From the dean of libraries

The Libraries are an ecosystem, growing constantly and encompassing many distinct yet interconnected parts. One of the best things about my job is seeing the interactions across this ecosystem—among library users, staff, collections, technologies, buildings. It’s so energizing to watch our collections and services grow to meet new teaching and research needs, from nanotech sciences to digital humanities.

With this growth comes a challenge: The collections always grow, yet our campus footprint stays the same. The story of every healthy library could contain a chapter titled “We’re out of room—again.”

Our off-campus facility, the Oak Grove Library Center, opened in 2011 to accommodate current and future collection growth. Oak Grove has been such a tremendous success that we completed phase two of its construction this summer, doubling its footprint. Now it’s time to better leverage our on-campus spaces.

As you’ve read in Footnotes elsewhere, we are making plans for a complete renovation and restoration of the Charles Deering Memorial Library. The renovation will revitalize our iconic building and the role it plays in campus life. When we’re finished, Deering’s Collegiate Gothic architecture will have been gloriously restored, and the building’s facilities will be those of a 21st-century research center.

The renovation will allow the Northwestern community to more easily discover and interact with our rare and distinctive research resources, whether the goal is to teach, to study, or to create new knowledge. And it means Deering will keep pace with modern teaching methods while remaining a center of engagement and a laboratory for scholarship.

Meanwhile, the redesigned Mudd Library will reopen next year with new services for students but less space for print materials—despite the fact that we keep getting new books! To manage that growth, large segments of our collections will shift within and between University Library, other campus facilities, and Oak Grove.

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Although libraries appear to be calm oases on a busy campus, we are never standing still. Our system of physical and digital locations, combined with the unique services our librarians provide, operates 24/7 to meet the needs of our faculty and students, wherever they work.

Sarah M. Pritchard
Dean of Libraries and Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian
News

**Libraries welcome director of distinctive collections**

Martin Antonetti, an experienced curator of rare books and special collections, has joined University Libraries as director of distinctive collections. Antonetti comes to Northwestern from Smith College, where he filled a number of curatorial and administrative roles in the library’s special collections division. He also served as a lecturer and the director of the school’s book studies concentration.

In his new role, Antonetti oversees the growth and management of Northwestern Libraries’ most distinctive collections: the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, University Archives, the Transportation Library, the Music Library, the Art Library, and the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections.

Antonetti earned his master’s in library science at Columbia University and pursued additional graduate studies at the University of Oregon and Loyola University Chicago. Since 1984 he has been an administrator and faculty member with the Rare Book School, a continuing education organization dedicated to preserving and studying the history of books.

He also spent five years as the librarian and director of New York City’s Grolier Club, the nation’s oldest bibliophile organization.

**Exhibit and book highlight Dawes commemoration**

A summer exhibit curated by Northwestern Libraries and a book published in August by Northwestern University Press capped a yearlong 150th birthday celebration of Evanston resident Charles Gates Dawes (1865–1951), who served as vice president of the United States under President Calvin Coolidge. “The Year of Dawes” was organized by the Evanston History Center.

Annette B. Dunlap’s *Charles Gates Dawes: A Life* is the first comprehensive biography of the distinguished statesman, who also served as brigadier general, ambassador to Great Britain, and comptroller of the currency. In 1925 Dawes received the Nobel Peace Prize for his role with the 1924 Reparations Commission, which restructured payments to the Allies after World War I.

The Deering Library exhibit “Dawes Delivers the Vote: A Glimpse at Elections, 1896–1924” featured artifacts from the Dawes archive held by the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections. It included political correspondence, speeches, and ephemera from Dawes’ 1924 vice presidential campaign.

**Explore our new website**

After nearly a year of development and testing, the newly redesigned University Libraries website was launched in July. The improved site makes it easier for users to find what they need with clean visual cues and a crisp, modern design. Check it out! library.northwestern.edu

**Pokémon hunt captures students’ attention**

Northwestern Libraries attracted hundreds of students during Explore Your Library Day in September with a library-themed treasure hunt modeled after mobile gaming hit Pokémon GO.

The hunt, part of the Libraries’ annual orientation and outreach efforts, challenged students to seek out 18 locations around University and Deering libraries. Participants took photos of cardboard Pokémon characters for a chance to win iPads and Amazon gift cards. The creatures lurked in service areas, in study carrels, and even outside restrooms to help incoming students get more comfortable navigating the library.

A special purple wildcat-like critter dubbed Heerpurru was created for the game, named after the Libraries’ “Here for you” service mantra.

**Book launch draws community to “Hogwarts”**

Deering Library, whose interior is often compared to that of J. K. Rowling’s fictional Hogwarts School Witchcraft and Wizardry, was the site of a Harry Potter–themed celebration on July 30 to mark the release of Rowling’s newest book, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*.

Hosted by University Libraries, the gathering was part of a daylong series of events held in conjunction with the city of Evanston and the Evanston Public Library.

