



## Pausing, Reflecting, and Planning

By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

CMU's campus is beautiful during the summer months. The beauty and slower pace were especially welcome this year after a busy academic year. We appreciated the opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year and plan for the upcoming academic year. Although it was quiet on campus between orientation events, a lot has been happening behind the scenes.

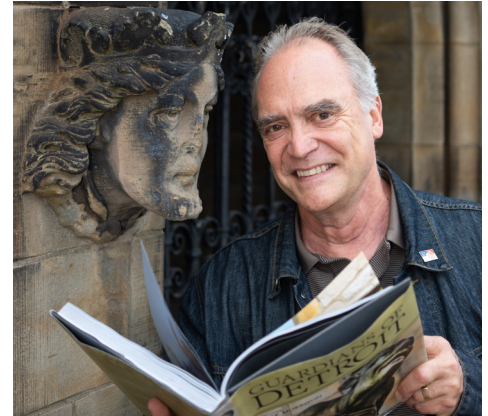
Several projects are underway to enhance the Park Library. These include converting the research help desk area into study space; creating a picnic area west of the front entrance to provide outdoor seating for Ponder Café customers; shifting collections on the first and second floors for a future first-floor remodel; upgrading the sound system in the Baber Room; and upgrading the presentation equipment in the Strosacker Room and the second-floor instruction rooms.

Gifts from the Friends of the Libraries have made many of these projects possible! We've used Friends gifts to furnish the family study room, remodel the former research help desk area, and upgrade equipment in the Baber and Strosacker rooms. Your donations also help us go the extra mile by supporting our membership in the HathiTrust, purchasing Steven Jessmore's awarding winning photograph, *Northern Cardinal in Flight*, sponsoring CMU's international film festival, sponsoring WCMU's Children's Bookshelf, providing conflict management training materials for library employees, and purchasing e-books on topics in the arts, sciences, and leadership. These resources enrich the lives of CMU students and faculty, library employees, and our community members.

We've been reflecting on user feedback as we prepare for the future. In February, we conducted a library survey to understand students' experiences and satisfaction with the University Libraries. We will create a multi-year action plan to address students' needs in alignment with CMU's new strategic plan. Folks in the Clarke Historical Library have recently developed a 3-year strategic plan, rooted in stakeholder feedback, to enhance their services and outreach.

We look forward to implementing impactful projects in the year ahead. Library-wide goals for 2023-2024 include enhancing a welcoming atmosphere in our building and services, exploring the Libraries' role in promoting and fostering open educational resources (OER) and artificial intelligence tools, and evaluating the University Libraries' existing sustainability practices and opportunities.

During the past three years, we've adapted countless times to changing pandemic protocols and user expectations. Adapting to changing user needs and external forces is a continuous process. Our commitment to providing excellent library services and resources remains steadfast. We appreciate your support for the CMU Libraries, which enables us to support learners and researchers in accomplishing their educational, scholarly, and creative goals.



**SAVE THE DATE: Friends of the Libraries  
Appreciation Event**

**With Guest Speaker: Jeff Morrison**

**Sat., Sept 16, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Sarah and Daniel Opperman Auditorium**

### In This Issue:

CMU Students' Use and Satisfaction with CMU Libraries.....	2
2022-2023: The Year in Numbers.....	2
2022-2023 Library Use Divided by Student Headcount.....	3
2022-2023: Scholarship Recipients.....	3
Seeking a Pleasant Peninsula: Michigan Migration Stories.....	4
East Grand Rapids <i>Cadence</i> Newly Digitized.....	5
Welcome Elizabeth Heitsch!.....	6
Adobe Workshops at CMU Libraries.....	6
Library Creates New Virtual Archive of Art Exhibitions and Artist Talks.....	7
Baber Room Exhibitions Schedule 2023-2024.....	7
Thank You Video.....	8

# CMU Students' Use and Satisfaction with CMU Libraries



By Kathy Irwin, Dean of University Libraries

Feedback from CMU students about their experiences using our collections, services, and the Park Library building is precious information. Student input directly influences building remodels and service delivery, and it also demonstrates the value of the University Libraries to their academic journeys.

