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More Than a Job

By Jill Markgraf, markgrjs@uwec.edu

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McIntyre Library could not function without the work of student employees. Library faculty and staff have long valued the contributions of our student employees, but only recently have we begun exploring the value to students of working in the library. A survey of 92 student employees who have worked at McIntyre over the past five years was recently conducted, and the preliminary results provide some interesting insights.

When asked what skills students learned or developed while working at McIntyre Library, the top responses were attention to detail, customer service, the ability to work independently, and research skills. These were followed by communication, interpersonal and organizational skills.

When asked how they refer to their library work experience in subsequent job or internship interviews, respondents cited several of the aforementioned skills. Others provided examples of how their work

in the library helped them learn about workplace etiquette, such as getting along with a variety of colleagues and supervisors, and developing a sense of professionalism. Additionally, several talked about the opportunities they had to obtain supervisory and problem-solving experience. "I got to choose how I accomplished things, if there was more than one way to do the task," wrote one respondent. Some respondents, particularly those pursuing careers in librarianship, reflected on the value of gaining library-related knowledge and skills.

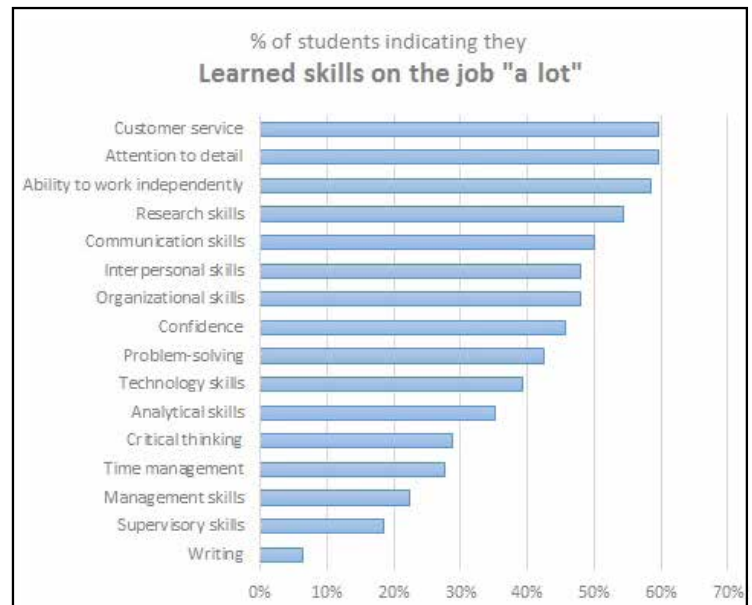
This brought us to another point we were interested in. We

have long suspected, as have others on campus who employ students, that the student work experience often influences a student's future career path. We asked survey respondents if they had enrolled in, or ever considered enrolling in, a graduate program in library science. We then asked those who responded affirmatively (59%) if they had been thinking about it before working at McIntyre Library. Fifty-eight percent responded no.

This data suggests that the library student work experience plays a role in directing student employees toward a career in librarianship. The goal of this work experience is not to produce the next generation of librarians, but rather, provide students with valuable experiences regardless of their career paths.

McIntyre Library has been working closely with the Financial Aid office and Career Services in leading campus initiatives to maximize the

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McIntyre Library Launches Book & Film Club

By Eric Jennings, jenninge@uwec.edu

McIntyre Library and the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library (LEMP) recently launched a book & film club, “UW Meets EC.” During January 2015, attendees read the book “Divergent” by Veronica Roth and discussed it over coffee and cookies in McIntyre Library. One week later the book & film club ate popcorn and watched the 2014 film adaptation starring Shailene Woodley at LEMPL. Both libraries hope to continue this partnership this summer and fall. Information will be posted on the library’s blog (<http://mcintyrenews.blogspot.com/>) if you would like to participate.

Due to the success of UW Meets EC with library faculty and staff, McIntyre Library is looking to start a leisure reading book club for faculty and staff on campus. If you are interested in being part of a campus book club, contact Eric Jennings at 715-836-4076 or jenninge@uwec.edu.

