Brooks Library is pleased to welcome our new associate dean, Sydney Thompson. Thompson comes to CWU from the North Carolina State University Libraries where she served as department head of access services and associate head of access and delivery services. Thompson has also served as delivery services librarian for the New York University division of libraries and at the NYU Bobst Library as interim interlibrary loan supervisor and library privileges supervisor.

At CWU Thompson will assist with development of a long-term strategic plan, and facilitate library partnerships across campus, in the greater community, and at the university center libraries at CWU-Des Moines and CWU-Lynnwood.

Thompson attended Big Bend Community College where she pursued a degree in aviation. She went on to obtain her bachelor and master of arts degrees in sociology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and New School University, respectively. During her graduate studies Thompson worked various library jobs, advancing from stacks student assistant to circulation manager. This work experience piqued an interest in a librarianship career and she subsequently obtained her master of library sciences from Queens College. She states, “I’m happy my circuitous route through aviation and sociology ultimately led me to librarianship. Now I welcome the opportunity to continue my professional growth as the associate dean at CWU Libraries, and look forward to contributing to the leadership of an academic library at a public university, engaging with campus partners to help inform vision and strategic priorities.”


Through the generous trust established by Roy and Isabel Tullis, the CWU Libraries has enriched our digital collections this year with an exciting variety of new databases. In the 1940s, Mrs. Tullis worked as a librarian at the Central Washington College of Education and decided to give back to the institution where she had worked. The new databases include:

• Historical Newspapers: U.S. West Collection - Provides access to newspapers published in the Western United States, including over 100 years of The San Francisco Examiner.
• Hispanic American Newspapers, 1808-1980 - Contains hundreds of searchable digitized newspapers published by Hispanics. Newspapers are in English, Spanish, or bilingual.
• Race Relations in America - Documents three pivotal decades in the fight for civil rights, and contains speeches, reports, surveys and analyses produced by the Race Relations Department of Fisk University, including Charles S. Johnson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thurgood Marshall.

These resources are available to any location using their CWU account. Community members are welcome to use these resources in the Brooks Library at the first-floor public access computers.

In total, the Tullis' bequeathed almost $400,000 to Brooks Library, and we receive approximately $5,900 of income per year. We are thankful for funding like the Tullis endowment, which helps us continue to provide the quality resources our students and faculty need.
Happy New Year!
Winter Quarter is in full swing at CWU Libraries. My first year has flown by, and we are welcoming the Libraries’ new Associate Dean Sydney Thompson. We continue to refresh spaces and add resources.

I’d like to encourage you to read For a guy who can’t speak Chinese beyond a few basic phrases, I’ve sure been fortunate in adding China experiences to my resume. No doubt being married to Yuanxia Liu, CWU’s sole Chinese language instructor, helps. I’ve traveled in China numerous times and, in 2013, taught English at Guangxi Normal University for a semester. I have hosted numerous Chinese visiting scholars over the years, and I’m the advisor for CWU’s Chinese Students and Scholars Association. During 2019, I managed CWU’s “Big Read” programming which focused on the Chinese novel To Live by Yu Hua.

In 2018, CWU and Lanzhou University of Finance and Economics (LUFE) signed a memorandum by which each university agreed to “...cooperation between the parties in such activities as joint research, lectures, symposia and country visits for students and faculty...” This relationship with LUFE was cultivated by CWU Library Professor Ping Fu who has been very successful in establishing such exchange agreements.

In the spring of 2019, I was contacted by officials at LUFE inquiring if I’d be interested in being a visiting scholar/librarian. Through Professor Fu, the librarians at LUFE were aware of the Chinese poetry, literature, and cultural programming I’d arranged at CWU. I was very interested in, and honored by, LUFE’s proposal. They agreed to fund my transportation as well as my accommodation and living expenses during my three-week stay in Lanzhou. During my November 5-26 visit I taught several library instruction sessions to graduate students, met with various faculty and student groups, and participated in library- and culture-related extracurricular activities, including an evening of student readings and discussions of Yu Hua’s To Live.

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With a population of more than three million, Lanzhou is the capital and largest city of Gansu Province, along the Yellow River, in northwest China. It was an important stop along the historic Silk Road trade route. Towards the end of my stay I had free days during which I ventured farther west on a 13-hour overnight train to Dunhuang, a jumping-off point for my exploration of a number of amazing geologic and archaeological sites, including the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring hundreds of Buddhist temples in a system of caves dating back to before 400 A.D.
Carol Peterson Retires After 32 Years

Our friend and colleague, Carol Peterson, has retired following a 32-year tenure at Brooks Library. Over the years Peterson served in several different capacities, including preserving resources and records management. Peterson started in the circulation department providing direct public service. From there she moved on to the media circulation department, serials, interlibrary loans, and digital initiatives.

Peterson's career began in the catalog era of libraries. As the library upgraded to various electronic vendor systems, Peterson was involved with the migration of over 2,000 active periodical records from paper format to digital. In interlibrary loans she assisted with the transition from handwritten typed records to the electronic management system. With backup by the systems department, Peterson implemented and then managed the local system customizations, upgrades and web pages. Most recently Peterson's focus has been supervision of digitizing library and university archival materials for uploading to the institutional repository.

Peterson's favorite thing about working at Brooks Library has been the access to ideas and information through her work with colleagues and library and campus resources. “It’s just been so interesting and so educational,” she said. “In all my work, I depended upon the contributions and skills of student employees. I’ve found them to be a hidden gem, an amazing resource who add a great deal to the success of the library.”

Peterson plans to spend some of her free days organizing and preserving family history, and spending more time with family, including travel. We wish her the very best in her new adventures.

Contributors: Elizabeth Brown, Andreina Delgado, Gerard Hogan, Elizabeth Kuykendall, Daniel Levy, Rebecca Lubas, Jennifer Rosario, Maureen Rust, Sarah Sillin, Julia Stringfellow, Maura Valentino, and Lauren Wittek
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