Partnering with InclusiveU
Supporting Innovators in Our Global Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
Teaching is Second Nature
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# Table of Contents

Dean’s Message .............................................. 2  
Dean Seaman’s Decanal Review ....................... 2  
Partnering with InclusiveU ............................. 3  
Leaving a Legacy .......................................... 6  
New E-Book Collections and Collecting Models .... 7  
Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) ........ 9  
Finding Aids: Making Collections Discoverable .... 9  
“Emma” and “The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills” ........................................ 10  
Emeriti Spotlight — Early Adopters In The Move Online ........................................ 11  
Research Guides for Your Use .......................... 12  
New Special Collections Research Center Exhibition Opens: “Survival Kit: Provisions for your Research Journey” .......................... 12  
Supporting Innovators in our Global Entrepreneurial Ecosystem ................................ 14  
Teaching is Second Nature ............................... 16  
Orange Quest 2020 ....................................... 18  

Dean’s Message

It has been my honor to serve the Syracuse University community over the past five years. Like all communities, it is the collaboration among many behind the scenes that enabled the Libraries to provide services in-person and remotely this fall. The University is strengthened by the Libraries’ contributions, not only to resources and collections, but to the critical teaching and learning that happens daily. It is also strengthened by the sub-communities we’ve built, including our entrepreneurial ecosystems, our interactive exhibition curators, and our many cross-disciplinary and cross-campus partnerships. Finally, through the generosity and support of our donors, alumni, and friends who support the Libraries’ work, to whom we are most grateful. It is in this spirit of community and cooperation that I look forward to serving the Libraries over the next five years.

Respectfully,

David Seaman
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

Dean Seaman’s Decanal Review

This fall the Office of Academic Affairs conducted a comprehensive decanal review of David Seaman after five years of service to Syracuse University as dean of the Syracuse University Libraries. Overall, the librarians and staff provided a very positive review of Dean Seaman, and similar feedback was received from all stakeholders. The following excerpt was from a staff member:

“During the last five years David’s leadership has effected a remarkable turn-around in our Libraries. Communication is better, staff feel empowered, we’ve become a more welcoming environment, new things are happening, our staffing has improved, and so on . . .”

The prevailing sentiment among those contacted in the review was that, under Dean Seaman’s leadership, the SU Libraries have grown in stature and relevance within the campus community, that he has been an effective leader, advocate, and spokesperson for all stakeholders, internal or external, and that there is excitement among the librarians and staff about the future. The Dean’s focus over the past five years of success in reorienting the SU Libraries has been to make Bird Library the vibrant center of the academic life of the University. This included praise for bringing in new academic partners, such as Blackstone Launchpad, SOURCE, and CLASS.

Sincerely,

Zhanjiang (John) Liu, Ph.D.
Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost
PARTNERING WITH

InclusiveU

Over the past few years, Syracuse University Libraries has had a number of mutually beneficial partnerships with the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education’s InclusiveU (InclusiveU). InclusiveU brings students of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities who want to experience college life in a fully inclusive setting to Syracuse University. Examples of the successful inclusion of InclusiveU students within the Libraries are partnerships developed with Sound Beat: Access Audio, Access and Resource Sharing, and Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars.

Tapping into Students’ Strengths

Sound Beat, a daily radio show highlighting the holdings of Special Collections Research Center’s Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive, features episodes that provide a backstory on specific recordings from the Archive. Sound Beat: Access Audio, an extension of the short-form episodes, features long-form audio projects including audio books, interviews, narrated journals, and documentary-style storytelling highlighting the experiences of iconic Syracuse University community members. Both Sound Beat and Access Audio projects have included collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and administration from across the Syracuse University campus.
Over the past year, Sound Beat: Access Audio has produced various projects, including: a collaboration with Falk College featuring Professor Emerita Dr. Sarah “Sally” Short, an alumna and academic trailblazer in nutrition whose dedicated teaching career at SU spanned more than 50 years; a collaboration with School of Visual and Performing Arts featuring Warren Kimble '57, America’s “best-known living folk artist;” an audiobook of the journals and memoirs of Don Waful '37, ’39 as a World War II P.O.W.; and production of two audiobooks in collaboration with Syracuse University Press, featuring Reservoir Year: A Walker’s Book of Days by Nina Shengold and Harry Haft: Survivor of Auschwitz, Challenger of Rocky Marciano by Alan Scott Haft. None of these projects would have been possible without the dedication and talents of InclusiveU interns who worked alongside Sound Beat producer Jim O’Connor.

“Inclusion and the student experience are at the forefront of Sound Beat: Access Audio’s mission. Through an exciting partnership with InclusiveU, students form an integral part of the team in all aspects of production and work with Libraries staff to develop their research, writing, and editing skills,” said O’Connor. “In the past couple of years, we’ve been fortunate to have a number of outstanding interns from InclusiveU, including Gabby Iannotti, Ian Coe, Omari Odom, and David Ross.”

