Transformation of the Brooks Library

New Interim Dean Update

The search for a permanent library dean is underway with an anticipated start date for the dean in January 2019. The search firm Storbeck and Pimentel is overseeing the search, and the search committee is conducting Skype interviews with candidates in September. Finalists for the position are expected to visit campus in October for onsite interviews. The position description is located at https://assets.storbeckpimentel.com/files/resources/cwu-dean-library-services-position-profile.pdf?7b4a5b1c663b. For questions regarding the search contact Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner, apsearch@storbeckpimentel.com.

In the meantime, Interim Library Dean Bonnie MacEwan began her position in the Brooks Library in August 2018. Ms. MacEwan retired earlier this year as the dean of Libraries at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. She also joins the library dean search committee that is chaired by Tim Englund, Dean of the College of the Sciences. Search committee members from the library faculty and staff are Katherine Boswell (Learning Commons), Ruben Cardenas (Veterans Center), Veronica Gomez-Vilchis (Diversity and Social Justice), Colton Pope (student), Scott Robinson (College of Arts and Humanities), Chad Schone (Multimodal Education), Staci Sleigh-Layman (Human Resources), and Lily Vuong (Philosophy and Religious Studies).

Government Publications and Current Periodicals Merger

In order to accommodate the relocation of the University Archives and Special Collections to the second floor of the library, the Periodicals, Journals and Newspapers service unit has been moved to the third floor. Our new combined Government Publications and Current Periodicals service desk is now the place to go for help with current periodicals, newspapers, government documents, maps, microfiche/microfilm, and electronic resources. All of the current periodicals and newspapers shelves now line the main corridor of the third floor and some comfortable seating has been added to the area. Bound periodicals that were in the main stacks on the second floor have been moved to compact shelving in order to make room for the new Brooks Commons Area. The bound periodicals are now available through the Circulation service desk on the first floor.

New Location for the CWU Archives and Special Collections

The CWU Archives and Special Collections moved from the fourth floor to the second floor (room 201) in September. The move was done over a couple of weeks with the Archives staff moving the collection that consists of boxes, books, artifacts, and oversized items. The new location doubles the size of the previous space allowing room for the growing collection as well as a larger reading room and space to provide instruction sessions for classes. The Archives has also expanded its reading room hours to 10am-3pm Monday through Friday. Stop by and visit our new space!

Wildcat Academic Success Center

The library is excited to welcome a new patron for student success. Malbert “Mal” Stewman and his student assistants are currently moving into their new home in the 405 suite on the library’s fourth floor. The center will include group and individual study and instruction space, as well as, a computer lab. The center serves CWU student athletes. We will be sharing more information on the center as it develops.

Check out page 3 for an update on our commons transformation!
Research Isn’t Just for the Librarians

As the smoke clears from the skies and the school year rolls in, we may find that the mental haze of a busy summer is also clearing. With cooler weather, we start making new goals for our work, personal projects, or educational enrichment. For the newly enrolled students in the online Library and Information Science (LIS) Program, fall is a time for new beginnings and courses. Designed for individuals interested in learning more about the field of library work and librarianship, the program is also a professional development opportunity for folks already working in libraries and interested in deepening their library knowledge. Other groups that may be interested in taking a few LIS courses or joining the program include individuals interested in information management, public library technician roles, records management work, research management, or technical writing. Regardless of whether library operation and management is in your future or not, there’s a common theme running through the LIS coursework that every student can relate to: research. Being able to locate, evaluate, understand, use, and create information is central to being an informed citizen. Some of the LIS courses are designed for any student and focus on finding and using information. LIS 110 Research Fundamentals, a one-credit course, teaches skills on using search engines to conduct searches, evaluating information, understanding the stages of research, and making the most out of Google. Our newly revised LIS 245 Research Methods in the Digital Age examines methods of information gathering and sharing in academic and social environments. Students explore applications of the research process, learn strategies for identifying and synthesizing information, and discuss research influences on scholarly conversations. Whether it’s for your course, career, or a personal interest, being a savvy researcher can give you a distinct edge and any student could benefit from a course all about becoming a better researcher.

