Sophomores Mary Garlick (top right), Emily Hollstegge (bottom right), Rebecca Wiese (top left) and Lexi Simmerson (bottom left) study nursing and early childhood education together on the first floor of Alden Library on March 31, 2022.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

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### ABOUT THE COVER

Sophomores Mary Garlick (top right), Emily Hollstegge (bottom right), Rebecca Wiese (top left) and Lexi Simmerson (bottom left) study nursing and early childhood education together on the first floor of Alden Library on March 31, 2022.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

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**Contributing Writers:** Tresa Randall, Morgan Spehar, Kate Mason, Neil Romanosky

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**BY-THE-NUMBERS**

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<th>User Growth</th>
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**OHIO Library Total Questions:** 8,889  
**Total Presentations:** 318  
**Group Presentation Attendance:** 8,421  
**Event Attendance:** 20  
**Total Attendance:** 8,889

**4,000 records updated**  
Each year, librarians and staff add materials to the Libraries’ ALICE Catalog to meet scholarly needs both locally and globally. In recent months, thousands of print materials have been made available digitally, with full-text access through HathiTrust, a depository of over 200 global libraries.

Unique materials previously unavailable online, especially digital archives, manuscripts and historic printed photos and documents, are being digitized and made available worldwide for scholarly research.

**2,642,803 pageviews**  
**76,204 users**

**318 group presentations** were given  
**20 events** were held

**Group presentation attendance**

**Event attendance**

**Total Attendance**

**8,889 questions were responded to by staff**

That’s about 238 entrances a day

**4,795 more digital issues were made available**

**3,008 pageviews** through Jan. 2022

**261 Student Expo presentations hosted**

**92% 8%**

**UNIQUE DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**

**LIBRARIES GENERAL COLLECTIONS**

**BY-THE-NUMBERS**

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**Ohio University Libraries Academic Year 2020-21 At-A-Glance**

**749,977 pageviews**

**430,744 visits**

**133,839 users**

**705,683 pageviews**

**76,204 users**

**Total Questions**

**Presentations**

**OHIO Open Library**

**Libraries Website**

**The Post (1970s-1990s)**

**Libraries Online Guides**

ALICE Catalog

**Total works in repository by year**
Welcome to the Libraries’ new online publication of our annual magazine, “Gatherings.” In this issue we are highlighting a new initiative called Innovate + Collaborate, which honors some of the exceptional collaborative projects between the Libraries’ staff and other OHIO faculty and staff. This initiative not only furthers academic excellence, but also supports innovative programs that advance teaching, learning and research across the University.

We are also highlighting Gladys Bailin, emerita and distinguished professor from the School of Dance, who in 2019 established the Alvin Nikolais/Murray Louis/Gladys Bailin Archive Fund to preserve and promote access to these unique dance collections for use by researchers in years to come. Told through a documentary video, “An Interview with Gladys Bailin,” the content stems from the digital collections of the Gladys Bailin Papers, Alvin Nikolais and Murray Louis Dance Collection, University Photographer Archive, Bailin’s personal collection and Bailin’s 2020 oral history interviews.

Finally, for those who have not experienced working and studying inside the Libraries during this past year under the pandemic, we are offering a visual glimpse of students at Alden Library in a photo essay. I hope you enjoy reading and seeing what OHIO students, librarians and staff are saying and doing outside the classroom.

Thank you for your support of Ohio University Libraries.

Sincerely,

Neil Romanosky, Ph.D.
Dean of University Libraries
By Dr. Tresa Randall

A tireless champion of dance as an art form, Gladys Bailin Stern has inspired generations of dancers with her keen wit, amiable humor and discerning eye. In her endeavors as a performer, choreographer, teacher, administrator and mentor, she is perennially creative, rigorous and energetic. In this interview, Bailin reflects on her early training in New York City with dance legend Alwin Nikolais, her international career as a performer and choreographer, and her impact on the School of Dance at Ohio University. As Bailin recounts, when she studied with Nikolais at the Henry Street Playhouse in the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was experimenting with a new form of dance modernism, which emphasized abstract movement concepts and gave movement, sound and light equal importance on the stage.
Even among a brilliant group of young dancers who brought Nikolais’ new ideas to life, Bailin stood out with her musicality and her impeccable sense of motion. She lent her own movement ideas to Nikolais’ creative process, originating roles in all of Nikolais' groundbreaking works of this period. For more than 20 years, she performed professionally with the Alwin Nikolais Dance Company, Murray Louis Dance Company, Don Redlich Dance Company and as a freelance soloist touring nationally and internationally, performing on television, and appearing in the most respected dance festivals.

