

## BiblioTech - UNO Libraries' digital newsletter, April 2020

UNO Criss Library <unocrisslibrary@unomaha.edu>

Thu 4/30/2020 5:41 PM

To: Lori Schwartz <lschwartz@unomaha.edu>



UNO Libraries' Digital Newsletter | APRIL 2020

### A Note from Dean Richards

Like all academic libraries across the country and globally, the UNO Libraries were completely closed to patrons earlier this semester. Although the doors were shut, the heart of the library, consisting of our librarians, library staff, and our student assistants, continued to provide services to UNO students and faculty. Our student assistants left the desk at Criss Library, but maintained chat sessions from home. Librarians held consultations with students and faculty from their home offices via email or Zoom, and our Archives and Special Collections team documented the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our campus and the Omaha community.

Our Creative Production Lab essentially packed up the 3D printers, went home, and joined other maker-space experts to create desperately needed masks and face shields for local medical facilities. And, while students and staff were out of the library, our building services team worked on various painting and construction projects within Criss Library. No better time to work on cacophonous drywall, electrical, and plumbing projects than during a campus closure. As the semester comes to a close, our library team is even hosting a virtual De-Stress Fest by streaming miniature donkeys and featuring baby goats online!



We look forward to opening the doors to the library as soon as it is safe to do so, but our virtual services, e-resources, and ability to adapt to bring the information and knowledge you need is not constrained to a physical space. If you need assistance this summer or for the upcoming fall semester, please do not hesitate to reach out to **your** library.



First floor closed group study room



Second (main) floor tables with social distancing notices



Third floor north windows, students practicing social distancing

## KANEKO-UNO Library

*Erin Painter, K-UNO  
Library Manager*

**WE READ** 

with  
**KANEKO-UNO LIBRARY**  
LIVE FACEBOOK STREAM

EVERY WEDNESDAY, NOON (12 PM CST)

 | UNO LIBRARIES

## We Read

The KANEKO-UNO (K-UNO) Library has been holding a virtual story time every Wednesday at noon to help encourage contact during this time of social distancing.

Erin picks and reads the story live, on the K-UNO Facebook page. With Facebook Live viewers are able to leave comments, and react to the story in live time, giving it a sense of an in-person story time. Anyone can tune in and

## COVID-19 and UNO Libraries

*Claire Staub, Patron Services*

When COVID-19 first hit, the library and UNO campus took many steps to try and ensure the health and wellness of our students, faculty, staff, and community users alike. Before closures began happening, we began taking steps such as signage encouraging proper hand washing practices, shutting down the group study rooms, and moving furniture around to allow and urge students to use the proper social distancing.

While classes moved to an all online platform on March 30th, spring break was extended from Saturday, March 14 through Sunday, March 29th. This change in schedule allowed us to best prepare UNO students in whatever ways possible. One significant way we found we could help was to lend out laptops, along with the university IT department, to students who did not have access to a computer. In total, we have lent out 60 laptops to students who are in need.

Another step we took to ease our patrons into this time uncertainty, was to extend the due dates of checked out items until the end of the semester. This was all item types, which includes books, media items such as cameras, and game consoles, and items from our board and video game collections. In the interim time that we were open, but classes had transitioned to the online platform, we served as an internet hub for students who did not have access at their homes.

Throughout this issue, you'll see how a few departments at UNO Libraries have adapted to COVID-19, while striving to remain as student-centered as possible. Although the building has been closed since April 8th we are still providing online resources such as eBooks, digital archival collections, and limited Interlibrary Loan services.

watch live or watch the video after the fact!

[You can tune in live every Wednesday on the K-UNO Library Facebook page](#)

## Creative Production Lab

*Charles Fisher, CPL  
Manager*



## Making Face Shields

At the beginning of the work-from-home order, CPL staff took home three of our 3d Printers. Shortly after, we reached out to a number of contacts with our interest in printing any PPE equipment, including face shields and reusable filter masks. We got in touch with Max Wheeler at UNL's Innovation Campus on a collective effort to produce a UNMC vetted face shield design for use by UNMC and Bryan Medical.

We have delivered 40 complete shields to UNMC to date, and

## Documenting a Pandemic

*Claire Du Laney and Lori Schwartz, Archives and Special Collections*



UNO Libraries' Archives & Special Collections knows that voices during the pandemic are at risk of being lost without a concerted collecting effort. What began as a project aimed at student workers soon expanded and developed a new goal of gathering a wide variety of materials from the Omaha community that chronicles COVID-19 experiences.

Journal entries, reflections, interviews, photo essays, drawings, plays, and other creative forms of documenting this moment are welcome and will be extremely important for future researchers in understanding how Nebraskans reacted to this pandemic and what we experienced. We would love for you to create and donate something that reflects your own experience during this time.

Have questions about the process? Want to learn more? Contact the project co-lead archivists Lori Schwartz [lschwartz@unomaha.edu](mailto:lschwartz@unomaha.edu) and Claire Du Laney [cdulaney@unomaha.edu](mailto:cdulaney@unomaha.edu) in UNO Libraries' Archives and Special Collections. [To browse the collection, visit Documenting COVID-19 in Omaha.](#)

**Meet UNO Libraries'**

have another 150-200 on standby for either UNMC delivery, or use by other groups in Omaha. We are charging recipients nothing for this, and donating all supplies and time to the production, including the personal materials of the student workers and hobbyists dropping off completed prints daily.

[Click to read more about face shields, or the Nebraska Innovation](#)

## Newest Faces

**Lacey Rogers** is the Access Services Librarian on the Patron Services team. She comes to us from Kearney Public Library.

*"I'm excited to work at UNO because Criss Library is such an awesome resource for the UNO community! I'm looking forward to meeting my new co-workers in person!"*



**Tyler Pieper** is a reference associate on the Reserach and Instruction Services team. He comes to use from the Omaha Public Library.

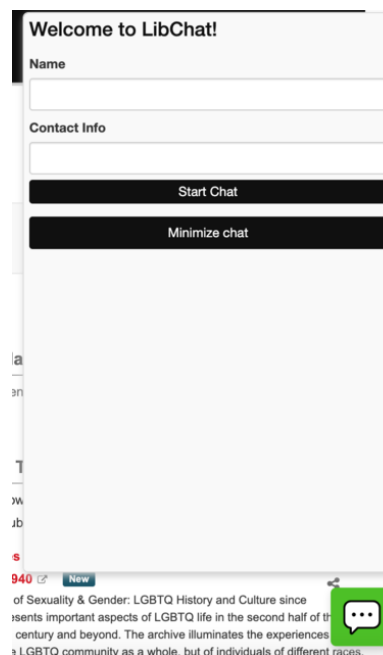
*"I am so excited to integrate my experience in public libraries with all I've yet to learn in academia. I look forward to growing as a professional in this field with UNO."*



## Remote Learning and COVID-19

*Katie Bishop, Research and Instruction Services*

Librarians have been transitioning to remote learning either by teaching synchronously through Zoom or by recording short video lectures to cover their content. We also have asynchronous tutorials on developing and using keywords, evaluating information, and understanding scholarly research, as well as video tutorials on some of the library's most popular databases.



One way we are keeping student workers employed is by

reinstating remote chat and training them to monitor this service. We had discontinued chat in 2018 due to lack of use, but after our recent relaunch chat usage has increased threefold compared to prior usage. Student workers and fulltime staff monitor library chat seven days a week, so library users can get real time help when they need it. Librarians are holding virtual consultations with students who need research help, in addition to the chat, and email options.

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## UNO LIBRARIES

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