This past February, we conducted a survey of students and found that students' level of satisfaction with the CMU Libraries was close to pre-pandemic survey results. In 2023, students' overall satisfaction with the library was 95.4% (somewhat or very satisfied), compared to 97.8% (satisfied or very satisfied) in 2018.

Out of the 534 students who participated in the 2023 survey, 437 (81.8%) were undergraduates and 97 (18.2%) were graduate students, including good representation across degree programs. Graduate student respondents reported that the library helped them achieve overall academic success (88.7%), be a more productive researcher (83.7%), and make more efficient use of their time (83.7%). Undergraduate respondents shared that the library helped them achieve overall academic success (89.4%), make more efficient use of their time (85.9%), complete coursework (85.6%), work on group projects or study with a group (82.7%), and find information needed for their assignments (79.9%).

Library space as a service is critical to students' ability to achieve their academic goals. Students rated high satisfaction with the Park Library with 92.1% of respondents somewhat or very satisfied with the spaces offered. Using individual and group study spaces ranked high on students' reasons for visiting

the Park Library as did accessing support services and resources. Students' reasons for visiting the Park Library included using library printers (70.4%), studying individually in a quiet space (69.2%), using their own computer to write a paper or work on an assignment (68.7%), using their own computer to find articles/books for their papers or projects (67.9%), studying/meeting in a group study room (55.2%), and studying individually in a study room (54.9%). The next cluster of responses included using books and other materials, studying in the 24/7 study room, asking questions at a service desk, using an academic support center, and viewing exhibits. As we update the library's furnishings and enhance library spaces and services over the next several years, these responses will guide our decisions.

“The library is literally a lifesaver for when I cannot focus on getting work done at my dorm.”

- Undergraduate in the behavioral and social sciences

CMU Libraries' services also rated high in student satisfaction with 93.1% of respondents somewhat or very satisfied. The most popular services include assistance from library personnel at a library service desk; Documents on Demand; assistance from librarians online; instruction for classes on finding, using, and evaluating information; assistance from a librarian one-on-one for a project or course assignment; and the textbooks in the library program. Students also noted that they were not aware of some

## 2022-2023: The Year in Numbers

The Libraries' 2022-2023 academic year operational data showed an increase in the number of individuals using the Park Library study spaces, the library's online learning objects, and the Clarke Historical Library's services. Use of books, e-books, and journals decreased compared to the previous year. Since 2020, student use of the University Libraries has changed each year based on the pandemic's impact on the learning environment. Hopefully, students' library usage will stabilize during the 2023-2024 academic year.

**↑ 7.3%** **Park Library Usage**  
Up 7.3% compared to the previous year and up 82.2% compared to 2020-2021.

**↑ 12.9%** **E-books Accessed**  
Up 12.9% compared to the previous year and down 12.3% compared to 2020-2021.

**↓ 16.3%** **Event Space Usage**  
Down 16.3% compared to the previous year and up 51.3% compared to 2020-2021.

**↓ 3.1%** **Research Guide Usage**  
Down 3.1% compared to the previous year and down 10.7% compared to 2020-2021.

**↓ 17.8%** **Articles Downloaded**  
Down 17.8% compared to the previous year and down 47.1% compared to 2020-2021. Please note that the industry standards for counting usage were revised making it difficult to compare this year's data to prior years.

**↑ 194.9%** **Library Online Learning Objects Viewed**  
Nearly triple the use compared to the previous year and up 89.9% compared to 2020-2021.



library services, including the 1-credit library research course, assistance with copyright questions, online tutorials, and assistance from staff in the Adobe Digital Lounge. We will continue to prioritize marketing our services, so students know about the resources available to support them in accomplishing their academic goals. Of respondents who had received library instruction in one of their courses, 87.9% reported an increase in their confidence using library resources. Not only did 89.3% of these students apply what they learned to assignments in the library research course, 78.6% applied what they learned outside the course.

