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This annual report includes information collected between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. We welcome your feedback. Please contact our Director of Development by phone (404-413-2707), by email (libdev@gsu.edu), or visit library.gsu.edu/giving.

Georgia State University Library - 100 Decatur Street SE Atlanta, GA 30303-3202
LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The 2019-2020 academic year began much like any other: the excitement of welcoming thousands of new students to campus, a set of specific goals for improving library services, and plans for educational events throughout the year. My personal notes from the fall exhibit this normalcy – they include a discussion of plans for filling a vacant position, a minor facilities problem that needed attention, and an opportunity for a new collaboration. Then news of a novel virus started to appear late in 2019. In January, life in the library was still normal. We were planning a big celebration of the Women’s Collection’s 25th anniversary. Construction of the greenway in front of Library North continued. By the end of February, our perspective was shifting. On February 28, the Library’s leadership met to map out what services we would be able to provide and what we would not if the university were to move online. (I am pleased to say that the “Yes” list was much longer than the “No” list!).

In mid-March, of course, everything changed. Classes were postponed for two weeks, then moved online. The University Library moved quickly, closing to the public on March 18 and getting the resources to our library faculty and staff that they would need to work from home. I could not be any prouder of our entire team’s work through the days, weeks, and months that followed. We moved library workshops online, expanded our chat reference service hours, and learned how to work together virtually to a degree far beyond anything we had even considered before. The challenges posed by the crisis have been extreme, including employees managing their workdays around childcare responsibilities, job losses of family members, poor home internet connectivity, health uncertainty, and at least a couple of cases of COVID-19 among employees and their family members. Despite these challenges, the University Library staff and faculty have done an amazing job of creatively and compassionately providing services to Georgia State students, faculty, and staff. Over the summer, numerous library staff and faculty did the in-person work in our facilities necessary to prepare for a safe return this fall, including moving and storing furniture, relocating computers and posting informational signage to keep each other safe.

Here are a few of the ways the University Library has responded to the crisis that have made us a stronger organization:

- We have innovated to help bring down textbook costs for our students. While we already had librarians promoting open educational resources (OER) and library-licensed materials as alternatives to expensive textbooks, the library took the opportunity of this crisis to acquire and promote a new tool to help faculty more readily find these works. I hope to be able to report next year on the savings we achieved for our students through this initiative.
We developed new “express pick up” services to facilitate easy, contactless retrieval of print materials for any students, faculty member, or staff member.

With the switch to fully online meetings, everyone has the same access. No one is excluded because they cannot make it to campus, and the experience of those who are remote is no longer an afterthought. If someone cannot hear a person speaking in the meeting, the chances are that no one can.

SARS-COV-2 is not the only illness to shape our lives during 2020. The persistent disease of systematic racism and social injustice captured the nation’s attention with the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others. Sixty years after the Atlanta Student Movement published An Appeal for Human Rights and launched protests like the sit-in pictured here, racism infects our community, our nation, and our world.

Black lives matter, and the University Library is committed to dismantling structures which perpetuate injustice. A key component of the University Library’s mission is to “facilitate informed dialogue.” We do this every day, as librarians teach students to be savvy consumers of information. Beyond this, we must take specific steps to create a more equitable and inclusive organization and to shape a more just world.

I invite you to read our June message to the Georgia State University community, which outlined some initial steps that the library’s leadership team is committed to taking. Since June, we have continued to purchase ebooks that speak to issues of racism and social injustice. We formed a Library Security Study task force to explore best practices for safety and security in academic libraries. The Library partnered with the newly established Center for Studies on Africa and its Diaspora (csad.gsu.edu) in October 2020 on a series of book talks featuring Georgia State University faculty members who have published on race and social justice issues. Additionally, the library’s Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, formed in April, is now meeting. We look forward to the committee’s new ideas for shaping the University Library as a model of inclusion.

