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Mansfield Library Newsletters

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CONNECTIONS

An annual newsletter published by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

Message From Dean of Libraries, Barry Brown

Despite challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the continued commitment from Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library student employees, staff, and faculty librarians to provide essential resources and services showcases our value at the heart of the University of Montana.

The Mansfield Library is fully embracing our role as a 21st century academic library, and in doing so, supporting the UM mission by providing innovative digital and physical services, collections, and infrastructure. During the 2021 fiscal year, Library users visited library buildings over 100,000 times, checked out over 35,000 physical items, used over 464,000 ejournal articles and ebook chapters, and downloaded almost 1.8 million digital resources from ScholarWorks, UM's institutional repository. This tells us what we have believed all along: The Library serves a vital role on campus as a key social and intellectual hub, inspiring, and motivating library users across all career stages and disciplines.

We provide a range of accessible, intuitive, and versatile spaces and furniture and plentiful, high-quality, print and digital collections, technology, and connectivity, maximizing convenience and efficiency for scholarship and knowledge creation. Additionally, our large and central location on campus makes the Library the perfect host for several other academic and

support units, bolstering our already-robust services. Our position at the core of on-campus research and connection means that we were still able to (safely) welcome users into the building during the pandemic. Both physical and virtual services are utilized by the majority of our campus community; we found that 75% of UM students, staff, and faculty used the library in some capacity this year.

All of this could not be done without a team of Mansfield Library employees acting as important partners with students and disciplinary faculty, helping students interpret and navigate life at a university, connecting Library users to the resources they need, and building foundational competencies in the ability to find,

evaluate, organize, use, and communicate information in all its various formats.

This newsletter provides snapshots of some of the many diverse people, services, resources, and activities that are part of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. Thank you for your continued commitment and support – it makes a critical difference in our ability to adapt to the world's ever-changing, interconnected, complex reality, technologies, and changing tools, to best meet the educational and research needs of our diverse University of Montana campus and community members, and to serve as a place where lives are enriched and transformed.





Welcoming Our New Government Information Librarian

On Sept. 1, 2021, the Mansfield Library hired a new Government Information Librarian – Natalie Bond! Natalie has been well-known to library staff for many years now; from 2014 to 2019, she worked in the Mansfield Library Archives and Special Collections as the Max Baucus Political Papers Archivist, and she started as adjunct faculty in January 2021.

Not only does Natalie possess strong institutional knowledge and a range of library experience, she also approaches government documents with curiosity and vitality. Her most recently published works are on the records of Native American boarding schools and congressional papers collection processing. Alongside these strengths, Natalie’s accomplishments include, to name a few:

- **Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and History from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL**
- **Master in Information from the University of Michigan School of Information in Ann Arbor, MI**
- **Served as Assistant Archivist at Montana State University in Bozeman from 2019 to 2020**

The Mansfield Library became a federal depository library in 1909 and the regional depository for Montana in 1965, which brings us to our 113th year as a federal depository library! Taking Natalie on as the new Government Information Librarian allows us to fulfill our responsibilities as the regional depository library – collecting and making accessible all materials created by the Federal Publishing Office (FPO). In doing so, the Library stewards thousands upon thousands of physical and electronic materials sent by the FPO. This task requires no shortage of coordination, and Natalie works both in coordination with Library staff behind the scenes and acts as a liaison between the Mansfield Library, the FPO, and other libraries around the state. This work ensures that anyone can use the correct and complete set of government documents, either online or in the building.

Popular Reading Shelving

To add to the new Library Commons area on the main floor, library staff moved new, cozy popular reading shelving into the space.

Two semi-circle shelves form a gentle “S” in the Library Commons, with comfy seating tucked around and between the popular reading collection. This welcome change, in addition to new, rotating media stands, has livened the well-used study spot while calling attention to our main floor collections.

This new addition to the Library Commons would not have been possible without the Library’s generous donors. Thank you!