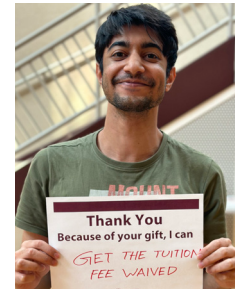
“**Having a Librarian come into classes and having them provide videos on how to find scholarly articles has enhanced my academic performance in many classes. Without being taught how to utilize these resources, I would have never known how.**”

- Undergraduate in education

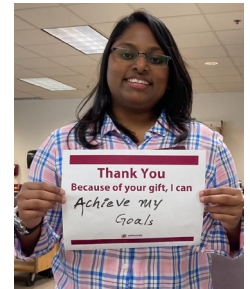
Using library resources can be intimidating for students who are accustomed to using Google or who have not grown up using school or public libraries. When asked about using our search tools, 93.2% of respondents were somewhat or very satisfied. The most popular library tools included Smart Search for locating articles, books, e-books, and more (79.9%), databases A-Z or by subject (79.2%), journals A-Z (73.3%), and research guides for specific subjects or courses (55.6%). Students also reported being confident or very confident in their ability to find information resources, evaluate information resources, find primary resources, and find data.

Although most students have their own computer, many rely on the library to provide access to computers when they are on campus or need access to specialized equipment they do not own. *(Continued on page 6)*

## 2023-2024: Scholarship Recipients



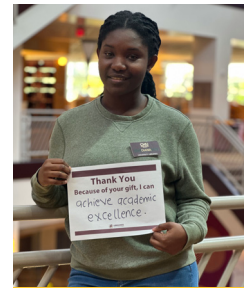
**Riteesh Mandi**  
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award



**Sherly Tandra**  
Helen Holz Rooney Endowed Award



**Allyse March**  
Gus and Lucille Grozdon Family Scholarship



**Diana Gyimah**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Tejaswini Manohar**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Saiteja Puli**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



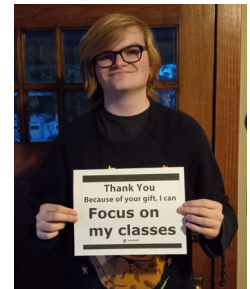
**Sai Chand Venapally**  
Libraries Student Employee Scholarship



**Larry Laponsie**  
R&M Schmidt Endowed Award



**Lucas Warnke**  
R&M Schmidt Endowed Award



**David Nees**  
Robert & Marily Peterson Scholarship



## 2022-2023 Library Use Divided by Student Headcount

- 26 Articles downloaded
- 26 Library research guides used
- 5 E-books accessed
- 17 Visits to the Park Library
- ~1 Physical books checked out /renewed
- ~1 Item requested from Documents on Demand



## Seeking a Pleasant Peninsula: Michigan Migration Stories

By Bryan Whitlege, Clarke Historical Library Public Services Librarian

*Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice —*

*If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.*

The state motto, adopted in 1835, two years before statehood, alludes to the geography of modern Michigan as a place people have moved to, from, within, and through for centuries. The complex cultural landscape of Michigan that we know today has been defined by these migrations. Through the migration stories that are highlighted in this exhibition, those who find themselves in Michigan can reflect on what steered them to these two pleasant peninsulas and how their experiences contribute to the culture of this state.

Drawing from the Clarke's archives, we can learn much about why people have moved to Michigan or how government policies forced them out of our state. And we can see ourselves in the stories of people who moved from one place to another.

Two dramatic stories—60 years and 6,000 miles apart—show us how Michigan has been a safe-haven for people enduring conflict abroad.



» The Horn Family, 1922

Anna and Wilhelm Horn left Loitz, Germany and came to Saginaw in 1922. World War I, which ended four years prior, caused devastation across Germany. For many of those who survived the War, and who had the desire and means to leave, Michigan was their destination. The Horn family's records, found in the Clarke, tell their story of moving to the US to start a family and a new life.

