Words matter.

UW-Eau Claire’s 2025 Strategic Plan challenges us to be bold leaders in equity, diversity, and inclusion. Backing up our words with action can mean looking at the words we use.

In 2020, UW-Eau Claire libraries, in collaboration with our UW System library partners, issued a Statement of Solidarity wherein we pledged to work within our campuses and broader communities to foster respect, highlight injustice, amplify oppressed voices, and bring understanding.

In keeping with that pledge, the libraries are addressing the language used in our shared catalog. Our libraries, like most academic libraries in the United States, rely on the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) as the authoritative list of controlled vocabulary to describe and make discoverable library content. LCSH allows us to engage in collaborative work and shared databases, to provide researchers with a consistent search experience across libraries, and to aid in updating and maintaining bibliographic records. While there is a process for suggesting changes and additions to the language used in LCSH, the process can be slow, and sometimes controversial.

Such has been the case with the term “illegal aliens” in LCSH. The UW System libraries regard the terms “illegal” and “alien” as dehumanizing and offensive when used to describe people, and the presence of these terms as standardized subject headings in our library catalogs undermines our efforts to be inclusive and non-nativist. National efforts began in 2014 urging the Library of Congress to update and remove these terms from LCSH, but these efforts got embroiled in controversy and politics, prompting libraries to act on their own. UW-Eau Claire libraries have been working with other libraries and library systems across the country to address this issue by replacing these terms with more inclusive, accurate, and far less dehumanizing terms.

The local solutions are more complicated than simply searching and replacing old terms with new terms. Libraries are employing workarounds that both maintain integrity of our bibliographic data and minimize disruption for researchers, while still deemphasizing offensive language.

University of Wisconsin libraries developed a process for mapping subject headings so those containing the term “aliens” would display “noncitizens” instead, and subject headings containing the phrase “illegal aliens” would display “undocumented immigrants.” The process allows for the official LCSH terms to still be searchable, as they remain in the staff-side bibliographic data. But the alternative updated terms are the ones that appear in the public catalog records.

While we believe that the language we use to describe our collections should reflect common usage and sensibilities, libraries are not attempting to rewrite or obscure history. Titles and abstracts containing the objectionable terms will not be changed. Similarly, our digitized historical and archival collections often contain language, images, and ideas that may now be considered offensive. To address this issue while still retaining the historical integrity of these collections, many libraries are developing harmful language statements to accompany and acknowledge the presence of offensive content in digital collections. McIntyre Library’s statement can be viewed at https://library.uwec.edu/spaces-collections/digital-collections/about/.

Just as UW System libraries prepared to implement its LCSH work-around, the Library of Congress on November 12 announced—after a seven year process—that it would be officially replacing the problematic subject headings with the terms noncitizens and illegal immigration. But the work of UW System libraries in confronting and addressing longstanding norms is not all for naught. As we continue to evaluate our professional practices, this effort will serve as a roadmap for addressing other outdated and offensive descriptive words used in online catalogs. Because we understand that the words we use matter.

Jill Markgraf,
Library Director
THE DIGITAL STUDIO IS NOW OPEN!

By Liliana LaValle, lavalle@uwec.edu + Kate Hinnant, hinnanks@uwec.edu

It’s been a busy fall in the Digital Studio. Almost immediately upon opening in September, students and staff took advantage of our new spaces.

The Digital Studio consists of four dedicated studio spaces—one for video and photography, two for music and sound, and one for virtual reality—as well as the Digital Commons, a space for collaborating or working at individual stations equipped with dual monitors and high-speed computers.

On October 14, we held an open house, inviting everyone into the studios to try out the equipment. In the Large Audio Studio, visitors played the guitar, bass, drums, and keyboards and recorded their impromptu jam sessions. Downstairs in the digital studio rooms, participants could play with lighting and green screens, record an interview, and immerse themselves in the virtual reality game, Beat Saber.

In the Commons, students and staff also collaborated on a shared drawing using our digital drawing tablets. Faculty who attended the open house talked about assigning projects like podcasts and short videos to showcase their students’ research and creative skills. Now that our studios are equipped and our computers loaded with software for creating and editing, we are excited to see our students and staff create and express themselves in new and compelling ways.