Two Longtime Mansfield Library Employees Retire

BEVERLY MAAS

The last week of December 2021 was Bev's last week working at the Library. She worked in the Library for over 20 years, starting in September 2001. Her 20 years have been spent in the cataloging department alongside good friends and colleagues, starting with binding books and gradually taking on parts of other cataloging jobs as staff and student employees left the library. Binding turned into copy cataloging, labeling, and handling materials for the Library at Missoula College, ordering, receiving, cataloging, and processing books, children's collection material, and DVDs, alongside serials processing. We know – Bev did a lot! Bev also handled the mailroom and was friends with the mail delivery folks both from Campus Mail and UPS. Bev knew and did so much for the Mansfield Library; at some point, most other current Library employees have probably seen, handled, or used something that Bev has worked on, no matter what they do in the Library. In addition to her willingness to help and take on new duties, Bev has been admired for her ability to adapt and learn new tools and technologies. As cataloging and the ways we work with our colleagues has dramatically evolved, so too has Bev's skillset and approach changed. The amount of knowledge she's gained and the skills she's mastered in the past 20 years will be missed immensely by her unit and the rest of the Library – we'll miss her efficient cataloging skills, her diligent sorting of mail, her quickness to greet you and offer a "Hello."

PATTI MCKENZIE

After working at the Mansfield Library for 15 years (and in libraries for over 25 years!), Patti McKenzie retired in July 2021.

After working at the Chouteau County Library as their director, Patti transitioned from public to academic library work in 2005. Starting as a reference technician at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, Patti worked to serve students while also creating library exhibits, staffing outreach tables, and giving library tours to hundreds of new students and their families.

Before retiring, Patti could be found in the administrative offices of the Library, working, for a time, as the Assistant to the Dean of Libraries under Interim Dean Barry Brown. She thrived in this position and helped Library staff across all departments. She talked with donors, compiled reports on the amazing working being done in the Library, and assisted in planning large events.

Patti was honored with the Mansfield Library Evers Award in 2012 which recognizes a Mansfield Library employee's dedication and passion for their work and Library users. She also received the Montana Library Association Staff Support Award in 2013, which honors a library staff member in the state of Montana for the exceptional work they do to promote and support libraries.

During retirement, Patti plans on spending time traveling, when it becomes safe again. She has always wanted to go to Germany, where her family is from, to see the country. At the moment, she has found plenty of time to relax, read, and spend with her children and grandchildren. She is sorely missed by the Library community, and the students, staff, and faculty at University of Montana, especially those in the Mansfield Libraries.

Xavier Kneeder-Shorten has filled Patti's position as Assistant to Dean of Libraries; his experience working in several staff and student positions make Xavier an excellent successor. He's excited by his new role and "the opportunities it provides to connect with both donors and students alike."



It all begins with a seed...

The Mansfield Library launched our new Seed Library in February 2021!

This service was born from a Student Centered Innovative Project proposal accepted in fall 2019. During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, student employees quietly planned and prepared to begin providing free seeds through a seed library model, where folks can “check out” seeds to grow in spring and summer and are encouraged to save and “return” seeds in the fall. Partners at the Five Valleys Seed Library, UM Dining, and the PEAS Farm were kind enough to share their seeds with us to jumpstart the library, a service that was almost immediately in high use by both new and returning Library users.

Since its launch, the Seed Library has seen 1,160 seed checkouts, usage that speaks to both the demand for seeds and the desire for food security that has been amplified by the current pandemic. Spring of 2021 saw a nationwide seed shortage tied to labor-related delays in the supply chain and exacerbated by increased interest in growing one’s own food. Beyond providing an alternate way to acquire seeds, the seed library model also eliminates the cost barrier to accessing seeds, a barrier that disproportionately affects people who are already more acutely impacted by food insecurity and other systemic issues. This includes BIPOC communities, disabled folks, and low-income families and individuals.

Seed libraries across the globe also aim to address the social and environmental issue of privatized, patented, and genetically modified seeds. For the first 12,000 years of human agricultural

development, seeds were saved, shared, and cared for as a part of our public commons. This relationship to seeds birthed thousands of constantly evolving and adapting plant varieties, including, of course, all of the varieties that we eat, heal, and decorate with today. However, in the past hundred years, these essential resources have been commodified and now, four transnational firms control more than 60 percent of the global seed marketplace: Corteva (formerly DowDupont), ChemChina (which recently acquired Syngenta), Bayer (which recently acquired Monsanto), and BASF.¹

Monocrops dominate millions of acres of U.S. farmland alone and wreak havoc on soils, water, and the climate as a whole. Less biodiversity leads to less seed resilience in the face of a changing climate, and aggressive seed monopolies and patent enforcement on the part of the “Big 4” lead to higher seed prices and oftentimes ruinous litigation against farmers around the world.