More Than a Job

(continued from front page)

student work experience by participating in the development of a series of campus workshops for student supervisors. Simultaneously, library staff are implementing practices to help students see the connections between their work experiences and their education and help them recognize and articulate more fully the value of those experiences. One student survey response effectively demonstrates how working in the library can be articulated in such a way to be compelling to any potential employer. This student talked about “being ok with not knowing what questions you will get asked when working, knowing where to look for answers, or being ok with asking for help. Overall being self-sufficient.” Knowingly or not, this student has identified a sweet spot where liberal education and work experience intersect.

The Excitement is Building for the New Honors Commons

By Ivy Gerbis, bohnleib@uwec.edu

The university Honors Program, which just celebrated its 30th anniversary, is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth and success. Over the past five years, Honors has developed into one of the university’s signature programs. In fall 2009 there were approximately 370 Honors students on record, and they could choose from 10 Honors colloquia and electives. In fall 2014 the program had 602 students on the books, and their options included 30 Honors courses.

This remarkable growth has put increased stress on the current Honors Program facilities in Schneider Hall. While students enjoy the cozy environment, it has become increasingly common to see students unable to find an open computer or even a space to sit and work. The time has come to graduate to a larger, more functional space—the new Honors Commons.

Honors Director Jeff Vahlbusch credits Director of Libraries John Pollitz with the “visionary suggestion” to bring Honors to the McIntyre Library. Creating a new Honors space in the library makes perfect sense, says Vahlbusch, because “the library is at the center of campus geography and at the center of campus intellectual life.” The Honors students agree, citing the many hours they already spend living in the library. The move will give them access to all of their essential resources in one place.

The new Honors Commons, on the second floor of the library, will have a design that fits seamlessly with its neighbor, the Center for Writing Excellence. It will provide a new center and focal point for activities in



the Honors Program, and its open and inviting design will encourage students to use both the Honors and the library space. The student Commons space will be more than double the size of the current Honors lounge and will include moveable furniture designed to promote conversation and teamwork.

Vahlbusch explains, “The Honors Commons will give us a place for students to get to know each other, to build community, and to engage in collaborative intellectual and transformative social work.” The new space also will include Honors administrative and program offices and a workspace for Honors faculty to hold office hours and meet with their students. The new space will enable planned and chance meetings between students and faculty with unexpected and exciting outcomes.

The new Honors Commons will contribute to the energy and vitality of McIntyre Library’s already wonderful space, while also enabling Admissions to highlight the new facilities in their tours and outreach materials for prospective students. The university Honors Program is looking forward to a long and successful partnership with McIntyre Library!

Recent Acquisitions in Popular Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and DVDs

Popular Fiction and Nonfiction

As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust: A Flavia de Luce Novel

Alan Bradley
PR9199.4.B7324 A9 2015

The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher: Stories

Hilary Mantel
PR6063.A438 A6 2014

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

Atul Gawande
R726.8 .G39 2014

The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution

Jonathan Eig
RG137.5 .E34 2014

Blue Horses: Poems

Mary Oliver
PS3565.L5 A6 2014

The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel

Cristina Henríquez
PS3608.E565 B66 2014

Boy, Snow, Bird: A Novel

Helen Oyeyemi
PR6115.Y49 B69 2014

A Brief History of Seven Killings: A Novel

Marlon James
PR9265.9.J358 B75 2014

Brown Girl Dreaming

Jacqueline Woodson
811.54 W8687b 2014

Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir

Roz Chast
NC1429.C525 A2 2014

Dataclysm: Who We Are (When We Think No One's Looking)

Christian Rudder
BF176.5 .R83 2014

The Daylight War*

Peter Brett
PS3602.R4583 D39 2013b

Dept. of Speculation

Jenny Offill
PS3565.F383 D47 2014

The Desert Spear*

Peter Brett
PS3602.R4583 D47 2011

Everything I Never Told You: A Novel

Celeste Ng
PS3614.G83 E94 2014

Euphoria

Lily King
PS3561.L4814 E87 2014

The Farmer and the Clown*

Marla Frazee
E F8697f 2014 (IMC Children's Book)

