Spring 2019

Bookmarks (spring 2019)

Iowa State University Library

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Welcome to the spring issue of Bookmarks.

The history of the University Library at Iowa State goes back to 1868 when Adonijah S. Welch was president and the books were housed in Old Main (now Beardshear Hall).

Though the location of our main library, the Robert S. and Ellen Sorge Parks Library, hasn’t changed much (a few steps from Beardshear Hall), today’s library experience would be unrecognizable to the young students who began their adventures in the preparatory class 150 years ago. In the years since then, much has changed but fundamentally the library’s role has remained the same — to advance the university’s academic excellence and land-grant mission. To fulfill this role, we provide access to extensive research collections; teach students how to access, evaluate and effectively use information; and work to preserve Iowa State’s history.

The historic Forever True, For Iowa State campaign has achieved tremendous success and reached its $1.1 billion goal two years ahead of the initial 2020 target date. A new goal of $1.5 billion has been set and the campaign extended to June 30, 2021. Through the Forever True, For Iowa State campaign, and with your support, we continue to make plans for transforming spaces in our libraries for research, learning, and collaboration. While we continue to fulfill our traditional roles, we want to create innovative, high-tech spaces and provide value-added services online and inside our libraries. We must repurpose spaces for our growing special collections and archival materials, as we expect that most future growth in print collections will occur in these areas. Achieving our fundraising goals will result in a reimagined and stronger University Library, in Parks Library, Veterinary Medicine Library and Design Reading Room, better positioned to meet current and future students’ and researchers’ needs.

And, speaking of transforming library spaces, in October 2018, we received the exciting news of a grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. We are excited about this important project in support of our ISU students and look forward to its debut at the start of the fall 2019 semester.

If you are in or near Ames, Iowa, I encourage you to visit our We Are ISU: Snapshots of Student Life exhibition hosted by Special Collections and University Archives.

The detailed collection commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first official class of students entering then-Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm. Since its opening on March 13, we’ve received a multitude of visitors eager to learn more about the university’s history. If you’re unable to visit us in person, you can view the digital exhibit at exhibits.lib.iastate.edu. To learn more about upcoming events and new developments, visit lib.iastate.edu. It is sure to be of great interest! If you can’t make it to Ames to see the exhibit but would like to know more about the early days of the library, you may be interested in Cardinal Tales—ISU’s Special Collections and University Archives blog.

As I think about the past and future of the University Library, one thing remains certain: We will continue to be dedicated to the mission of Iowa State University, to create, share and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place. Thank you for helping us with this!

Enjoy Bookmarks.

Sincerely,

Beth McNeil
Dean of Library Services and Professor, University Library
Library Briefs

From the editor

Story ideas for Bookmarks are passed along all the time. As we gather details and follow leads, many opportunities exist to interact and develop relationships with people all over campus, in Ames, around the U.S. and beyond. I meet with people in person to take photos and exchange information via email and on the telephone. Occasionally, hand-written notes become the inspiration for us.

Planning for stories in this issue began after Dean Beth McNeil received a thank you email that complimented the efforts of several of our librarians. One thing led to another, and we discovered an emerging theme: Librarians are experts in their subject areas and sometimes it may seem like they have super powers. That’s not how they look at it, though. In this issue we include a few examples of the questions that are asked of ISU librarians and the lengths they will go to answer them. Stories include assistance with locating corn yield information from the early 20th century, assistance with creating resources for distance Ph.D. students, and facilitating access to materials for students in the dietetics internship program in France and Ghana. Inquiries run the gamut and place our librarians in the middle of the research process and facilitating use of library resources no matter where the student, faculty or staff member is in the world.

Is there something you’d like to learn about the library? Do you have a story to tell? Please write and tell us about it.

In the meantime, enjoy Bookmarks.

Sincerely,

M. Monica Gillen
mgillen@iastate.edu

Farewell and goodbye

Debbie Casey, government documents specialist, retired in October 2018.
Lana Greve, library assistant III, retired in October 2018.
Lori Kappmeyer, associate professor, retired in August 2018.

