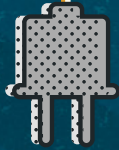


WINDOWS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES • VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2 • FALL WINTER 2022

*Powered by
Libraries*



Carolina's libraries
**FUEL BRIGHT
RESEARCH IDEAS**

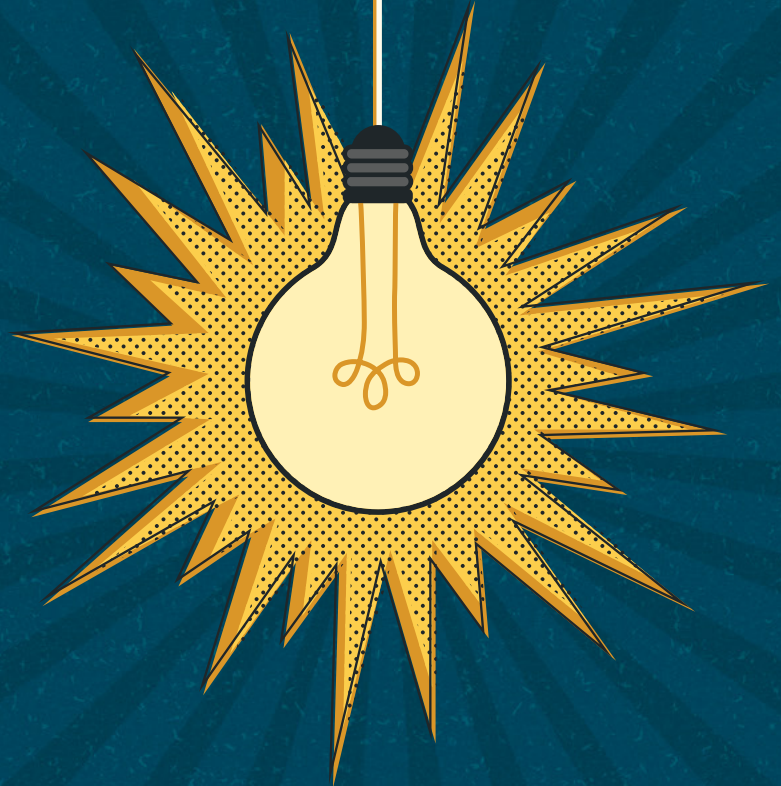
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Illustration by Aleah Howell.

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Windows is published by the Friends of the Library under the auspices of the University Libraries, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We welcome questions and comments at P.O. Box 8890, CB #3900, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-8890 or (919) 962-1301.

Editor

Judy Panitch

Interim Executive Director of Library Development

Jessica Aylor MPA '07

Art Director

Aleah Howell '15, '17

Thanks to

Patty Courtright
Katie Fanfani

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LIBRARIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA



unclibrary Thank you to everyone who stopped by @EdibleCampusUNC's Harvest Moon festival last week and made a button with us!



unclibrary @NCDHC has received a \$603,154 grant to continue its operations. The grant comes from the @StateLibraryNC with funds from @US_IMLS Learn more about the grant here: go.unc.edu/NcdhcGrant22



Connect with the University Libraries on social media for creative inspiration, news, resources and more.

From the University Librarian



Photo by Jeyhoun Altablahugh/UNC-Chapel Hill

Dear Friends,

Carolina's world-class research enterprise is a point of pride for the University and for our state. The campus culture of innovation and creativity here makes a difference for every Tar Heel, every North Carolinian, and people around the world.

At the University Libraries, we have the privilege and honor to be a partner with researchers in this ongoing cycle of discovery and exploration for the public good. Carolina's libraries provide and preserve deep, expansive library collections, and we constantly innovate so that researchers can readily find, use, and access them in person and online. We add unique expertise in locating, managing, and analyzing data. We are a point of connection among individuals on campus and around the world as they ask new questions and create new knowledge.

This issue of Windows brings that essential role to life by introducing you to researchers across the disciplines whose

work would not be possible without Carolina's libraries. I hope you enjoy meeting them and seeing how their work is "Powered by Libraries" (p. 14).

Just as Carolina's libraries power research, you help power Carolina's libraries. As the Campaign for Carolina enters its final weeks, we have been reflecting upon the generous supporters and Friends of the Library — people like you — whose passion and commitment have helped us raise nearly \$50 million in just five years. That's more than we have ever raised in any campaign. These gifts are already opening new doors for students, faculty, artists, clinicians, and the dedicated library staff who work with them all.

In the months to come, we'll be sharing much more about the impact of these campaign gifts and the ways they are helping to build the library of today and tomorrow at Carolina.

If you haven't yet made a campaign gift, or if you'd like to add to your existing gift, it's not too late. I invite you to visit go.unc.edu/GiveLibraries or to reach out to our new director of development, Jess Aylor, who is profiled in this issue. Please know that your gift to the University Libraries in any amount will make a difference for every Tar Heel, without exception.

With warmest thanks for your support and friendship, and with best wishes in this season of gratitude and thanksgiving,

María R. Estorino

Interim Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian



*When you become
a Friend of the
Library, you open
doors to a bright
future for Tar
Heels everywhere.*



Your gift in any amount fuels research, supports students and ensures that Carolina's libraries will collect, preserve, and share what matters for generations to come.

Make your gift today:
go.unc.edu/GiveLibraries

WATCH to see how Friends of the Library have made a difference during the campaign for Carolina.

 go.unc.edu/OpeningDoors



Southern Folklife Collection curator creates Smithsonian playlist

Steve Weiss, curator of the Southern Folklife Collection and interim music librarian, has curated the “Field Guide to North Carolina” playlist for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

The list’s 23 tracks include performances by Elizabeth “Libba” Cotten, Doc Watson, Etta Baker, and the Red Clay Ramblers. Notes from Weiss provide context for these Tar Heel State essentials.