A fundamental principle behind the creation of the Digital Studio, and behind libraries in general, is equitable access. We believe every student should have the opportunity to try out a mirrorless camera or lay down tracks using a professional-grade mixing board. But this equipment, and the related software, is too expensive for many of our students to own personally. All Blugolds should get the chance to develop their digital skills and create and communicate in a variety of media. Through our equipment checkout, and the equipment available in the Digital Studio, our students can tap into equipment and software that will serve their digital creation needs.

For more information >> uwec.ly/digitalstudio

Partial funding for the Digital Studio is provided by the Student Information Technology Committee (ITC).

Students interacting with Liliana, digital learning librarian, in the Commons area

A student playing Beat Saber in the Virtual Reality Studio

A Digital Studio student intern, Samuel, demonstrating the equipment in our Large Audio Studio

A student rocking out on one of the guitars in the Large Audio Studio

A student talking with Kong, our photography expert, about the Photo / Video Studio
My name is Helena Sumbulla, and I am delighted to begin working as the student engagement librarian at McIntyre Library. I moved to Eau Claire from a small Chicago suburb where I grew up. I got my B.A. in English and psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and because I loved the cornfields so much, I decided to get my Master's in library and information science from the same institution. I am looking forward to not only some shifts in elevation but to working with the dedicated students, faculty, and staff at UW-Eau Claire.

Prior to this position, I worked in a public library in Urbana, IL, for three years and served as a residence hall library supervisor at the University of Illinois while completing my graduate degree. It was during this time that my commitment to public service, equitable conditions, and a critical approach to librarianship was reaffirmed. This lens helps shape my role as a student engagement librarian, where I design and manage outreach programming targeting underserved student populations. To do so, I collaborate with other campus units such as Residential Life, Blugold Orientation, Honors, and various identity-based centers on campus. I have an interest in EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) initiatives and try to model lifelong learning by destabilizing the idea of being an “expert” while honoring our individual knowledges. In addition to my particular responsibilities, I will be joining my colleagues in providing library instruction, reference service, and liaising with other campus departments. My specific liaison areas include psychology, nursing, political science, and criminal justice.

Outside the library, you can find me gardening, rock climbing, playing board games, visiting the farmer’s market, trying my hand at Kubb, and embroidering—all within proximity to a cup of tea. Given the many outdoor recreational activities the Chippewa Valley offers, I’m looking forward to hopping on a bike, kayak, or tube and exploring some of the many trails and rivers in the area. I love poems, restaurant reviews, live music, and hidden local gems—recommendations for any of these are welcome and encouraged!

Please feel free to stop by my office (Library 1001C) or email me at sumbullh@uwec.edu if you have any questions or just want to say hello. I look forward to chatting with you!
Fall 2021: Reopened and Refreshed

UWECBC Library staff spent the majority of summer 2021 reopening, rearranging, and refreshing library spaces. As we welcome students, faculty, and staff back into these updated spaces in the fall of 2021, we look forward to showcasing a number of exciting new library resources and events:

- Student-designed library displays
- Library programming, including therapy dog events
- A growing equipment checkout collection including expanded student laptop access
All titles can be found in the Popular Reading Collection on the second floor of McIntyre Library.