Hello and welcome

Emily DuGranrut joined the library in September 2018 to serve as the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Project Archivist. This is a 9-month appointment.

Susan Jasper joined the library in July 2018 as the community engagement specialist, working in outreach between our library and Ames Public Library.

Miranda Cantrell joined the library in March 2018 as a library assistant in Interlibrary Loan.

Cynthia Kapteyn joined the library in January as a library associate in Preservation Services.

Kahlee Leingang joined the library in January as a librarian I in Special Collections and University Archives.

On the move

Harrison Inefuku, Scholarly Publishing Services Librarian, is now working full time on the launch and management of the ISU Digital Press.

Hope Craft manages the Digital Repository and specializes in historical publications. Launched in 2012, the Iowa State University Digital Repository has grown to be one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Associate Professor Susan Vega Garcia was appointed assistant dean for inclusion and equity.

Jason Carpenter is now the Interlibrary Loan borrowing coordinator.
The scenario is frequent and familiar. Researchers, faculty, students and members of the community reach out to the liaison librarians in the University Library every day. Whether the questioner is in person at the Research Help Desk or the inquiry comes in virtually via the AskUs! button on the library homepage, liaison librarians stand ready to tap their expert knowledge and help get to the bottom of each question they’re asked.

Perhaps the scholar doesn’t have enough information, or the bits and pieces they do have are incomplete or incorrect. Does the librarian have a cape or a wand? No. What they do have is a wealth of experience and training, and they know where to begin the search. Since they go where the clues lead them, maybe they’re detectives. One thing is certain, librarians won’t take or give I don’t know for an answer.

Communication is key. Researchers and users ask librarians questions. Many times that question is followed up with another question from the librarian. In order to bring clarity, the back-and-forth continues until those involved are on the same page. Librarians and researchers alike discuss the goals and then explore ways to achieve them. This is true no matter where the parties are — in the library, on campus, or someplace further afield. Librarians go where the investigation leads, as an obscure tangent might offer a path to a compelling outcome.

Experts in the library are ready to help students and encourage them if they seem uncomfortable with the research process. They get creative, realizing that they may be the conduit to a result that is significant for the student or researcher.

Academic libraries require librarians and well-trained staff to meet researcher needs and individual quests to find applicable research information. Simply because a researcher knows that the object of their inquiry exists, doesn’t mean it will magically appear in search results to await discovery by the scholar or librarian. A successful discovery process relies on a trained library staff member listening as the question is asked and engaging in a careful exchange to prevent confusion or unnecessarily wandering astray.

**Librarian assists in advance of UN meeting**

Sociology Liaison Librarian Abbey Elder assisted Associate Professor Emeritus Virginia Molgaard, Ph.D., who was searching for a series of articles published decades ago by Ronald Simons, Ph.D., a former Iowa State professor. The first article suggestions Elder discovered didn’t address the defined subject area, so Molgaard passed along additional information to aid in the search.

**Information inquiry offers surprise for a former graduate student.**

There are over 82,000 items in the Digital Repository at Iowa State University (DR@ISU), which provides free access to the creative work and scholarship of Iowa State faculty,* students, staff and administrative units. A former student reached out after finding their thesis on a website to which they hadn’t granted publication permission.

Science and Technology Librarian Kris Stacy-Bates informed the student that their work was digitalized to the repository.

It turns out that the print version of the thesis had been checked out 12 times and downloaded over 55,000 times, which places it in Iowa State’s Digital Repository Top Ten Downloads List.

*710 or 37 percent of Iowa State faculty participate in the Digital Repository.
Once discovered, the articles highlighted a surprising finding, that according to Molgaard, “ran counter to established beliefs about parental discipline.” Simons’ research posits that corporal punishment in African-American families doesn’t have harmful effects on children when it is the norm, and accepted by families in the community.

The research was conducted in Iowa and Georgia, and Molgaard was prepping for a meeting in Vienna, Austria, with a group of experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The meeting topic was a new UN-sponsored curriculum funded by Japan and to be piloted in Indonesia and Bangladesh.