As I write this message just two months into the new academic year, I have great hope for the year ahead. I have continued to be inspired and encouraged by the care our team has demonstrated for one another. While there remains much uncertainty over how the coronavirus will play out over the weeks and months ahead, I am confident in the University Library’s ability to adapt, and even thrive, as we face whatever challenges are in front of us. I hope you are inspired as you read about the past year in the pages that follow.
A feature of the greenway will be the new entrance to Library North. This visually-striking addition will connect the park-like space below and the main library entrance one floor above. A dramatic glass façade will enclose new study space for about eighty students. The design also features a rooftop terrace with a terrific view of the greenway and room for dozens of students to study outside. We are grateful to the Georgia Legislature for funding this project, which will benefit our students and campus community for years to come.

While working with Atlanta-based Collins Cooper Carusi Architects on the new entrance plan, the same library-architect-facilities team has been moving forward on the next step in our facility master plan. The Library intends to convert C Lot, an inefficient parking area underneath Library North, into a student study space. Over the summer, the architects completed a feasibility study and cost estimate for the space. The preliminary concept design adds 200 seats to the library. The area will provide a combination of flexible, active learning spaces; a dozen group study rooms; a designated quiet study area; and a relocated and updated café. This new “study commons” will have its own entrance and, sitting apart from the rest of the sprawling downtown library, it will offer extended hours, a perennial request of Georgia State students. Much of this project will be funded by a fee that students approved in 2017 to support library facility upgrades. However, the University Library needs philanthropic support to realize this vision fully.

To support this project, consider a gift to the Library Future Fund.
For decades, the Atlanta Metropolitan region has experienced tremendous growth in population and footprint. Today, the City of Atlanta population of 465,230 residents (as of 2019), is dwarfed by a metropolitan region of 5,612,777. In 1940, by contrast, the City of Atlanta was a relatively dense city of 302,288, which dominated the metropolitan region of 518,100. Outward regional growth in the form of low-density development and decline in the urban core has characterized the region for so long that it has become nearly impossible to imagine the region’s built environment exhibiting anything other than its current, ill-defined form.

The Sprawling of Atlanta project ([https://lib.gsu.edu/sprawling-atl](https://lib.gsu.edu/sprawling-atl)), unveiled in October 2019, invites the public to visualize the extensive built environment and demographic changes in the metropolitan region from 1940 to the present. Joseph A. Hurley, former GIS Librarian, with the assistance of graduate student Katheryn Nikolich, developed Sprawling. The project offers stitched and georeferenced aerial imagery overlays of the five core metropolitan counties (Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, and Clayton). Additionally, the project incorporates census tract-level population and housing data. Together, these layers reveal the suburbs’ dramatic growth, the loss of farmland, the decline and rebuilding of the urban core and shifting racial and housing patterns.

One dramatic example of change visible in the project is the area just south of downtown surrounding Center Parc Stadium, the home of Panther football. Selected overlays show how the interstate highway and stadiums replaced a dense housing area.

**PROJECT TEAM**

**Leadership**
Project Director: Joseph A. Hurley
Project Manager: Katheryn Nikolich
Lead Student Assistant: Carson Kantoris

**Graduate Student and Honors Student Assistants**
John Horhn
Alexandra Orrego
Shaofan Zhang

**Technical Assistance**
Eric Willoughby
Matt Brooks

For questions related to The Sprawling of Atlanta, please contact:
Digital Library Services, [digitalcollections@gsu.edu](mailto:digitalcollections@gsu.edu)
BUILDING COMMUNITY, PERIMETER STYLE

Building a sense of community is one of the great strengths of the University Library’s five Perimeter College locations. The library faculty and staff plan fun events for their students, collaborate with campus partners, and reach out to their local communities. These are a sample of the fun activities organized by the Perimeter library locations before COVID-19 put a pause on face-to-face events.