Ohio University was fortunate that Shirley Wimmer, founder of the School of Dance, recognized Bailin’s talents as a teaching artist and invited her to join the faculty in 1972. Bailin profoundly shaped the curriculum, giving the School of Dance a national reputation for a diverse curriculum centered on composition as a rigorous creative activity and a conceptual approach to movement. By creating innovative dances — alternately abstract, light-hearted and deeply moving — for herself, her students and professional dancers, she provided an abiding model of curiosity and commitment. Her work has been funded by four fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and has been performed across the country.

Bailin provided key leadership for the academic study of dance in the 1980s and 1990s, a time of enormous growth for dance in higher education, and has served as an onsite accreditor of higher-education programs for the National Association of Schools of Dance. She became the director of the School of Dance in 1983, serving until 1995. In 1986, she was the first woman to be named a Distinguished Professor of Ohio University, an honor that recognized the breadth and depth of her accomplishments in the field.

Gladys Bailin, photography by Alfred Kloke.
Most of us thought that the COVID-19 pandemic would be over by now. Back in March 2020, no one expected that masks would still be mandatory in classrooms and multiple variants of the virus would emerge by 2022. But by now, Ohio University students are used to living with uncertainty and have gamely accepted the ever-changing health and safety policies.

Since the building's reopening in August 2020, first in a limited capacity, then fully in August 2021, students in all majors and programs are visiting Alden Library.

Some students prefer environments with background noise and choose to study in common spaces like the CoLab on the third floor. Others enjoy studying in silence in "the stacks" of books on the top two floors. They visit the Libraries to study for upcoming exams, work on group projects, use private study rooms and take advantage of the whiteboards and computers scattered throughout all seven floors of Alden Library.

Whether just stopping in between classes or settling in for a long-haul research session, students often have favorite nooks where they enjoy working. Some can be found in their favorite chair by the window or at their favorite table every day of the week.

Students can make appointments with librarians to get more in-depth help with their research projects and can schedule time in the Mahn Center if they need to work with archival materials. The friendly (masked) faces at the desks on the second and fourth floors of Alden are often available to help students find and check out books and view the Libraries' material in-person.

Since the pandemic began, librarians and staff have increasingly made themselves available for students through video platforms like Microsoft Teams, email and the Libraries' online chat function. Research and study help is now offered both online and in-person, making it even more accessible.

The new OHIO Guarantee+ Program, which was implemented this year, ensures that most freshmen are introduced to the Libraries from the beginning of their college careers. Through the program, students learn about the resources, like online databases and the Libraries' print collections that can help them be better researchers and learners. Studying at Alden helps keep many students focused and organized, but the Libraries also likes to keep campus life fun. In fall 2021 and spring 2022, many of the Libraries’ annual events and celebrations returned in-person for the first time since the pandemic began.

From Camp Alden in the first week of the semester to Finals by Alden during finals week, these events help students destress and take a break from their courses by roasting s’mores, crafting art buttons and visiting with therapy dogs, just to give a few examples.

The following photos illustrate how students have studied, researched, relaxed, collaborated and learned with University Libraries throughout the 2021-22 school year. We hope you enjoy hearing from the Libraries' staff and the students themselves as we look back on a year of coming back and discovering new things at the Libraries.
Aug. 26, 2021: Ohio University Libraries always kicks off the year with Camp Alden, an evening filled with fun activities inside and outside of Alden Library. New and returning students alike are welcomed to the Libraries for the new school year with games, prizes and treats like roasting marshmallows to make delicious s’mores.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

Aug. 26, 2021: For new students, Camp Alden is an opportunity to get introduced to the Libraries and explore Alden through a scavenger hunt. Here, freshman music therapy major Colin Smith blows out a flame on his marshmallow while making s’mores outside of Alden Library. Many Camp Alden activities take place on the steps outside of the fourth-floor entrance.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries
Oct. 19, 2021: For students who prefer to work alone, Alden Library offers a variety of fun seating options to choose from. Mitchell Mollison, a freshman journalism major, fills out his planner for the week while sitting in a swiveling “egg” chair with a smooth white sphere on the outside and a cozy green alcove inside.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries
Nov. 17, 2021: This academic year, coming to the Libraries looks a little bit different than in years past. There are now many signs in Alden reminding students to wear masks, maintain social distancing and keep health policies front of mind. These signs have become part of the background fabric of the University’s Athens campus.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

