

# Spotlight on Open Educational Resources

Research shows that the cost of educational materials can significantly impact students' ability to pay for college. To address this problem, University Libraries took an opportunity to promote awareness of the benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER). OER are free or low-cost course materials that are openly licensed for anyone to share, save, or update. Adopting OER is shown to reduce student withdrawal rates in courses, as high textbook costs can discourage students from purchasing the textbooks they need.

To promote greater awareness and adoption of OER and promote textbook affordability at ISU, the library formed the Open and Affordable Educational Resources (OAER) committee, which incorporates university librarians and members from the Information Technology Resources Center (ITRC), and ASISU Student Government.

One of the OAER committee's first actions was establishing the Textbook Hero honor to recognize ISU faculty who have worked to make course materials more affordable for students. Fall 2020 brought the first Textbook Hero honors awards. The honor will continue annually in recognition of ISU faculty, administrators, and staff who work to mitigate or bring awareness to the impact of high-cost course materials on ISU students. Fall 2020 Textbook Hero honors were awarded to faculty members Iris Buder (Economics), Catherine Gray (Library), Zackery Heern (History), Mark K. McBeth (Political science), Amy Jo Popa (Art), Sarah Robey (History), Marie Stango (History), and Lydia Wilkes (English).

In addition, the committee planned and hosted the ISU Open Education Week event in March 2021, a week of virtual programming to raise awareness of OER work on campus. Invited speakers included ISU Textbook Heroes, who shared their OER adoption stories, and ITRC instructional technologists, who discussed relevant learning technology such as H5P, an interactive content creation tool. In addition, an OER basics presentation by Jonathan Lashley, Associate Chief Academic Officer of the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE).

The OAER committee plans further initiatives to come, including promoting the new Pressbooks ebook publishing platform acquired by the Idaho SBOE for all Idaho public universities, and hosting a future Open Education Network workshop for faculty and staff interested in creating, adapting, or adopting OER materials for their courses.



## YouTube Resources

Idaho State University Libraries has a variety of videos available on its YouTube page. There are curated playlists, comprised of both library resources and open educational resources, intended to offer information and guidance for both faculty and students. There is a library tour video, which will allow viewers to get to know more about the fantastic spaces and services available to students.

Some of the topics highlighted by University Libraries include:

## Librarians & ROAR 1199

The university is now offering a new course designed to help incoming students thrive personally and academically in their first year at ISU. ROAR 1199, first offered for students in fall 2020, provides a holistic approach to life and academic success.

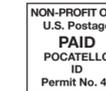
Information literacy is a fundamental component of the course. This element was designed and delivered by librarians and consisted of interactive material, worksheets, forum prompts, and other activities, while librarians embedded within the course provided instruction and grading for the information literacy components.

The information literacy objectives aim to identify and use library resources, evaluate sources for validity and relevance, and use information responsibly. Fourteen librarians worked alongside ISU faculty to cover nineteen sections of the course in fall 2020 as either fully online or hybrid online/face-to-face. These librarians were responsible for teaching and grading the information literacy components of all sections. ISU Libraries is excited to work with students in this capacity, and enrollment for fall 2021 is now open.



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# Between the Lines

University Libraries | Summer 2021

## Keeping Students First

### THE MALTESE BENGAL



An Oboler Noir Mystery

### The Maltese Bengal: An Oboler Noir Mystery

The Maltese Bengal is a self-paced scavenger hunt held during the Fall 2020 Welcome Week. This game could be played individually or in a small group and could be started and stopped at any point during the event. All floors of the library were utilized for gameplay, giving students a mini-tour of the building. University Libraries awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes.

## Yellowstone National Park: Celebrating 150 Years

March 1, 2022 will mark the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park, and in celebration of this major milestone, Special Collections and Archives has launched two exhibits – one physical, the other digital. The physical exhibit opens in August 2021 and will remain up through the end of 2022; the digital collection will launch on March 1, 2022. The Special Collections department at Idaho State University has almost 700 items in sixteen of its collections that focus on Yellowstone National Park. These items include photographs, postcards, maps, reports, correspondence, books and journals. Please stop in and visit our exhibit, located in the Special Collections department in the basement of the Oboler Library, and on the first floor in the Administrative Suite.