Through mutual support of seed libraries like ours and the Five Valleys Seed Library, located at the Missoula Public Library, Library employees and users are fighting for seed sovereignty² by growing and freely sharing locally adapted and biodiverse seeds. Our aspirations for the future include partnering with farm educators in the community to provide gardening workshops, acquiring other gardening supplies to share, and further diversifying the Library’s seed stock through seed donations and partnerships with local organizations.

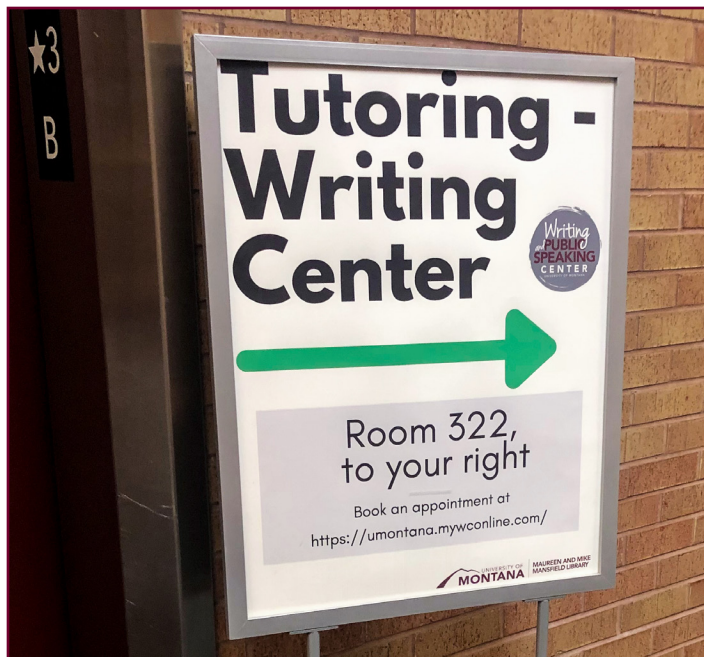


[1] See Barber, Save Our Food, Free The Seed; Hubbard and McCluskey, How Patents Threaten Small Seed Companies.

[2] Seed sovereignty is defined by The Lexicon of Sustainability as “the farmer’s right to breed and exchange diverse open source seeds which can be saved and which are not patented, genetically modified, owned or controlled by emerging seed giants.”

Writing Center Finds a New Home in the Mansfield Library

During the 2021 fall semester, the Writing and Public Speaking Center (WPSC) created several physical tutoring and office spaces across campus to best serve UM students. The Library was one of their main tutoring spaces during the semester, where they offered 39 weekly hours of in-person tutoring to UM students. Students used their new space and the excellent tutors on the main floor a great deal. WPSC Director Shareen Grogan said, "The Library and the Writing and Public Speaking Center are natural partners, and we are delighted to have the Writing and Public Speaking Center in the Library! Everyone in the Library has made us feel like welcome colleagues and valued collaborators. I am thrilled that the space we're in will soon have natural light and be more visible. I hope the Library will remain our home." We are excited to see how the WPSC and the Library can best partner with each other to improve the success of students in the coming semesters.



New Virtual Displays

When our building closed, student employees began thinking about ways to create exhibits on the internet that would be visually pleasing, informational, and accessible to library users from afar.

With this in mind, a student began creating our first virtual display, *Queer, Black Voices in Literature*. This virtual display was created using ArcGIS StoryMaps during Pride Month (June) of 2020 to celebrate the intersection of queer and Black identities, and to call attention to the need for solidarity between all historically marginalized groups. The display features queer, Black authors, including Lorraine Hansberry, Rivers Solomon, and Audre Lorde, directing viewers to their works in our collection.

The second virtual display, *Envisioning Our Future* (December 2020), prompts viewers to imagine what they want the future to look like and invites them to engage with a variety of books, podcasts, and other resources containing information, skills, and frameworks for reimagining the future.

As the library re-opened and physical displays became a reality again, the virtual aspect had found its niche and stuck, with two virtual displays accompanying two physical displays in February and July 2021. *Land as Liberation* features resources relating to Black land ownership, farming, and food justice. This display became available for viewing during Black History Month, and was partnered with a physical Black History Month display about Black families.

