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2022

## **2022 Courtright Memorial Library Annual Report**

Courtright Memorial Library


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FISCAL YEAR 2022



# COURTRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by Casey Mazzoli  
and Katie Albright

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

02

This FY 22 Annual Report will shed light on the many accomplishments of the library and the library staff as we work to “champion lifelong learning through access to quality information, diverse resources, engaged collaboration, and a welcoming community” (Courtright Memorial Library Mission Statement, which you can access here: [www.otterbein.edu/library/about](http://www.otterbein.edu/library/about)).

This year we did so while also recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Courtright Memorial Library. Highlights from the “Birthday Party” in April will be shared within these pages, with special thanks to the Courtright extended family and the 50th Anniversary planning committee.

Throughout the year we focused on Access and Affordability. Additionally, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work saw the creation of our DEI Statement and Commitments and the rollout of going fine free. It also included training for our staff such as a Cultural Humility Retreat given by Dr. Kristy McCray and featured speakers in monthly staff meetings on topics ranging from Pronouns presented by Oliver Licking; Mental Health Awareness and Support with Dr. Kathy Ryan; and Religious Sensitivity with Judy Guion-Utsler. We also underwent de-escalation training facilitated by our Building Safety Committee. Further, staff did work on Digital Accessibility. (G3 S2)

We are grateful to internal departments such as Services, ITS, and the many departments we partner with for program offerings. We are also thankful for external support, such as from RandomActs.org that provided a stipend for us to continue positive incentives in existing and new ways, and to the State Library of Ohio and the LSTA American Rescue Plan Act grant funding (see page 9). And of course – to our Friends of the Library who in this year successfully established a Textbook Affordability Endowment and are always supporting the library’s mission-driven work for the Otterbein Community.

*Tiffany Lipstein*

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## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Throughout this report we will link to relevant websites. If you are reading a print version of this report, you can access the websites by typing the URL into a web browser. If you are reading a digital version of this report, the URLs are hyperlinked and should open the website in a new browser window.

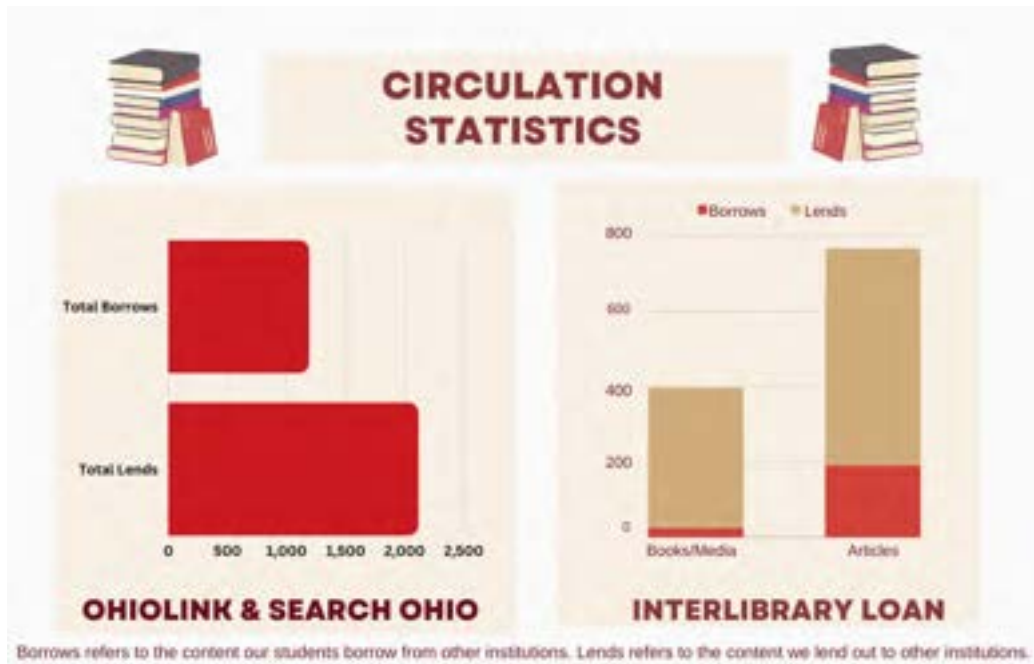
Our strategic plan can be found at:  
[www.otterbein.edu/library/about](http://www.otterbein.edu/library/about)

Information in this report as it relates to our strategic plan will be identified by goal number and strategy number. For example, Goal #1 Strategy #1 would be identified as (G1 S1). This marker will be included in parentheses at the end of the relevant section.



# COURTRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY STATISTICS

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## Electronic Access

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief funding (GEER), received from OhioLINK, gave us access to 10 new collections, ranging from MIT eBooks to videos from Sage and JOVE.

## Class Sessions

Librarians taught a total of 69 instruction sessions during this fiscal year, reaching 1,085 students. (G2 S4)

## Programming

The library hosted 16 programs and events in FY 22, with a total of 744 attendees.

## Digital Commons

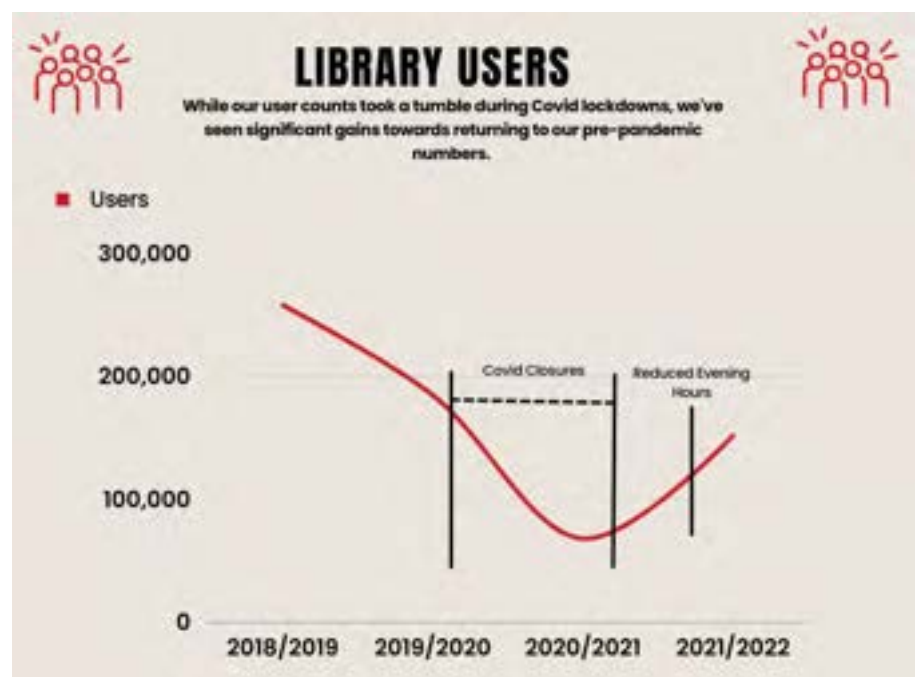
Digital Commons (G2 S2) information and statistics can be found at: [digitalcommons.otterbein.edu](https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu)

## Archives

Archives (G2 S1) statistics can be found at: [otterbein.libguides.com/archives](https://otterbein.libguides.com/archives)

## Service Hours

This spring, Cabinet approved a permanent change to our earlier closing hours (12am on Sun-Thurs during term, 6pm throughout the summer) as a result of reduced staffing. We owed our ability to provide evening hours during the semester to Jordan Stoll (GA) and Kelsi Rakestraw (Library Assistant).



# STAFFING UPDATES AND CHANGES

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**Kirsten Peninger**  
Program Coordinator



**Casey Mazzoli**  
Early Career Development Resident

## Changes in the Library!

FY 22 brought a lot of changes to the library! **Kirsten Peninger** transitioned to a new role as Program Coordinator and was also elected as Staff Assembly President (to begin in FY 23). A new Early Career Development Resident position was created, and after a thorough search, new librarian **Casey Mazzoli** was hired. **Ivan Trent** was hired as a new Graduate Assistant, and **Nia Themelaras** came on staff as Otterbein's OhioLINK Luminaries DEI Intern, a program designed to foster diversity in libraries.

