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UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

ANNUAL

REPORT

IT WAS THE YEAR WE ALL WANTED TO FORGET.
BUT ALONG THE WAY WE DID SOME **PRETTY GREAT THINGS.**

BUILDING BACK BETTER



**Jeffrey
MacKie-Mason**
University
Librarian

In so many ways, this was a year we'd just as soon forget. But at the UC Berkeley Library, forgetting isn't in our nature.

When COVID-19 entered our lives, we were met with a cascade of emotions and disruptions unlike anything we'd experienced. But, true to our mission, we seized the opportunity to learn and grow. We asked ourselves: How can we build a library that's better, stronger, and more resilient than before?

The answer to that question spills across these pages, taking many forms, from the opportunities born from disruption to the services fine-tuned for a new reality.

The Library has an impossibly long memory. And for good reason: Not only do we serve the needs of today — with foresight, we gather information that will empower scholars, students, and problem-solvers many generations into the future.

So, yes, it might be tempting to forget. But we know the power of remembering.

COVER IMAGE BY ALISON WANNAMAKER PHOTO AT RIGHT BY JAMI SMITH

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WHILE YOU WERE ...



learning to bake the perfect loaf of sourdough bread,
we were also learning new ways to rise to the occasion.

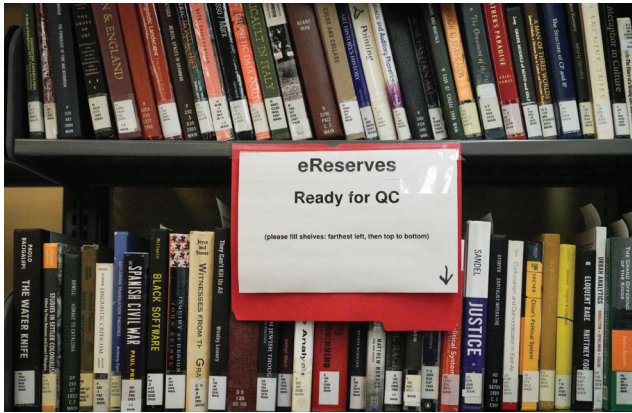
AN OPEN FUTURE: In March, the University of California announced that it struck a landmark deal with Elsevier, the world's biggest academic publisher. The deal, the largest of its kind in North America, makes more UC research free for anyone around the world who wants it, and nudges the scholarly publishing industry toward a future where knowledge is available to everyone.



EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

As the summer approached, a revolution was just around the corner. The Library was in its final push for the launch of a powerful new platform, the culmination of a massive effort spanning the entire University of California system. As one of the largest public university systems in the world, UC holds a vast collection of resources in its libraries. However, until recently, each campus library had its own catalog, making it hard for patrons to find what they needed if it was held at another campus. UC Library Search, launched in late July, changed all that. The platform unifies Berkeley's vast collections (physical and digital) and brings the collections of libraries across UC's 10 campuses together into the same system. It's a game-changer for students, scholars, and researchers, who now have a one-stop shop for finding and borrowing resources from libraries not just at Berkeley, but across the UC system.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY A. HAMILTON



PHOTOS BY JAMI SMITH

At right, Nina Bayley, collections assistant for the Art History/ Classics Library, scans items in an empty Moffitt Library classroom, above, in January. During the pandemic, digitizing course materials, at top, became a priority.

To support the Library as it innovates to meet users' ever-evolving needs, contact the Library Development Office at 510-642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu.



RESERVED FOR EVERYONE

When the pandemic hit, the Library needed to adapt to meet students where they were — that is, everywhere. A new electronic reserves program was born of that need. The fully digitized version of course reserves gave students across the globe seamless access to articles, books, and videos for their classes at no cost. The program provided much-needed financial relief for students amid surging textbook costs, with Berkeley undergraduates estimated to spend \$1,118 on books and supplies in the 2021-22 academic year. “These are historic times, where everything has shifted for our students,” says Salwa Ismail, who oversees the e-reserves program as the Library’s associate university librarian for digital initiatives and information technology. “We wanted to ensure that required readings for their classes were one thing they didn’t have to worry about.” In line with its public mission, the Library has also shared its digitized volumes with libraries worldwide.

39,895

The e-reserves program has a large footprint and a major impact. Classes enrolling 39,895 students and spanning 77 departments were provided free digital versions of course materials through the program during the fall and spring semesters.

WHILE YOU WERE ...



growing your collection of essential household items, we were also growing and enhancing our collections.