In addition to working on Sound Beat, InclusiveU interns have also spent time working in the Libraries’ Access Services, providing hands-on experience such as collecting browsed items and straightening the stacks. Laura Benjamin, Access Services Librarian, has encouraged the interns to share their unique skills and interests to identify special projects that are mutually beneficial, allowing the students to grow their skills while benefiting the department. For example, intern Gabby Iannotti had great attention to detail, so while working in Access Services she inventoried and organized the Libraries’ DVD collection, finding and remedying items that were misidentified. She also worked several checkout desk shifts, interacting with patrons while developing her communication and interpersonal skills.

As an art and music major, Ian Coe has a passion for music that he brought to the audio projects. One example was how Ian developed musical notes and direction to accompany Reservoir Year. “I have been involved with Sound Beat: Access Audio for two years, ” said Coe. “As creative consultant for the Reservoir Year audiobook, I started by reading and highlighting key passages. I shared my notes with Steve Koester, the musician who recorded an original soundtrack to accompany the audiobook. Then I listened to the soundtrack and picked out the best ones for each key passage.” While working in Access Services, he curated a Spotify playlist for each floor of Bird Library with music related to the topics shelved on that floor. Listening to the themed music Ian selected will provide other student employees an opportunity to think about the topics that are shelved on that floor and better familiarize themselves with where to find resources in the library.

Intern Omari Odom is a skilled artist and is using his talents to illustrate Access Services’ training materials. He has also illustrated select episodes of Sound Beat videos, including the 1938 film “Alexander Nevsky”, which recounts a 13th century prince’s rise to national heredom and is featured on SU Libraries’ Facebook page.

David Ross joined Sound Beat in 2019 as an intern in the third year of his InclusiveU program. He quickly demonstrated both a love and ability for writing, and by the end of his first semester had progressed to writing his first episode. He also developed a process for organizing necessary researched material prior to writing, which Sound Beat producer Jim O’Connor has lovingly dubbed “The Ross Method.” Today David joins Sound Beat as a graduate student employee, researching and writing scripts for broadcast.

Inclusive, People-Centered Design

Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars (LaunchPad) at Syracuse University Libraries has also benefited from a partnership with InclusiveU. Gianfranco Zaccai ’70 H’09, co-founder of Continuum (now EPAM Continuum) and the Zaccai Foundation for Augmented Intelligence (Intelligence++TM), provided the LaunchPad with a leadership gift to create an interdisciplinary program focused on inclusive
entrepreneurship and design. The new course, Inclusive Design Intelligence ++, is a partnership between the LaunchPad, InclusiveU, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA). It provides collaborative, cross-disciplinary teams with an opportunity to create innovative solutions to assist persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. The program will culminate in a design and entrepreneurship competition with $30,000 in prizes this spring.

The inclusive entrepreneurship and design course is taught by VPA School of Design professor Don Carr, with support from School of Education inclusive education assistant professor and executive director of the Taishoff Center, Dr. Beth Myers, and adjunct faculty member at Whitman and executive director of the LaunchPad, Linda Dickerson-Hartsock. Renowned global innovator and designer Zaccai serves as a mentor for the course. The two-semester program, taught in the LaunchPad at Bird Library, is available as an elective to both undergraduate and graduate students from any school or college at SU, including students with intellectual disability from InclusiveU.

“I am confident that this program will be revolutionary in stimulating brilliant students, educators, and researchers to deeply explore and meaningfully innovate a better future,” said Zaccai. “We have an opportunity to blend in-context research, people-centered design, and the strengths and skills of diverse people and disciplines in a way that can change the world for the better for people of all abilities and talents. We see the potential that a cross-disciplinary, multi-dimensional, innovative approach can bring to our society, and we want to propel young people to be at the forefront of developing real-world solutions.”

“By taking an inclusive design approach, we’re able to consider innovative ways to address a wide-range of challenges and in doing so unlock the potential of numerous individuals. Thanks to ADA (the Americans with Disabilities Act) legislation, there exists an awareness to create public spaces, services, transportation, and telecommunications that are accessible. However, the exploration of design ideas that address Intellectual Disability (ID) offers a new set of affordances to move beyond compliance and envision ideas that embrace an ever-wider range of opportunities,” said Don Carr.