In the midst of a national conversation around the horrors of boarding schools for Native children, spurred by discoveries of mass children's graves at boarding schools in Canada and the U.S., *The Boarding School Era in Montana* was created to be a resource guide for boarding school survivors and their



descendants. Contained within this guide is an interactive map with locations, dates, photos, and other historical information pertaining to all of the boarding schools for Native children in Montana, as well as a photo gallery and links to resources about the schools and about healing from the trauma of boarding schools. The student employee that created this display interviewed two librarians from libraries at tribal colleges, Joy Bridwell at Stone Child College Library and Aaron LaFromboise at Medicine Spring Library, both of who provided invaluable advice, resources, and direction.

Collectively, these virtual guides have been viewed over 2,000 times and can be accessed from a central resource guide: <https://libguides.lib.umt.edu/virtualexhibits>.

THIS DISPLAY HAS GOTTEN THE MOST ATTENTION – THE DATA COMPILED WITHIN HAS BEEN USED IN A LOCAL NEWS STORY AND AS COURSE MATERIAL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA.

ScholarWorks Reaches New Milestones

ScholarWorks, a service of the Mansfield Library, centralizes, preserves and provides access to the research, creative scholarship and unique resources produced and curated by University of Montana faculty, students and staff, making these resources easier to find, share and use. Since 2013, users throughout Montana, the United States and around the world have collectively downloaded over 6 million times the journal articles, dissertations, graduate and undergraduate theses, conference papers and presentations, creative works, data sets, oral histories, special collections documents and manuscripts, and more that have been made available in ScholarWorks. These works represent the outstanding research and creative scholarship produced and curated by the UM community, and the collection of works continues to grow all the time.

Last year, the Mansfield Library celebrated ScholarWorks' 3-million download milestone. This year, we achieved two ScholarWorks milestones when the all-time download count reached the 5-million mark in April 2021, and the 6-million mark in December 2021. During the 20-21 academic year there have been 1,791,606 downloads!

In 2021, 2,594 new items (for a total of 86,711 items in ScholarWorks) were added, providing even more UM scholars the opportunity to share and make openly available their research and creative scholarship.

ScholarWorks also received some interesting new content this year, including two books. Water Topos "outlines a new approach to viewing and teaching aqueous equilibrium chemistry." Professor Emeritus Garon Smith's textbook and all its supplemental material is openly and freely available to students and instructors. Professor of Anthropology Anna Prentiss will publish the book Household Archaeology at the Bridge River Site (EeRI4), British Columbia, published by University of Utah Press. Both of these works will be freely available to anyone using ScholarWorks.

Users have been vocal about their appreciation for the freely available content provided in ScholarWorks, with researchers taking the time to write us and say, "Institutions that provide research and analysis free to the public really get it. Thank you!" and "I've never been affiliated with an institute of higher learning, so I greatly appreciate being granted free access to educational tools otherwise denied to independent researchers."

Two Library Faculty Granted Sabbatical

Two Library faculty were granted sabbatical, Donna McCrea, head of the Archives and Special Collections, and Megan Stark, Undergraduate Services Librarian.



Professor Donna McCrea received a Sabbatical Award for spring semester 2022. Professor McCrea's sabbatical will give her the opportunity, time, and space to engage her archivist interests – working on and researching Institutional Records Management and establishing what constitutes a dedicated records management program for

The University of Montana and what would constitute an easy system for ensuring that permanent university records are identified as such. These records could then be maintained by the creating office or transferred to the Archives.

Professor McCrea plans to work closely with the UM President and Provost's offices during her sabbatical project. Her sabbatical proposal offers a valuable and excellent opportunity for Professor McCrea to gain new professional skills, expertise, and insights by dedicating her time and professional focus on records management for UM. This sabbatical proposal also offers an excellent opportunity for the Mansfield Library and the

University of Montana to benefit from Professor McCrea's work on establishing the groundwork for a records management program for UM which would ensure that there are no further gaps in the UM institutional story and accountability. A key cost saving benefit to the University of Montana will be the ability to gain back space through the disposal of files no longer needed to be kept. Professor McCrea's sabbatical proposal aligns with the UM Priorities for Action - Proudly Tell the UM Story - since one of the end goals of the project is to ensure that materials/records that tell the story/history of UM will be recognized as valuable and retained by some entity, whether the Archives or the UM office of origin. All of Professor McCrea's sabbatical work will also be potentially relevant and valuable across the Montana University System.