Scores of children and adults, many in costume, converged on Deering’s magic-themed party, which included wand-making crafts, a petting zoo with turtles and cockatoos, a photo booth, a read-along activity, a costume contest, and a Quidditch game. After the Deering event, many in the crowd walked to Evanston’s central business district for the midnight book launch.
In the public arena, many of the issues she fought for, such as equal pay and guaranteed equal treatment, remain part of the national conversation today.

“I considered myself knowledgeable about the women’s rights movement before, but I learned so much from this collection,” she said. “Now I’m so much more attuned to what hasn’t changed and what we still have to fight for. There still isn’t an Equal Rights Amendment. Equal pay is still an issue.”

DeCrow grew up in Chicago and was expected to follow a traditional path: go to school, get married, stay at home with a family of her own. But when she watched a television report about pay inequality in 1969, “it awoke her passion,” Waycie said. “After that, general inequality propelled her.”

DeCrow served as president of NOW from 1974 to 1977 and was active in all levels of the women’s rights movement both before and after her tenure. She famously extended her advocacy to men who decried unfair treatment, from divorced fathers to gay men. One of her favorite cases from her legal career set the precedent for diaper changing tables being made available in men’s restrooms, Waycie said.

In her 1974 speech accepting the presidency of NOW, DeCrow said, “I think that what gender a person is should never—I repeat, never—make a difference.”

But gender still makes a difference, Waycie said, making this exhibit so critical in 2016.

“I want people to see the work DeCrow did and be mindful of what is still to be done,” she said. “Don’t view it as ancient history. This stuff is still relevant.”

A framed, hand-embroidered sign, no bigger than a foot across, makes a weighty proclamation that belies its homespun handiwork: “You’re no one ‘til somebody hates you.”

At some point during her life, the feminist activist Karen DeCrow ’59 hung the sign in her bedroom as a reminder of the cost of her work. A lawyer and president of the National Organization for Women, DeCrow promoted equal rights for women throughout her career.

When University Libraries received her archive after her death in 2014, archivists found the framed stitching—along with a collection of hate mail, critical newspaper articles, and unflattering editorial cartoons DeCrow had saved.

“She knew her work was important, and she saw the historical value in everything, even her hate mail,” archivist Jill Waycie said.

As she processed the papers, Waycie curated an exhibit on DeCrow’s life, her two terms as president of NOW in the mid 1970s, and her tireless (and ultimately fruitless) fight for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. After long deliberation, Waycie decided the hand-stitched sign was a succinct representation of DeCrow’s career. You’re No One ‘til Somebody Hates You: Karen DeCrow and the Fight for Gender Equality opened in September and runs through December in University and Deering libraries.

As a vocal advocate in the 1970s for women’s rights, DeCrow was a lightning rod for men and women alike who were not ready to give up circumscribed gender roles. Her hate mail exposes men resentful of women seeking power outside the home, women who felt DeCrow was condemning traditional femininity, and anonymous writers questioning her morals and attacking her Jewish faith.

While campaigning for the ERA, which was eventually ratified by only 35 of the required 38 states, DeCrow debated the issue more than 80 times with famed anti-ERA advocate Phyllis Schlafly, who died in September. (Despite the gulf between their views, DeCrow and Schlafly maintained a cordial relationship for years.)

Waycie said processing the archive taught her that while DeCrow’s work may have improved women’s lives in the public arena, many of the issues she fought for, remain part of the national conversation today.

“I considered myself knowledgeable about the women’s rights movement before, but I learned so much from this collection,” she said. “Now I’m so much more attuned to what hasn’t changed and what we still have to fight for. There still isn’t an Equal Rights Amendment. Equal pay is still an issue.”
What is it? A 1967 timetable and 1965 annual report for the now-defunct Braniff International Airways. Braniff hired noted designer Alexander Girard in 1965 for a complete brand overhaul. His work for the company included a custom typeface and the design of everything from aircraft exterior paint schemes to furniture, playing cards, matchbooks, and even air sickness bags.

Where is it? Transportation Library

What is it? A silk scarf commemorating the 50th year of the Ghana Library Association. The Herskovits Library, which works regularly with libraries across Africa, received the scarf as a gift in honor of its long-standing relationship with the GLA.

Where is it? Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies

What is it? Sheet music for “Northwestern Military March,” a fight song written by Donald G. Robertson and published in 1913, the year he graduated from Northwestern. Robertson also wrote “Rise, Northwestern” (still played by the marching band today and known informally as “Push On”), as well as music for the 1912 Waa-Mu show and the Evanston Township High School fight song, “ETHS, We Will Fight for You.”

Where is it? Music Library

What is it? A “junior jacket” once belonging to Ambrose F. Lyons ’33. It was traditional in the late 1920s to the early 1940s for third-year Northwestern students to wear these purple felt garments. Lyons’s jacket is the best-preserved example in the Libraries’ holdings.

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What is it? The gay pulp novel Lavender Cage (1969). The McCormick Library holds a large collection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender literature and periodicals. The collection represents some rare early opportunities for gay authors to speak directly to gay audiences, offering insight into the historically closeted LGBT community.