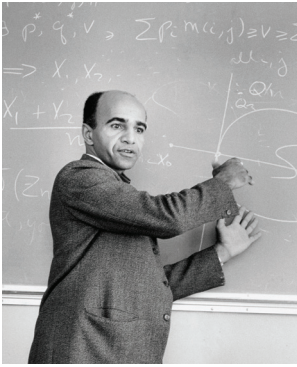
SLEUTHING SO YOU DON'T NEED TO: Have you ever found an old photo in the house and, despite the handwritten note on the back, thought: *What is this?* That happens at libraries too. During the pandemic, employees in The Bancroft Library's pictorial unit conducted detective work on obscure historical images, tracking down new details to enhance their searchable descriptions, so the photos are easier to find online.



TREASURES SHINE ONLINE

One silver lining that appeared as the pandemic pushed into year two: a groundbreaking new partnership with Sichuan University that will enable the digitization of most of the pre-1912 Chinese language materials in the C. V. Starr East Asian Library's collections. The initiative, supported by funding from the Alibaba Foundation, will bring these extraordinary items to life in vivid detail for researchers today and for generations to come. "These are priceless materials," says Peter Zhou, director of the library. "Some of them are the only pieces of that publication in the world." Among the treasures — which include rare woodblock editions and manuscripts — are volumes printed from blocks engraved during the Song and Yuan dynasties. Through machine learning, ancient Chinese characters are converted into machine-readable text, allowing for granular searches and greater accessibility. And all of these treasures will be available 24/7, to anyone, anywhere, through the Library's Digital Collections portal (ucberk.li/explore).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY A. HAMILTON



Clockwise from above: Items from the Western Americana collection include a 19th-century lithograph depicting the trial of a horse thief in a Western court; an image of a sculptor at work; a 1902 painting of a kitchen and alley in San Francisco's Chinatown; and a photograph of Professor David Blackwell, the first Black professor to receive tenure at UC Berkeley.

A NEW FRONTIER

Nothing quite compares to the West. And now, The Bancroft Library is able to shine a brighter light on the region, thanks to the success of its Bancroft & the West campaign. Bancroft's Western Americana materials, which comprise the library's largest collection, document the vast region stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, and from Alaska to Panama. Funds raised through the Bancroft & the West campaign help the library build this vital collection and connect materials with the communities they represent. The initiative, which publicly launched in spring 2018, has provided financial support for the preservation of Bancroft's Western Jewish Americana archives; the acquisition and cataloging of artifacts that deepen our knowledge of California; the collecting of stories of women leaders at Berkeley; and many areas in between.

\$9.05M

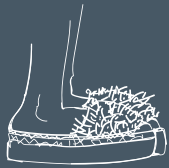
This year, the Bancroft & the West campaign notched a victory, surpassing the goal of an \$8 million challenge grant. From its launch through the year's end, the campaign raised over \$9 million.

To support the Library as it continues to grow and enhance its collections, contact the Library Development Office at 510-642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu.



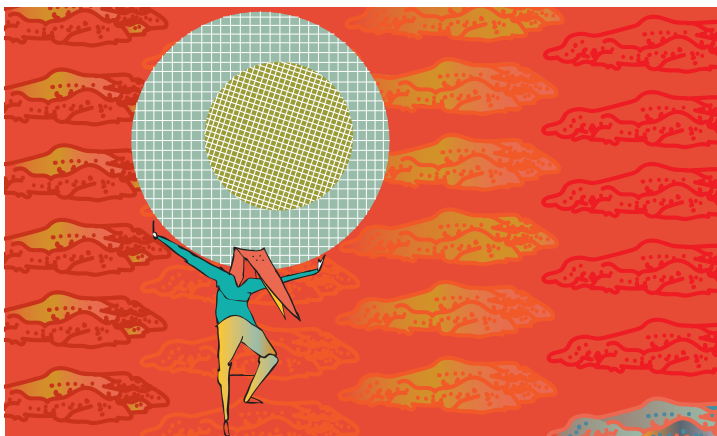
CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: HONEYMAN COLLECTION, BANC PIC 1963.002:0767--D; PHELAN PHOTO COLLECTION, BANC PIC 1932.001 VOL. 85:001--ALB; ROGERS COLLECTION, BANC PIC 2004.007:12--FR; BLACKWELL PAPERS COLLECTION, BANC MSS 2001/79 C BOX 1:9; ALL IMAGES FROM THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

WHILE YOU WERE ...



adapting to work-from-home footwear,
we were also adapting to meet the moment.

WORDS MATTER: In recent years, momentum had been mounting to remove the controversial term “illegal aliens” from the Library of Congress’ standardized subject headings list. While an earlier effort was thwarted by conservative lawmakers, the UC Berkeley Library last year took a simple but significant step in support of inclusivity by layering the term “undocumented immigrants” into its 5,000-plus related records.