Contributed by Albion State Normal School Records

### Thankful Bengal

The week before Thanksgiving, the Library reached out on social media platforms to ask what the ISU community was grateful for; Those who posted a publicly visible comment entered into a raffle for a gift card.



### Guesstimation Challenge

A jar of candy corn and candy pumpkins was placed at the Circulation desk for students to guess the number of pieces in the container. University Libraries shared a photo of the jar on social media to ensure students not physically on campus would have the opportunity to participate. Students commented with their guesstimates online. The closest guess won the jar of candy.

## Message from the Dean

The Library welcomes students back to campus! We are ready and want you to know that Library staff have worked hard over the past year and a half to make sure that ISU students would continue to receive library support. Staff answered questions, taught courses, filled interlibrary loan requests and otherwise delivered digital services. We have remained continuously open except for a ten-week building closure at the end of the spring 2020 semester.

During this time, we have seen the types of use of the library expand. In addition to the traditional uses that stu-

dents have made of the Library as a study space and as a place to visit for in-person help, we saw new uses. Those students who remained on campus used the Library space as their classroom space for online learning and/or to take online exams. Moreover, our traffic in online services increased significantly, as we guided more students in the use of our licensed digital resources and in the process of doing research through online chat and online instruction.

I hope you and yours are doing well.

## ISU Libraries Continue to Serve ISU and Local Community During COVID-19 Challenge

### While Buildings Were Closed to the Public (March to June 2020)

- Most staff worked from home
- Suspended all fines and fees until Fall 2020
- Extended due dates for all material to May or September of 2020
- Mailed requested items from ISU Libraries' collection and interlibrary loan directly to patrons
- Scanned and emailed articles from the library's physical collection to ISU students, faculty, and staff
- Added databases, journals, and other resources that publishers made available for free during the epidemic to the library's website
- Moved library workshop sessions online via zoom
- Increased Chat and Zoom reference availability
- Increased the marketing of library services
- Shared lists of helpful library instruction videos with ISU instructors
- Created web guides for:
  - Coping with COVID (<https://isu.libguides.com/CATS/copingwithcovid>)
  - Remote Support at ISU (<https://isu.libguides.com/Support-ISU>)

### After Buildings Re-Opened to the Public (June 2020)

- Two thirds of staff returned to workstations in buildings
- Set up self-checkout
- Implemented broadcasting technology so that we could offer socially distanced library workshops across the Oboler Library
- Developed a self-directed library tour using QR codes that allowed students to use their phones to learn additional information
- Installed plexiglass barriers at service points
- Provided hand sanitizer, masks, wipes, and gloves for the public
- Reduced seating and rearranged furniture to maintain a 6' distance
- Designation of distinct entrance and exit traffic flows
- Instituted key access for study rooms to maintain occupancy guidelines at the Oboler building
- Shut down select student and public computers to maintain social distancing
- Library study rooms, open seating areas utilized by students to take online courses, online exams, study, and more



## Art Exhibits and Displays at Oboler

### Art Exhibits

The 2020 summer and early fall exhibit, "Librarians as Artists," featured an eclectic collection of original works by librarians at University Libraries that included photographs, paintings, and sculptures that highlighted the artistic endeavors of several librarians: Allison Badger, Brad Ren Nelson, Ellen M. Ryan, Laura Gleason, and Jenny Lynne Semenza.

The "Anne Merkley's Art Collection" exhibit, featured during late fall and winter, included some of her original works and works that she has col-

lected from other artists. Artists in her collection include Brad Ren Nelson, Don Ricks, Georgia Orwick, Richard Albright, Tim Norton, Onita Asbury, Fred Ochi, Hevewah, and Kathe Kollwitz. Merkley has collected pieces over the years that have attracted or compelled her that encompass a wide range of styles, subject matter, and cultures. Merkley states that behind each piece lies a story.