“To my knowledge, this is the only program that integrates students from various disciplines with students with intellectual disability into collaborative teams to problem solve design solutions,” said Beth Myers. “Incorporating perspectives from all users and participants will most certainly result in an enhanced and sustainable user-focused experience.”
My wife Marcy and I lost a dear friend last year, Dr. Gay Culverhouse. Marcy and Gay were friends for more than 30 years, volunteering together, and focusing on philanthropy and social causes. Gay was a pioneer in education, sports, and medicine, and served as president of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1988 to 1994. She wrote a book, *Throwaway Players: The Concussion Crisis from Pee Wee Football to the NFL* and was at the forefront of raising this issue at the national level. Before taking over as president of the Buccaneers, she devoted nearly a decade of her life as a senior executive of the team when they were owned by her father, Hugh Culverhouse Sr. Before that, she earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in psychology from Columbia University with a focus on intellectual disabilities research. She was an adjunct faculty member at Columbia and held several major teaching and research roles throughout her career, including as a faculty member at the University of South Florida College of Medicine and later as president of Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio. Gay was also an accomplished entrepreneur and president of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. She was an advocate for retired football players with brain disorders that might have resulted from on-field concussions largely ignored by their teams. After tracking down former players who had become neurologically impaired, Gay testified in October 2009 at a House Judiciary Committee hearing on football brain injuries. She advocated for hiring independent doctors and led the charge to create and implement mandatory guidelines for sidelining players with concussions. She invested her own money to create the Gay Culverhouse Players’ Outreach Program, now known as Retired Player Assistance.

Honoring Gay’s memory with a gift made toward the LaunchPad’s Impact Award prize, a competition for social entrepreneurship, was in keeping with the work Gay did with football players and brain injury. She was focused on creating meaningful social impact and change and leaving a legacy that honors her life’s work seemed most fitting.

Marcy Kukul Armani and Carl Armani ’60

My brother, Robert (Bob) Ortwine graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1972. During his time at SU, Bob spent two summers taking courses in England and Russia (then the Soviet Union). After working for a year at SU, Bob relocated to Alabama where he earned a master’s in public administration at the University of Alabama and then pursued a career in the insurance industry. In 1990, Bob joined the Peace Corps, which took him to Poland, where for more than four years he lived and worked to aid that country’s post-Soviet Union economic development. After returning to the U.S., Bob lived in Miami and New Jersey, and then moved to Washington, D.C., where he earned a second master’s degree in international affairs at Georgetown University. Ever the traveler and scholar, Bob eventually moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he lived in semi-retirement while also teaching classes at a local elementary school. He died prematurely in June 2010.

Bob loved intellectual pursuits, and libraries in particular, and felt most comfortable reading and learning about politics, economics, and sociology. I wanted to honor Bob’s memory, and it seemed like a gift to Syracuse University Libraries was the perfect fit. We created the Robert Ortwine Gallery Endowed Support Fund. I think Bob would have loved leaving a legacy that helps to promote intellectual curiosity and discussion.

Bruce A. Ortwine ’75
Library collection development in 2021 is a rapidly changing and increasingly complex landscape. Over the past several years, distinct trends have emerged in academic libraries across the world: increasing user needs for online access, swift growth in the amount of information being published, changing use of library physical spaces, and the introduction of new and more complex acquisitions models. Syracuse University Libraries is also faced with these pressures and is incorporating new collecting strategies to build 21st century collections and better support the research, creative, and teaching needs of the University.

A newer business model coming out of the academic publishing world for library e-book collecting is evidence-based acquisitions, or EBA. The basic concept is that a library pays a deposit to a vendor in exchange for receiving access to a negotiated set of e-books during the EBA contract period. At the end of that period, the vendor provides usage data, and the library applies the value of their deposit towards selecting a portion of EBA titles to retain in perpetuity. Then, the library can choose to discontinue the program or re-enroll for a subsequent contract period with an additional deposit. In either case, the library retains perpetual access to the titles selected at the end of each EBA period.

Currently, Syracuse University Libraries is participating in three EBA programs:

- The Taylor & Francis Evidence-Based Selection program, added to SU Libraries in August 2020, provides access to all 129,000 titles from all imprint years on the Taylor & Francis e-book platform. This includes the major imprints Routledge and Focal Press in the social sciences and humanities, and CRC Press in sciences and medicine, as well as dozens of others. New titles are added regularly.

- The JSTOR Evidence-Based Acquisitions program, added to SU Libraries in February 2020, provides access to over 60,000 titles from imprint years 2018 and earlier from dozens of participating university and academic publishers. The absence of recent imprint years from the EBA program is part of the business agreement between JSTOR and the publishers. It enables libraries to pay lower access costs and have increased access to publisher backlist titles while still allowing publishers to preserve title-by-title perpetual access sales for their newer front list titles.
Libraries, and collection development and analysis librarians, take investment portfolio than acquiring a title-by-title list of assets. The collection development bears more resemblance to managing an investment portfolio than acquiring a title-by-title list of assets. In many ways, 21st century library collection development bears more resemblance to managing an investment portfolio than acquiring a title-by-title list of assets.