LISTEN: go.unc.edu/NCFieldGuide



Photo by Robin Gao/University Libraries

Anne Conway reaches a copyright milestone

Since 2018, preservation services supervisor Anne Conway has spent six hours each week researching the copyright status of online books. This year, she completed an outstanding 50,000 assessments as a volunteer for HathiTrust’s Copyright Review Program.

HathiTrust is a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries — including the University Libraries — that preserves digital copies of more than 17 million books and other materials. When those texts are in the public domain, meaning they are free of copyright restrictions, then HathiTrust makes them accessible online for anyone to read.

Jessica Rohr, member engagement and communication specialist for HathiTrust, said that the participation of library professionals at member institutions is what makes the program such a success. “We couldn’t do it without them! The work we do to make new items available in the public domain is possible through the dedication of expert reviewers such as Anne,” said Rohr.

Library And UNC Press publish biography of UNC President David Lowry Swain

David Lowry Swain served as president of the University of North Carolina from 1835 to 1868. “A Consequential Life: David Lowry Swain, Nineteenth-Century North Carolina, and Their University,” by Willis P. Whichard, tells the story of Swain’s complex and lasting impact on public life in North Carolina.

The biography, published in partnership with the UNC Press, is supported by the Albert and Gladys Coates Endowment Fund for the North Carolina Collection at the Wilson Special Collections Library.



Learn more and download or purchase the book:



go.unc.edu/SwainBiography

“Carolina’s libraries are integral partners for research, learning, creativity and clinical care on our campus.”

Library budget cuts reversed

In a message to campus on August 30, Provost Christopher Clemens announced that Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz has restored the \$3.7 million cut from library funding starting in the FY 2022 budget. This \$3.7 million is recurring funding and will be recurring funding moving forward.

“Carolina’s libraries are integral partners for research, learning, creativity and clinical care on our campus,” wrote Clemens. “Faculty, students, staff and our entire community count on access to a strong library system with robust and growing collections.”

Clemens noted that “important work remains to be done,” citing continued inflation in the cost of library materials that poses a challenge to library budgets everywhere. (See “Scholarly publishing at the tipping point,” in the fall/winter 2019 issue of Windows.)

Interim Vice Provost for University Libraries and University Librarian María R. Estorino wrote that “the University

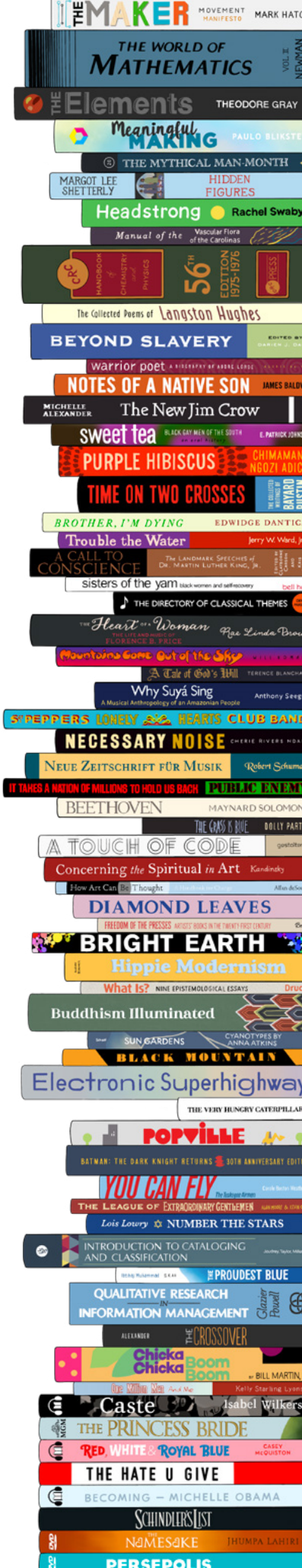
Libraries continues to lead conversations about creating a sustainable future for scholarly information.” Clemens pledged to continue working with library and campus leadership on these issues.

Library Bookshelf stickers receive national award

A series of illustrated stickers from the University Libraries has received a PR Xchange Award from the American Library Association, recognizing “the very best public relations materials produced by libraries in the past year.”

The University Libraries released the Library Bookshelf stickers in April as part of National Library Week. Each sticker depicts a selection of materials from the branch libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill. The stickers sought to “capture the personality of each library and tell the story of all they have to offer,” said graphic designer Nicole Basile.

The University Libraries’ prizewinning Library Bookshelf stickers depict selected materials from Carolina’s branch libraries.



Todd Smith, Karina Soni selected for leadership institute



Photo by Aleah Howell/University Libraries



Photo by Johnny Andrews/UNC-Chapel Hill

Todd Smith, user experience research and design librarian, and Karina Soni, outreach projects librarian, are participants in the 2022 Minnesota Institute for early-career librarians. Smith and Soni joined the University Libraries in 2021. Both are graduates of UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science.

The Minnesota Institute provides leadership development for early-career professionals from historically underrepresented groups. The program selects participants through a competitive application process.

"Collecting COVID" online exhibit highlights items from library archive

In March 2020, the University Libraries began collecting documents, artifacts, websites and audio-visual recordings that reflected the pandemic experience on campus and in the surrounding community. Collecting COVID: Documenting the Pandemic Experience at Carolina" is a new online exhibit that shares highlights from the Carolina COVID-19 Archive.

"When really big events happen, archivists automatically start thinking about how they should be documenting what is happening," said Jessica Venlet, assistant University archivist for records management and digital records. Venlet and her colleagues continue to build the archive and welcome digital and physical submissions from community members.

View the exhibit
go.unc.edu/DocumentingCovid



Face masks by Barbara Tysinger, 2020. Gift of Barbara Tysinger. North Carolina Collection Gallery.