The exhibit "Student Art Exhibit: Spring 2021" included works by two Graduating Student Artists of Idaho State University: Brenna Miller and Bill

Bybee. Miller, who obtained a Bachelor of Education with an endorsement of fine arts, derives much of her inspiration from rock climbing and the local high desert landscape of southern Idaho. Her works are a smooth blend of acrylic paint that combines cartoon, realism, and surrealism. Bybee, who received a Master of Fine Arts, explores the worlds of codes and queer abstraction as avenues to discuss meaningful subjects. He uses colors and symbols in his paintings to inspire discovery and exploration through embedded visual messages.



### Displays

At Oboler Library, there are free-standing display cases located on the first floor and wall-mounted display cases throughout the building. Topics periodically rotate that highlight information resources, significant figures, education, special events, and more. This year, topics included Library Memes, Poet Louise Glück - 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature, Secrets of the Serial Set, Books Make Your Mind Bloom (spring reads), National Outdoor Book Awards, Online Security Tips, Women's Suffrage Centennial, Books that Blue Us Away (interesting reads with blue covers), Snow is Falling and Books are Calling (winter reads), Charles Dickens, Facts about Snowflakes), and Race, Diversity, and Inclusion.

## Video Production Equipment Grant Awarded to the Library

In 2020 the Idaho Humanities Council, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded the University Libraries an Idaho CARES Act Grant for \$3,786.00. Made possible to provide relief during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the funding allowed the library to purchase a camera, lighting equipment, microphones, editing software, and other video production equipment. This equipment will enable the Instructional Services Department to create higher-quality videos to teach students how to optimize their usage of library resources. Additionally, other library and University departments will be able to access this equipment by making a reservation through the library system. Students and faculty across campus will have hands-on access to create cutting-edge videos they can edit with professional editing software.

ISU CPI student, Gretchen Lohse, laid the groundwork for this grant proposal with her vision and research. Contributing librarians included Tania

Harden, Spencer Jardine, Mike Gower, Chriss Jackson, and Emma Wilkes, ISU CPI student.



Idaho State University Libraries Video Production Space

## How Special Collections are Used

Have you ever wondered what collections are used for? The collections are open to researchers world-wide and the projects they work on varies. The past year, even during the midst of a pandemic, researchers were busy. Here is how the collections assisted some of them in their work:

- Trailblazing Women of Idaho, an exhibit at the Idaho State Museum that includes images of Minnie Howard from her collection of papers housed in Special Collections
- The ISU Campus Tree Walk – the 30th anniversary digital version is a collaboration between the Campus Grounds Crew, GIS Center, Special Collections and Archives, and the Department of Biological Sciences
- Idaho Transportation Department cultural resources review projects
- Identified the date when the Practical Nursing Program was established at Idaho State University

- Identified and established a timeline of the history of the Speech Pathology and Audiology program at Idaho State University
- Provided images for the forthcoming publication, Boyhood among the Woolies, a memoir by Dr. Richard Etulain
- Assisted ISU students with research papers on such topics as the Pocatello Railroad during WWII
- Assisted ISU alumna with researching the history of the Theatre Department during the 1970s
- Assisted a doctoral student in musicology from Spain on researching the production of the play "Sueños y cantares de Don Francisco de Quevedo" y "Romancero y canciones de Juan del Enzina" performed by the Equipo 40 company at the Little Theater, Frazier Hall in 1981
- Provided information on the history of the ISU Alumni Center

- Assisted a CPI student from the Department of Military Science with locating images and information on past Officers in Charge and Non-Commissioned Officers in Charge
- Provided images of the pillars on Red Hill being installed to an ISU student speaking at graduation whose grandfather helped install the pillars
- Genealogy research to the general public

### New Acquisitions in Special Collections

Special Collections and Archives has acquired the following collections:

- Cornelison Family Collection – consists primarily of photographs (1930s – c. 1980s) of the family's convenient store located in Fort Hall, Idaho.