Aug. 14, 2021: Nicholas Barr, an undeclared freshman, works on his laptop on the seventh floor of Alden Library. OHIO librarians and staff took advantage of the shift to working remote during the pandemic to create robust virtual resources. For example, subject librarians and archivists worked with faculty from each major to create online tutorials and resources for the new OHIO Guarantee+ Program, which in part, teaches all first-year students how to use the Libraries’ resources.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

Nov. 16, 2021: Seniors in environmental health sciences, Amaka Mokwunge (right) and William Bloomfield, work to analyze data from a soil composition lab to determine the make-up of the nutrients in a soil sample.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

(Left) Aug. 14, 2021: Nicholas Barr, an undeclared freshman, works on his laptop on the seventh floor of Alden Library.

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Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

(Right) Nov. 16, 2021: Seniors in environmental health sciences, Amaka Mokwunge (right) and William Bloomfield, work to analyze data from a soil composition lab to determine the make-up of the nutrients in a soil sample.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries
Students can check out much more than just books from Alden Library – many students come in to use model skeletons! Some of the skeletons have been dubbed “Sam” and “Steve.” Kevin McDonald, a freshman pre-nursing major, uses one to study for an upcoming anatomy test.

The rows and rows of bookshelves that fill the sixth and seventh floors of Alden are often referred to as “the stacks,” and they are frequented by students who enjoy studying in quiet environments. Molly Krannitz, a senior English and pre-law major, studies on the seventh floor next to a window that looks out over the Athens campus.

Students come to Alden Library for a little bit of everything. Carolyn Wasylenki (left), a sophomore studying anthropology and sociology, visits the Libraries almost every day and likes to use different study spaces on each floor. Deontae Brown, also an anthropology major, checks out bones to study for his courses and uses the Libraries’ resources for his research. “Right now, I am studying human evolution. Most of my hours are spent memorizing the different bones based on how they look [in order] to be able to classify and name them,” said Brown.

Ryan Spellman, library support specialist, often works at the Libraries’ service desks on the second and fourth floors of Alden. Part of his job includes solving problems around the Library, such as this jammed pay-to-print machine. During the pandemic, some staff’s roles expanded to include jobs like monitoring the building capacity through hourly headcounts or enforcing masking and distancing policies.
Nov. 15, 2021: Gabbie Phillips (center) and Lydia Pack (right), both freshman in pre-nursing, are being tutored in anatomy by Diamond Decker (left). Phillips usually comes to Alden Library in the evenings because of her busy class schedule, and she especially enjoys using CoLab and the Libraries’ whiteboards during her study sessions.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

Oct. 19, 2021: Many students enjoy brainstorming, writing out study guides, or taking a break and doodling on the mobile whiteboards spread throughout Alden Library. Alissa Alexander, a freshman biology pre-professional student, uses a whiteboard to write out math problems while studying with friends on the fourth floor.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries

Sept. 23, 2021: Sophomores Grace Potter (left), a marketing major; Nick Newman, an economics and finance major; Jackson Bell, a marketing major; and Hershel Carrillo-Klein, a sport management major, prepare a J.P. Morgan classroom presentation inside a study room on the second floor of Alden Library. The study rooms have been available for group studying since August 2021, but masks are required for safety.

Photo by Billy Schuerman/Ohio University Libraries
Button-making often returns at the end of the semester during Finals by Alden. Samantha Tackett (left) and Sarah Romer, juniors in wildlife and conservation biology, hold up buttons they made on the fourth floor of Alden Library. “I like bats and frogs,” Romer said. “I’ve worked with amphibians in my labs, and I also volunteer at the Wildlife Rehab Center, where we get a lot of bats in.” One of Romer’s buttons features a bat hanging upside down over text.

The therapy dogs traveling around OHIO’s Athens campus are some of the most popular pups around. Spending time with the dogs helps students manage their stress, and it’s a pretty good deal for the dogs too. “Dug,” the therapy dog, is often scratched by several students at once during his visits to Alden Library for Finals by Alden.