Library recognizes outstanding employees and student workers

This spring, the University Libraries honored its outstanding employees through a new awards program and named its outstanding student workers of 2022.

The University Librarian's Award for Meritorious Service represents the Library's highest honor. Inaugural recipients were **Doug Diesenhaus**, now interim associate University librarian for administrative services, and **Joe Mitchem**, head of circulation. Both were cited for their extraordinary efforts to ensure library operations and services during the pandemic.

Desiree Stukes, repository content technician, received the Excellence Award for Leadership for her work overseeing efforts to make the University Libraries' digital collections more accessible.

A cross-departmental team of archival digitization employees received the Excellence Award for Customer Service in recognition of their

commitment to providing Library users with an optimal experience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response. The recipients were **Kerry Bannen, Jay Mangum, Brian Paulson, John Loy, Melanie Meets, Andrew Crook** and **Dan Hockstein**.

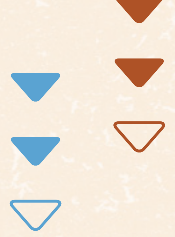
The Award for Inclusive Excellence went to **Sarah Carrier**, NC research and instructional librarian, for her commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility across her work.

The award for One Library Excellence went to a team of three for their work answering questions and addressing problems associated with accessing electronic resources. Recipients were Resource Acquisition and Management department members **Cynthia Cowan, Dara Elmore** and **Jason Dalton**.

Two students received Library Appreciation Awards for their exemplary work and contributions. **Nate Allen '22** worked as a student in the Davis Library circulation department. **Madison Womack '23** provides outstanding circulation service at the Undergraduate Library.



From top to bottom:
Doug Diesenhaus, Joe Mitchem,
Desiree Stukes, Sarah Carrier,
Nate Allen, Madison Womack.



Reckoning Initiative updates

A selection of stories highlighting the University Libraries' Reckoning Initiative in action

University Libraries releases guide to Conscious Editing

The University Libraries has released "A Guide to Conscious Editing at Wilson Special Collections Library."

The guide compiles practices that staff at the Wilson Special Collections Library have refined as they update, edit and create new archival finding aids. Finding aids are documents that describe the contents of archival collections. They help researchers identify materials of potential interest.

"Conscious editing is an ethos of care that we are using when we write about materials in the Library," said archivist Dawne Lucas, who contributed to and helped finalize the guide. "It's a way to be inclusive and make sure that collections are available and approachable to everyone — not just established scholars, but also students, genealogists and members of the community."



**CONSCIOUS
EDITING IS AN
ETHOS OF CARE
THAT WE ARE
USING WHEN WE
WRITE ABOUT
MATERIALS IN
THE LIBRARY.**



Two partners join On the Books project

The University Libraries has selected the University of South Carolina and the University of Virginia as partners for On the Books: Jim Crow and the Algorithms of Resistance, funded by the Mellon Foundation.

On the Books uses text mining and machine learning to identify racist language in North Carolina legal documents during the Jim Crow era (1866-1967). Libraries at the partner institutions will work with the project team at UNC-Chapel Hill to compile machine-readable versions of their states' laws and identify Jim Crow language in them.

"Queerolina" online exhibition presents oral histories of LGBTQIA+ Tar Heels

A new online oral history exhibition from the University Libraries shares the lived experiences of UNC-Chapel Hill community members who identify as LGBTQIA+.

"Queerolina: Experiences of Space and Place through Oral Histories" is a collaboration of the University Libraries, the Carolina Pride Alum Network and the Southern Oral History Program. The site presents and maps excerpts from oral histories that are part of the project The Story of Us: Documenting and Preserving LGBTQIA Carolina History.

Visit the exhibition and share your story:
go.unc.edu/queerolina



Exhibition marks Warren County protest anniversary

Forty years after activism in Warren County, North Carolina launched the environmental justice movement, a Wilson Special Collections Library exhibition tells the story through the perspectives of those who lived it.

"We Birthed the Movement: The Warren County PCB Landfill Protests, 1978-1982" emerged from a collaboration between archivists and exhibition specialists at Wilson Library and the community members, activists and reporters who made history, as well as the Warren County Environmental Action Team.

The project "flips the dynamic from having the exhibition narrate to having the creator or the subject of materials tell their own story," said Biff Hollingsworth, collecting and public programming archivist. Many of these individuals also came together for a public panel discussion at Wilson Library.

"We Birthed the Movement" is on view at Wilson Library through December 22, 2022, and online permanently.

View the exhibit
go.unc.edu/PCBProtests1978



Top: Roadside warning, ca. August 21, 1978, Charles S. Killebrew Photographic Collection, North Carolina Collection
Bottom: A protest march against the PCB dump ca. 1982. Photograph by Harold Moore, Durham Herald Co. Newspaper Photographic Collection





MEET Jess Aylor

The University Libraries' newest director of development brings a musician's touch to fundraising.

BY MICHELE LYNN

The University Libraries is delighted to welcome Jessica Aylor, who started as director of development in April and stepped almost immediately into the role of interim executive director of library development. Jess brings more than two decades of successful fundraising experience in higher education and the nonprofit sector. She spoke recently to Windows about her path to the University Libraries and how she sees her work.

How did you get started in development?

After graduating from the University of Virginia with a degree in music, I began working at the Richmond Symphony in development. I loved talking with people about music and the symphony; fundraising was just a natural part of those conversations. For me, fundraising is about being able to articulate the vision of an organization, understand what resources are needed to achieve that vision, and then help people to connect personally with the vision.

As a violinist, I bring a musician's approach to working with people. Fundraising is a great fit because it's a very ensemble-focused activity where collaboration is needed. I also love deep community-based work and that is one of the reasons that the University Libraries is so compelling to me.

What brought you to Carolina?