The Girl on the Train: A Novel

Paula Hawkins
PR6108.A963 G57 2015

How to Cook Everything Fast: A Better Way to Cook Great

Mark Bittman
TX833.5 .B547 2014

I'll Give You the Sun

Jandy Nelson
Fic N3342i 2014

In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette

Hampton Sides
G530.J37 S53 2014

Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*

Mindy Kaling
PN6165.K35 I8 2011

Killing Patton: The Strange Death of World War II's Most Audacious General

Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
E745.P3 O74 2014

Leaving Time: A Novel

Jodi Picoult
PS3566.I372 L43 2014

Lila: A Novel

Marilynne Robinson
PS3568.O3125 L55 2014

Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's "Learned"

Lena Dunham
PN1992.4.D86 A3 2014

The Opposite of Loneliness: Essays and Stories*

Marena Kegan
PS3611.E3335 A6 2014

The Paying Guests

Sarah Walters
PR6073.A828 P39 2014

(Continued next page)

Recent Acquisitions (continued)

Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights

Katha Pollitt
HQ767.5.U5 P65 2014

Redeployment

Phil Klay
PS3611.L4423 A6 2014

The Rosie Effect: A Novel

Graeme Simsion
PR9619.3.S497 R665 2015

The Sacrifice

Joyce Carol Oates
PS3565.A8 S33 2015

Some Luck: A Novel

Jane Smiley
PS3569.M39 S66 2014

Stone Mattress: Nine Tales

Margaret Atwood
PR9199.3.A8 S86 2014

Us: A Novel

David Nicholls
PR6114.I27 U7 2014

The Warded Man*

Peter Brett
PS3602.R4583 W37 2010

We Were Liars

E. Lockhart
Fic L8114w 2014

What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions

Randall Munroe
Q173 .M965 2014

Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite

Suki Kim
PE64.K45 A3 2014

Worthy Fights: A Memoir of Leadership in War and Peace

Leon Panetta and Jim Newton
E840.8.P34 A3 2014

Written in My Own Heart's Blood: A Novel (Outlander)

Diana Gabaldon
PS3557.A22 W85 2014

Yes Please

Amy Poehler
PN2287.P565 A3 2014

10% Happier: How I Tamed the Voice in my Head, Reduced Stress without Losing My Edge, and Found Self-Help that Actually Works – A True Story

Dan Harris
BF161 .H29 2014

DVDs (located on the 2nd floor)

22 Jump Street*

PN1997.2 .T932 2014

Alfred Hitchcock Thrillers (Suspicion / Strangers on a Train / The Wrong Man / I Confess)*

PN1997.A1 G72 2009

The Birds*

PN1997 .B5 2012

Boardwalk Empire Seasons 1-4*

PN1992.77 .B63

Boyhood

PN1997.2 .B69 2015

Captain America. The Winter Soldier*

PN1997.2 .C365 2014

Captain America: The First Avenger*

PN1997.2 .C364 2011

To Catch a Thief*

PN1997 .T6 2007

Downton Abbey Season 4

PN1992.77 .D69 2013

Friday Night Lights*

PN1997.2 .F75 2004

Gone Girl

PN1997.2 .G65 2014

Guardians of the Galaxy*

PN1997.2 .G83 2014

Game of Thrones Season Three*

PN1992.77 .G36 2013

Titanic*

PN1997 .T573 2012

The Wolverine*

PN1997.2 .W658 2013

X-Men*

PN1997 .X54 2000

X-Men: Days of Future Past*

PN1997.2 .X53 2014

X-Men: First Class*

PN1997.2 .X54 2011

X-Men: The Last Stand*

PN1997.2 .X55 2006

X-Men Origins: Wolverine*

PN1997.2 .X56 2009

X2: X-Men United*

PN1997.2 .X7 2003

*Items marked with an asterisk were selected by the McIntyre Library Student Advisory Board.