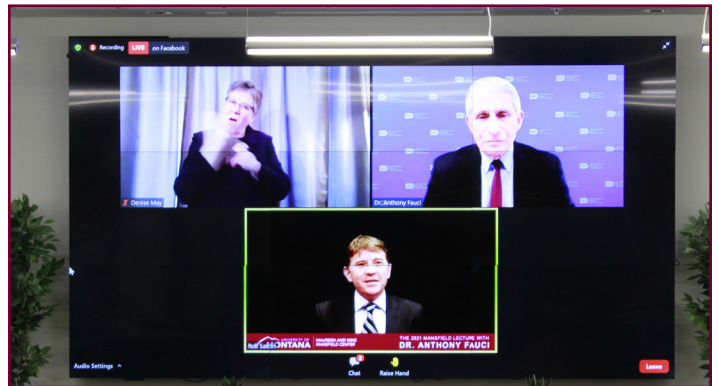
Professor Megan Stark was awarded a sabbatical for the 2021-2022 academic year. Professor Stark has long been interested in the many ways that different kinds of libraries build relationships within and across organizations, and has a particular interest in how libraries create, sustain and participate in community. Professor Stark will be using her sabbatical to increase skill and expertise in this area. Part of her sabbatical will be spent as a visiting librarian at the Missoula Public Library, an organization that exemplifies how libraries converge and collaborate in rich partnership with their local communities. Professor Stark's sabbatical proposal strongly aligns with the UM Priorities for Action – Partner with Place. Professor Stark is eager and grateful for the opportunity to integrate new knowledge into her practice as the Undergraduate Services and Outreach Librarian.

Congratulations to both of these library faculty on their sabbatical awards. Library staff and members of the campus community are eager to see the results of their research and work.

Dr. Fauci Talks to UM Community

In February 2021, the Mansfield Center hosted Dr. Anthony Fauci for an installment of the 2021 Mansfield Lecture Series. In a conversation and public Q&A, Dr. Fauci addressed questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library Commons space on Level 3 was used to broadcast the live virtual talk to users in the Library. Dr. Fauci addressed questions like “Where are we with COVID-19?” and “When will we ‘get back to normal?’” In addition to using the Library Commons to broadcast the lecture, Library staff helped provide a space for interviewer and moderator Robert Saldin, Director of the Mansfield Center’s Ethics and Public Affairs Program, to record himself and attend the live conversation with professional technology and equipment from the One Button Studio. This studio is available for students, staff, and faculty use, allowing users to record themselves in front of a green screen with high-quality technology and support.

Dr. Fauci talked to the campus and Missoula community for an hour via Zoom speaking to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and answering questions asked by members of the campus community and residents of Missoula and Montana.



New Art Installed at Front Desk

The Library commissioned artwork to be placed on a new checkout desk sign, the content of which was decided on by artist Antoine Sandoval. This sign replaces the previous “Snimnipnutn” sign and represents the Library’s mission to be inclusive and representational. The new signage was reviewed and approved by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ Tribal Council and Kootenai Culture Committee and UM Marketing. A special thank you to tribal elders for their recommendations and guidance.



Finals Week at the Mansfield Library

To support students during their last weeks of class, the Mansfield Library offered a variety of services to help students stress less and prepare for their final exams. The Library stayed open later for students to study, and brought back popular events like therapy dogs and coffee and hot cocoa service. Therapy dogs were in the Library on Monday and Wednesday of finals week for students to pet and visit with. Finals kits, which included a variety of items like tea bags, pencils, and Scantron forms, were given out to 100 students at the start of the week.



FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Celebrating the Library's Student Employees

The Library employs dozens of student employees each semester, and this year was no exception, with 67 student employees hired during the past academic year. Busy service desks, active marketing and social media work, materials processing, and renovations on Level 1 meant the Library needed the vital skills of our student employees. Without student employees, the Library could not offer the excellent services and spaces that the campus community knows us for; essentially, the Library could not function without student employees.