EBA programs provide several advantages and promising future outcomes for SU Libraries. First, they allow collection development librarians to delay the purchase until after a book has evidence of being used. This differs significantly from the well-studied, yet speculative decisions associated with anticipatory title-by-title book purchasing. Second, EBA title usage data is valuable for informing collection development strategies across the collections, not just for the narrower scope of selecting titles at the end of the EBA period. A third advantage, and one that has been distinctly impactful since the sudden shift to online learning in spring 2020, is the ability to gain access to a vast number of titles for a relatively modest deposit. Last year, with the start of the JSTOR and Taylor & Francis EBA programs, Syracuse University gained online access to over one-hundred thousand new titles not previously included in the Libraries’ collections. If those titles were acquired in print, the Libraries would not have the space to house them. They would fill the equivalent of an entire floor of Bird Library, or all floors of Carnegie Library. This expanded e-book access was especially timely while physical libraries across the country were closed due to the pandemic and physical interlibrary loan services were not available. The Libraries also intentionally duplicated tens of thousands of print titles in the stacks, facilitating the support of online learners without making the long-term commitment of double-buying content already owned.

The selection strategy for applying the deposit at the end of the EBA period can vary greatly from library to library. Collection development librarians consider multiple factors, including title-by-title usage statistics for current and prior years; collections support of diversity and social justice initiatives; duplication of print books already in the stacks; availability of titles in the EBA group in future years; and the context of content in the Libraries’ collections outside of the EBA titles.

EBA programs are still very new in the collection development landscape, and the Libraries regularly assess the value being received for collection expenditures. The transition from exclusively print collecting to predominately e-resource collecting has lasted well over fifteen years, precipitating the adoption of multiple new purchasing and leasing business models. In many ways, 21st century library collection development bears more resemblance to managing an investment portfolio than acquiring a title-by-title list of assets. The Libraries, and collection development and analysis librarians, take this responsibility very seriously when spending this portion of the University budget, and we are excited to see how well these new programs serve the needs of Syracuse University users.

The Libraries welcome feedback on e-books and other collections, as user input is a vital step in the collection development process. For questions, comments, or purchase suggestions, contact Anne Rauh, Head of Collections and Research Services at gerauh@syr.edu and the Libraries’ collection development and analysis librarians at colls@syr.edu.

“In many ways, 21st century library collection development bears more resemblance to managing an investment portfolio than acquiring a title-by-title list of assets.”

—Rachel Fox Von Swearingen, Librarian for Music & Performing Arts and Interim Collection Development & Analysis Librarian

Recent New & Notable Collections

- **Adam Matthew Digital** — Manuscripts, images, recordings, newspapers, diaries, government documents and correspondence, and other primary sources. The archives support research in multiple disciplines, including history, gender and sexuality, black studies, government and international relations, area studies, humanities, literature and drama, advertising, and more.
- **Bloomsbury Digital** — Books, images, reference tools, video, screenplays, and other sources. The various subject-based modules support research in food studies, sport and exercise, cultural history, architecture, fashion and design, popular music, and screen studies.
- **Geobase** — A new module of Engineering Village, GEOBASE includes the latest information on earth sciences, ecology, geology, human and physical geography, and environmental sciences.
- **Independent and Revolutionary Mexican Newspapers** — Newspaper titles from Mexico’s pre-independence, independence, and revolutionary periods, published between 1807–1929, digitized as part of a Global Press Archive (GPA) CRL Charter Alliance project. Syracuse University Libraries contributed funding to support this project and make the collections available open access worldwide.
- **Statista** — Data from both public and private sources related to a wide range of subjects, including consumers, digital markets, and companies; also includes forecasts, analysis, reports, and more.
- **Westlaw Edge** — Reference, insights, and tools for legal researchers. An update to Westlaw Paralegal.
Finding aids provide detailed descriptions of collections. SCRC Finding Aids (findingaids.syr.edu) help researchers on campus and around the globe discover collections available within Syracuse University Libraries’ SCRC. A curated list of new and updated finding aids of some of the most notable processed material from the past semester includes:

Activism and Social Reform
- American Indian Movement (Native American rights), 1 folder
- American Radicalism Ephemera, 2 posters added
- Benjamin Spock (pediatrician, peace activist, author), 1 folder correspondence added
- Impact Visuals photographs (social justice/protests)
- LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka (Black American poet, playwright, teacher), 1 item added

Architectural and Industrial Design
- George Nelson & Co., 0.5 linear ft. added

Broadcasting History
- Dick Clark, 50 linear ft. of manuscript material processed

Cartoons and Cartoonists
- Ed Arno, 1 folder
- Street & Smith Records, 50 linear ft. of scripts added