**Act Your Age, Eve Brown**
Talia Hibbert
PR6108.I24 A28 2021

**Animal: A Novel**
Lisa Taddeo
PS3620.A288 A83 2021

**Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted**
Suleika Jaouad
RC643 J35 2021

**Billy Summers: A Novel**
Stephen King
PS3561.I483 B55 2021

**The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War**
Malcolm Gladwell
D790 .G534 2021

**Bridgerton: The Duke and I**
Julia Quinn
PS3617.U57 D85 2020

**Broken: (In the Best Possible Way)**
Jenny Lawson
PN4874.L285 A3 2021

**The Children’s Blizzard: A Novel**
Melanie Benjamin
PS3608.A876 C48 2021

**Crying in H Mart: A Memoir**
Michelle Zauner
ML420.Z3913 A3 2021

**Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty**
Patrick Radden Keefe
HD9666.94 .K444 2021

**Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II**
Daniel James Brown
D769.31 442nd .B76 2021

**Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship**
Catherine Raven
QL737.C22 R3897 2021

**Godspeed: A Novel**
Nickolas Butler
PS3602.U876 G63 2021

**Great Circle**
Maggie Shipstead
PS3619.H586 G74 2021

**The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country**
Amanda Gorman
PS3607.O59774 H55 2021

**¡Hola Papi!: How To Come out in a Walmart Parking Lot and Other Life Lessons**
John Paul Brammer
HQ75.8.B7245 A3 2021

**Hour of the Witch: A Novel**
Chris Bohjalian
PS3552.O495 H68 2021

**House of Sticks: A Memoir**
Ly Tran
FL28.9.V53 T73 2021

**The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue**
Victoria Schwab
PS3619.C4848 I58 2020

**Klara and the Sun**
Kazuo Ishiguro
PR6059.S5 K57 2021

**The Lazy Genius Way: Embrace What Matters, Ditch What Doesn’t, and Get Stuff Done**
Kendra Adachi
BJ1496 .A33 2020

**Life's Too Short**
Abby Jimenez
PS3610.I47 L54 2021

**The Lost Apothecary**
Sarah Penner
PS3616.E56477 L67 2021

**The Maidens**
Alex Michaelides
PR6113.I2645 M35 2021

**Malibu Rising: A Novel**
Taylor Jenkins Reid
PS3618.E5478 M35 2021

**The Midnight Library**
Matt Haig
PR6108.A39 M53 2020

**The Nature of Fragile Things**
Susan Meissner
PS3613.E435 N38 2021

**Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgment**
Daniel Kahneman
BF447.K34 2021
Of Women and Salt  
Gabriela Garcia  
PS3607.A721833 O38 2021

The Other Black Girl: A Novel  
Zakiya Dalila Harris  
PS3608.A783293 O85 2021

Out of Many, One: Portraits of America’s Immigrants  
George W. Bush  
ND1329.B865 A4 2021

The Paper Palace  
Miranda Cowley Heller  
PS3603.O88945 P37 2021

People We Meet on Vacation  
Emily Henry  
PS3608.E5715 P46 2021

Piranesi  
Susanna Clarke  
PR6103.L375 P57 2020

The Plague Year: America in the Time of COVID  
Lawrence Wright  
RA644.C67 W75 2021

The Premonition: A Pandemic Story  
Michael Lewis  
RA644.C67 L49 2021

Project Hail Mary: A Novel  
Andy Weir  
PS3623.E4324494 P76 2021

The Push: A Novel  
Ashley Audrain  
PR9199.4.A9244 P87 2021

The Sanatorium: A Novel  
Sarah Pearse  
PR6116.E169 S26 2021

The Secret Keeper of Jaipur  
Alka Joshi  
PS3610.O6786 S43 2021

Somebody’s Daughter: A Memoir  
Ashley C. Ford  
E185.97.F689 A3 2021

Sooley  
John Grisham  
PS3557.R5355 S66 2021

Sunflower Sisters: A Novel  
Martha Hall Kelly  
PS3611.E452 S86 2021

The Survivors  
Jane Harper  
PR9619.4.H3645 S87 2021

The Sweetness of Water: A Novel  
Nathan Harris  
PS3608.A7832635 S94 2021

Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don’t Know  
Adam Grant  
BF441.G693 2021

We Begin at the End  
Chris Whitaker  
PR6123.H556 W4 2021

While Justice Sleeps: A Novel  
Stacey Abrams  
PS3601.B746 W48 2021

While We Were Dating  
Jasmine Guillory  
PS3607.U48553 W48 2021

The Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried To Make Her Disappear  
Kate Moore  
HN80.P23 M66 2021

World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments  
Aimee Nezhukumatathil  
QL791 .N425 2020

Ebooks

Ebooks are available online at: uwec.ly/library  
Search for the title in Library Search, then log in with your UWEC username and password for access.