From the Director's Desk

By John Pollitz, pollitjh@uwec.edu



When thinking about what I should write about in this semester's offering, I had ruled out discussing the current proposed cuts to the UW System but these cuts are consuming almost every conversation in the library and across campus. In February I had the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA) annual Library Legislative Day. I make a habit of going to these events so I can remind our elected officials how important libraries are to the lifeblood of our state. This year took on added significance because of the looming budget cuts and because of my role as President of WLA. This year we had 205 librarians walking the halls of the capitol bringing our message to legislators. There was some good news to be had that day. Governor Walker's budget maintained funding for Badgerlink, the statewide collection of databases with free access for all Wisconsin citizens. The budget also maintains funding for the library systems which support public libraries around the state. We also carried the message that the proposed cuts to the UW System were too large, and we asked our legislators to work to mitigate the enormity of those cuts. Every legislator that I spoke with understands the importance of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to our region and the importance of the UW System to our state. It was clear that the

efforts of Chancellor Schmidt had made an impression on both sides of the aisle. I left with a hope that things would be better by the time people read this issue of *Off the Shelf*.

There is more good news from McIntyre Library. In the fall issue I wrote that we established the McIntyre Library Student Employee Scholarship. Beginning next fall we will be awarding a \$250 scholarship to one of our outstanding student employees. We sent out a call for donations last December and have already raised over \$1,200. Many current and retired library staff rallied to our cause because they know how great our student employees are and how integral they are to our library services. We even had a few donations from our friends who had worked in the library when they worked here as undergraduates. We continue to accept donations through a convenient link available on the library homepage or from this secure URL, <https://connect.uwec.edu/library>.

I am also happy to report that the McIntyre Library Student Advisory Board began meeting regularly this fall. The students have had an immediate impact. On their advice we moved the location of our DVD collection to a more visible spot to increase the circulation of that collection. To update the DVD collection, we gave the board an allocation to purchase new popular

movies. From all I hear the movies they bought are very popular. We can't keep them on the shelves for more than a day.

Finally, we are in the process of remodeling the first floor of the library. We have had a small windfall because the UW System is temporarily paying for two important research databases. This gives us the opportunity to use one-time funds to make our facility more appealing and efficient for student research. The Student Government Information Technology Commission understood the need for new computer workstations and collaborative pods. They have pledged to match our funds. We hope to be able to show pictures of our renovated space in the fall issue of *Off the Shelf*.

While McIntyre Library is planning for budget reductions in our state funding in the upcoming biennial, we remain focused on student learning and student success. We will continue to innovate and strive to provide the best possible service to campus. We will continue to focus on making our space comfortable for students, providing valuable resources, and serving as a cornerstone to our students' educational experience.

Alma

By Kati Tvaruzka, tvaruzke@uwec.edu

In March 2014 it was announced that UW System's 26 campuses and the Wisconsin State Historical Society had chosen ExLibris's Alma as the shared library services platform for all UW System libraries. Alma, a cloud-based service designed to provide for greater user efficiency and collaboration, will replace the current Voyager software system, which the UW System libraries have had since 1999. The Voyager system served not only to support library circulation, cataloging and materials acquisitions, it was also the main public search engine for library resources. Over the past few years Voyager was integrated into Library Search (Primo), a one-stop-shop for the discovery and delivery of all material types—print, electronic, and digital—regardless of format and location.

Since this announcement, a small crew of dedicated McIntyre Library

staff have had made it their priority to prepare for Alma's implementation, doing their best to make the transition to the new system as seamless as possible for our users. Because Alma will also be integrated into Library Search, for the most part library users will not notice a change as this is primarily a "back-end" upgrade, although there will be minor interface improvements associated with the transition. Alma does, however, impact all areas of library operations, including UW system borrowing, circulation, acquisitions, and online searching. UW System libraries will go-live with Alma on May 20, 2015, so please watch for future announcements about service interruptions and upgrades.

If you have questions about the changes, contact Kati Tvaruzka, head of access services and UW-Eau Claire's Alma representative at 715-836-4522 or tvaruzke@uwec.edu.

Too Much Research, Too Little Time?