Finals week can be a stressful time of year for OHIO students, so librarians and staff at University Libraries offer Finals by Alden, an annual week-long series of events during finals week that are meant to help students reduce some of their exam anxiety. Pictured here, Lauren Johnson, a freshman in biology, scratches therapy dog, “Penny,” as part of Finals by Alden.
As new initiatives arise from the Libraries Strategic Plan, the Libraries’ staff looks toward new and innovative ways to connect, collaborate and sustain to meet the needs of future generations yet to come. Supporting the OHIO community both in person and virtually, the Libraries has been continually adapting to student and faculty changing use behaviors around collections and services to support teaching, learning and research. Below are statistics that reflect our work.

**BY-THE-NUMBERS**

**Total Questions**
8,889 questions were responded to by staff

**Presentations**
318 group presentations were given
20 events were held

**The Libraries had approximately 87,000 Alden entrances from 2020-2021**

That’s about 238 entrances a day

**Libraries Website**
749,977 pageviews
430,744 visits
133,839 users

**Libraries Online Guides**
for research tips of specific OHIO disciplines
705,683 pageviews
76,204 users

**The Post (1970s-1990s)**
4,795 more digital issues were made available

**OHIO Open Library**
261 Student Expo presentations hosted

**Mahn Center online tutorials were used 1,800+ times in response to remote learning**

**UNIQUE DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**

Each year, librarians and staff add materials to the Libraries’ ALICE Catalog to meet scholarly needs both locally and globally. In recent months, thousands of print materials have been made available digitally, with full-text access through HathiTrust, a depository of over 200 global libraries.

Reparative metadata to support diversity, equity and inclusion: 4,000 records updated

Unique materials previously unavailable online, especially digital archives, manuscripts and historic printed photos and documents, are being digitized and made available worldwide for scholarly research.

**TOTAL WORKS IN REPOSITORY BY YEAR**

- 2018: 43
- 2019: 50
- 2020: 72
- 2021: 1,907
- 2022: 1,915

**UNIQUE DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**

3,008 pageviews through Jan. 2022
Ohio University Libraries is excited to celebrate the first year of a new initiative called “Innovate + Collaborate: Celebrating the Libraries’ Partnerships.” Meant to honor and highlight some of the outstanding collaborations between those at the Libraries and faculty and staff across campus, the initiative officially started in 2020-2021.

Successful collaborations are essential to the Libraries’ ability to support teaching, learning and research at Ohio University. Engaging with colleagues across campus ensures librarians and staff are offering the materials and services that faculty and students need to be successful.

“Innovate + Collaborate” is a way to celebrate the impact of collaboration. “Almost everything we do in the Libraries is done in partnership with students, faculty and staff— with a focus on enabling their success,” said Dr. Neil Romanovsky, dean of University Libraries.

The Libraries first officially began recognizing collaborations during an event titled “First Draft,” which started in 2017. The event series didn’t initially honor partnerships of objects or artifacts that were the focus of collaborations but was meant to showcase the creative and impactful ways that librarians and faculty were working together.

When the event series first started, faculty and staff from across the University were invited to eat, socialize and discuss opportunities for collaboration with the Libraries’ staff. Posters about successful partnerships and objects or artifacts that were the focus of collaborations were on display for everyone to see.

By the “First Draft” event held in September 2019, there was a shift to honoring partnerships. “[In fall 2019] we started formally honoring some of the faculty who had worked with the librarians, in part because we wanted to say thank you to those people for being good partners,” Dr. Kelly Broughton, assistant dean for research & education services said. Then in 2021, after the event series went on a brief hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, librarians and staff created “Innovate + Collaborate” to recognize some of the most impactful collaborations of the past year.
Each of these partnerships and projects further academic excellence, teaching, learning and research across the University. For example, Dr. Jennifer Fredette has worked for the past few years with librarians Paul Campbell, subject librarian for the social sciences, and Dr. Miriam Intrator, special collections librarian, to incorporate lessons on research and critical thinking skills, as well as primary resources, into Fredette’s Law & Colonialism course.

“In every year we’ve just been able to identify more and more varied materials in our collections that are relevant to the course,” Intrator said. “It’s also grown from one class meeting into five [sessions] every semester. There’s always something interactive. There’s always discussion and conversation.”

Together, they help students complete an archival research project over the course of the semester, which requires them to engage with primary resources, secondary resources and materials in Archives and Special Collections.