I most recently worked at Triangle Community Foundation where I led two different departments: donor development and community engagement. The work was all about collaboration, building partnerships and helping people make a difference through philanthropy. During the pandemic, I was home with my children for virtual learning and shifted into part-time consulting and lots of volunteering, which gave me the chance to reflect on what I wanted to do next.

Higher education plays such a critical role in communities, and libraries have always held a special place in my life. I was drawn to come back to Carolina, where I earned a Master of Public Administration, and to be on the campus. I was so happy to see that the University Libraries was looking for a director of development. Soon after I was hired for that role, the executive director of library development left her position and I was asked to take it on as interim executive director.

How do you see the role of development, particularly in the University Libraries?

The Library is the heart and soul of the University. Fundraising here is about connecting people not just with the University Libraries as physical buildings filled with books and collections, but also to the experiences we facilitate and the ways that we engage in the community. María (Estorino, interim vice provost for University libraries and University librarian) has been communicating her vision of building community and connecting people to each other and the University. I'm excited about that and feel really grateful to help people connect in that way.



Higher education plays such a critical role in communities, and libraries have always held a special place in my life.

Library development is also about securing resources that are needed today and for generations to come. As we close out the Campaign for Carolina this December, I look forward to thanking donors, helping them understand the impact their giving has, and sharing new ways for people to stay involved as a Friend of the Library. This fundraising campaign has raised more money than ever before. I think that is a recognition that libraries are essential to Carolina.

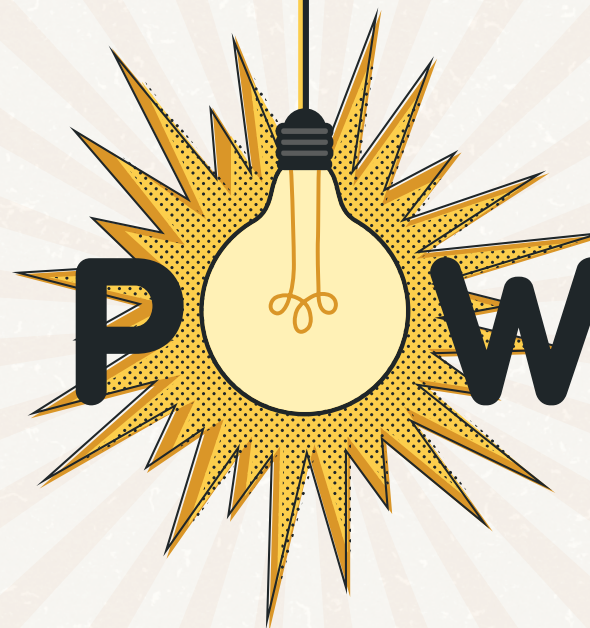
What else should readers know about you?

As a Carolina alum who was born and raised in North Carolina, I have a deep commitment to the University. I'm also committed to public service and the service mission of Carolina, which is embedded in the University Libraries.

Because I am currently in an interim role, I have been asked, "When are you leaving?" The answer is — I'm not! I am in the right place and am so excited to be part of the Library with its incredible people, culture and mission. I look forward to meeting those who also love and support the University Libraries. ▲

As we welcome Jess Aylor, we also say farewell to **Ryan Clark**, assistant director of library development, and **Tim Edelen**, assistant director for annual giving and donor relations. Both have moved to new positions.

You can reach Jess Aylor and members of the Library Development team at librarydevelopment@unc.edu or 919-962-4207.



POWERED BY LIBRARIES

UNC-Chapel Hill's \$1.16 billion research enterprise wouldn't be possible without its 10 libraries and numerous librarians, archivists and staff members. These resources are vital for the entire research lifecycle, from idea generation to data retrieval to digitization and access.

STORY BY ALYSSA LAFARO, UNC RESEARCH

Charlene Regester has been an avid patron of the University Libraries since she was a Ph.D. student. In fact, she was one of the first students to get to use the Walter Royal Davis Library, which opened on February 6, 1984.

"Most people don't realize I've been parked in Davis Library ever since I was a graduate student," says Regester, now an associate professor in the department of African, African American and Diaspora studies and acting director of the Institute for African American Research at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Back then, Regester was studying African American film history. Because she wasn't located near major entertainment cities, like New York City and Los Angeles, she felt her next best option was to collect and read Black newspapers from those places. She spent hours in the basement of Davis flipping through them on microfilm readers. When she needed newspapers they didn't have, she worked with staff to order them and eventually collected more than 30,000 articles.

Today, Davis Library is one of the largest research facilities in the Southeast, and one of the newer libraries on campus. After Carolina's creation in 1792,

three libraries supported the work of students: the University Library and two others managed by the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies. The first library dedicated to research — Carnegie Library (now Hill Hall) — wouldn't open until 1907.

In just 16 years, Carnegie gained so many books that even the basement was filled with boxes stacked on top of one another. It was time to build a bigger, pan-campus library that could serve a rapidly expanding student body — an effort spearheaded by former UNC Chancellor Harry Chase, who oversaw the erection of Louis Round Wilson Library in 1929.

Today, Wilson Library is the place to study the American South and draws hundreds of researchers from across the nation and the world to North Carolina each year. It is home to five signature collections: the North Carolina Collection, the Rare Book Collection, the Southern Folklife Collection, the Southern Historical Collection and the University Archives and Records Management Services.

Wilson and Davis are just two of numerous libraries at Carolina. Others specialize in a variety of topics, including law, music, health sciences, and art, and offer knowledge in many forms, not just books. Carolina's libraries contain audiovisual materials like films and music, furniture, manuscripts, printing blocks, cuneiform tablets and a massive digital repository. Students, faculty and staff can rent equipment — like cameras, microphones and projectors — and they have access to thousands of journals and databases, thanks to dedicated efforts to obtain and maintain subscriptions.