Simons’ findings are important due to similar cultural norms regarding physical punishment in the two countries where the curriculum will be tested. Without the librarian’s discovery, which Molgaard sent to her contact at the UN, the meeting in Vienna would have taken place without the essential information on Simon’s research. As a result, the research will help with the development of the new program.

Due to the pertinent information supplied by Elder, the meeting with the UN was better informed. Put into perspective, the program will extend to agencies and eventually families in Asian countries.

As a 10-year consultant for the UNODC, Molgaard has focused her efforts on writing and training facilitators. She has expertise in the area of deterring adolescent substance abuse. For nearly four decades she has been involved in social and behavioral research, taking findings from the academic world to Iowa communities through ISU Extension and Outreach. Prior to her inquiry and working with Elder, Molgaard wasn’t aware that librarians had subject specialties. She was used to consulting “large books available at the help desk that contained listings of articles by discipline and by author.”

Thanks to the Internet, the world becomes much smaller and the distance and effort to locate research is a mouse click away. Call them librarians or information professionals or subject experts. Call them miracle workers or super heroes.

They provide access to materials and information and offer instruction. In the 21st century library, the role of the librarian is in a constant state of evolution and their work and efforts have global implications. In an Internet-connected, information-seeking culture, consequently, the world can start to seem like a relatively small place.

Investigation initiated in interlibrary loan (ILL)

Science and Technology Librarian Megan O’Donnell helped a researcher go on the hunt for “Mollusks of the McGregor, Iowa region,” but a search of the complete citation returned nothing. O’Donnell reached out to the Iowa Insects mailing list. She learned that the University of Iowa had the author’s papers and was then contacted by someone from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with a photocopy of the document. The collections manager of the Museum of Natural History and Old Capitol Museum at the UI asked for a copy of the paper, and it was sent there and to the University of Iowa Archives, where hardcopies were discovered of both part I, which the DNR had a copy of, and a part II (which she didn’t know had been published). It was a different journal and it turns out Iowa State University Library has them on microfilm.

Science fiction writer transport question offers theory about traffic death increase.

Associate Professor Kris Stacy-Bates helped a scholar looking to find out information on how American science fiction writers in the 1960s handled transportation issues. This was a point of interest due to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistic: Between 1960 and 1972 traffic deaths shot up by almost 20,000 additional deaths a year.

The researcher was looking to find more information or theories on this increase. Stacy-Bates not only found the original source of the data from NHTSA verifying the increase, but the source noted the massive increase in the number of miles traveled in motor vehicles each year. The librarian found and supplied information on the U.S. population increases during that time period as a possible additional factor.
Since the 1930s, researchers have conducted intensive breeding work to improve plant stability and corn yields. Temperature and weather patterns change over time, and along the way breeders have increased their understanding of processes and yields. Since it’s not possible to travel back in time, it is central to current and future research to be able to evaluate present conditions with those of the past.

Iowa State Professor Pat Schnable and members of his lab are working on a project focused on yield stability and whether it has increased over time. At one point in their information gathering process, his team was trying to locate historical corn yield test data for various states in the U.S., including Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, Mississippi and Indiana. Agriculture experiment stations have been conducting yield tests for a long time, with hard copies in many cases preserved in library collections. For a variety of reasons, locating some of this particular data proved challenging.

Enter the librarians and staff at the Iowa State University Library to assist Schnable and his researchers, including project leader Lakshmi Attigala. The request was fairly specific: locate corn variety tests for 1973-1992 from Indiana. The science and technology librarian realized the data was published by Purdue University as part of the Agricultural Experiment Station publications. However, the initial request couldn’t be filled due to an issue with logistics at Purdue. The Iowa State University Library had some of the publications in storage from the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, including annual reports from the necessary year range, which showed a variety tests had been co-published in the Station Bulletin series along with the correct titles and issue numbers. With new hope for finding the materials, the research team was able to obtain the volumes through interlibrary loan from a different library.

