updated Master Course Syllabus to guide me, I began to work with an Instructional Designer from the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Support (CIS) to develop a Blackboard course shell for LIB 197 online. The goal was to offer the course asynchronously, meaning students would have weekly due dates they needed to meet, but there would be no scheduled class session for them to attend. Any learning that would typically happen in the classroom through lectures and in-class activities was reimagined for students working by themselves on their own schedule. Every aspect of the course needed to be curated or created including the readings, tutorials, discussion prompts, and assignments. The goal was to create a course that is ready to use so that instructors can focus on communicating with their students and offering feedback on assignments.

Like everything else, the course development process was disrupted by the pandemic. Working from home made some steps in the course development process harder. My access to quiet, private spaces for writing and recording videos was much more limited. It took a little longer than expected but ultimately with the help of Mingshen Dai, an Instructional Designer in CIS, the course shell was completed and ready for me to pilot in the Fall of 2020. Of course, the pandemic changed that plan too.

Teaching LIB 197 Online

Rather than testing out the online format by myself while my colleagues taught face-to-face sections, Rui Wang, Aparna Zambare, and I each elected to teach our LIB 197 sections in an online asynchronous format. Although we had varying prior experiences teaching online, everyone rose to the challenge of teaching a familiar class in a new format. For me, the biggest hurdle was connecting to students in the online environment.



Without the informal interaction that happens in the classroom, communicating with students online became a much more deliberate, strategic process. I relied on discussion boards, course announcements, feedback about assignments, and the occasional one-on-one WebEx meeting to keep students on track.

Looking to the future, LIB 197 online will continue to evolve just like its face-to-face counterpart. This spring, I am experimenting with giving students more options for how they complete their assignments. For example, students can elect to have a brief WebEx meeting with me to discuss what they want to research rather than submitting a written topic proposal. Inspired by CMU's new status as an Adobe Creative Campus, students can also opt to turn in their research portfolio assignments as an Adobe Portfolio webpage, rather than a traditional Word document. I am excited to see where LIB 197 online fits into our library instruction ecosystem after the pandemic, and in the meantime, I am grateful for the opportunity to safely connect with students online.

Image: (Left) Caitlin Benallack recording from home

Supporting Research and Student Success Through Continued Access to Library Resources

By Susan Powers, Manager of Access Services and Resource Sharing



Beginning in March 2020, pandemic-related emergency orders abruptly closed libraries all over the world. Library employees had to quickly develop new ways to provide library users with access to library materials. The team at CMU Libraries was no exception. We faced the challenges head on and created new and modified ways to serve our patrons.

Typically, Access Services checks out physical course reserve materials to students for short loan periods. But in March 2020, as all classes shifted online, course reserves needed to move all online as well. Staff scanned articles and book chapters and posted them to Blackboard for students to access as quickly as possible.

Copyright permissions were loosened during the first part of the pandemic, which allowed staff to copy larger portions of print materials than would normally be permitted.

Some of our journal, database, and e-book providers responded to the pandemic by temporarily offering free access to more of their resources. We participated in the Hathi Trust Emergency Temporary Book Access program which allowed users to view 45% of the titles in our physical collection online during the stay home order last spring. Our Acquisitions and Metadata Services team quickly made these items discoverable in our library search tool, Smart Search.

Documents on Demand, our interlibrary loan department, joined the RapidILL Emergency Sharing Group, scanning and sending out digital materials from the CMU collections to library users all over the world. Because we were one of the few interlibrary loan departments open for scanning during the early part of the pandemic, the team filled many requests for patrons that would have otherwise gone unfilled.

The Access Services team created and implemented a contactless book pick up service. Users can search for books in Smart Search, and then place a hold. Once the items are retrieved, users receive an email providing instructions about scheduling a pick-up time. Library employees check out and bag the books, and patrons pick them up in the corridor during their scheduled time slot without having direct contact with a library employee. Interlibrary loan books were soon integrated into the new service as well. Our patrons like this new service! Due to its popularity, we are considering continuing this service post-pandemic.

All these changes could not have happened without the support of everyone who works in the library. The library systems team was there every step of the way to help us implement the technology and communicate these changes. To support fully online courses, librarians and employees from several departments worked as quickly as possible to order digital materials including streaming media. Everyone answered questions and guided hundreds of faculty, staff, students, and community members through these new processes.

Throughout the pandemic, library employees have figured out new ways to provide users with the library resources they need. Our commitment to service excellence has truly been demonstrated during this challenging time.

CMU

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Charles V. Park Library
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Permit No. 93

» The Mary Dow Reading Room remodel, completed during fall 2020, introduced new individual study options.