To showcase the breadth and depth of the University Libraries, six researchers working with five different libraries on campus shared their projects.



Photo by Alyssa LaFaro/UNC-Chapel Hill

Annie Elledge, graduate student in geography, in the Special Collections Reading Room at Wilson Library

Documenting Durham's diet culture with Wilson Library's special collections

In 2006, 4,000 people traveled to Durham to lose weight at one of three major diet centers, according to an article from ABC News. Durham is still home to the centers referenced in the article — the Rice Diet Program, the Duke Diet and Fitness Center (now called the Duke Lifestyle and Weight Management Center) and the Structure House — and has been known as the "Diet Capital of the World" since the 1980s.

Annie Elledge, a graduate student in the geography department, has been interested in fat studies — an interdisciplinary field that unpacks how fatness is portrayed from social, cultural, historical and political perspectives — for a long time. While working with her advisor, Betsy Olson, to find a thesis topic, she stumbled upon an article that mentioned the Durham nickname and was immediately curious. To learn more about the city's diet industry, she spent the summer of 2021 working with librarians Sarah Carrier, Renée Bosman, Taylor de Klerk and Sarah Morris at Wilson Special Collections Library to uncover its origins.

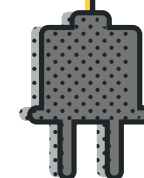
"They were instrumental in helping me figure out what a project like this could look like because I was so new to archival work and didn't know


where to start," Elledge says. "They make these Google docs that literally have so many links. Oh, here's a book, here's a special collection thing. Just all these resources — more than you could ever imagine. And they talk you through your project."

One of those resources was decades of Durham city directories, giant brown tomes filled with names and addresses of local businesses. Elledge dug through multiple editions, looking for terms like "reducing salons," "health spas" and "health organizations" — what weight-loss facilities used to be called. She compiled that information into a list and used online archives, like the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center and NewsBank, to learn how locals felt about the weight-loss industry at that time.

Today, Elledge has a well-established master's thesis: the history of Durham's diet and weight-loss industry from the 1930s to the 1980s. She strives to understand how the city and the fat body get produced through anti-fatness and where that happens in the city, from weight loss facilities to diet clinics to restaurants.

"The librarians really go out of their way to help people find information," Elledge says. "And if they can't find you the exact answer, they'll find you as much context as possible to help you figure out your project. They provide this safe space to help you feel comfortable and give you everything you need to do that work."





I needed to have resources that weren't available elsewhere, that were harder to come by.

Dana Cowen, Sheldon Peck Curator for European and American Art before 1950, at the Ackland Art Museum, at Sloane Art Library

Exploring Japanese prints at the Sloane Art Library

Between 1868 and 1912, Japan experienced a slew of social, political and cultural shifts that led to the modernization and Westernization of the country. During this time, called the Meiji period, Japanese artists began making inexpensive, colorful woodblock prints showcasing this rapid industrial overhaul — ships entering harbors, trains rolling through newly erected stations and Western fashions like hoop skirts and top hats.

The Ackland Art Museum is home to nearly 500 of these prints, gifted by Gene and Susan Roberts, and is set to become one of the leading repositories for this material in the United States. The prints are being showcased as part of a year-long exhibition within the permanent galleries of the Asian art collection called “Pleasures and Possibilities: Five Patrons of the Ackland Art Collection.” It opened on March 11.

Dana Cowen was tasked with choosing a collection of woodblock prints to display in the show. As the Ackland’s Sheldon Peck Curator for European and American Art before 1950, Cowen wasn’t well-versed in Japanese art — but the prints presented a fascinating topic to explore. To learn more about them and the period in which they were made, she traversed the back halls of the Ackland until she reached a door that led to a manicured courtyard facing a towering wall of glass windows: the Joseph Curtis Sloane Art Library.

Since the art library is home to more than 100,000 volumes of books, films, documentaries and online resources on art from prehistoric times to the present, Cowen knew she could find what she needed there. Carolina’s extensive library system is one of the major factors that drew her to the University in the first place.

“I really needed to do research. I needed to have resources that weren’t available elsewhere, that were harder to come by,” she says. “I knew that UNC has this fabulous collection with multiple libraries and a lending program with area universities. So just the amount of material that I’d have access to was a huge selling point for me moving here.”

Thanks to library resources and with help from Megan McClory, a Ph.D. student in the history department, Cowen has curated a four-part installation for the next year. Because prints are light-sensitive, Cowen will change them out every three months. Each rotation has its own theme: the first focuses on transportation, the second on the Satsuma Revolution of 1877, the third on fashion and identity and the fourth on amusements and entertainment.

When she’s not engaged in special projects, Cowen stays busy curating a wide range of art — paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs and porcelain — for the Peck Collection. She also writes articles on the history and interpretation of various artworks to add to the literature for exhibitions and in journals.

“The more information you have, the better the final product of your research is,” she says. “It’s so important to understand past scholarship about certain topics or artworks to recognize how your viewpoint might differ from others’, to help frame your own evaluations and to offer fresh perspectives.”

Many of the Japanese prints that Cowen works with show the industrialization that Japan experienced in the late 1800s. This print by Utagawa Hiroshige III shows a shopping area in Tokyo in 1874.



Plate 14. Utagawa Hiroshige III: Scenic View of Tokyo Enlightenment: Picture of Stone Construction at Kyōbashi and Prosperity of Brick and Stone Shops on Both Sides of Ginza Street. December 1874. Kanagawa Prefectural Museum, Yokohama.

Photo by Andrew Russell/UNC-Chapel Hill



Because of where we sit on campus, we know what other people are doing and who has different areas of expertise.