Through the oral histories in another collection, we learn more about Michigan as a destination for those fleeing war. Meng Leng Phou was one of many refugees who fled the violence of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. Meng Leng's journey began in 1978, when he and his family attempted to escape. The family was captured, split apart, and imprisoned. Months later, Meng Leng decided to flee again and learned of his family's whereabouts. They connected

in the process of fleeing to Thailand and together, they came to Mt. Pleasant. After settling in Michigan, he recounted his story to Joan Shippers Memering, who led Mid-Michigan Refugee Action Committee and recorded the stories of resettled refugees.

Other stories of migration explore those who made their way to Mt. Pleasant to attend CMU. The stories of Selma Khoubasser and



» Meng Leng Phou, 1978

Clarence Tuma might sound familiar. Selma came from Turkey to attend Central in the 1940s. During her time here, she kept an ongoing correspondence with her father. Her letters expressed excitement about new adventures and homesickness about missing family and favorite hobbies. She mentioned her classes, peers, and observations about the quirks of American college life: "Girls and boys date and [...] at curfew time you will see couples kissing in front of the door and nobody seems to think that it's strange."

In Clarence Tuma's case, he migrated within the state of Michigan. As he recounted in his autobiography, a coach suggested that he attend CMU to play football. When Clarence asked how to get there, the coach said, "Go to Lansing and turn right. It's in Mt. Pleasant, in the center of the state." Clarence had never been to Lansing, let alone north of that. But his decision to take the leap and come to CMU has reverberated in the community for generations.

There are many stories about how people got to where they are. And you have a story, too. When you visit the Clarke and explore the Seeking a Pleasant Peninsula: Michigan Migration Stories exhibit, take a moment to reflect on how you came to be in Michigan. Then, take a postcard and share your experience.

The Clarke's exhibit, *Seeking a Pleasant Peninsula: Michigan Migration Stories* will be on display until January 2024.





## East Grand Rapids *Cadence* Newly Digitized

By Carrie Marsh, Director of the Clarke Historical Library

Newspapers hold powerful evidence of the rich historical record of a community's daily life. In many respects, they are the glue that binds a community together. One great example is the East Grand Rapids *Cadence*, a woman-founded and woman-operated weekly newspaper from 1975-1990, and the most recent addition to the Clarke Historical Library's Digital Michigan Newspapers Database.

In the early 1970s East Grand Rapids resident and author, Susan Lovell, was writing a one-page monthly newsletter for the East Grand Rapids school board, called *The 3Rs*. While *The 3Rs* focused on school board news exclusively, she was regularly contacted by local students who wanted *The 3Rs* to include news about student activities, too. Around this time, the local weekly newspaper had been shut down, and there wasn't another print outlet documenting local community news and events. When asked to bring back the ceased local weekly, the publisher of that publication claimed, "East Grand Rapids won't support its own newspaper." This response started *Cadence*.

Reflecting on the depth of her community's spirit, Susan felt that East Grand Rapids would support a local newspaper if it was "done right." Not leaving a challenge unanswered—"I don't like to be told what won't work!"—she got to work. "My entire goal was to support the [East Grand Rapids] children from kindergarten on by sharing their various achievements with the community." Partnering with three friends—Mary Cummings, Gini Mulligan, and Susan Ryan—and with the owner of the Greenville Daily News, John Stafford, *Cadence* first went to print in August 1975. *Cadence* was an all-friends-on-deck enterprise, from writing to photographing to selling ad space. Their children as well as other neighborhood teens delivered the papers every week.

Because of East Grand Rapids' small population, advertisers insisted on 100% distribution; subsequently, everyone living in East Grand Rapids received *Cadence*. To make ends meet, Susan and her team instigated voluntary, or 'VIP,' subscriptions. "Over 80% of our readers faithfully sent us \$18 a year and bought subscriptions for their kids away at school. I wanted to thank each one of them, so we began printing the names of every subscriber [in the newspaper]. And what I never expected was that our long pages of subscribers' names became the first thing readers turned to!"