Caste: The Origins of our Discontents (ebook)  
Isabel Wilkerson

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (ebook)  
Matthew Desmond

Know My Name (ebook)  
Chanel Miller

Tuesdays with Morrie (ebook)  
Tuesdays with Morrie (audiobook)  
Mitch Albom
Updates from the Blugold Makerspace

“If you’ve got a hobby, you can find it in the Makerspace.”
- student testimonial

After a yearlong hiatus, we reopened the Blugold Makerspace with regular walk-in hours for fall 2021. Open Monday through Friday, Makerspace staff are working with students who are seeing the space for the first time, as well as many who have returned to continue their projects.

One such student began 3D printing pieces before the pandemic and has now also utilized our new Trotec laser cutter and engraver to create a fantastic art installation about pesticides and the impact on bee populations. This installation will soon be on display in the library’s 24-hour area on the first floor.

Since its arrival in fall 2020, we’ve learned a lot about the capabilities of our new laser cutter and are constantly testing new projects. Popular creations so far include intricate paper designs for our button maker, engraved acrylic ornaments, and custom light pieces. The laser cutter is also a useful tool for several art classes including sculpture and graphic design. But all UW-Eau Claire makers are welcome to schedule an appointment with Makerspace staff to learn how to use the equipment for their own classes or projects.

With the holiday season fast approaching, many students have also been stopping by to work on gifts for friends and family. Recently, a student used one of our reclaimed records to draw a design from a favorite album of a friend. On the back, they included the lyrics to the friend’s favorite song from the album. Heartwarming projects like these are a near daily occurrence in the Blugold Makerspace.

Since reopening, we have had nearly 500 visits by students and staff this semester! For more information, equipment specifications, and hours >> uwec.ly/makerspace
Audiobooks now available

By Roxanne Backowski, backowrm@uwec.edu

Is Caste on your to-read list? Perhaps you were inspired to read Chanel Miller’s book, Know My Name, after she spoke to the UW-Eau Claire campus through the Racing for Justice series? Or maybe you are a student looking for a copy of Tuesdays with Morrie because your instructor assigned it?

All students and employees of the UW System now have access to these books and others via Libby, powered by OverDrive, in the University of Wisconsin’s OverDrive collection.

Not familiar with Libby? Libby by OverDrive is a digital library app. Using the Libby app or a browser, students and staff can check out exciting ebooks and audiobooks, both fiction and nonfiction. Public libraries also commonly provide access to books in the OverDrive collection through this app.

How did this come about? One would guess the COVID-19 pandemic and online courses might be the main reason for this new resource, and to some extent, it is. In addition, according to resource sharing data, the most requested items between UW campuses are for popular fiction and nonfiction books.

As a result, the University of Wisconsin System invested in a two-year pilot subscription to Libby/OverDrive with the goal of decreasing high-use items continually moving between campuses and to build a shared collection. An initial bundle of titles was selected for the UW System collection, and campuses will continue to add titles. Libraries try to purchase an ebook and audiobook copy of each title for maximum accessibility and to accommodate user preferences. Nearly all titles are listed as “1 copy available.” This means the digital copy can be used by only one user at a time, and libraries must purchase multiple copies if a title is in high demand, a restriction set by publishers.

Don’t have time to sit down and read a book? Audiobooks are an especially great format since they allow for multitasking, a bonus being that they are often read by the author! Suddenly, you might be devouring books while driving, cooking, doing a puzzle, walking the dog, or even mowing the lawn with your noise canceling headphones.

Learn more about ebooks or audiobooks via this OverDrive guide and as always, reach out to library staff for help.

New Vendor + Software

By Roxanne Backowski, backowrm@uwec.edu

A major shake-up to our book acquisitions workflows happened over the summer.

After years of using GOBI, an EBCSO product, ProQuest is the new primary book vendor for the UW System Libraries and Rialto is the new selection and acquisition software.

Our librarians now use the Rialto marketplace to view print and ebook offers based on title searching, curated topics, recommendation feeds for subject areas, and data on usage and predicted fit. Then, they send carts to our acquisitions and content coordinator, Carrie Butler Becker, to purchase, replacing many emails threads.