Illustration, Printing, and Publishing
- Bebe Miles (gardening author), 0.5 linear ft.
- Howard Moss (playwright), “Folding Green” script added
- J. Westbrook Pegler (journalist), 0.5 linear ft. of columns added

New York State History and Ephemera
- Farm Security Administration photographs, 2 folders
- New York State Printing and Publishing, 1.5 linear ft.
- Wendell Barnes (American attorney, head of Small Business Administration), 1 folder

New York State History and Ephemera: Central New York
- E. Thomas Billard (Vietnam), 0.5 linear ft. added
- Morton family, 0.5 linear ft.
- Porter family (Civil War), 0.75 linear ft
- Washington Family papers, 3 linear ft.
Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster
- Pan Am 103 Anniversary Collection, 4 folders added
- Patricia M. Coyle Family Papers Pan Am Flight 103, 3.75 linear ft. added
- Remembrance and Lockerbie Scholars Collection, 0.25 linear ft.

Plastics
- Alan Griffiths Soap Boxes (plastics), 3 linear ft./40 items

Religious and Utopian Communities
- Woestina Dutch Reform Church, 0.5 linear ft.

Syracuse University History
- 2003 Men’s Basketball NCAA Championship Collection, 2 items added
- Barbara Tagg Collection on the Syracuse Children’s Chorus, 0.25 linear ft. added
- Syracuse University Cyanotype Textile Collection, 1 folder
- Syracuse University Rugby Football Club Collection, 0.5 linear ft. added

Syracuse University History: Alumni
- Anne Laurentine Treacy Papers, 1 folder
- Attilio Mascone Papers, .25 linear ft.
- Donald Z. Terhune Scrapbook, 1.25 linear ft.
- Don Waful Papers, 7.5 linear ft.
- Helen Colette Yudin Ticket Book, 1 folder
- Howard G. De Voe Papers, 1 folder
- Isabel Dardet Slides, 1 folder
- Michael Neary Scrapbook, 0.25 linear ft.
- Muriel Helfenbein Photographs, 1 folder
- O’Brien Family Papers, 1 folder added
- William C. Carpenter Papers, 3 folders

Syracuse University History: Faculty, Departments
- Art Photography Seminar Portfolio, 1 linear ft.
- David K. Cheng Papers, 2.25 linear ft. added
- Stuart Gerry Brown, autobiography manuscript added

“The support I get from our Newhouse librarian is central to my teaching. The research tools provided and periodic presence in the classroom are essential to the projects I assign.”
—Kevin O’Neill, Professor of Practice-Advertising, Newhouse School

“Emma” and “The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills”

Sound Beat: Access Audio is providing two free family audiobooks written by Emmy Award-winning journalist Cheryl Wills ’89 (Newhouse), the great-great-great granddaughter of Emma and Sandy Wills, enslaved people from Haywood, TN.

Both stories offer important tales of triumph in the face of extreme adversity: “The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills” details Sandy’s journey from a slave plantation to a Union Army camp, then on to a new life as a free man. “Emma” would become Sandy’s wife, fighting for her freedom, her hope, and her dream of education for her family.

These productions are available as a gift from the Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center. Educational materials and discussion questions are included for educators and caregivers, designed to spark conversation and foster understanding for younger listeners.

Access the audiobook materials: soundbeat.org/sound-beat-access-audio

Cheryl Wills ’89
Emeriti librarians, like professors, have earned a mark of distinguished service upon retirement. Those honored with that distinction, like Pamela McLaughlin and Roberta Gwilt, have dedicated a portion of their lives to the Libraries. The early work of these two women, among many others, in transitioning the Libraries online positioned the Libraries to successfully provide virtual services throughout the pandemic.

Pamela McLaughlin G’80 began her career at Syracuse University Libraries in 1987 until her retirement in 2019. Across the course of her career at SU, she led various departments and functional areas, including electronic resources and document delivery, access and digital services, digital library development, and communications and external relations.

McLaughlin matured in her career during the advent of technology in libraries and was able to use her affinity for technology to develop both systems and services to assist librarians and users in becoming adept with new online resources. She negotiated licenses for the Libraries’ first online databases and played an integral role in implementing several key information systems, including the Libraries’ first website and graphical online catalog, digital asset management system, and interlibrary loan management system.

Roberta (Bobbi) Gwilt ’72 G’76 joined Syracuse University Libraries in 1978 and retired in 2019. Gwilt was instrumental in leading various functional areas over the course of her career. As head of the Monographs Unit, Gwilt contributed to moving the Libraries to an online catalog system. While Associate Dean for Access and Resource Management, Gwilt was influential in developing policies, deploying resources, and shifting some of the collections to the offsite storage facility.

