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### The Heart of a Library: Getting to Know Each Other

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# The Heart of a Library: Getting to Know Each Other

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# Impetus for Series

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Part of larger mentoring program

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Large cohort of new employees

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Siloed work environment

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Little engagement with coworkers outside immediate sphere of work

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Request from a mentee

# Organizing the Series



## Library Departments

- Government Documents
- Scholarly Communications
- Special Collections
- Digitization Center
- Access Services
- Instruction and Student Engagement
- Research Services
- Administration
- Technical Services
- Library Information Technology Services
- Teaching with Primary Sources

## Planning with Departments

- Emailed department heads with a quick description of the project and suggested dates
- Presenters decide on format and content
- The goal was a broad overview of activities and general responsibilities
- All presenters agreed to participate

# Logistics of the Series



- Meant to take place over Summer 2021
- First session: June 2021
- Presentations scheduled twice a month
- Hosted over Zoom:
  - No limits to attendees
  - Recorded for future use
  - COVID precaution
- Grace Allbaugh introduced the sessions and facilitated questions
  - 30-40 min presentation with time for Q&A at the end
- Videos saved to several locations:
  - Microsoft Teams folder
  - Microsoft Stream Site
  - Private YouTube playlist

# Expanding the Series



Invitation to the whole  
library



Presentations on specific  
topics



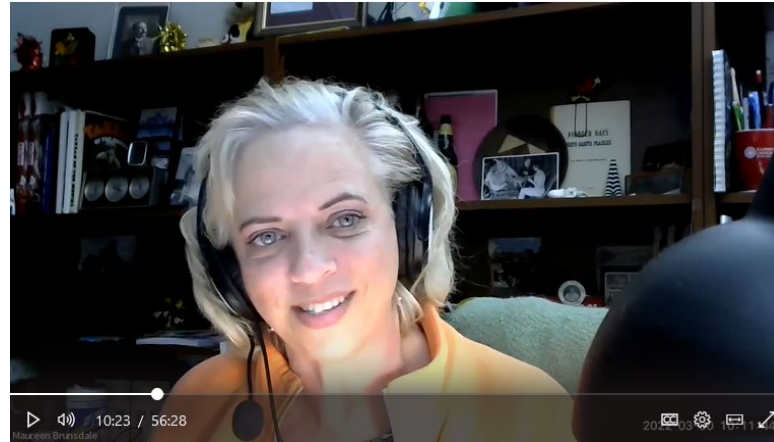
Responsiveness to feedback



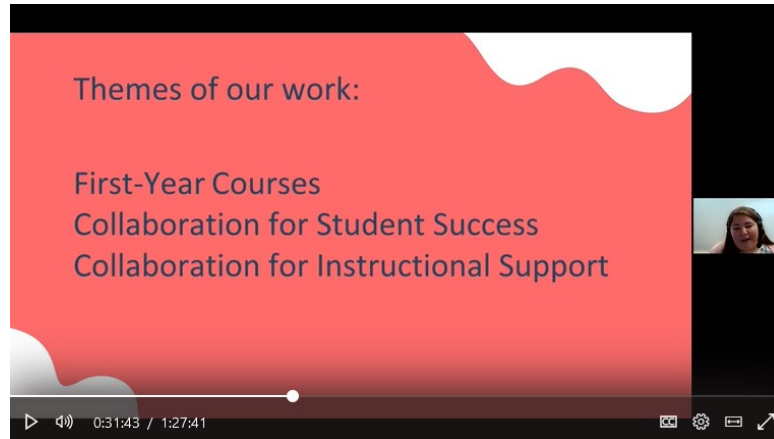
# Examples: Season 1



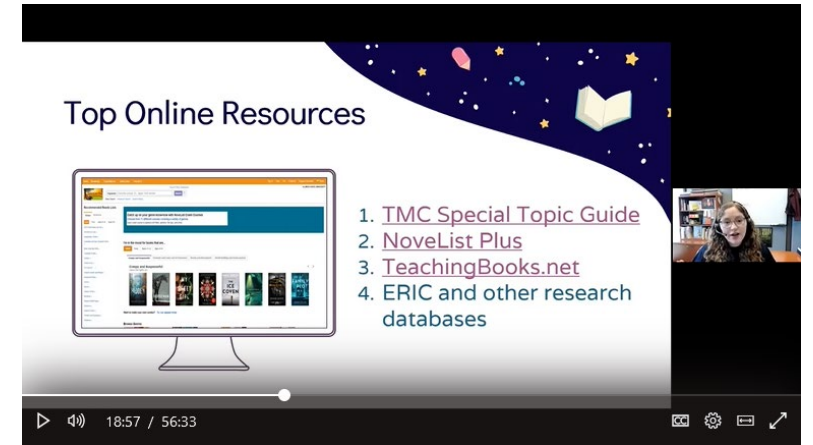
## Milner Circus Collection



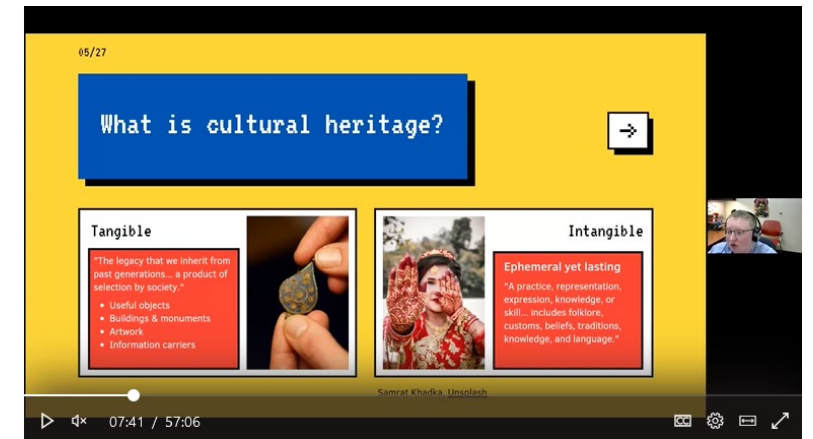
## Instruction & Student Engagement



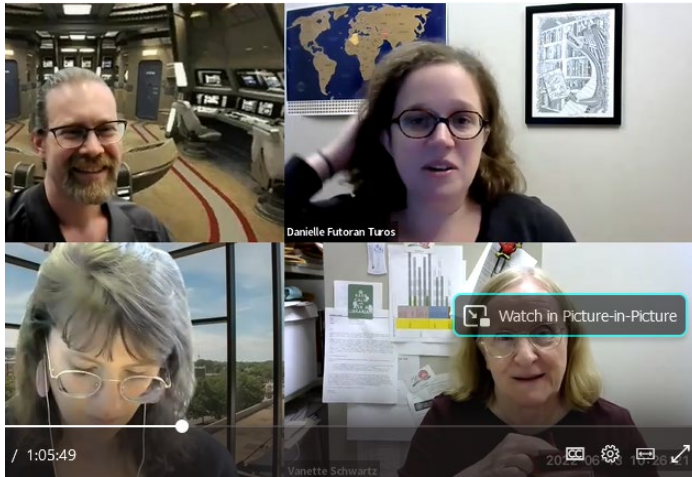
## Teaching Materials Center



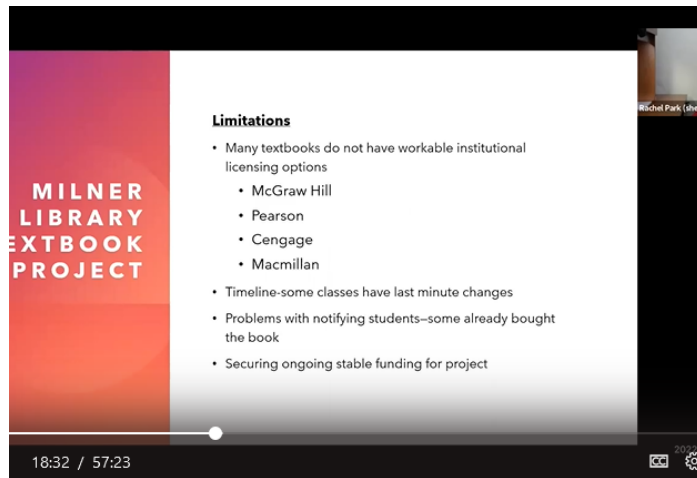
## Digitization Center



## Liaison Librarians



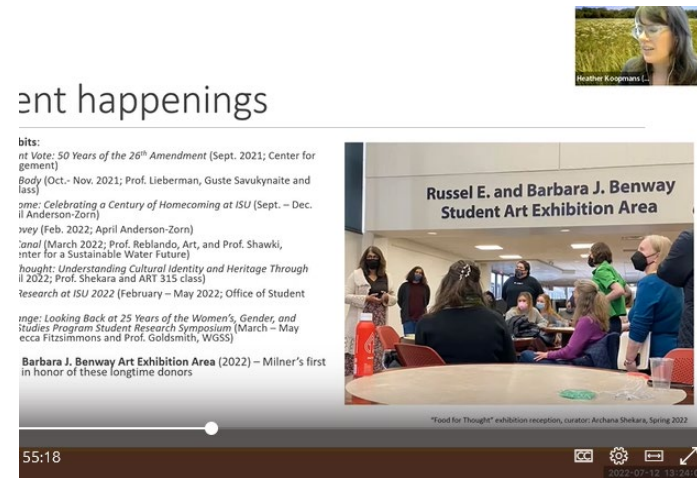