STUDENT PROBLEM-SOLVERS

Last year, as cracks from the pandemic spidered into every aspect of life, the Undergraduate Library Fellowship program went remote. The fellows proved resilient, but something was missing. So starting in fall 2020, the program shifted from having students work on their own projects to collaborating on bigger efforts to help solve some of the Library’s most pressing challenges. One team of fellows, for example, focused on outreach, with an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The team surveyed staff members about resources to share with underrepresented populations, and developed an easy-to-navigate database of multicultural materials. The peer-to-peer learning program’s shift of direction nurtured true fellowship and reflected the user-centered approach of the Center for Connected Learning, the innovative new vision for a renovated Moffitt Library. “It’s just so wonderful seeing our fellows grow as individuals,” says Kristina Bush, UC Berkeley’s digital literacies librarian, who co-runs the fellowship program. “They’re all go-getters and resilient. They’re going to rule the world someday.”

ILLUSTRATIONS BY A. HAMILTON



PHOTOS BY JAMI SMITH

Borrowers use Oski Xpress, the contactless pickup service, top and right; student Rayleen Prendiz, above right, and Tiffany Cruz work at Moffitt Library on the service, which loaned out thousands of items while library buildings were closed.

To support the Library in the continual assessment and evolution of its services, contact the Library Development Office at 510-642-9377 or give@library.berkeley.edu.



KNOWLEDGE TO GO

With the libraries suddenly closed, the UC Berkeley community was cut off from one of its most cherished resources: its physical collections, the massive stockpile of information that fuels the research and learning on campus, and far beyond. But the Library couldn't let that happen for long. During the first fall semester of the pandemic, Oski Xpress, a new contactless pickup service, was born. Through the service — the first of its kind for the Library — members of the Berkeley community could safely get their hands on materials they otherwise wouldn't be able to access. After finding what they needed using the Library's online catalog, patrons could request items and retrieve them at a pickup station at Moffitt Library. Drawing on the circulating collections of more than a dozen libraries, Oski Xpress kept the knowledge flowing as the campus, and the world, adjusted to a new way of living and learning.

2,471

This year, Oski Xpress, the Library's contactless pickup service, served 2,471 unique users. Those users scheduled a total of 6,645 bookings to safely retrieve the Library materials they needed during the pandemic.





It was a year we couldn't forget, and an impact we can't ignore.

In the first full year of the pandemic, our resolve never faded. We continued to build our collections and spread knowledge to members of our community. We digitized our materials at an even faster pace, and, when it was safe, opened our doors to students and scholars who needed access to our world-class treasures, and a place to study. Here's a glimpse at how the Library rose above the chaos to serve our mission.

4,862,576

HathiTrust pageviews: This year, the Library provided access to digital versions of millions of the physical volumes held by libraries across the 10-campus University of California system — plus UC's two expansive off-site library storage facilities — through HathiTrust's Emergency Temporary Access Service. Berkeley users logged nearly 5 million pageviews on HathiTrust, the massive collaborative digital repository. The top titles for Berkeley on the emergency service were *The Early History of Rome*, *Health Economics*, and Virgil's ancient epic *The Aeneid*.

13,553,504

Volumes in the Library's collections: The Library's massive collections continued to grow, venturing further past 13 million volumes, with e-books comprising 2,079,573 of those volumes.

342

Visits to Moffitt Library in one day: On April 5, Moffitt Library officially became the first library on campus to reopen its doors to students needing a place to study during the pandemic. Through a new service, students could make reservations for study space at Moffitt, with precautions in place, such as social distancing and mandatory masking. That day, Moffitt notched 342 visits, with the most popular hour at the library starting at 3 p.m.

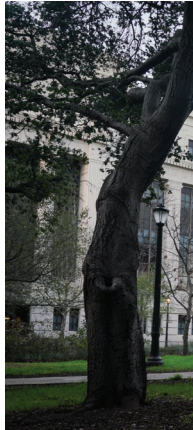




PHOTO BY JAMI SMITH

Visitors walk a dog outside the Valley Life Sciences Building, which houses the Bioscience, Natural Resources & Public Health Library.

20,809

Participants in Library instruction:

This year, the Library's instruction efforts notched more than 20,000 participants, who learned about everything from data visualization to the basics of copyright.

3,049,398

Images scanned: This year, the Library made a giant leap in its digitization efforts, as it worked to connect students with digital versions of their course materials. The Library scanned more than 3 million images — more than double its output over last year — with 2,935,070 of those images scanned in-house and 114,328 through the help of vendors. The Library also continued to bolster its Digital Collections portal (ucberk.li/explore), the gateway to its digitized treasures, adding 90,281 new records.