In addition to their significant contributions to the Libraries, both McLaughlin and Gwilt were also committed to serving our One University. Over her three-decade career, McLaughlin served on numerous University committees and task forces, including the Council on University Communications, the University Web Design and Policy Committee, the University Committee on Copyright, the University Portal Advisory Group, the Academic Coordinating Committee, the Blackboard Advisory Group, the Chancellor’s Task Force on Information and Communication Technology, and the Senate Committee on Curricula.

Similarly, across her four-decade career, Gwilt served on several University groups, including University Senate and the Senate Committee on Diversity, the Committee on Services to Faculty and Staff, as well as Athletic Policy. She also participated on the team to restore and revitalize the Grand Reading Room in the Carnegie Library, she chaired the Libraries Steering Committee to write the Libraries strategic plan, Targets for Transformation 2000-2005, and she chaired the Scholarly Resource Management team.

Often times, it is the hidden work that happens years earlier that lays the foundation for an organization’s ability to succeed during challenging times. “The move from manual to electronic in the Libraries was the end of one era and the beginning of another,” said Gwilt. “The Libraries was the first place on the SU campus with a website. Being able to tell the Libraries’ technology story in the context of how changes impacted people made the transition meaningful,” said McLaughlin. The work of these two emeriti librarians to bring the libraries collections and information online highlights that.
Research Guides for Your Use:

Check out the Research Guides curated by SU librarians at researchguides.library.syr.edu. With 58 subject areas and numerous guides for specific courses and partnerships across the University, Research Guides provide the perfect starting point for your research and academic needs. New guides developed over the past semester include:

- ADV 615: Creative Brain (Spring 2021)
- CRS Small Group & Interpersonal Communication: Reference sources & APA citation (Fall 2020)
- ENG 406 Advanced Critical Writing: Life-Writing
- IST 101: First Year Forum (Fall 2020)
- IST 776: Research Methods in Information Science and Technology (Fall 2020)
- Learn@SUL!
- Music Scores & Sheet Music
- ORCID
- Orange Quest 2020
- Research Metrics Challenge
- SEM 100
- VIS 439/639 Visual Communications: Advanced Projects (Fall 2020)
This fall a new interdisciplinary exhibition opened on the 6th floor of Bird Library in the Plastics Pioneers Reading Room titled ‘Survival Kit: Provisions for Your Research Journey.’ Courtney Asztalos, Curator of Plastics and Historical Artifacts, led the collaborative team that curated the exhibition, including Jana Rosinski, Curatorial Assistant of the Plastics Collection and PhD student in Composition & Cultural Rhetoric, Lynn Wilcox, Design Specialist at Syracuse University Press, Ann Skiold, Librarian for Visual Arts, and Emily Hart, Science Librarian and Research Impact Lead.

The exhibition utilizes a selection of artifacts, documents, and photographs from the Edwin F. Bushman Papers, a mid-century plastics engineer, and the Plastics Artifacts Collection, to guide students and visitors through developing primary source-based research projects that dare to inquire into the unexpected. It centers around a “survival kit” that was made to attach to an airplane ejection seat and held survival supplies (such as a parachute and raft) to protect the pilot's life during an emergency. From the discovery of materials, to the unfolding of their analysis, this unique exhibition has been designed to function as a standalone resource for students, as well as a scaffold for instruction in any course that emphasizes primary source research. An artifact can be an object of inquiry even on its own, but in finding and articulating relationships among artifacts, a world emerges with its own history to tell.

“Our plastics-related collections are unique to Syracuse University, and I am excited for students to walk away empowered with skills for primary source research and the knowledge that these collections are available for them to engage with and interpret,” said Asztalos. “Immense potential exists within the Plastics Artifacts Collection in discovering untold histories and imagining new plastics futures. My hope is this exhibit will inspire students to follow their curiosities using this unique resource.”

The exhibition involved multiple design-intensive and interactive components created by Lynn Wilcox. Wilcox shared further insight into the design process stating, “The exhibition logo graphic was based on General American Transportation Corporation’s logo and the overall aesthetic and color scheme was inspired by the survival kit’s age, design and functionality.” The Plastics Pioneers Reading Room was transformed into a space that envelopes students in the collection and shows the potential for expanded research. Images from the survival kit’s “torture tests” in the desert were incorporated into the exhibition, and other components, including pop-outs and suggested student activities, were incorporated into the exhibition design so students can practice primary research skills on their own.

The Libraries are grateful to the Plastics Pioneers Association for their support of our plastics collections at the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). Their funding, including support for a graduate student position focused on plastics collection curatorial work, has enabled the plastics curatorial team to creatively share these unique resources.

