The Library Joins the Worldwide Movement for Open Access to Educational Resources

The Arthur Lakes Library has made strides in promoting the expansion and adoption of open educational resources (OER) at Mines. An OER is a freely-accessible or low-cost learning and teaching material, such as an open textbook, module or homework material. There are both pragmatic and principled benefits of OERs including lowering the costs of higher education for our students, increasing the accessibility to higher education, increasing the visibility of work and allowing customized structuring to coursework in the Mines curriculum. Two librarians, Emily Bongiovanni and Ye Li, submitted a proposal to the Colorado Department of Higher Education on behalf of Mines for an institutional level Colorado Open Educational Resources Grant for funding to start an OER incentive program at Mines. The project was accepted and $30,000 awarded in Spring 2019. This funding will be used to incentivize faculty to adopt, adapt or create an OER in a course.

Under the leadership of Emily Bongiovanni, Visiting Scholarly Communications Librarian, the OER Steering Committee has developed an incentive program that aims to support eight individual faculty members or teams at Mines in adopting, adapting or creating OERs that are high quality and eligible to be integrated into the existing curriculum or a newly developed course. The call for proposals was announced in March and due by May 3, 2019. Applicants will be able to apply for one of the following award levels:

**Award Level I**
- Select and adopt an existing OER
- Up to $500

**Award Level II**
- Adapt (adopt and modify) an existing OER
- Up to $2,000

**Award Level III**
- Create an original OER
- Up to $5,000

By supporting eight projects, an estimated 640 students will be provided with OER learning materials each semester. For each of the eight individual projects, the OER Steering Committee aims to save enrolled students at least $100, which would total approximately $64,000 in total student savings per semester. Potentially, the total student savings for an academic year would be over $100,000 even if not all classes were provided every semester.
Librarians in the Classroom and Beyond

by University Librarian Carol Smith

Librarians are typically expected to be at the reference desk, ready to assist faculty, students, and community members with research inquiries both easy and complex. But did you know that our library faculty also routinely teach information literacy sessions across campus and in the library?

Information literacy is defined as “an overarching set of abilities in which students are consumers and creators of information who can participate successfully in collaborative space” (www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework). These abilities include critical assessment of the authority of an information source, understanding research and resulting knowledge creation as an iterative process, learning how to strategically search for and discover information and approaching scholarship as a community conversation. Information fluency is more important than ever in the digital age, providing essential skills for lifelong success in one’s professional career and personal life.

The library plays a central role teaching these and other critical information proficiencies. Led by Teaching & Learning Librarian Brianna Buljung, our librarians are delivering an ever-expanding suite of instruction modules to Mines students. Class sessions are strategically incorporated at key points during a student’s studies, designed contextually to support the curriculum and carefully scaffolded to help future graduates develop a strong foundation upon which to build more sophisticated information research capabilities.

From Fall 2016 through Fall 2018, our library faculty directly reached 9400 students across 359 different course sections and worked with 81 faculty members. Classes incorporating library-led instruction include Nature & Human Values (NIH), Design 1 (EPICS) and many more.

Librarians, led by our Scholarly Communications Librarian, have also partnered with departments across campus to deliver a robust set of popular open workshops and seminars on topics as diverse as Software Carpentry, LaTex, and citation management (mines.libcal.com/calendar/events/).

The library is actively working with faculty across campus to further expand our information literacy instruction efforts, with the goal of eventually providing a comprehensive program that is integrated throughout the undergraduate and graduate student curriculum. To learn more about the library’s ongoing information literacy initiatives, please contact Brianna Buljung at bbbuljung@mines.edu.

New Staff at Arthur Lakes

Emma Covelli, Resource Acquisitions Manager

I am the new Resource Acquisitions Manager and was attracted to Mines as a place that I would like to work because of its great reputation, smaller size, and specialized focus. I have done a bit of everything in academic libraries ranging from reference to information literacy instruction. However, my most recent experience has been in collection development and acquisitions. I earned my MLIS from San Jose State University in 2008, and then worked in several for-profit academic libraries and a major library vendor. Prior to Mines, I was part of the Scholarly Resource Development Unit at the CU-Boulder Libraries as an Operations Manager for the Acquisitions Department.

I enjoy outdoor activities, spending as much time as I can camping, exploring and taking lots of photos of my dog and cat. On weekends, I volunteer at the public library and animal shelter as work and life permit and have two fun little cats of my own.

Amy Hitchener, Metadata Initiatives Librarian

I am the Metadata Initiatives Librarian, a position that manages information about the Library’s resources so that users can find what they need. My job is rooted in traditional library cataloging with an eye towards the broader world of information sharing. After completing bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from Washington State University, I earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Denver. First, I went to work for Boulder Valley School District as the cataloger and technical services librarian. Then I worked at the Colorado State Library as the Statewide Collaborative Programming Coordinator. Duties included communications, marketing, outreach, metadata aggregation, resource sharing and project management. After several years immersed in other aspects of librarianship, I’m thrilled to be cataloging again and doing what initially sparked my love for this profession.

Like many Coloradans I love playing outdoors, especially hiking, backpacking, camping, and snowshoeing. I’m learning to play the ukulele and thoroughly enjoying performing for my favorite audience, my cat and dog. On weekends, my husband Jason and I run an online Dungeons & Dragons campaign with our friends across the country.
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Thank You!

New Staff Continued
Sarah Chambers, Program Assistant

Coming from the Bursar office at Mines, I was excited to become the Program Assistant for Arthur Lakes Library. It was a chance to utilize my organizational, interpersonal and finance skills along with my knowledge of Mines to keep learning as a person. My first position as a student in college was at the university library, sending out notices of past due books. How times have changed!

I’m a world traveler and have been to all 7 continents and over 25 countries. I have a BA in Applied Linguistics from Moody Bible Institute. I’m an avid reader, like to crochet, hike, bike and run. My sweet kitten is 2-years old with the hunting instincts of a tiger.

Contributors
Editor: Wendy Shortridge
Contributing Writers:
Emily Bongiovanni, Lisa Nickum, Karen Pfiffner, Carol Smith, Beth Zecca
Photography:
Emily Bongiovanni, Brianna Buljong
Program Assistant:
Sarah Chambers
Layout and Design: Medulla

Contact
online library.mines.edu
email libcirc@mines.edu liberf@mines.edu libadmin@mines.edu
phone 303.273.3911
mail Arthur Lakes Library 1400 Illinois Street Golden, CO 80401
social facebook.com/arthurlakeslibrary

Giving
visit giving.mines.edu/arthurlakeslibrary

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