Therapy dogs provide a welcome stress break at the Decatur library during finals week

Students learn about comics and graphic novels at the library’s booth at the Clarkston campus’ Comic Con

Retro Game Night introduces new Decatur students to the library

The Dunwoody library hosts Student Research Day

The Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning hosts a grand opening of the Ex-Lab makerspace in the Dunwoody library

Students connect with each other and express their creativity at a Lego Block Party in the Clarkston library
IN A TIME OF COVID-19

The sudden pivot to online learning in the spring was accompanied by a sudden shift for everyone in the University Library. For a period in mid-spring, all library facilities were completely closed. The library’s leadership team met daily to coordinate both our services to the Georgia State University community and meet the needs of the library’s faculty and staff. With creativity and hard work, the University Library shone as an example of versatility in the challenging first months of the pandemic. A few examples of the challenges and solutions from the library include:

- Some personnel lacked the tools to continue their work at home. Digital Library Services and User Services coordinated the loan of required equipment to library personnel.

- With the library closed, the stacks were unavailable. Fortunately, the library’s track record of investment in online resources positioned the library to meet many of the immediate information needs of students, faculty, and staff. Additionally, HathiTrust, a library organization tasked with preserving and providing access to digitized copies of library holdings, quickly created an “Emergency Temporary Access” service which allowed us to add digital surrogates of items held by University System of Georgia libraries.

- Students still wanted to participate in library workshops. Our librarians changed their strategy, moving in-person instruction sessions and workshops to an online format. Multiple librarians completed the university’s Mastering Online Teaching course to improve both their knowledge of iCollege (Georgia State’s course management system) and their instruction techniques for the remote learning environment. They then applied what they had learned in their instruction. A librarian and an archivist, for example, co-taught students in a graduate philosophy course with a redesigned class that included both synchronous and asynchronous components. These graduate students, in turn, learned skills for using primary sources for their own teaching of undergraduates.

In some ways, the online approach worked better than in-person instruction. Research Data Services (RDS) conducted training on data analysis tools, research methodology, data visualization and mapping. They were able to deliver the instruction to more students at one time (no longer limited by the capacity of a physical computer classroom) and were able to accommodate learners who could not make it to campus (including at least one grateful “community” learner from India!). With increased capacity, more than 150 students were able to earn “data certified” status by attending at least five workshops during the semester, a 62% increase compared to the previous semester.

- For employees whose normal duties could not be transitioned to a work-from-home environment, we coordinated special projects and encouraged professional development. Many staff took advantage of library webinars and LinkedIn Learning. Special Collections & Archives organized materials and instructions for special projects which otherwise would have either languished for years or required outsourcing. Our archival materials and digital collections will be easier to discover and use thanks to all of the great work on these special projects.
## BY THE NUMBERS

### USAGE OF:

- **ScholarWorks**: 1,113,705
- **Digital Collections**: 395,815
- **E-books**: 1,192,363
- **E-serials**: 2,195,088

### INFORMATION SERVICES:

- **Reference interactions:** 12,363
- **Consultations:** 264% increase
  - 1,943 FY20
  - 734 FY19
- **Instruction sessions & workshops:** 843
  - 14,658 Participants

### GATE COUNT:

- **2019-20**:
  - Typical Week (April 2020): 0
  - Typical Week (Oct. 2018): 55,810

- **2018-19**:
  - Typical Week (Oct. 2018): 55,810

### GIVING:

- **$241k**
  - Dollars Raised FY20
- **$115k**
  - Dollars Raised FY19
- **$7.4M**
  - Total Library Endowment Value as of June 30, 2020
- **368**
  - Total Gifts FY20
- **445**
  - Total Gifts FY19
WOMEN’S COLLECTIONS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Twenty-five years ago, a group of women who had been active in efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment came together to establish what is now known as the Women’s Collections, part of the Special Collections & Archives of the University Library. Morna Gerrard, the archivist for the Women’s Collections, spent a year planning for a big spring event to celebrate the anniversary. She sent save-the-date messages to friends of the collection, lined up a panel to talk about the history of the ERA movement, and planned for a special reunion of key benefactors. Of course, this face-to-face event, originally scheduled for April 2020, had to be postponed. Morna rescheduled the celebration as a smaller, and virtual, event in the fall.

