

Response to COVID-19

We developed several initiatives for academic continuity during COVID-19, pivoting to provide virtual expertise through Chat Reference, digitized course material, added library resources through the learning management system, and held a significant number of workshops and training sessions to assist UA faculty with online course development. We partnered with ZipAssist to acquire long-term loan equipment for both teaching and learning such as laptops, web cameras, and microphones. We made critical course materials available online, including assigned textbooks and reserves and digital delivery of thousands of pages and chapters.

- 800 virtual reference questions answered
- 5,482 resource pages digitized
- 850 tech items purchased
- 589 items borrowed from other libraries for UA researchers

Chat Reference: Launched in March 2020, we've provided 70 hours per week in chat reference and fielded more than 4,500 questions from UA students, faculty, and community members.

DDS Workshops/Training: More than 770 people attended DDS' training in the 2.5 weeks of spring break 2020. DDS staff also dedicated 77 hours of office hours during that time to move more than 3000 classes online. Throughout the year, DDS spent more than 500 hours participating in one-on-one appointments in addition to multiple monthly workshops to support faculty for teaching online. Staff from all departments in UL pulled together to manually merge thousands of sections of classes to prepare for hybrid delivery.

Circulation & Facility Stats (January-December 2020)

- Gate count: 156,201
- Study room bookings: 9,193
- Semester laptop checkouts: 1,529
- 1-day laptop checkouts: 515
- Keyboard (in-house computer workstation) checkouts: 2,209
- Print reserve checkouts: 1,307
- Book/media checkouts (includes OhioLINK): 10,919

Brightspace Information Literacy Modules

University of Akron librarians developed content in Brightspace to teach information literacy, research skills, and lifelong learning skills that students can transfer to other courses and apply beyond the University. These online lessons via Brightspace can be assigned in part or whole by course instructors, and enterprising students can self-enroll to complete the training independent of a specific course. We currently have four courses available for Brightspace enrollment:

- [Library 101](#)- this tutorial covers introductory topics such as how to get started by finding books, checking your library record, using ZipSearch, OhioLINK, and Interlibrary loan, as well as locating articles/artifacts for research. The course can be completed in about an hour.
- [Library 201 \(new for Spring 2021\)](#) - this tutorial contains six information literacy lessons that can be assigned together or individually. For lesson descriptions, estimated times for completion, and student learning outcomes, visit [here for Bierce](#) and [here for Wayne](#).
- [Keeping Your References and Notes Organized \(new for Spring 2021\)](#) - this tutorial discusses how to choose and use a reference manager. Using a reference manager will help students organize references and notes. This course can be completed in under two hours.
- [Plagiarism, Copyright & Citation Basics](#) (new for Spring 2021) - this course covers the basics of plagiarism, copyright, and citing, how to use information in an ethical and legal manner, and how to be clear when using the ideas of others.

Sesquicentennial

University Libraries has played an integral role as UA honors its 150-year history, recognizes its present success, and looks to a bright future. Archival Services has provided research, photographs, and information for departments all over campus.

2020 Sesquicentennial Stats

- Digitized all Tel-Buch yearbooks (98 volumes)
- Digitized and transcribed diaries of Buchtel College students Albert J. Laird and Chester F. Connor
- Digitized over 15,000 photographs from The University of Akron Photograph Collection
- Created metadata for and posted online 5,534 issues of the Buchtelite student newspaper

Online Resources for Faculty

Faculty LibGuide: <http://libguides.uakron.edu/facultyresources>

Library Services

- [Ask Us](#)
- Email Us ask@uakron2.libanswers.com
- Text Us (330) 529-5240
- Schedule an Online [Research Consultation](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan](#) services are available on a limited basis for electronic delivery
- [Request Course Reserves and Other Materials](#)

Library Resources

- Instructions for [Remote Access](#)
- [ZipSearch](#) for e-books, e-journals, streaming video & audio, etc.
- [Databases](#)
- [IdeaExchange@UAkron](#)
- [Library Guides](#)

Help for Faculty Teaching Courses

- For faculty teaching courses, Librarians are [available by appointment](#) and the Design and Development team are available through our Keep Teaching Community in Brightspace.
- In the [Keep Teaching Community on Brightspace](#), you will find all recordings from our training sessions, a wide variety of handouts, a developing list of FAQs, and most important, discussion forums. Please post your questions to the Discussion forum and we will answer your question as soon as possible.

Collections Update:

The collections budget for FY 21 was reduced by \$568,201.96, which is a reduction of 18.82% in comparison to FY 20. This reduction was due to budget cuts at the university level and a continued decline in the collection of per-credit-hour student fees. Student fees make up a significant portion of our total collections budget and have been in decline due to enrollment. This budget reduction has made it necessary to cancel subscriptions and discontinue access to other resources. These are very difficult decisions that are based on many factors including usage data, comparable resources in the collection, curriculum/course impact, and faculty feedback. The impact of this cut is most noticeable in the journal cancellations that took place in fall 2020.

Moving forward, UL will continue to strive to support learning, teaching, and research. However, with significant budget pressures, we will be prioritizing resources in support

of courses, the curriculum, and student impact through our Affordable Learning Initiative. We are also paying close attention to how the loss of resources might impact accreditation of UA's various programs.

While everyone is hopeful for better enrollment and more stable budgets, we anticipate there will be some reductions in our collections budget for FY 22. Many of our contracts and agreements (including statewide deals via OhioLINK) have been renegotiated this year to help make budget and avoid cancellations. Those savings will likely not be available to us next year as vendors made clear they were making temporary concessions or required multi-year agreements to get pricing down. This will create significant added stress on our FY 22 budget. We will continue to work with the UA Administration to address issues with our collections funding and explain the impact of these reductions.

Updates to collections are shared via Digest posts and a quarterly report posted on Idea Exchange. That report can be found at <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/erupdates/>

Please submit questions, concerns, and feedback related to collections to Sean Kennedy (skennedy@uakron.edu), Collections and Content Strategies Librarian.