Amanda Henley, head of Digital Research Services at Davis Library

Photo by Alyssa LaFaro/UNC-Chapel Hill

Compiling Jim Crow laws with Digital Research Services

When a high school social studies teacher asked NC Research and Instructional Librarian Sarah Carrier for a comprehensive list of North Carolina’s Jim Crow laws in 2017, Carrier didn’t feel like she had the best answer: “States’ Laws on Race and Color” by Pauli Murray, published in 1951. This left out years of potential legislation — and manually searching through decades of volumes of the North Carolina General Statutes was no small task. But Carrier really wanted to help this teacher and others who might ask for this information in the future.

Carrier knew an automated solution was needed, so she worked with her library colleagues in Digital Research Services to find one. Enter Amanda Henley, head of Digital Research Services, who engaged more than 30 people — including librarians, library staff, postdoctoral researcher Kimber Thomas and history professor William Sturkey — in a multi-year project using text mining and machine learning to identify racist language in legal documents. To date, they’ve discovered nearly 2,000 Jim Crow laws in North Carolina.

“I think the collaborative nature of this project is one of the reasons why the University Libraries is a good home for it,” says Henley, principal investigator on the project. “Because of where we sit on campus, we know what other people are doing and who has different areas of expertise. We

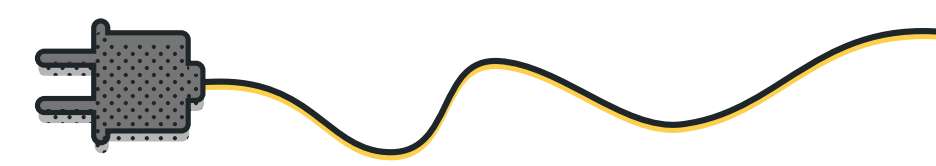
also have a broad range of expertise within the libraries. That’s what allowed us to be so successful.”

In August 2020, the group released the project, called On the Books: Jim Crow and Algorithms of Resistance, to the public. Users can search through the laws, download their text files and view all of the North Carolina statutes from 1866 to 1967.

When the Mellon Foundation heard about On the Books, they contacted Henley about expanding it and have since provided additional funding for her team to do so. For the next two years, they will identify Jim Crow Laws within two additional states and will help research and teaching fellows learn how to use these data within their own projects and schools (see p. 10).

It is not unusual for librarians to lead projects of this caliber, Henley shares. While they aren’t faculty members at Carolina, librarians undergo an appointment and promotion process similar to tenure and are expected to be involved in professional organizations, publications and research. For On the Books, Henley and her team wrote a paper outlining the methods and workflows for the project, plus another that another that was published in the annual conference proceedings for the Association of College & Research Libraries.

“I’ve found that researchers are more and more cognizant of the amount of input librarians can provide into their research projects and are eager to include them in their acknowledgements, even as coauthors,” she says.





Charlene Regester, associate professor of African, African American, and diaspora studies and director of the Institute for African American Research, in the Media & Design Center at the House Undergraduate Library

Photo by Andrew Russell/UNC-Chapel Hill

••• **Preserving Black film history at the Media & Design Center**

Charlene Regester continues to study the history of Black cinema before 1950. Most films made by African Americans before this time period are hard to find, Regester points out.

“I think either through neglect or lack of interest or not understanding the value, these resources have escaped us,” she says. “Some films have been found in people’s attics or

garages — and they had no idea the value of those films.”

Much of her research has explored the works of Oscar Micheaux, an early 20th-century American author, film director and producer who made upwards of 40 films. One that has drawn the attention of multiple scholars is “Within Our Gates,” which was found in an archive in Madrid, Spain.

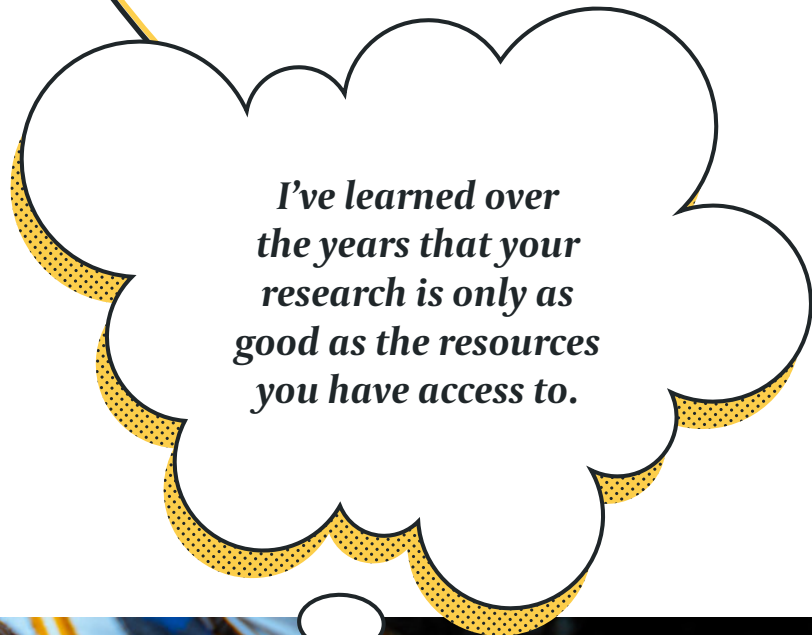
“The film was very controversial because it might be one of the few records of a lynching that’s visualized on screen,” Regester explains.

After Regester learned that the U.S. Library of Congress had obtained the film and translated it back to English, she hoped to get her hands on a DVD version to show in her classes. Staff members at the Media & Design Center within the R.B. House Undergraduate Library were instrumental in this process and have since found multiple Micheaux films for Regester to use in both her research and her courses.

Regester has also utilized Davis Library extensively. Librarians have helped her obtain film censorship records from the Margaret Herrick

Library at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, paper collections on Black actors and filmmakers, and microfilms of African American newspapers, like the Chicago Defender and New York Amsterdam News.