During the fall semester, Library staff employees organized two community building and employee appreciation events. In September, student employees spent a beautiful, sunny fall day at the Pattee Canyon Recreation Area enjoying lunch and playing frisbee golf on the nearby 18-hole course. The Library paid for the event, and staff grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and shuttled students to and from the recreation area. In December, student employees gathered in the Library Commons after hours for pizza and a movie. The film "Princess Mononoke" was chosen by attendees, and the library paid for refreshments.

Student employees enjoyed both events so much that staff are planning similar events for the spring semester. A big part of what made these events enjoyable are the friendships and comradery that already exist among student employees, as well as a genuine interest in meeting co-workers. These events provided Library employees with an opportunity to connect outside of work, an opportunity that students were eager to take part in. Their success would not be possible without the generous gifts made by donors of the Library.



HONORS AND AWARDS

2021 Joseph H. and Ruth FitzGerald Library Scholarship Recipients

Rachael Hagan and Alex Wheeler were both awarded the Fitzgerald Scholarship in spring 2021 for their dedication to the Library and their success in academics.

Congratulations, Rachel and Alex!



RACHAEL HAGEN

"I am humbled and honored that you have chosen me to be the 2021 recipient of the Fitzgerald Scholarship. Working at the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Library has given me so much fulfillment, and I am honored that my coworkers have deemed me as a hardworking employee and deserving of such an award. This scholarship will be instrumental in funding my last year at the University of Montana. Whether the money goes to paying for tuition or for paying for my course textbooks, the funding your generosity has provided for me will help me realize my dream of becoming a college graduate. I cannot thank you enough for helping me finish this chapter in my life."



ALEX WHEELER

"When I found out I had received this scholarship, I was overjoyed. As a first-generation college student, going to college was already a very big ask. Getting this scholarship gives me a little bit more room to breathe, and takes some of the strain off me and my family. It gives me even more motivation to stay and finish up my degree, no matter how challenging things might get."

LIBRARY DONORS

JAN. 1 – DEC. 31, 2021

Mansfield Library faculty and staff would like to express our deepest gratitude to our donors during 2021. Your donation provided for the continuity of the Mansfield Library's commitment to support UM students..

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Beate Galda	G. Page and Suzanne Wellcome	Shali Zhang
C. David and Marlene Gustafson	Justin Pettis	Daolan Zheng
Sandi Greer	JoAnn Porter	

Thank you!

Indigenous Representation in Subject Headings

In spring 2021, three University of Washington iSchool students began working on their capstone project at the Mansfield Library, sponsored by Librarian Teressa Keenan. Karli Cotton, Seth Kurke, and Keiko Yamamoto's project focused on exploring alternatives to the Library of Congress Subject Headings describing materials on Indigenous people and culture. Specifically, they focused on course materials related to Indigenous communities in Montana, hoping to add language to library records that would make those resources more accurately reflect the identities of Indigenous communities.

Through research, interviews, and consultations with Native scholars, librarians, and students, the project team developed an annotated bibliography and provided the Mansfield Library with recommendations for immediate changes to local subject headings as well as strategies for continuing the project as part of the Library's commitment to inclusive collections and services. The Library extends our gratitude to these students for their work around subject headings, and for the reminder that the choice to respectfully represent people in our catalog makes library resources more accessible to all.

We are pleased that the team received the recognition they deserved – their capstone won the Best in Class Award!

Anti-Racism Work at the Library: Anti-Racism Task Force

In May of 2021, the Mansfield Library Anti-Racism Task Force concluded their work by submitting a report to the Dean of Libraries, which then went out to the Library as a whole. The report contained 18 recommendations aimed at making the Library a more inclusive place where Library staff are actively anti-racist in their roles. On top of several of the immediate actions taken as a result of the report, Library staff implemented other specific, task-based recommendations into the library's Priorities for Action. These Priorities for Actions will strategically guide the work of Library staff over the next several years. The task force based their work in the shared truth that, above all, institutional racism is real. With this in mind, the task force analyzed the work we do at the Library while having group conversations with Library employees about how they can see their work as anti-racist.

The task force consisted of 12 employees from across the Library. Each employee brought a unique perspective and set of skills to the task force. For this reason, each recommendation carries the weight and expertise of employees throughout the Library and brings together a nine-month-long process of discussion, self-reflection, and critical thinking.



Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library
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Missoula, MT 59812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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