The investigation continues. Through the process, Schnable’s team discovered that sometimes it’s not easy to find resources. “The people who generated the data don’t even have the data,” he said. “Libraries are curating the data and the service to help researchers locate it.”

Research always begins as an exploration, and scholars don’t necessarily know what they’ll find or what value it might have to society. Among other things, corn is involved in the production of food and fuel, so this type of research is significant in everyday life. Sometimes the ability or inability to locate information has broad – national, even worldwide – implications. Libraries curate materials, scholarship, data and research outcomes. They are repositories for and the gateway to information.
“The people who generated the data don’t even have the data. Libraries are curating the data and the service to help researchers locate it.”

-Patrick Schnable, Iowa State University professor

Pictured above: Lakshmi Attigala, in Parks Library. Attigala is an assistant scientist in the Department of Agronomy. She is leading the data collection project.

Far left and left: Comprised of farmers, the Iowa Corn Research Committee and Iowa Corn staff members on a farm visit in June, during which, staff and graduate students from the laboratories of Drs. Patrick Schnable, Michael Castellano, Liang Dong, and Baskar Ganapathysubramanian offered insight into the research conducted at Iowa State in the field of plant phenomics. The pictures were taken at the Agronomy and Curtiss farms.

Photos courtesy of Eddy Yeh of the Schnable Laboratory, Iowa State University.
There are numerous internship and study abroad opportunities throughout Iowa State University. The students participating in these experiential learning environments need ready access to research and course materials in order to complete assignments, labs and research projects. Liaison librarians are often called upon to build tutorials and guides for instructors and student use. Additionally, librarians are embedded in the online classroom, or learning management system, and students know that library-related assistance is one click away. One internship where librarians help facilitate learning is in the dietetics program.

The Iowa State University Dietetics Internship (ISU DI) began as an Approved Pre-professional Practice Program (AP4) in 1989 and was granted approval by the dietetic program accrediting body in 1995 to transition to an internship program.
Today the Iowa State DI offers two cohorts in January and June and enrolls up to 80 students in each class (effective 2013). The ISU DI is the largest internship program of its kind in the U.S., and in 2010, transitioned from a postbaccalaureate program to a graduate certificate program. The internship is a distance-based program that affords applicants the opportunity to complete their supervised practice in the area where they live or wish to work. Consequently, in each class, there are interns in many states across the country. This is an accelerated program that helps the interns complete their supervised practice requirements within six months, and they develop competence in the areas of leadership, time management, critical thinking, assessment/problem solving and effective communication.

These interns have an opportunity to travel abroad to either France or Ghana, and Iowa State was the first program to offer an international component in an underserved country.

Interns of the program are able to utilize University Library services and resources even though they are halfway around the world. Liaison Librarian in Research Instruction Services Lorrie Pellack created an interactive webinar to assist interns in finding resources and navigating the library website. Pellack leads students through a discussion on how to narrow down search results to find the most appropriate articles and teaches them how to utilize common databases such as PubMed and Google Scholar.

Several recorded tutorials are available on how to find journal articles and utilize interlibrary loan among many more. As future registered dietitians, it is vital that the interns are able to access and utilize evidenced-based research to support their findings and to develop best practice skills.

Librarians provide access to knowledge and materials that are vital to the success of students in study abroad programs. It is a significant development, where the library is concerned, that students and researchers aren’t limited by distance, when seeking knowledge and education. Our librarians do what it takes to ensure that everyone has access to the same materials no matter if they are located on campus in Ames, Iowa, or somewhere else in the world.
PARTNERSHIPS WITH FACULTY

Available and flexible resources are important to student success

The job of liaison librarians in the University Library is to assist students and faculty in their research pursuits. Charles Yier (above right) created a comprehensive course guide for Theory and Research Seminar in Event Management, an advanced doctoral-level course. In summer 2018, he created and delivered a two-hour seminar for students to explain available resources that can assist them with their research projects. Both the course guide and the seminar were well-received by students.