“I’ve learned over the years that your research is only as good as the resources you have access to,” she says. “Having access to these materials has opened up a whole realm of opportunity to revisit the past and document it. I hope I have advanced the field because of my own interest in recovering and researching these films, getting a sense for how African American filmmakers had to make films without appropriate budgets or technological inventions. I’m trying to fill that void in history.”



I’ve learned over the years that your research is only as good as the resources you have access to.



Photo by Andrew Russell/UNC-Chapel Hill

Unearthing dead languages in the Rare Book Collection

“Nanduq ershu subat balti nu’u ulap dame labish.” That’s Akkadian for a Babylonian proverb: “The wise man is girded with a festive garment; the fool is clad with a loin-cloth.”

Akkadian is one of the earliest languages known to human history, spoken alongside the even older Sumerian language by the people of Mesopotamia — what’s known today as modern Iraq and the surrounding region — between 2600 and 500 B.C. While it is considered a dead language, specialists like religious studies professor Joseph Lam study and teach it.

In 2019, while teaching Akkadian to one of his classes, Lam remembered reading somewhere that the Rare Book Collection at Wilson Library had a few cuneiform tablets. Similar to hieroglyphs, cuneiform is the writing system used for both Akkadian and Sumerian and was often transcribed onto small clay slabs the size of a modern e-reader. Lam worked with librarian Emily Kader to locate the tablets and found more than he expected.

“It was a little bit of a rabbit hole,” he says, chuckling. “When I got the list of tablets the library had, I found some that had never been published.”

One is an administrative record noting the number of workers

employed at a millhouse on one particular day around 2000 B.C.; another is a letter documenting merchant dealings and activities.

“Think about what would survive from an average office in modern times,” Lam says. “It’d be mostly receipts and things like that.”

The collection also includes a cone-shaped artifact containing a royal inscription and cylindrical seals used to impress a signature onto a document.

Using 20th-century records about the purchase of these artifacts, Lam tried to track down their origins — and without much luck. The next best option, he felt, was publishing them so that other scholars could study them. But photographing cuneiform tablets is no easy task. Three-dimensional and covered in symbols, they need to be observed with specific lighting and at multiple angles.

Kader connected Lam with Jay Mangum from University Libraries’ Digital Production Center and Rebecca Smyrl, an assistant conservator at Wilson. Under Lam’s direction, Mangum photographed the tablets using custom supports built by Smyrl.

“We have an amazing library staff,” Lam says. “They’re not only knowledgeable, but they are committed to supporting the work of this university. At any point when I had a question or needed help, they always came through.”

We have an amazing library staff. They’re not only knowledgeable, but they are committed to supporting the work of this university.

Photo by Alyssa LaFaro/UNC-Chapel Hill



Joseph Lam, associate professor of religious studies, in the Fearington Reading Room at Wilson Library



Weiming Tang, associate professor of medicine and co-director of UNC Project-China, at the Health Sciences Library

Reviewing infectious disease research at the Health Sciences Library

Imagine wanting to compile all the research that exists on one particular topic. To do so, you collect every academic paper that mentions it and end up with thousands of papers that need to be screened and sorted to find the most relevant papers on said topic. Then, you need to use that information to write a new paper providing a comprehensive overview of all that material.

In a nutshell, that's what a systematic review is. Health researchers engage in this process often, not only to provide the best recommendations for medicines and practices, but to uncover gaps in the research and improve future work in that area.

Infectious disease researcher Weiming Tang engages often with librarians at the Health Sciences Library whenever conducting a systematic review. Thankfully, the process described above can be completed digitally to find all of the materials necessary to complete a review. Even so, the entire process can take as long as two years.

Most recently, Tang worked with librarian Jennifer Bissram on a systematic review for tuberculosis care and treatment.

Bissram starts by creating a search algorithm, which she tests with random papers generated by Tang and his team to make sure it identifies the materials they're looking for. If the algorithm is unsuccessful, Bissram creates another and tests, repeating this process until she finds one, or more, that works.

Once a successful algorithm is created, Bissram uses it across multiple databases, collects the results and deletes duplicates. This is followed by a screening process to identify whether each paper found meets the criteria for the study. They start by reviewing titles and abstracts, narrow their results and then complete a full text review, examining the remaining studies in detail. For this particular project, Tang and Bissram whittled 20,000 results down to 250 papers.

After Tang starts writing the review, Bissram will check in to make sure it follows publication guidelines. This ensures a high-quality review with literature-generated evidence that can be duplicated.

"In the past seven years, I think I've done at least 10 systematic reviews with Jennifer, and she helped with the whole process," Tang says. "This is very time-consuming, and she needs to understand exactly what I want from the literature — and she's not a researcher in my field. She and the Health Sciences Library are a fundamental part of this work." ▲

The stories in "Powered by Libraries" are excerpted from *Endeavors*, a publication of UNC Research. The University Libraries thanks UNC Research for the opportunity to share them with Windows readers.

Read the original at: endeavors.unc.edu/powered-by-libraries



Photo by Jon Gardiner/UNC-Chapel Hill

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At Wilson Library, we are more than keepers of papers and books. We are incubators for academic and creative innovation.

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expertise of librarians and archivists, and colleagues across campus. The endowment will provide permanent funding for these awards and for programs that encourage creative engagement with the collections through visual and performing arts. The University Libraries has already raised \$322,000 toward the match.

The Southern Historical Collection is one of five collections that make up the Wilson Special Collections Library. With 10 million items in more than 5,000 archival collections, it documents all periods of Southern history since the late 18th century, particularly from the period

following the Civil War through the civil rights movement of the 20th century. It is a nationally recognized leader in community-driven archives. This movement seeks to work with communities — particularly historically Black communities and others underrepresented in research archives — to empower them to document their own histories.