In 1990, Susan made the difficult decision to sell *Cadence*. "We were one of the first women-owned

businesses around at the time, and I would often get mocked about "going to your office?" It sounds like ancient history now, but many people expected us to fail. Yet I will always love the people of East Grand Rapids who embraced us from the get-go and supported us always." Under new ownership, *Cadence* continued in print until it eventually ceased in 2019.

Last year, the Clarke received a generous gift from the Meijer Foundation for digitization. Recognizing the Foundation's ties to East Grand Rapids, we reached out to Mary T. Dersch, curator of the East Grand Rapids History Room at the East Grand Rapids Library about digitizing *Cadence*. Dersch worked for several years to raise support for digitizing *Cadence* and had consulted with the Clarke about our digitization program. With the support of the Meijer Foundation, *Cadence* is now freely accessible and full-text searchable online, along with over a million Michigan newspaper pages, in the Clarke's Digital Michigan Newspapers Database.



» Susan Lovell -  
East Grand Rapids resident and author

For more information about how the Clarke Historical Library preserves Michigan's historical newspapers through microfilming and digitization, you can email us at [DigMichNews@cmich.edu](mailto:DigMichNews@cmich.edu). To find out more about *Cadence* and East Grand Rapids history, visit the City of East Grand Rapids History Room, located at the East Grand Rapids Library, and online.



Elizabeth Heitsch  
Reference and Instruction Librarian  
for Health Professions

## Welcome Elizabeth Heitsch!

By Tim Peters, Associate Dean of Libraries

The Libraries welcomes Elizabeth Heitsch as our new Reference and Instruction Librarian for the Health Professions. Elizabeth began working at CMU on June 28, 2023. In her new position, she will act as a liaison librarian to the students, faculty, and programs in the university's College of Health Professions.

Prior to joining CMU, Elizabeth worked as a Reference and Social Sciences Librarian at the University of Mary Washington in Virginia from 2015 – 2020, and in the same capacity as a remote librarian (living right here in Mount Pleasant!) from 2020 to June of 2023. She also spent two years at Mary Washington as a Reference and Instruction Librarian from 2013 – 2015. Previous appointments include serving as a Visiting Reference and Instruction Librarian at Alma College and time as a librarian at Ivy Tech Community College in South Bend, Indiana.

Elizabeth grew up in St. Louis, Michigan and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Alma College and a Master of Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. In her free time, she enjoys reading, baking, and playing board games, and she is currently teaching herself to sew and crochet.

## Adobe Workshops at CMU Libraries

By Katie Edmiston, Arts, Media, and Design Librarian

In the Spring of 2023, CMU Libraries hosted multiple Adobe workshops to promote digital literacy, creativity, and Adobe resources available to CMU students, faculty, and staff. Arts, Media & Design Librarian Katie Edmiston and Coordinator of Marketing and Branding Kari Chrenka collaborated to train attendees on Adobe Express. They explored the possibilities of incorporating Adobe designs into personal, academic, and professional work.

Six workshops were offered, two specifically tailored for faculty and staff members and the rest designed for students. Each event was 1.5 to 2 hours long, featuring a live demonstration of the Adobe Express program, best practices for graphics and web design, and

tips for integrating CMU colors and branding into Adobe designs. The demonstrations were followed by open work time in which attendees explored the tool, asked questions, and had the opportunity to create a digital item (such as a webpage or infographic) step-by-step.

Attendees shared that the workshops were very useful, and they look forward to more opportunities to incorporate Adobe programs, such as Photoshop and Premier Pro, into their creative and scholarly endeavors. We are excited to further support the CMU community and the Adobe Creative Campus initiative through additional Adobe workshops in the future.