Where is it? McCormick Library of Special Collections
THE ARTIST IN AFRICANA

The Herskovits Library inspires an artist’s exploration

By now Esmeralda Kalé knows everything about how to help people find useful resources in the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. After 13 years working in the renowned collection (the two most recent as the George and Mary LeCron Foster Curator), she knows the steady rhythms of serving aspiring and established scholars.

But that expertise hardly prepared her for the whirlwind created by the arrival of a single celebrated artist. “He had us running!” said Kalé with a laugh, recalling two extended visits by French-Algerian artist Kader Attia over the past two years. “His scope was very broad and his pace very fast. It was rather exciting and rewarding to see the collection being explored that way.”

Attia put the Herskovits through its paces because he has a limited amount of time to produce a significant amount of work. He was a 2015 artist in residence for Northwestern’s Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, and now the Block Museum has commissioned a work from him informed heavily by his Herskovits research. The original installation opens in January.

Attia is known for provocative, philosophical works such as Ghost, a 2007 London installation of hollow foil shells that resemble Muslim women in prayer, and 2009’s Untitled (Ghardaïa), a replica of an Algerian city, made out of couscous. The transitory medium is meant to deteriorate over time in mimicry of the city’s own gradual decline.

So where does an artist of such range begin searching in the world’s largest Africana library? By poring over images from two of the Herskovits’s most distinctive photographic archives: the Humphrey Winterton and E. H. Duckworth collections, both pictorial troves of 20th-century East and West African history. During another of Attia’s visits, Kalé and her staff helped him search for art books and journals published in Africa, plus materials about bridges, nontraditional architecture, water, waterborne diseases, and prosthetics—anything that could help him explore the theme of injury and repair in both humans and objects.

Kalé and her staff may have hunted down armload after armload of materials for Attia, but he wasn’t just browsing casually. He knew precisely what he wanted, she said, and he consumed information voraciously. So knowledgeable was Attia that he recognized a Herskovits literature collection as a complete set he had not previously seen in its entirety.

“He has been knee deep in this research for years, so he already knew the foundations of what he was here to study,” said Kalé. "It never occurred to me that an artist would do this much research before creating his work.”

In a library reception after his second visit, Attia shared his enthusiasm for the Northwestern collaboration before a crowd of about 40 faculty, staff, alumni, and arts supporters. “For an artist there is nothing more exciting than being in a library,” he said. “On your way to the location of one book, you look around and find books that are even more useful.”

Adding that “you can be trapped by being surrounded by so much knowledge,” he acknowledged that the assistance of an experienced librarian was essential to help him navigate his discoveries.

Whatever art he unveils at the Block this winter, Attia credits the unparalleled diversity of African materials at the Herskovits with helping him connect ideas and images with his artistic message. In characterizing the collaboration, he said it was “about acknowledging we are a part of a larger process. You can build a relationship between things that [seemingly] have nothing to do with one another.”

In Attia’s Ghost (2007), hollow shells of foil resemble Muslim women in prayer. From a 2008 installation at Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna.

At a May 2016 lecture, Kader Attia discussed how his research in the Herskovits Library will inform his commissioned work for the Block Museum.

Top: Attia considered many African artists’ books, including Patrick Cullinan: Selected Poems, 1961–1991. This 1992 volume by a Johannesburg press is lushly illustrated and bound in a wooden cover. Center: Attia pored over the resources in the Herskovits Library, such as this 1909 photo from the Winterton Collection showing ivory merchants on the streets of Mombasa, Kenya. Bottom: This undated poster from the Senegal Government Tourist Bureau depicts people at a well. Attia was particularly interested in images of water.
The Deering Society is an annual giving society for Northwestern University Libraries. It recognizes gifts of $1,000 or more to the Libraries, needed by students and scholarly materials, to help support the Libraries.

Footnotes

$10,000–$24,999
- Donald A. Petkus
- Patricia Schaefer
- Joseph P. Shriver
- Robert E. Shaw

$5,000–$9,999
- John C. Ver Steeg
- James H. Wilson
- Donald A. Petkus

$2,500–$4,999
- Marshall O. Eaton
- John T. Cottrell
- Maury C. Easter
- James R. Edelmann

$1,000–$1,999
- Daniel S. Jones
- Karen Franklin
- Carol Butler
- Laura L. Leonard

$500–$999
- John C. Ver Steeg
- Maury C. Easter
- James R. Edelmann

$250–$499
- Donald A. Petkus
- Patricia Schaefer
- Joseph P. Shriver
- Robert E. Shaw

$100–$249
- Carol Butler
- Thomas C. Chester Sr.
- Lydia Thomas Chester

$25,000 and more
- Donald A. Petkus
- Patricia Schaefer
- Joseph P. Shriver
- Robert E. Shaw

$1,000–$2,499
- Donald A. Petkus
- Patricia Schaefer
- Joseph P. Shriver
- Robert E. Shaw

$250–$499
- Donald A. Petkus
- Patricia Schaefer
- Joseph P. Shriver
- Robert E. Shaw

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Welcoming the Class of 2020

During new student orientation in September, Northwestern Libraries gave over 750 tours to more than 1,600 incoming undergraduate and graduate students. The waves of tours had the library buzzing like a hive as students got their first glimpses into the libraries and met their librarians.