Current librarians' status was changed from Faculty to Staff with Faculty Rank. New librarian hires will be designated in the same way. These updates are reflected in the faculty manual.

We want to highlight our gratitude for the work of **Shiva Shakeri**, **Alexis Fintel**, **Kristin Cole**, and **Jordan Stoll**, who have since moved on to new opportunities.



**Ivan Trent**  
Graduate Assistant



**Nia Themelaras**  
OhioLINK Luminaries  
DEI Intern



# COURTRIGHT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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## 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

The Courtright Memorial Library, which opened its doors to students in January of 1972 and underwent a formal dedication later that year, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022. The 50th Anniversary planning committee included co-chairs Stephen Grinch, Shiva Shakeri, and Kirsten Peninger, as well as Allen Reichert, Casey Mazzoli, and Rebecca Raeske-Grinch.

Our first celebration was an informal birthday party in April for the campus community, featuring the dedication of the 24/7 contactless pickup lockers. 115 people attended this event. Planning was also done for later 50th anniversary events to be held in the fall, which will be covered in the FY 23 annual report.

## ORIGAMI BIRDS PROJECT

The library initiated an art project in honor of the 50th anniversary. Otterbein students, faculty, and staff wrote special messages on red and tan pieces of paper, which were then turned into origami birds and displayed in the windows of the library.

Photo captions (top to bottom): Otterbein students sing at the 50th birthday party; President John Comerford writes a message on origami paper; Circulation Supervisor Rebecca Raeske-Grinch hangs origami birds in the library, assisted by Circulation Student Assistant Gray Takahashi.



## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

As part of the African-American Read-In, a month-long effort coordinated by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the Library partnered with the Office of Alumni & Family Engagement and the Academic Support Center to host a Black History Month Alumni Author Panel. The panel featured **Melica Niccole** ('04) and **Rayshawn Wilson** ('02) talking about their path to publishing, their inspiration, and their time at Otterbein.

## HEDGEHOG BOOK ART

As part of the Courtright Memorial Library's ongoing Creator Space programming, **Alexis Fintel's Hedgehog Book Art** craft event was held in October. Students were provided with recycled books and taught how to fold and cut the pages and cover into shapes that would, ultimately, create a hedgehog. Recycled book art is an increasingly popular artform, and the program proved so popular that it was held twice to allow the students on the waiting list to participate.

## KEEP UP WITH NEWS AND EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 [@Otterbeinlibrary](#)

 [@CourtrightLib](#)

 [@courtrightlib](#)

Photo caption: Hedgehog Book Art, created at the programming event.





# SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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## Staff Grants, Awards, and Recognition



Librarian Allen Reichert was awarded a Humanities Advisory Council travel grant to develop a course, *When Worlds Collide: Antiquity and Contemporary Life in Greece*. In January, Allen also presented virtually at the Atiner 9th Annual International Conference on Humanities and Arts in a Global World, held in Athens, Greece. The presentation, *The Lists of Sei Shōnagon; or, How an Ancient Japanese Court Lady Takes Lists on a Distinctive Turn*, looked at the nature of lists defined by Umberto Eco and others, while investigating the nature of Shōnagon's lists in *The Pillow Book*. (G1 S4)



Archivist Stephen Grinch won an LSTA Conservation Grant to restore paintings in the Otterbein collection. (G2 S1)



Librarian Rares Pilou gave a talk on his book *The Quest for Redemption: Central European Jewish Thought in Joseph Roth's Books* on November 9th. This was an INST- and FYS-approved event. (G1 S5)



Librarian Jane Wu completed her sabbatical in Spring '22. The title of her project was "Globalization and Libraries, What Are Academic Librarians' Role in Support of Their Institution's Joint Education Program?"