“I’m so much more confident that the students have a better sense of the themes that the course is trying to impart because they feel such a sense of ownership over this project,” Fredette said. “They see themselves as helping to create knowledge, and it all becomes part of a larger academic conversation… and that’s empowering for them.”

In addition to enhancing student learning, that collaboration resulted in being awarded the 1804 Special Library Endowment Fund to purchase new materials for the Libraries’ collections that provide a fuller picture of colonialism by telling the stories of both the colonizers and the colonized.

“That project is a good example of a way that a traditional instruction collaboration with a subject librarian can bloom or evolve into something that’s larger and more impactful than the typical collaboration,” said Broughton.

For the first official iteration of “Innovate + Collaborate: Celebrating the Libraries’ Partnerships,” six collaborative projects were honored in 2020-21: the Sustainability Film Series, which provides free documentary screenings to the public; Pages from the Past, a 3D printing initiative that created models of three of the Libraries’ Mahn Center artifacts; the Biblia Latina and Latin Tutorials, which are five interactive Latin and manuscript tutorials for students; OHIO Open Library hosting of MFA Theses, which made MFA students’ work more accessible; the One Button Studio offered in Alden Library for faculty and staff to easily create professional video and audio recordings; and the Law & Colonialism Course, where librarians and faculty created an in-depth research experience for students.

“Every year we’ve just been able to identify more and more varied materials in our collections that are relevant to the course,” Intrator said. “It’s also grown from one class meeting into five [sessions] every semester. There’s always something interactive. There’s always discussion and conversation.”

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“That project is a good example of a way that a traditional instruction collaboration with a subject librarian can bloom or evolve into something that’s larger and more impactful than the typical collaboration,” said Broughton.

The 2021 selection committee awarding the honorees included Broughton, Chad Boeninger, head of user services and business librarian; Janet Hulm, assistant dean for collections and digitization strategies; and Dr. Katy Mathuews, senior director of administration. The team looked to honor projects and partnerships that connected users to resources,
empowered research and creativity, sustained the classroom experience and advanced student learning. The 2020-2021 awards were also the first year that the Libraries looked beyond faculty collaborations and honored partnerships that connected the Libraries with other entities on campus. The One Button Studio, for example, was the result of a collaboration between University Libraries and the Office of Information Technology. “That’s another way that this has evolved,” Broughton said. “This year’s iteration of honoring those partnerships includes some of our best collaborative efforts with administrative staff across campus, not just faculty...We tried to broaden our perspective about what it means to collaborate and who we’re collaborating with.” Increasingly, the Libraries’ work is intertwined with all areas of the University, which is important for enhancing student in-person learning on today’s campuses, and online learning accessibility.

“Our work is connected to all of the other areas on campus, including the administrators who provide other services and support for faculty and students,” Broughton said. “We engage with them... to better understand our students’ struggles and needs, so that we can position ourselves to also directly support their learning and research.”

Collaborations between the Libraries’ staff and faculty and staff around the University capture the essence of the Libraries’ mission to be the heart of research, knowledge discovery and student success at OHIO.

“I look forward to a growing exciting list of successful collaborations between the Libraries and faculty and staff in the years ahead,” Romanosky said.

Law and Colonialism Course
Dr. Jennifer Fredette
Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Miriam Intrator
Special Collections Librarian, University Libraries
Paul Campbell
Subject Librarian for Social Sciences, University Libraries

Ohio Open Library hosting of MFA Theses
Julie Dummermuth
Director, School of Art + Design
Kasia Hackenmüller
Professor, School of Art + Design
Courtney Kessel
Assistant Director for Experiential Design, Experiential Learning
Damon DelBorde
Head of Metadata Services, University Libraries

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Assistant Dean for Collections and Digitization, University Libraries

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Head of Library Information Technology Services, University Libraries
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Instructional Technologist, Office of Information Technology
Robin Woolten
Facilities Manager, University Libraries

Sustainability Film Series
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Research Associate, Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service
Mary Nally
Director, Center for Campus and Community Engagement
Alexandra Kasty
Director, Athens Cinema
Dr. Donal Skinner
Dean, Honors Tutorial College
Lorraine Wochna
Subject Librarian for the Performing Arts, University Libraries

OHIO Open Library hosting of MFA Theses
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Haley Miller, a senior exercise physiology student and a member of the Ohio University Women's soccer team, studies for her human physiology class on the second floor of Alden Library on Nov. 15, 2021.

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