Despite this setback, the Women’s Collections is moving forward with new collections and new relationships. Various oral history projects continue and, behind the scenes, library staff working from home are tackling a backlog of transcription projects. The Library is especially excited about a new partnership with the Women’s Philanthropy Network, a Georgia State Foundation, university-wide initiative that offers women opportunities to network and invest in Georgia State University’s mission.

In addition to celebrating the 25th anniversary of our collections, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage, granting women the right to vote. To commemorate both, the WPN has decided to make the Women’s Collections at the University Library one of their top funding priorities. The WPN has pledged to create the WPN Endowment for the Women’s Collection Graduate Research Assistantship!

Donna Lee, retired CMO of AT&T Southeast, former chair of the Georgia State University Foundation Board, and current member of the Library Board of Advocates, is spearheading fundraising efforts to fully fund the endowment. When completed, the endowment will pay a GSU student as a graduate research assistant (GRA) each year. This GRA will benefit from both the income and the hands-on experience of working with the collections. Several of Morna’s past student employees have gone on to careers working with archives. The University Library is eternally grateful to Donna and the rest of the women who make up the Women’s Philanthropy Network, as they follow in the footsteps of the pioneers who created these collections and inspire future generations through their generosity.
GRADUATE STUDENT CREATES NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNPUBLISHED JOHNNY MERCER SONGS

South African trumpet player Marco Maritz, a Graduate Research Assistant in Special Collections & Archives, crafted new arrangements to four of Johnny Mercer’s unpublished songs.

Mercer (1909-1976), a native of Savannah, Georgia, began writing songs at the age of fifteen and eventually became one of the foremost figures of 20th century American popular music. His catalog includes many numbers that have become American classics, and his activities as lyricist, composer, performer and businessman span nearly five decades.

Maritz, who credits Kevin Fleming (Popular Music and Culture Archivist) with introducing him to the Johnny Mercer catalog, has been known to burst into the archives early in the morning after a late night of playing with local jazz ensembles. A bright, humble young man who is working toward a graduate degree in jazz studies, Maritz’s lucidity and ability for self-expression positioned him as a remarkable candidate to re-work and bring to life some of Mercer’s unpublished work.

“This project has taught me so much more than arranging things, it taught me to focus on the artist specifically and see his creativity level over his time period and to put it into my own writing style. I’ve learned so much... I think my perspective has changed a lot. I would have never imagined I’d be here two years ago.”

The public heard Maritz’s arrangements for the first time during the February 2020 Johnny Mercer Tribute Concert. Trumpeter and vocalist Joe Gransden and special guest Tierney Sutton joined the Georgia State University Jazz band, including Maritz, to pay tribute to legendary songwriter Johnny Mercer in front of a near-capacity audience in the Rialto Center for the Arts auditorium.

New arrangements for unpublished works included “I Think We Need a Little Drink,” “Fate Moves in Mysterious Ways,” “Be Happy” and “You Knock Me Out.”

“These song ideas exist in the archives as anything from arranger’s lead sheets to undated draft lyrics and musical notation on scraps of note paper.

“I’m very thankful to the Johnny Mercer Foundation for giving this platform to students to explore and having the freedom to do so,” Maritz said.
The individuals who make up the library staff bring critical skills and experiences that are essential for the library’s success. When Michelle Lee, Interlibrary Loan Assistant, noticed organizational silos, she began working to restart the Library Staff Committee. A previous iteration of the committee had disappeared several years ago as interest and participation waned. “Restarting the Library Staff Committee was important to me because I thought this committee could help further develop cooperative working relationships and collective support for staff members,” said Lee.

“After Georgia State University consolidated with Georgia Perimeter College, there were questions among faculty and staff alike regarding how the library’s organization and operations would adjust. In addition, there were now six campus libraries operating within different campus cultures. The restart of the Library Staff Committee was a way to work against any remaining disconnect by providing staff members with a committee whose objective was to support staff, share information between campuses, and provide a space where staff can voice their ideas, needs, and concerns with the goal of creating change.”