By Todd Vandenberg, vandenrt@uwec.edu

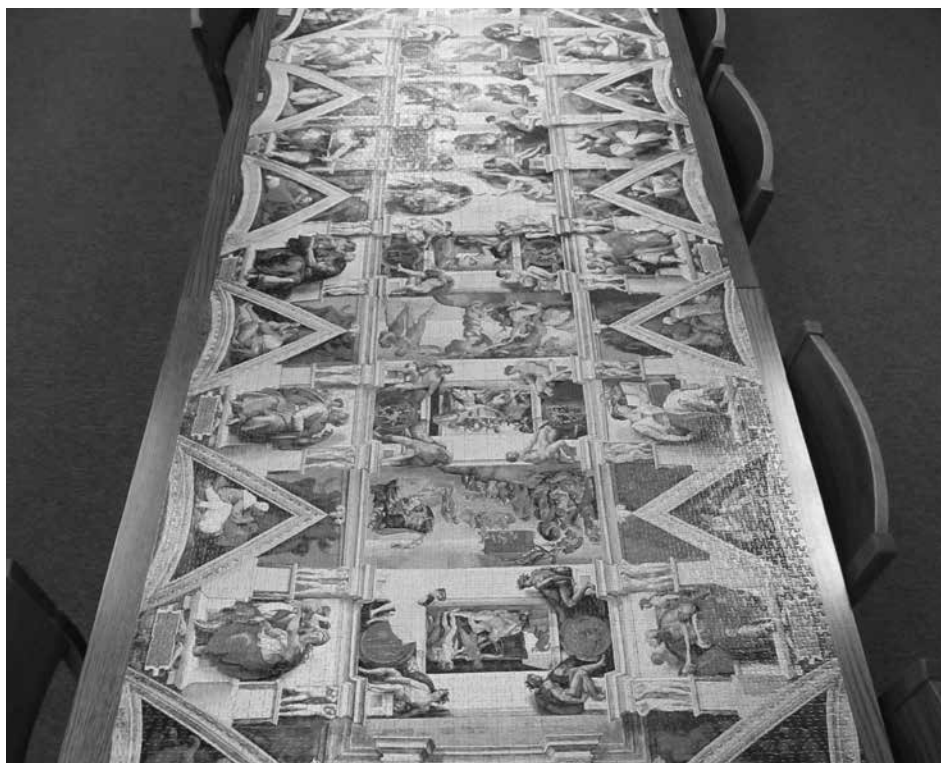
The journal *Nature* recently highlighted in its "News Blog" a study indicating that scientific output across the globe doubles every nine years or so. While the study they cite has significant caveats, "for the beleaguered academic, it all counts as more stuff to keep track of." Sorting through such an enormous body of knowledge can feel like trying to clear an avalanche with a snow shovel, even with the help of powerful subscription databases.

One underutilized tool for helping researchers, faculty and others filter and track new information is RSS. Rich Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication, RSS was created at the turn of the millennium as a single format for syndicating content on the web. This format is known as a "feed," a kind of document containing summaries or abbreviated descriptions to stories and other information, with links to the full version. One or more feeds can be organized for easy review using a feed aggregator. The most common aggregators are email readers (such as MS Outlook), web browsers, and specialized RSS feed reader software. These tools are simple to use and can effectively track a variety of different online information resources, including:

- News, weather and current events
- Blogs
- A journal's table of contents
- Job boards

RSS feeds are also a great way to watch for new research publications, as many databases allow you to turn your searches into a feed. For a demonstration of how to use this resource, watch the YouTube video at <http://bit.ly/155sDmC>, contact the library at 715-836-3858 or library.reference@uwec.edu. We would be glad to help you set up RSS feeds to make tracking new and emerging research simpler and less time-consuming.

¹Van Noorden, Richard. (2014, 7 May 2014). Global scientific output doubles every nine years. Retrieved from <http://blogs.nature.com/news/2014/05/global-scientific-output-doubles-every-nine-years.html>



Pictured above is an 8,000 piece puzzle completed by students and staff at McIntyre Library.

McIntyre Library Celebrates



20 Years of Giving

By Jill Markgraf, markgrjs@uwec.edu

For 20 years library faculty and staff have been buying rice for community members in need. Through an annual holiday giving project initiated and coordinated by the McIntyre Library Staff Association, a voluntary social organization comprised of library employees, the library has been raising funds to support those served by the Eau Claire Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (HMAA) rice pantry. This year's efforts raised almost \$1,300. Over the past 10 years—as long as records have been kept—almost \$10,000 worth of rice has been purchased and distributed.