*(Continued from page 3)*

Of the technology and equipment offered in the Park Library, students used printers the most followed by library computers that have 2 monitors. We also asked them which items they relied on the library to provide. Again, printers and computers topped the list. However, they also rely on the library to provide access to equipment they do not own and that is not as easy to access in other places, such as scanners, CD players, DVD players, a green screen/wall, a sound recording booth, microphones, camcorders, and other peripheral audiovisual equipment. When asked about potential future technology the library might offer, students were most interested in having access to docking stations for their personal laptops and many were also interested in having 3 monitors at some library computers.

Overwhelmingly, students' comments were positive, and student respondents also provided suggestions for improvements and enhancements. Many commented that they want the library building to be open longer hours or to have more comfortable chairs.

As we begin developing our next 3-year action plan aligned with CMU's new strategic plan, we will use CMU students' feedback to guide us.

# Library Creates New Virtual Archive of Art Exhibitions and Artist Talks

By Denise Fanning, Arts and Exhibits Coordinator

If you've stopped into the Baber Room Gallery recently, you may have noticed that we've been hosting a diverse series of highly acclaimed and thought-provoking artists and exhibitions. We know it's not always possible to make it to every show in person, so a team of library staff members has been hard at work creating an archive of our art exhibition history for permanent public view. The Libraries' have purchased a new archive-friendly software platform called Omeka, which allows us to share images from each exhibition we've hosted since January 2022. All artist talks are archived here as well, so grab some popcorn and settle in for some inspired conversations with our artists.

Our new online exhibits platform is a wonderful way to view a sampling of our exhibitions, reconnect with an exhibition you enjoyed in person, or to listen to our past artist talks. You can find all Baber Room Gallery exhibitions and artist talks by visiting the exhibitions archive at [library.cmich.edu/ArtExhibitionsArchive](http://library.cmich.edu/ArtExhibitionsArchive).

The staff responsible for creating and implementing the exhibitions archive are Ann Kucera (Systems Librarian), Kari Chrenka (Coordinator of Marketing and Branding), Jody Dittenber (Library Dean's Office Supervisor), Katrina Himebaugh (Library Administrative Secretary), and Denise Fanning (Arts and Exhibits Coordinator).



» Brian Nelson's "Thinking Outloud" sculpture exhibition, Baber Room Gallery, 2023.

## Baber Room Exhibitions Schedule 2023-2024

By Denise Fanning, Arts and Exhibits Coordinator

The Baber Room Gallery continues to provide a diverse set of experiences and exhibitions by highly acclaimed artists working with a broad array of media and from diverse backgrounds. We hope that you are taking advantage of our inspiring exhibitions programming and artist talks. The Baber Gallery is open the same hours as Charles V. Park Library, which means it is often open much longer hours than a typical gallery. Treat yourself to an afternoon or evening of art, make it a friend's night out or a date night! Learn more and find upcoming Artist Talk dates at [library.cmich.edu/Exhibitions](http://library.cmich.edu/Exhibitions).

» **June - August (2023): New Acquisitions**

*A selection of newly acquired works from the permanent art collection of Central Michigan University.*

» **September - October (2023): Scott Hocking**

*Internationally acclaimed and Detroit-based installation sculptor and photographer, Scott Hocking, will create a site-specific installation for CMU and showcase large scale photographs of site-specific installations created throughout his career.*

» **November - December (2023): Lakela Brown**

*An exhibition of plaster and cast paper relief sculptures which inspire conversations around African American culture and aesthetics.*

» **January - March (2024): Khary Mason,**

Photographer and former Detroit Homicide Detective, Khary Mason, presents an exhibition of large-scale photographs that interrogate his own place in history as both a police officer and as a Black man.

» **March - May (2024): Teresa Dunn**

Mexican-American painter, Teresa Dunn, creates narrative paintings that investigate themes of cultural heritage, isolation and belonging, joy and struggle, relations and identity, and hopelessness and hope.





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**We appreciate your gifts and the impact they have on our students and community!**

We hope you enjoy this thank you video from the CMU Libraries' employees:

[library.cmich.edu/FOTLThankYou](https://library.cmich.edu/FOTLThankYou)