## eTextbook Project



## Mentorship Team



## Exhibits and IDEA Committees



# Examples: Season 2





# Feedback



- Colleagues expressing interest in doing more sessions
- Colleagues sharing positive experiences about sessions
- Mentorship surveys: these presentations always rated very highly
- Requests for Getting to Know Milner sessions to share information & collaborate

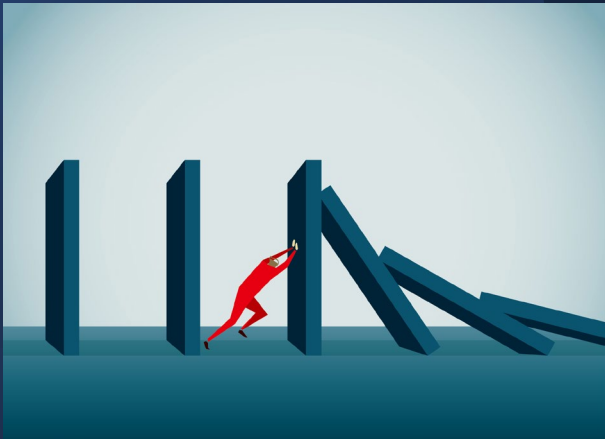
# Reflections



## Benefits:

- Easy way to share information
- Illustrates the value of colleagues' work
- Showcases the collaborative nature in our work
- Retention and recruitment tool
- Keeps a record of current workflow
- Marketing tool for library
- "Getting to know" coworkers

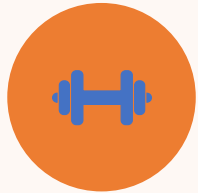
# Reflections



## Challenges:

- Scheduling
- Oversaturation
- Busy schedules of the audience
- Not overburdening coworkers with too many presentation requests
- Keeping the sessions relevant
- Length of presentations

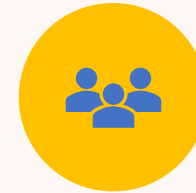
# Suggestions for Applying at Your Library



Lean on colleagues to help!



Streamline scheduling



Maintain a list of current and future presenters



Accessibility concerns



Test technology



Prompt audience



Thank You!

Questions?





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