3,965,598

Website pageviews: During a year when a strong online presence was more important than ever, the Library's website garnered nearly 4 million pageviews. The Library's perennially popular page on how to contact the president and vice president of the United States racked up 107,782 pageviews alone.

ETC.

**We innovated, adapted, and looked within.
Here are more stories from a memorable year.**

OPENING OUR DOORS

Even amid widespread disruption, Berkeley's research and learning didn't stop. In the fall, The Bancroft Library began offering research consultations by appointment, allowing scholars to safely view the library's world-class treasures in person. Then, in April, Moffitt became the first library on campus to open its doors to students. With reservations required and precautions in place, the reopened Moffitt proved popular among students who had been unable to visit for more than a year.

DATA FOR EVERYONE

The Library Data Services Program helps students, faculty, and researchers of all stripes discover, access, share, and preserve data. This year, the program got a strong gust of wind in its sails, growing its partnerships and unifying its approach to supporting the UC Berkeley community. Through a workshop series on data analysis, in collaboration with the Data Peers program — one of the many offerings this year — undergraduates got the chance to learn from one another, lowering the barriers to learning.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

There's nothing quite like catching up with old friends over a cup of coffee. Last academic year, with in-person visits off the table, the Library Development Office put together a series of online bring-your-own-coffee conversations to provide donors with updates on Library life in the wake of the pandemic. The program, which is ongoing, featured speakers from many of Berkeley's libraries and programs, and allowed donors to see the impact of their philanthropy.

A FORCE FOR CHANGE

In September 2020, the Library announced the creation of its Task Force on Racial Justice to identify problems, suggest solutions, and hold the organization accountable as it works to address injustice against people of color. The team developed a comprehensive plan of action, including short- and long-term recommendations, which it presented to the Library. Implementation of those recommendations is underway — a first step toward change that is long overdue.



ILLUSTRATION BY A. HAMILTON

TAKE DOE WHEREVER YOU GO

The nostalgia was real. And the warm and wistful messages, on social media and elsewhere, were loud and clear: In the thick of the pandemic, students were longing to return to the libraries, and their beloved study spaces. So we listened and delivered by launching a Zoom rendition of Doe Library, complete with a soothing soundtrack and a cavalcade of stunning photos of the library. Suddenly, students could log on, drop in, and bask in the gentle camaraderie of studying “alone together” with their peers under the vaulted ceilings of a virtual Doe.

VIRTUAL VERSES

This is not poetry’s first pandemic. The art form has persisted for thousands of years and will likely live as long as there is passion, anxiety, or hope to be expressed. The ever-popular Lunch Poems series likewise weathered a difficult year, overcoming isolation by moving its monthly noontime program from Morrison Library to an online format. This year’s series, hosted by Director Geoffrey O’Brien, featured readings by several renowned poets, including Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa.

A GOLD MINE OF KNOWLEDGE

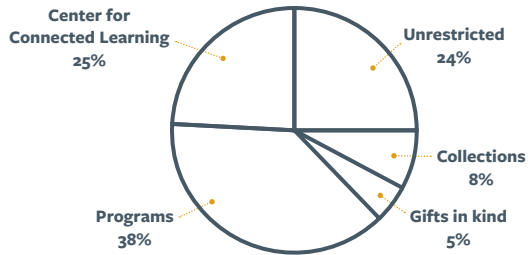
Text data mining is used to extract information from mountains of text and analyze the patterns that emerge. In June of 2020, the Library’s Office of Scholarly Communication Services held an online institute to help scholars navigate the legal and ethical issues that arise when pursuing these projects. In February, the group came together again to reflect upon how they’d applied what they learned. The release of a free e-book this year has made it possible for everyone to benefit from the wisdom of the institute.

GIVE

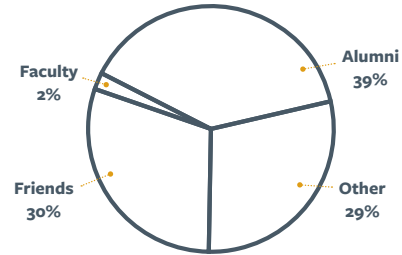
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BERKELEY STUDENTS AND FACULTY
LIGHT THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE!**

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TOTAL GIVING FY 2020-21



DONOR GIVING FY 2020-21



WORKING AND LEARNING THROUGH IT ALL: Olivia Sandoval '21, pictured at right in Main Stacks, was one of the many students who helped keep the Library humming along through the challenges this year brought. Even amid instability, the Library remained one of the leading student employers on campus, through its thriving Work+Learn program.

PHOTO BY JAMI SMITH



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