SCRC is working with the Digital Library Program to create a digital version of the exhibition, as well as creating a virtual tour to immerse students in the environment of the exhibition. The exhibition will be on display throughout 2021. For more information about the plastics collections in SCRC, please visit https://library.syr.edu/scrc/collections/areas/plastics.php and plastics.syr.edu.
Supporting Innovators in our
Global Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Syracuse University Libraries Advisory Board members played a special role supporting the Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars (LaunchPad) this fall. New programming was made possible by Library Advisory Board members like Todd B. Rubin ’04, Jeffrey Rich ’67, Carl Armani ’60, Adam ’96 and Amy Fazackerley, and Josh Aviv ’15 G’17. Their gifts and mentorship directly supported students who are part of Syracuse’s innovation hub.

The LaunchPad serves faculty, staff, students, and alumni across all disciplines who are interested in learning about creativity, innovation, and venture creation. With a focus on inclusion and diversity, students develop personal and professional skills while working on startups. The goal of the LaunchPad is to equip the next generation of trailblazers in a global world with essential skills to succeed.

Rubin, the President and Minister of Evolution at the Republic of Tea, generously supported 18 student positions this academic year, enabling entrepreneurial students to engage as peer mentors, outreach ambassadors, and diversity and inclusion scholars. The students helped build a global community that proudly mirrors the rich diversity of our campus and promotes perspectives and solutions from different ethnicities, languages, races, religions, abilities and disabilities, gender identities, and socioeconomic status.

Jeffrey Rich, a partner at Rich Michaelson Magaliff LLP, provided a leadership gift to launch the SU Libraries Innovation Fund, which helps promising student ventures with out-of-pockets costs associated with product development, such as prototyping, market testing, legal or accounting services, patent work, third party testing, certification, or other specialized needs.

The LaunchPad hosts numerous competitions throughout the year, including its annual Impact Prize Competition in the fall. Carl Armani and his wife Marcy sponsored the Dr. Gay Culverhouse Award prize for this year’s competition. Josh Aviv created a new clean-tech award for a student startup tackling clean energy and climate change solutions. Aviv, the founder of SparkCharge, also generously donated his time mentoring student startups as the LaunchPad’s inaugural Alumni Entrepreneur in Residence. Aviv received national attention this fall when he scored a $1 million deal on the series opener of ABC’s Shark Tank.
Adam and Amy Fazackerley also led mentoring initiatives at the LaunchPad, from hosting Syracuse students for meetings with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to sponsoring their participation at national trade shows and conferences. They conducted mentoring workshops and employed LaunchPad students as interns.

Efforts like these contributed to the LaunchPad’s success, even amidst a pandemic. “Because of the generosity of donors like Todd Rubin, amazing mentors like the Fazakerley’s and Josh Aviv, and seed funding programs like Jeff Rich’s Innovation Fund, I was fortunate enough to experience the LaunchPad at SU Libraries as a student, mentor, founder, and now as a young alumnus. Gifts like these have a much wider impact than people realize, doubling the educational impact with an unparalleled student experience,” said Quinn King ’20.

“The Library is a gateway to an enormously rich set of databases; our subscription to the HathiTrust Digital Library and Ancestry Library Edition were especially valuable in researching my book on cartographic inventors. Because facts in books and journals constitute carefully organized wisdom on specific issues, the Library’s collection of print books is enormously useful for students writing theses and research papers. Browsing the physical shelves is often an exercise in serendipity—you can also browse the online catalog by topic and find items in off-site storage, which can be retrieved in a day or less, and even shipped to your address (local or otherwise). And if SU doesn’t have the book or journal, or if it’s checked out, the Interlibrary Loan people will get you the physical book or a photocopy of a journal article. Our map collection is a valuable resource, especially if you want to see how a place or region used to look many decades ago; I recommend it as an informative supplement to Google Earth. Bird’s collection of atlases can yield valuable insights to a wide variety of geographic relationships: physical, political, cultural, or economic. Paging through a printed atlas can be enlightening and fun—discovery usually is.”

—Mark Monmonier, Distinguished Professor of Geography & the Environment, The Maxwell School
Many librarians go into their careers because of their passion for information and desire to share that love of learning with others. So, it’s fairly common to find librarians spending much of their time teaching.

Whether hosting workshops for faculty or students, supporting the use of primary resources in the classroom, or teaching a class in one of the schools or colleges, you’ll find Libraries staff sharing their love of information and learning across campus.

This past fall, Kelly Delevan, head of information literacy, worked with librarians to offer a variety of virtual workshops throughout the semester. The Learn@SUL Series included introductory topics such as “Research Starting Points,” “Research for Beginners,” and “Literature Searching for STEM fields,” to more advanced or niche topics such as “Advanced Database Searching,” “Text Mining with Hathi Trust,” “Educational Resources for the School of Education,” “Enhancing Your Reputation and Visibility,” “Scholarly Articles and Exploring Different Types of Periodicals,” “Journalism Research,” “Research Tips for Non-English Literature,” “Saving and Citing Sources,” “Technical Writing,” “Scholarly Text, Images with Provenance and Context,” and “Rhetorical Source Analysis.” The live virtual Learn@SUL sessions will continue throughout the spring semester, with new topics being added.