Yier is available for individual consultations with many graduate students that Professor Eric Olson advises, including on-campus and distance students. This is extremely helpful as students are often unaware of resources available that help support their classroom activities and research. Yier is helpful in customizing the resources based on student's research interests.

Library resources are available around-the-clock, and this helps promote student success. Materials can be accessed when they're needed. According to Olson, many students work, have families and a wide variety of other commitments, which means they are unable to make it to campus. Creativity of research ideas come to students throughout the day, so having library resources that are available and flexible greatly improves the student experience.

Available and flexible resources are important to student success.

Professor Eric Olson (above left) was recently awarded a Miller Open Education Grant, which will assist his efforts in his online and in-person classrooms.

Olson's purpose for applying was to modify current EVENT 471 required course resources with open educational resources (OER). His project will find, adapt and combine existing OER in the area of event management that can be used in EVENT 471 to replace the current textbook; and create 10 original, team-based learning application activities that can be used in EVENT 471 (and other event management courses).

Application activities will be in areas of event strategy, stakeholder development, event design, volunteer management, event sponsorship, financial stewardship, event target marketing, site selection, event risk management, and event evaluation.

These resources will be placed on an open-resource forum.
The 9th Conference on Aperiodic Crystals (Aperiodic 2018) was held July 8 – 13, 2018 on the Iowa State campus. This international meeting focuses on materials that have complex structures, which circumvent conventional lattice periodicity. ISU is known world-wide for its strength in research on this topic. Aperiodic is the flagship meeting of the Commission on Aperiodic Crystals (CAC) of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr).

Approximately 80 scientists traveled from across the globe — Japan, India, France, Germany, China, Czechia, Israel, United Kingdom, Sweden and beyond — to Iowa State. The international nature of this meeting is evident in its history, with recent conferences held in Czechia, Australia, UK, Japan, Brazil and the Netherlands. ISU had the honor of being the first North American site to host Aperiodic. Iowa State is home to Nobel Laureate Danny Shechtman, awarded the prize for the discovery of a particularly exotic and important type of aperiodic material, a quasicrystal.

During the conference, Professor Shechtman gave an evening lecture at the Memorial Union, which was open to the public, well attended and well received.

Early in the planning stages, the conference co-chairs (Gloria Borgstahl, Pat Thiel and Alan Goldman, pictured) decided to publish all the accepted conference abstracts online, as a way to archive and showcase the scientific research presented at the meeting. After a few inquiries and email exchanges between library staff and the co-chairs, ISU Digital Press emerged as an excellent platform to achieve this. It offered tools for reviewing abstracts during the decision-making process. Scholarly Publishing Librarian Harrison Inefuku worked closely with the co-chairs and staff at Bepress to make this a reality. It was the first time ISU Digital Press had published conference abstracts in this way, so it proved to be a learning experience for all concerned. The conference abstracts were published online and each has an assigned digital object identifier (DOI). “Harrison was wonderful to work with,” said Thiel. “He was extremely responsive, knowledgeable and dedicated to making this work.”

Charles Yier participated at the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians last summer at the University of Minnesota. The intense one-week event helps equip early career librarians from diverse backgrounds with tools and skills to help them effectively plug into their roles as academic librarians while seeking to influence positive change at different levels.

Yier had heard good things about the program before he attended, and he highly recommends the institute now.
STUDENT-FOCUSED SERVICES

STUDENT STUDY
PARKS Library open 112.5 hours/week
275 computer workstations
2,300 seats / 16:1 student to seat ratio
24/7 access to information online anywhere

COLLABORATION SPACES
8 group study rooms available
10,610 bookings
30,676 attendance
15,330 study hours

TECHNOLOGY LENDING
212 laptops/iPads available
10,882 laptop/iPad checkouts
210 tech accessories available
4,200 tech accessory checkouts

SEMESTER-END SUPPORT
OPEN 24/7 last two weeks of semester
250 Barks@Parks hours
activities for stress reduction
fresh fruit and healthy snacks