Library Director Tiffany Lipstreu received the Ohio Private Academic Libraries (OPAL) 2021 Service Award, which is given to OPAL members who have committed themselves to OPAL's mission "to strengthen and promote member libraries through financially responsible collaboration and innovation." Further information about this award can be read at: [www.otterbein.edu/news/otterbein-library-director-receives-service-award-for-dedication-to-improving-student-experience/](http://www.otterbein.edu/news/otterbein-library-director-receives-service-award-for-dedication-to-improving-student-experience/)

Tiffany also received two grants for the library: a 2022 Act of Kindness funding in the amount of \$499.00 awarded personally by RandomActs.org for positive incentives to staff and library users; and a 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Outreach Grant, which will be covered on the next page. In addition, Tiffany was a panel moderator for a presentation entitled "DEI in LIS – a check-in with the OhioLINK community" in July at the OhioLINK Summit 2021 session.

## LIBRARY RECEIVES \$49,000 ARPA GRANT

From Library Director Tiffany Lipstreu: "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act grant program, facilitated by The State Library of Ohio for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, our library bought and installed secure 24/7 contactless lockers (34 different sized units). All staff, faculty, students and the community of Otterbein, and specifically users who are immuno-compromised, ill, or in need of materials after the library's open hours were benefitted. Additionally, these funds paid for an outdoor drive-up book drop. The drive-up book drop provides all users, especially those who have mobility issues, better convenience.

Users who are not able to visit the library during business hours are now able to pick up their requested materials from our new 24/7 contactless lockers or return them to our new outdoor book drop. The lockers are helpful to those who are more comfortable with contactless interactions and provide users access to materials after hours." (G3 S3)

Also instrumental in managing and navigating the installation of the lockers were Rebecca Raeske-Grinch and Kristin Cole.

You can learn more about our lockers here: [otterbein.libguides.com/pickup\\_lockers](https://otterbein.libguides.com/pickup_lockers)

Pictured below are Provost Wendy Sherman-Heckler (L) and Library Director Tiffany Lipstreu (R) standing in front of the lockers.



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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## Fundraising

The Otterbein Singers fundraising event made its return in 2022 and raised \$1,682 for the Friends general fund. Additionally, the Friends of Otterbein University's Courtright Memorial Library Textbook Affordability Endowment, which was conceived in 2017 and began raising funds in 2019, reached the point in 2022 where it will begin paying out annually for high-cost, high-enrollment textbooks to be placed on Course Reserve. This will help save students money on skyrocketing textbook costs.

## Common Book 2021

The Friends of the Library hosted a virtual Common Book event with Anna Rosling Rönnlund, the co-author of *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*. Because of the time difference, Anna joined us at 1 am her time! She talked extensively about the process of putting the book together and the statistical work that went into their findings.

Learn more about the library's 2021 Common Book event here: [otterbein.libguides.com/CommonBookOU/roslingronnlund](https://otterbein.libguides.com/CommonBookOU/roslingronnlund)

Photo caption: The Otterbein Singers at the Friends fundraising event.





# BUILDING UPDATES

The library used internal funding to purchase items requested in a user survey. These included rolling white boards and adjustable-height desks. (G3 S1)

The ARPA grant previously mentioned provided for 24/7 contactless lockers and an external drive-up book drop, pictured above, that caters to users who have specific mobility needs. Funds were also used to purchase hi-visibility vests to ensure student safety when retrieving materials from the book drops, as well as a wagon to transport returned materials. (G3 S3)

A special effort was also made to transition to new overhead signage within the library that is more modern and ADA-compliant. This work was spearheaded by Shiva Shakeri. (G3 S1)

Elizabeth Zeitz oversaw a project to move the library's game collection to the ground floor of the library in a place easily accessible to users for checkout.

Ellucian became Otterbein's new ITS provider. Our connection to the department is crucial to our daily operations and services, and ITS Liaison **Becky Gale** managed communications with new staff throughout the transition. (G1 S2)



*The New Library, Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio*

The mission of the Courtright Memorial Library is to champion lifelong learning through access to quality information, diverse resources, engaged collaboration, and a welcoming community.

Front and back cover image of Courtright Memorial Library is reproduced from an original drawing by Lester Miller (Staunton, Virginia).



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[www.otterbein.edu/library/](http://www.otterbein.edu/library/)