Accomplishments of the new Library Staff Committee include:

- Development of a staff newsletter, which delivers relevant news and highlights the laudable work of staff on each campus.
- Creation of an electronic comment form for staff members. Staff members use the form to share ideas and make recommendations to the committee.
- Promotion of the Carolyn L. Robison Library Award, which supports professional development for library staff members.

The University Library is stronger when the staff of the library works together. The resurrected Library Staff Committee has already demonstrated the benefit of having a venue where all staff members can work together to exchange ideas and address common issues.
CREATIVE LOAFING ACQUISITION

Georgia State University Library’s Special Collections & Archives has acquired the archive of *Creative Loafing* from Ben Eason, chairman and CEO of *Creative Loafing* Atlanta. An Atlanta-based alternative paper, *Creative Loafing* is known for its coverage of local politics, culture and food. The archive includes issues of the paper dating back to its earliest days, as well as awards, photographic negatives and administrative records. Eason, whose parents Deborah and Elton Eason founded *Creative Loafing* in 1972, oversaw the brand’s expansion into several other cities in the Southeast. In 2017, Eason acquired the Atlanta paper from an out-of-state media company, bringing the iconic publication home to Atlanta and the Eason family.

“The addition of Creative Loafing provides researchers with a view of everyday life and culture throughout Atlanta and other Southeastern cities that they won’t find anywhere else,” said Christina Zamon, Head of Special Collections & Archives at Georgia State. The *Creative Loafing* archive contains a wealth of information about Atlanta’s history and culture and sheds light on the complex challenges and rich potential of cities. The Special Collections & Archives Department will preserve the *Creative Loafing* archive and make the materials available for educational and research purposes. The collection will be accessible to the Georgia State community, researchers and the public. The library, in partnership with Eason, plans to digitize each issue of the paper and make it available online.

“...a view of everyday life and culture throughout Atlanta and other Southeastern cities that they won’t find anywhere else”
IN MEMORIAM

Over the past year, the University Library has lost three remarkable library supporters, all retired Georgia State University employees. Each has created a lasting legacy through their work on behalf of the libraries.

JANE G. HOBSON

Jane G. Hobson, a longtime library faculty member, passed away in December 2019. Jane provided 30 years of outstanding service to the library. She was an integral member of the University Library faculty, and many dissertations and books by Georgia State University graduates and faculty contain words of thanks for her assistance with their research. To learn more about Jane’s life, please read her obituary at https://legcy.co/3jEfPsV.

In her estate plan, Jane left the library a significant donation to be used at the dean’s discretion. Benoit Sabourin, Director of Development, contacted several of Jane’s former colleagues to garner ideas for the best use of these funds. Several of them gave gifts in support of the endowment, as well as ideas for its purpose:

Based on those conversations, Dean Steely created the Jane G. Hobson Endowment for the University Library in her honor. Revenue from the endowment will support high-priority library projects that honor Jane’s work as a librarian.

To make a gift in Jane’s honor, consider supporting her endowment.

In the words of Jane’s friends and colleagues

- “She was a model for the world of librarianship, to be sure.”
- “Jane was one of the finest librarians and faculty members with whom I had the pleasure to work.”
- “She was uniformly liked and admired.”
- “In her long career at GSU, Jane made many, many friends...all of us loved Jane”
DIANE FOWLKES

A dear friend of the Georgia State University Library, Dr. Diane L. Fowlkes, passed away in August 2020. Diane served on the Georgia State University faculty for over 25 years and was instrumental in establishing the Women's Studies Program (now The Institute for Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies). She was also an avid supporter of the Women's Collections in the Library's Special Collections & Archives. Diane's obituary may be found at https://legacy.co/3i0uoqI.