2,382,070 print volumes
1,524,974 eBooks
223,786 eJournals
30,058 streaming videos

43,353 items checked out
47% Undergraduates
26% Grad Students
27% Faculty/Staff

12,287 items borrowed from other libraries
18% Undergraduates
43% Grad Students
39% Faculty/Staff

LIBRARY USE

CONSULTATIONS
7,000 IT Solution Center
7,429 reference
3,584 directional
1,050 chat sessions

LIBRARY GUIDES
339 total guides
64 course guides
107 subject guides
223,222 total views

INSTRUCTION
111 course-related sessions
3,326 course-related attendees
103 Library 160 sections
7,498 Library 160 enrollment

PROGRAMS
24 seminars
575 seminar attendees
26 workshops
253 workshop attendees

COURSE RESERVES
396 courses with reserve lists
2,389 reserve items
9,368 copyright requests

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
1,347 event participants
84 instructional sessions
105 consultations

2,314,211 in-person visitors
~11,000 visitors on average semester day
99 orientation tours
1,016 tour attendees
677,098 total website sessions
1,800 website sessions per day
5,042,631 digital repository downloads
38,000 unique wireless users per month
30 terabytes wireless data per month
22% increase in mobile device use from 2017
4,000 hours public computer use per day
2,396,313 pages printed
110 student workers

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I applied for the Cardinal Women program because developing my leadership skills is a personal and professional goal. I do appreciate the reflective writing assignments and the opportunity to connect and network with other ISU women professionals.

Hilary Seo:

Cardinal Women is a great way to network and build a support system that helps women on campus develop leadership skills and confidence to pursue new challenges and roles.

Cardinal Women is a personal and professional leadership development program for women at Iowa State. Three University Library staff members participated in the sessions that took place during the fall semester 2018.

Jodi Hilleman, assistant to the dean; Megan O’Donnell, science and technology librarian; and Rachel Seale, outreach archivist, took part in the large and small group discussions and activities in Canvas, the course management system used by Iowa State students and faculty, between sessions. Hilary Seo participated as a small group leader.

As an undergraduate and graduate student at Iowa State, Belding spent a great deal of time in the library working and studying. No surprise that his research has him stationed in a library half way around the world. Belding also served on the Library Advisory Committee as an undergraduate and as a graduate student. He is the recipient of an ISU Graduate College Dissertation Fellowship.

In the Forever True, For Iowa State issue, fall of 2017, we introduced readers to Michael Belding, doctoral student in history at Iowa State. Belding spent three months in Gotha, Germany, specifically the Gotha Research Library, where he continued to research for his dissertation. The Gotha Research Library holds the largest collection of letters penned by German emigrants to the United States. Most of these letters were written in the nineteenth century and trace back to the now-Midwest. According to Belding, “I chose to corroborate agricultural societies’ reports and those of the periodicals affiliated with them with what German immigrants to the American Midwest had to say about the landscape, weather and climate conditions, crop yields, farming practices, politics and any connection the politics of the time may have had to everyday life for several reasons.”
In the spring of 2018, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), Washington, D.C., awarded Iowa State University a $49,800 grant for Activist Farmers on Film: Preserving the Recordings of the National Farmers Organization (NFO). With this grant, the Iowa State University Library, in partnership with Memmon Archiving Services, digitized 166 at-risk black-and-white films from the NFO. The films give insight into the experience of rural farming communities in the Midwest, and are an important contribution to agricultural history, such as farm protests and farmers’ rights.

"These 16mm black-and-white films from the NFO, some of them nearly 70 years old, are an important collection that will benefit researchers for generations, thanks to this award from CLIR," said Dean Beth McNeil. “These recordings started to degrade over time, placing them at risk of being lost. When they are preserved, scholars will continue to gain insight into this period of history in agriculture."

University Archivist Brad Kuennen and AV and Film Preservation Specialist Rosie Rowe were responsible for the project. Work on the historic NFO films is complete. They are captioned and have been added to the library’s digital collections.

