

Report to the Graduate Faculty from University Libraries

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Circulation & Facility Stats (January – December 2021)

- Gate count: 178,649
- Study room bookings: 16,879 bookings with 4,685 unique users
- Semester, 7-day, and 1-day laptop checkouts: 5,200
- Print reserve checkouts: 430
- Book/media/ALL checkouts (including OhioLINK): 19,757

Library Services

Initiatives developed for academic continuity during pandemic conditions will continue, as they have shown to be improvements to service in general. This includes:

- Multiple circulation and reference service points have been consolidated into a single Service Desk located in Bierce Library.
- Consolidation of the Science & Technology and Bierce collections in the Bierce library facility continues. This is a multi-year project, during which the S&T collection in ASEC functions as closed stacks while library faculty and staff select, deselect, shift, relocate, and ultimately integrate the collections in Bierce. The S&T reference collection was relocated to Bierce in 2020 and we expect to begin moving large portions of the S&T collection to Bierce in summer 2022.
- Ask Us, the chat reference service launched in March 2020, will continue. Chat reference and research assistance has been extended to 90 hours per week, up from the original 70 hours per week. In calendar year 2021 we fielded over 3000 virtual transactions, down from the prior year which is to be expected since the physical Service Desk was also open again.
- Curbside Pickup and Home Delivery services for UL and OhioLINK materials will continue. UA students, faculty, and staff can request books and a delivery or pick up preference directly through the library's catalog.
- Increased technology circulation to support student demand, with 267 Dell laptops and 12 Macbooks available for semester long checkout.
- Continued focus on pivoting basic library instruction to an online, self-directed model. Two new modules have been added to the [suite of tutorials available in Brightspace](#): *Citing and Referencing in APA Style* and *Citing Tables and Figures in APA Style*. Advanced, in-person instruction can still be arranged.

Library tutorial use:

Course	Total Users	Active Users	Average Time Spent (Hours:Minute:Second)
Library 101	745	611	0:28:27
Library 201	941	817	1:53:31
Plagiarism, Copyright & Citation Basics	197	151	0:38:09
Keeping your Reference Notes	83	38	1:02:29
Citing and Referencing APA Styles	619	287	0:28:04

Collections

Our current collections include over 790,750 print items, 2,130,670 electronic items, and 307 databases. The total collections budget for FY21 was \$2,466,480. [Electronic Resources Quarterly Reports](#) are made available via Email Digest and are archived on IdeaExchange. These reports are important for faculty to review as they provide important updates on changes to our collections, including additions, cancellations, and new services such as open access publishing benefits.

Open Access Publishing:

University Libraries now has three read and publish deals available. These deals provide UA authors with no-charge open access publishing to certain journals from The Company of Biologists, Cambridge University Press, and Wiley. From The Company of Biologists this includes publication in Development, Journal of Cell Science, and Journal of Experimental Biology. From Cambridge University Press, this includes publication in 220 journals plus new added titles throughout the year. The Wiley deal makes open publishing possible in over 1400 hybrid journals.

Re-envisioning space in Bierce

- 4 new study rooms were added in 2021, bringing the total to [43 study rooms](#) and [4 Learning Studios](#) available throughout the building. Study room usage is consistently high, particularly as students look for private spaces with electrical outlets and WiFi in order to engage in online learning.
- Room 152B is now an [Instructor Pop-Up Office Hours space](#) and is a designated room where instructors can book short blocks of time to meet with students.
- Room 76B is a bookable Family Study Room located close to the children's book collection in the curriculum center. The space provides child-friendly furniture, books, toys, and technology, creating a family-friendly area for UA student parents/guardians to study and work on projects with their children.

- The Curriculum Center and surrounding area on the ground floor is being re-branded as the Children and Young Adult Center, with new signage expected by summer of 2022. Award-winning children's books have been provided with their own location, and the collection supplemented by a Library Services and Technology Act grant to purchase relevant books.
- A lactation room has been added on the second floor of Bierce Library and is a comfortable, locking room that is designated for breastfeeding or pumping. The room includes a refrigerator, sink, baby changing unit, and seating. Visitors to the building do not need to schedule the room.
- A Hoyer lift is available in the family restroom on the 1st floor, for use by patrons with mobility challenges and their caregivers.

University of Akron Press Report

- Total titles published in 2021: 14
- Total titles sold (net) for 2021: 3,426
- Sales and events - Total: 6
- Local author readings/events - Total: 23

Awards:

Annah Browning's *Witch Doctrine* was nominated for the 2021 Speculative Poetry Award

Jen Hirt's *Hear Me Ohio* won silver in the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Contest

Notable sales:

600 copies of *Inside Game* were sold to Miami University for an event

Backlist titles are still being used as course adoptions each year, particularly *From Séance to Science* (75 copies in 2021)

Notable reviews and media:

Emilia Phillips received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*.

Jon Miller, "University Presses as Partners for Public Engagement," *Humanities for All*, April 20, 2021.

Jon Miller, "Small Presses and Big Campuses: Developing Strategies for Campus and Community Connections," AUPresses Conference, 2021.

SHE, the film about Aimee Baker's book *Doe* and the missing and unidentified women featured in the book, was named an official selection for the Cannes International Cinema Festival and the Toronto International Women Film Festival.

Re-envisioning Outreach: The User Experience and Engagement Unit (UXE)

For FY23, UL is reorganizing personnel and services from Communications & Marketing, Web Services, and MakerStudio to create a new User Experience and Engagement unit. This department will help students navigate and understand the libraries in new ways as UL services and resources continue to adapt to hybrid teaching and learning modalities. In collaboration with other library units, it will identify and act on opportunities for user-centered design across the organization. In addition to creating digital content geared to help students build information literacy and related skills, it will: develop and maintain web and signage solutions; advise on space and service design; contribute to Ask Us chat reference operations; identify and advocate for the needs of library users; and coordinate the MakerStudio for hands-on learning with all the tools for creativity. The department will include professionals specializing in communications, web design and learning environments, applied technology, and multimedia production.