Since Rialto lives within Alma, our integrated library system, our workflows have become more seamless and efficient. Overall, we’ve found the Rialto user interface to be intuitive and easy to use.

Reading Explosion

The Popular Reading Collection takes off!

2019

260 checkouts

2021

649 checkouts

Over the last few years, our Popular Reading Collection has been, well, popular! Checkouts continue to climb as readers discover our new and popular titles. Peruse the collection and find your new favorite book—located on McIntyre Library’s second floor.
We converted eight existing single-stall men’s and women’s restrooms to single-user, all gender restrooms. The library’s first all gender restrooms were converted in 2009, and with this conversion, we now have ten all gender restrooms throughout the library!
Roxanne Backowski, assistant professor and electronic resources librarian, with UW-Eau Claire colleague, Avonlea Hanson, Learning & Technology Services, presented “Embracing Crisis-tunity: Cross-Departmental Collaborations with Librarians and Instructional Designers” at the UW System Learning Technology Development Council (LTDC) Virtual Conference in June.

Backowski also presented as part of a webcast panel with library colleagues Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, Cornell University, and Scarlet Galvan, Grand Valley State University, “Cultures of Collecting: Sustaining Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Collection Development” through the Association of College and Research Libraries in May.


Backowski, Liliana LaValle, digital learning librarian, and Kate Hinnant, head of communications and instruction, presented “Stop Sharing TMI: Applying Plain Language Principles to Database Descriptions” June 3 at the 2021 Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries Conference.

Brad Gehrke, library systems, and his girlfriend, Kristin, are celebrating their 10-year anniversary on October 31. Congratulations, Brad and Kristin!

Kate Hinnant presented “Disinformation and Librarians,” detailing conceptual and civic challenges librarians face in the context of current information disorder, at the Lake Superior Libraries Symposium, June 11.


Jill Markgraf, library director, and Dan Hillis, library systems and Makerspace coordinator, had their article “The ‘stone soup’ approach to creating a library makerspace” published in College & Undergraduate Libraries, DOI: 10.1080/10691316.2021.1880347

Markgraf was also elected vice president of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library Board of Trustees and has been appointed to the Inspiring and Facilitating Library Success (IFLS) Library System Board of Trustees. Congratulations, Jill!

Kati Morley, education & instruction librarian, was married in a small lakeside ceremony this August. Congrats, Kati and Eric!

Jenna Vande Zande, user services and communications, purchased her first home in August. She is thoroughly enjoying homeownership and gardening!

Kong Yang, user services, and his wife, Betty, welcomed their second son, Bruce MeHer Yang, in July. His big brother, Clark, totally adores him. Congratulations, Kong and Betty!

CURRENT STUDENT EMPLOYEE NEWS

Julia Nelson, a new student employee in Special Collections & Archives, is also completing a public history internship with us this semester. For her internship, Julia is processing an addition to the Tess Osonye Onwueme Papers, an archival collection focused on the literary career of UW-Eau Claire professor emerita, Dr. Tess Onwueme. Julia is interested in pursuing graduate education in public history and library and information studies following her anticipated graduation in spring 2022.

Alexis Polencheck, main desk student assistant, along with fellow Blugolds, Breida Torres Berumen and Wendy Villalva, presented “Rural Voices/Voces del Campo: COVID-19 Oral Histories, Public Health, and Latinx Immigrant Farmworkers in Rural Wisconsin” at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Eau Claire this September. Congrats, Alexis!
There are many ways that you can support the library’s outstanding learning environment, programs, and collections. For information about the library or our specific needs, email library.director@uwec.edu or call (715) 836-3715.

Donate online at https://connect.uwec.edu/library

Thank you for considering a gift to UW-Eau Claire's McIntyre Library!

Thank you to our donors!

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The Off the Shelf newsletter is published fall and spring semesters for faculty and friends of McIntyre Library, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI 54702

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Find the current issue online at: https://library.uwec.edu/about-us/off-the-shelf/