Funds for the award came from the Recordings at Risk program, which is a national regranting program administered by CLIR to support the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of high scholarly value through digital reformatting. The program is funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Council on Library and Information Resources is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning.
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Please consider a donation via the Give button at
Phone: 515-294-3642
Contact us:

For programming information, email Rachel Seale at
rmseale@iastate.edu,

March 28 | Great Hall, Memorial Union at 7 p.m.
Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life (co-sponsorship)
David Montgomery, author and professor at the
University of Washington, will speak about his most
recent book and make a case for how agriculture
can be the solution to global environmental
problems.

April 3 | Great Hall, Memorial Union at 7 p.m.
Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But
Were Afraid to Ask (co-sponsorship)
Join Anton Treuer, professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji
State University and author of 14 books and
member of the Ojibwe tribe, for a talk about issues
of Native Americans.

As our world grows in complexity and information
proliferates, the University Library is more important
than ever.
The library is a gateway to the world’s knowledge, whether in print or electronic format, and meets the
information resource needs of Iowa State University
students, faculty and staff.
Through the University Library, Iowa State students
learn to access, evaluate and use information
effectively, a skill set that serves them well as
students and in the future for their lives, careers and
communities. - Beth McNeil

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At President Wendy Wintersteen’s installation
in September, she outlined her vision and
priorities for Iowa State University: establish
a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at the
university; continue to recruit and retain
excellent faculty; make the student-centered
experience a priority for every college;
implement new approaches to improve
graduation rates; and make Iowa State a
leader in creating a welcoming and inclusive
environment – where everyone who is willing
to work hard can achieve their full potential.
The fundraising priorities in the University
Library align with the goals President
Wintersteen outlined: student centeredness,
success and attainability. Parks Library is at the
center of student activities. It is a busy, high-use
resource that serves a student population of
nearly 35,000, as well as faculty, staff and the
community. Over the past five years, traffic into
Parks Library has steadily increased, with 2.2
million visitors last year.
There is a critical need to ensure the library
remains relevant to students in a digital era and
continues to be the center of an active academic
and research community. To better understand
the evolving needs of students, Iowa State
undertook a comprehensive feasibility study in 2016-17 to reconceptualize Parks Library
and meet the learning and research information
needs of a 21st century academic research
library. One of the primary goals to emerge
from the feasibility study is to make additional
technology equipped study and collaborative
spaces available to students.

Last fall, the library was presented with a
timely opportunity to undertake a significant
remodeling project on the first floor. With a
$200,000 commitment from the Roy J. Carver
Charitable Trust of Muscatine, Iowa, and
funding from the University and the University
Library Strategic Fund, the front portion of the
main floor will be transformed into a hub for
students, while expanding collaboration and
study space. The remodeling project will
enable the library to improve traffic patterns
through the main floor, expand student space,
and offer a one-stop service experience to meet
the needs of students, faculty and visitors.
This project will directly and immediately
benefit Iowa State students seeking
collaboration and study space. The project will
reconfigure areas made available through staff
moves and create six new group collaboration
rooms with interactive displays that combine
several functions into one device: a touch/
presentation screen, whiteboard and video
and audio conference capabilities. This
technology enables users to save screenshots
to USB drives or memory cards, run Windows
applications to work collaboratively or conduct video and
audio conferencing. As enrollment has risen, Parks Library
resources have been stressed by the
rapid growth of the student population.
The reconfiguration of the first floor
will double the number of student
collaboration rooms available to Iowa State
students.

Elements of the construction will begin soon.
The goal is to complete the first part of the
project during summer 2019 to ensure the
student collaborative spaces are in place by the
fall semester.
The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust’s gift, in
collaboration with donor resources through the
Parks Library Strategic Fund, will help make
a more inviting and student-focused library
experience for Iowa State students a reality. The
ability to complete the renovation brings the
library closer to its ultimate vision to become a
21st century library that serves all stakeholders
within this exciting research university.

Sincerely,

Rachael
Director of Development
Iowa State University Foundation
Contact Rachael at 515-294-0546 or
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