Dean’s Corner

Although I’ve been here for just two months it is my privilege to welcome you. Welcome to CWU to all the new faculty and students and welcome back for those of you returning for another quarter of learning or teaching. I arrived in early August as the replacement for Interim Dean Greg Paveza. Like Dr. Paveza my position is interim. I retired as Dean of Libraries at Auburn University in March of this year following over 35 years in the library profession. In addition to Auburn worked as a librarian at the University of Missouri, and The Pennsylvania State University. I’m delighted to have the opportunity to work with the outstanding librarians and staff in this library and with each of you. I am already falling in love with your lovely campus and this wonderful library.

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter it has been a busy summer for those of us in the library. The second floor has undergone a major make over with a new study commons and a new location for Archives. With Archives on the second floor in new and more visible location there is space for Athletics Tutoring in their old quarters on the third floor. I am delighted to see this link between the library and the scholar athletes on the CWU campus and I’m eager to watch the athletes I’ve met in the library lead CWU to victory on the athletic fields. I know my cheers will be even more enthusiastic because I appreciate the warm welcome from my colleagues in the library and from so many of you across the campus. The librarians and staff here in Ellensburg are some of the best I’ve had the privilege to have as colleagues. They are full of energy and great ideas to keep this library on the forefront of library service. Their commitment to the students, diversity and supporting the faculty impresses me every day. If you don’t already know the librarian for your subject area or you haven’t taken advantage of the new study areas I hope you will put a visit to Brooks Library near the top of your list for the new term and if you are already a frequent library user you know that this team is eager to welcome you back.

Sabrina’s Perspective

I began my library career journey during the end of my junior year at Central. I was walking into the library and saw a table advertising the new library and information science program. I was curious and had room in my schedule so I registered for a couple summer classes. Next thing I know, it’s September and I am an iDesk student worker and librarian for the Yakima Symphony. It snowballed from there. After I graduated from CWU with a Certificate in Library and Information Science, I became the librarian for the Portland Columbia Symphony, interned at Brooks Library as a master’s student, completed my MLIS at Kent State University, and ended up back at Brooks Library as a full time librarian.

The more I learn about librarianship, the more I realize how much I do not know. Librarianship is a combination of research, information management, teaching, customer service, writing, social work, tech support, marketing, interior design, and much more. All these different skills are necessary to keep the wide range of libraries operational. There are libraries filled with books, libraries almost completely devoid of books; quiet libraries, loud libraries; libraries for schools, libraries for corporations. The list goes on and on.

Even the literature around libraries is more varied than I ever thought possible! Did you know there are multiple models of how people interact with information? What about the literature on information management? You may think organizing books on a shelf is simple but how do you create a database that is intuitive and easy to use and what data do you put into it? It truly feels like an unending conversation.

There is a whole world filled with interesting libraries and inquisitive librarians. For me, Brooks Library was a magic wardrobe into that world. It is the home of the community that first inspired me to pursue librarianship and continues to confirm that librarianship is the career for me.
Welcome to the Brooks “Student” Commons

As of publication, transformation of the 2nd floor periodical stacks into the Brooks “Student” Commons is nearing completion. Funded in part by the Provost’s Strategic Initiative funding and the new Student Library Fee, the “Student” Commons provides a new, flexible space for student use.

The Commons furniture and configuration are designed to highlight the library’s curved and rounded architectural features that were formerly obstructed by floor to ceiling shelving. The color palette for the Commons honors the Chief Tsungani’s Totem located in the library entryway and the inspiration for our library branding.

The Brooks Commons offers comfortable and flexible seating. The area is designed for individual and group study, as well as provide a venue for library and university events. The commons features comfortable seating and tables with built in electrical outlets. The “Student” Commons is transformable into a presentation, performance, and/or film venue. The venue will feature four 7 foot interactive displays configured around the concrete pillars providing unobstructed views. The venue seats 200 hundred people.

In addition to the new “Student” Commons, the Provost’s Strategic Imitative funding allowed the library to migrate dozens of journals from print to electronic format. This migration allows students with 24/7 access to high quality academic journals regardless of their location. Those journals that are retained in print format have been transferred to a retrieval area, allowing library staff to provide better assistance to patrons who may not have experience using print journals.

Contributors: Georgie Ainsley, Ginny Blackson, Elizabeth Brown, Sabrina Juhl, Bonnie MacEwan, Maureen Rust, Amanda Smith, Julia Stringfellow, Ben Woodruff
Annual Book Sale
Brooks Library Lobby
Brooks Library lobby

Friday, November 2
9:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

Saturday, November 3
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

$5 Bag of Books
starting at 2:00 PM.
November 3