Serve, Engage, and Inspire

Fact Sheet 2015

The University of Arkansas Libraries remain the intellectual hub of campus and the go-to place for research and discovery with more than 2 million visits last year. Students, faculty, and researchers have access to a collection of 2.4 million volumes, 5.5 million microforms, 64,969 journal titles, and 12,183 linear feet of processed manuscript collections.

In 2014-2015, the Libraries . . .

Worked with departments across campus to bring researchers important online collections, like Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), a compilation of every known book, pamphlet, and broadside printed in the UK or in English from 1685-1800 and African American Newspapers, 1827-1998, offering full-text access to 270 historically significant African-American newspapers from 35 states, offering a one-of-a-kind record of African American history, culture and daily life.

Collaborated on a digital exhibit, Fay Jones and Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architecture Comes to Arkansas with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. The exhibit examines the 10-year intersection in the lives of notable architects Fay Jones and Frank Lloyd Wright, from 1949 until Wright’s death in 1959. It has garnered national attention, with write-ups in Hyperallergic and ArchDaily, a weblog highlighting architectural news and projects and one of the most visited architecture sites on the internet.

Hosted a daylong celebration of the legacy of former professor Mary Celstia Parler, during the celebration of the opening of the digital Ozark Folksong Collection. The collection is massive, the largest of its kind in the country, and includes more than 4,500 audio files that have been listened to already more than 13,000 times. These songs and transcripts in this collection preserve the rich musical legacy of the Ozark Mountains and makes it available to the world. The project was funded from grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Happy Hollow Foundation, along with support from the Mary Hudgins Music Endowment.

Brought Award winning independent cartoonist Keith Knight as the guest speaker for 2015’s Black History Month. Knight presented his socio-political slideshow: They Shoot Black People Don’t They: A Cartoonist’s Look at Police Brutality in the Walton Reading Room. Knight’s illuminating presentation was a call to reflect on recent police shootings, but also took look at the trajectory in history, from Rodney King in 1991 to the present.

Offered prime exhibit space in the high-traffic University Information Commons area of Mullins Library for artists to exhibit their work. Fine art exhibits this past year included “Descriptive Abstractions” by Sharon Killian, “Al Norte al Sur: Latino Life in the South” by Jose Galvez, and “black lace.arrangements” by Angela Davis Johnson. The Libraries have been hosting fine art exhibits since 1995 and have become a sought-after gallery for local, regional, and emerging artists.