Morna Gerrard, Women's Collections Archivist, shared words of reminiscence in a library blog post on September 3. In addition to highlighting some of Diane's many professional accomplishments, Morna reflected on their personal connection and friendship:

During the 1990s, when dedicated women's rights activists approached Georgia State University with a detailed plan to create a women's archive (which became the Donna Novak Coles Georgia Women's Movement Archives), Diane represented the Women's Studies Institute in supporting their endeavors, and her support throughout the 25-year expansion of the Women's Collections was unwavering. Diane donated her papers to the Archives and was interviewed for the Georgia Women's Movement Oral History Project. She was also a very regular financial supporter of the Archives. When I became the archivist for the Women's Collections in 2005, Diane had retired, but somehow we found each other and, over the years, we developed a strong and caring friendship. While Diane was still in good health, we met regularly for lunch at Rosa's pizza and talked about life, the women's collections, women's issues and women in academia. When Diane could no longer drive downtown, I visited her at her townhome and then assisted living home. During these visits, we would gather together a little more of her library or papers to donate to the archives, and we would laugh and complain a lot as we envisioned a world that was fair and equitable. We would also talk about Diane's life and its relationship to her novel's protagonist, Sophie.

The Diane I knew was a wonderful woman. She was frank and grounded and hugely intelligent. She was dignified and humble, and she believed in justice and equality. I feel deeply privileged to have been able to be Diane's friend during her more robust years and through the years when her health was failing. And I am humbled that she trusted me enough to be vulnerable during those later, challenging months. I, like so many others who knew and loved her, will miss her deeply.

To make a gift in Diane's honor, consider supporting the Women's Collections.
Nearly 50 years ago, Library Director William Pullen hired Dr. David B. Gracy II to launch the Southern Labor Archive. Dr. Gracy made connections with labor organizations across the south, crisscrossing the southern states to acquire collections and meet with union leaders. Recognizing the importance of preserving GSU’s history, he also established the University Archive. Dr. Gracy went on to become a national leader and teacher of archival practice. He passed away in September 2020. More details on David’s life can be found at dignitymemorial.com.

In connection with the 50th anniversary of Special Collections & Archives in 2021, the University Library seeks to create the Dr. David B. Gracy II Graduate Research Assistantship for Special Collections & Archives. Naming this award for Dr. Gracy will honor both his role as the department’s founder and his tireless advocacy for the importance of archives in society. The award will go to a student in Georgia State’s public history program to work with Special Collections & Archives to promote collections through workshops, programming, exhibits and other outreach efforts. The library is currently seeking a lead gift to establish this endowment.

In the words of Dean Steely

“Dr. Gracy was a leading ‘evangelist’ for archival practice. I remember his passionate advocacy for the profession when he visited my master’s degree ‘Intro’ class in the mid-1990’s. He was no less enthusiastic when we met over coffee in Austin just a year ago. He regaled me with stories of his first collecting activities at GSU and told tales from his new book with the same gusto as his recruiting pitch twenty-five years ago.”

To make a gift in David’s honor, contact our Director of Development.
On behalf of the University Library Board of Advocates, I want to thank you for your generous support to the Library and its extraordinary collections. This year we learned what it means to be resilient and how to be innovative in navigating these challenging times. This history, and the stories that we are living out right now, will be read about and researched by the generations that come after us. The Library continues to be progressive by embarking on new projects with renovations to the building, receipt of new endowments and expansion of its collections. In the upcoming months, we are excited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our Women's Collections in 2020 and look forward to acknowledging the 50th anniversary of our Special Collections & Archives in 2021. This year we welcome new board members, Brian Brown, Donna Lee and Shontel Horne. If you would like to know more about the Board of Advocates, please contact Benoit Sabourin. Again, thank you for helping us raise almost $250,000 from more than 350 gifts. Please continue to take care and to be safe.
To support any of the funds highlighted in the Annual Report, please contact our Director of Development by phone (404-413-2707), by email (libdev@gsu.edu), or visit library.gsu.edu/giving.