“At Wilson Library, we are more than keepers of papers and books,” said María R. Estorino, now interim vice provost for University libraries and University librarian.

“We are incubators for academic and creative innovation. Carolina’s special collections serve as a research lab for the humanities and arts by providing a unique experiential environment for discovery, creation and collaborations. The generosity of the Kenan Charitable Trust ensures that will be the case long into the future,” said Estorino.

The endowment from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust counts toward the University Libraries’ goal to raise \$50 million by December 31, 2022, as part of the Campaign for Carolina. The curatorial endowment also counts toward the University’s Southern Futures initiative, which seeks to reimagine the American South through scholarship, creative endeavor and leadership development. Contributions made this year to the challenge match will count toward the campaign. ▲

A transformational gift

\$2 million from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust will endow a curatorship, fund fellowships at the University Libraries.

STORY BY JUDY PANITCH

When the Southern Historical Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill’s library opened in 1930, philanthropist Sarah Graham Kenan provided the first major gift to establish its endowment. Nearly a century later, a gift of \$2 million from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust to the University Libraries will honor Sarah Graham Kenan’s pioneering vision and continue the philanthropic tradition she established.

Part of the gift is a \$1.5 million endowment that will create the position of Sarah Graham Kenan Curator of the Southern Historical Collection. The Southern Historical Collection is today considered one of the nation’s leading repositories for materials about the American South.

In November 2021, Chaitra Powell was appointed curator of the Southern Historical Collection and will be the first curator to hold the endowed title.

The endowment will enable Powell and her successors to continue developing the collection and its programming. It will also support archivists’ efforts to build digital pathways that enable researchers, students and community members to explore and use the extensive collection.

The remaining \$500,000 is a three-year challenge match to endow research and teaching fellowships at the Wilson Special Collections Library. Wilson Library currently operates a competitive program of research and creative awards. Participants engage with historic collections, the

◆ ◆ ◆ *Create your legacy at the University Libraries* ◆ ◆ ◆



“ A great library is a depository of information that is good for research and that everybody uses, but that has no alumni. Going to Carolina gave me a great education and the opportunity to get in the door. When you think about giving back to Carolina, remember how important the time you spent here was to you, and give back. ”

—Howard Holsenbeck '63

Planned Gifts • Bequests • Charitable Trusts • Charitable Gifts • Annuities

Learn how to create your legacy at the University Libraries by visiting unclegacy.org.

Or contact Jess Aylor, interim executive director of Library development, at jessica.aylor@unc.edu or 919-962-4207.

Representation and access, today and tomorrow

Carolina's libraries helped Maxine Brown-Davis '74 find herself. She wants all Tar Heels to have that same advantage.

BY MICHELE LYNN

Maxine Brown-Davis '74 has loved libraries since her childhood in Wilmington, North Carolina. "I started out with a home library of three books when I was a toddler and it grew from there," she says. "Libraries have always been important to me because they are launching pads for imagination, information, and experiences you wouldn't otherwise have access to."

She brings that affinity for libraries to her role on the Friends of the Library Board of Directors at Carolina. Anyone who donates to the University Libraries becomes a Friend of the Library; its board helps raise awareness and funds. Brown-Davis, who joined the board in 2020, says she is proud to share information about the University Libraries with others.

"Our libraries are important for people on campus and beyond," she says. "We need to support them so they can stay state of the art, not just for North Carolina, but for the world, since we are a global research library."

While earning her degree in industrial relations with a minor in American business, Brown-Davis enjoyed exploring Carolina's archives, rare books and reference books. "The library allowed me to indulge my fantasies around historical architecture and learn more about the history of various countries as I met people on campus who were not from North Carolina," she says. "Finding materials that are rare and precious has always fascinated me."

Brown-Davis flourished in her career with The Procter & Gamble Company before retiring in 2009 as chief diversity officer and vice president, global diversity and organization



performance. "I have had success in my life through access that Carolina made possible," she says. "As I think about current students, particularly students of color, I want them to have options to explore and become who they're meant to be while at Carolina."

Brown-Davis especially appreciates the University Libraries' commitment to diversity and inclusion. "I am pleased that the archives, personal histories and focus on Southern history are trying to provide more consistent documentation and accessibility about what our communities are built on," she says. The expertise of the University Libraries' staff, along with the collections, "helps make sure that our diverse communities are seen and represented fully."

Brown-Davis fears that some people discount libraries because the Internet provides access to so much information. "Technology has a multiplier effect on data and information generation, but it also cheapens events, ideas and creativity for many," she says. "The Library needs to be ready to use, help create, and provide access to information with context and a holistic vantage point for anyone now and in the future."

She donates to the University Libraries to help keep them technically proficient, user-friendly and abundant in their content. "Sustaining the connections, meanings and actions of humans is critical for continuing to innovate with care for the collective futures of humans and the planet," says Brown-Davis. "Giving helps the system keep up with the speed of output, now and in the future." ▲

END NOTE

“Our daily work should involve questioning ourselves and what we’ve come to know as our standard procedures, regardless of our role. I’ve been interested in looking for ways to change procedures and workflows to more intentionally engage with decision making and prioritization, which ultimately reallocates time and effort back into areas of the collections that have been historically neglected or ignored.”

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Sam Huener is a conservation technician at the Wilson Special Collections Library.

Read more about the work Sam does to care for Carolina's treasured collections: go.unc.edu/Huener



Photo by Johnny Andrews, UNC-Chapel Hill

FORE!

Over the rise, through the loop... and past the circulation desk. After a pandemic hiatus, the beloved tradition of miniature golf returned to the Undergraduate Library as part of Carolina's Week of Welcome. *Photo by Johnny Andrews/UNC-Chapel Hill.*