The project took root years ago when library staff decided that rather than exchange gifts with each other at the library's annual holiday party, they would prefer to give gifts to people in need. Aware of the difficulties faced by many recent Hmong refugee families in the area, they decided to buy gifts and food for the HMAA. The HMAA is a social service agency that serves the local Hmong community by operating a rice pantry and assisting in housing, employment and translating services. The agency also

works with other area services to assist the local Hmong community.

Over the years, it became clear that the biggest need was rice. The HMAA Rice Pantry provides Hmong families with their basic sustenance. As the library project focused on purchasing rice, others in the Eau Claire and university community got wind of the fundraiser, and asked if they could also contribute. The staff fundraiser was expanded, and it now accepts donations from all who are interested. The project has matured in other ways in recent years, adding the option to donate online through the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation or deposit cash in a donation box in the library during November and December. What has not changed is that every penny donated buys rice. The HMAA estimates that a donation of \$20 can feed a family of five for a month. This year's annual fundraiser will begin in November.

For more information about the HMAA, visit <http://www.ecahmaa.org>. For information about the library giving project, visit <http://libguides.uwec.edu/hmaagiving> or contact Jill Markgraf at 715-836-5357 or markgrjs@uwec.edu.

Thank you to our donors

The following donors contributed to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation McIntyre Library Funds since September 2014.

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Kathleen and Mark Attermeier
Jodi A. Baglien-Sparkes
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Sally A. Webb
Ursula A. Whicher
Donna R. Wical
Stephanie H. Wical

Support McIntyre Library

Your gift to McIntyre Library will enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable library resources. There are several ways that you can support the library's outstanding learning environment.

- The McIntyre Library Associates Fund (0210) provides funding for print, multimedia and electronic collections; leisure reading; listening and viewing collections (gifts of any amount).
- The Library Advancement Fund (1182) provides funding for cultural programming and art exhibits, technology, furnishings, artwork and purchases that enhance the library building and its services (gifts of any amount).
- The McIntyre Library Special Collections Fund (1882) supports our work in preserving the history and traditions of the university (gifts of any amount).
- Other funding opportunities support various collections, provide furnishings, ensure preservation and digitization of collections, and replace and upgrade the equipment in our teaching lab. For complete details, see: www.uwec.edu/fndn/programs/library.htm

Thank you for considering a gift to UW-Eau Claire's McIntyre Library. For more information about McIntyre Library or our specific needs, visit the McIntyre Library website, e-mail Library.Director@uwec.edu or call 715-836-3715.



NSDC

I wish to support McIntyre Library through my tax-deductible gift.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ Foundation Code _____

(Please make check payable to UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.)

I wish to make a pledge to be fulfilled over a period of up to five years. Please have a member of the Foundation staff contact me.

I wish to make my gift using electronic funds transfer on a monthly or quarterly basis. Please have a member of the Foundation staff contact me.

My employer (or my spouse's) will match this gift. Employer _____

There are several options for designating your gift. See the information above or online at www.uwec.edu/fndn/programs/library.htm

Undesignated funds will be credited to the Library Advancement Fund (1182).

Submit donations to:

UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Inc.
Schofield Hall 214, 105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004.

Give online at: www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm

Questions?

- Visit the McIntyre Library website
- e-mail Library.Director@uwec.edu
- call 715-836-3715

Staff News

Brad Gehrke has moved from the research and instruction department to library systems department effective March 1. **Congratulations, Brad!**

Erin Kriener, a former limited-term employee in access services has accepted the position of equipment checkout and course reserve supervisor. **Congratulations, Erin!**

Julie Hatfield, a former limited-term employee in special collections and archives, has accepted a position as a part-time archives assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in their archives and area research center. **Best wishes, Julie!**

Off the Shelf

A newsletter from McIntyre Library
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Comments and suggestions about Off the Shelf are appreciated. Print copies are distributed midway through each semester to faculty and academic staff, with online copies available to all at www.uwec.edu/Library/aboutus/offtheshelf/.

Kelsey Patterson, editor