In addition to the open or public workshops, Libraries staff are often called on to teach in specific courses. For example, professors across all schools and colleges ask our liaison librarians to teach classroom sessions focused on using library resources. Librarians also provide workshops for new faculty, Project Advance students, veteran students, and Honors students.

A few librarians have led the freshman-experience SEM 100 course. “I’ve really enjoyed getting to know our incoming freshmen and introducing them to our campus community and the Libraries,” said Giovanna Colosi, librarian for the School of Education and subject instruction lead, as well as SEM 100 instructor. Newhouse Librarian Michael Pasqualoni values insights gained when in touch with students well after a semester has concluded, or even beyond...
a student’s graduation. He says it is a thrill watching students carry some of that learning into their professional lives.

“Since I spend the majority of my time in the King+King Architecture Library with our architecture students and faculty, teaching SEM 100 allows me to interact with students from other disciplines,” said Barbara Opar, librarian for School of Architecture and SEM 100 instructor. And both Kelly Delevan, head of information literacy, and Patrick Williams, humanities librarian and digital and open scholarship lead, have taught Honors 100 in the Renee Crown University Honors Program for first year students as well.

Syracuse University regularly integrates adjunct professors who are practitioners in their field into teaching. When those adjunct professors happen to be Libraries staff, they bring added value of personal knowledge and experience of the resources available at Syracuse University Libraries. For example, Sebastian Modrow, curator of rare books and manuscripts in the Special Collections Research Center, has taught courses on the “History of Archives and Libraries in the Western World” for the Library Science Program at the School of Information Studies, as well as an “Introduction to Cultural Heritage Preservation” for the Museum Studies Program at the School of Design (cross-listed with Library Science). This summer he will be teaching a “History of the Book” class for the School of Information Studies. David Stokoe, conservation librarian in the Special Collections Research Center, regularly teaches “Preservation of Library and Archival Collections” in the School of Information Studies. Patrick Williams, humanities librarian, has developed and taught “Digital Humanities for Librarians, Archivists & Cultural Heritage Workers” in the School of Information Studies, as well as “Computing Culture,” a core class in the Arts and Sciences Digital Humanities Integrated Learning Major, and “Digital Research as Creative Play for Writing and Teaching,” taught at Minnowbrook for Project Advance teachers.

Librarians in the department of Learning and Academic Engagement often teach courses as well. John Stawarz, online learning librarian, teaches “Library Planning Marketing & Assessment” in the School of Information Studies. “Serving as an instructor for this class not only provides the opportunity for me to share my library experience with future librarians, but teaching online helps, as the online learning librarian, to better understand how SU Libraries could support online students, faculty, and programs,” said Stawarz. Natalie LoRusso, reference and user experience librarian, has previously taught “Human Centered Design” and “Human Computer Interaction” in the School of Information Studies. John Stawarz and Abby Kasowitz-Scheer, in addition to their master’s in Library Information Science also have master’s degrees in Instructional Design, Development, and Evaluation from SU’s School of Education. This has been especially valuable over the past year in helping the Libraries pivot to online learning due to COVID-19, such as when they worked with Natalie LoRusso to create an online learning guide for students in English Non-Native Language courses that offer students from other countries the opportunity to study listening, speaking, reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar within an asynchronous platform.

Even beyond the School of Information Studies, Libraries staff have been invited to teach courses in the Whitman School of Management and the Newhouse School of Public Communications. Linda Dickerson Hartsock, Executive Director of the Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars at SU Libraries, has taught “Venture Acceleration,” “Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises,” and “The Entrepreneurial LaunchPad.” In addition, she is co-teaching “Intelligence ++” with Don Carr in the School of Visual and Performing Arts and Beth Myers in the School of Education. And Cristina Hatem, Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications at SU Libraries, has taught “Public Relations Campaign Planning and Execution” at the Newhouse School of Public Communications.

“I wholeheartedly support Libraries staff teaching in various capacities across the University,” said Dean David Seaman, University Librarian and Dean of SU Libraries. “Teaching in the classroom and via workshops is a form of outreach that is second nature to the work we do at the Libraries. It provides our staff and librarians with an opportunity to interact with and support students and faculty, which is ultimately the goal of the Libraries and the mission of the University.”
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ORANGE QUEST 2020

In lieu of many of the in-person events normally offered throughout the semester, Syracuse University Libraries provided a variety of virtual events for students, faculty, and alumni this fall. One of those new events that the Libraries plan to offer annually moving forward was a virtual “Orange-themed” trivia and research competition. The second-place winner of the inaugural Orange Quest event was Aaron Partnow ’22, a junior in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, from Alaska.