2022/2023 Robert E. Kennedy Library Annual Report

Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

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Dear friends of the Robert E. Kennedy Library,

Greetings and welcome to Inside 35 — the first “outside the library” edition. Stating that the 2022-23 academic year was unique is an understatement. Throughout the year, the library team worked tirelessly to support the Cal Poly community, as they always do, while at the same time planning, preparing and executing a complex move of over 260,000 books and countless pieces of furniture and technology items out of the building.

The story about Kennedy Library continuing to serve the campus as the building transformation is underway (Page 7) will give you a sense of the complexity of this phase of the project and how critical the strong partnership between the library, Facilities Planning and Capital Projects, Hensel Phelps and Miller Hull teams has been. Thoughtful consideration has been at the center of the planning and execution, as it was recognized well before we embarked on this journey that this project will have a significant impact on everyone at Cal Poly and on our local community.

As we are on the way to fulfilling the vision of a transformed library, it has been rewarding to have so many supporters and donors join us and contribute time, talent and treasure toward achieving our goals. The Donor Spotlight (Page 17) introduces William Ashley, a longtime donor to Special Collections and Archives and highlights the remarkable gift of the Joe D’Ambrosio Collection, which complements the library’s collection of limited edition artists’ books and benefits the Cal Poly community as well as researchers around the world. The generous gift of longtime member and past chair of the Library Dean’s Advisory Council Peter Wiley, in honor of President Emeritus Warren J. Baker and Mrs. Carly Baker, allows the library to provide the appropriate space and technology for the growing suite of library services in support of digital scholarship at Cal Poly, beyond Data and GIS, all under the umbrella of the Digital Scholarship Studio. Peter’s gift is not only supporting
the library transformation project, but it also builds on his previous gifts in support of library programs and services.

Two longtime donors to the library and Cal Poly alumni and longtime donors to the library Jerry and Sally Holcombe, who are also parents of alumni, made a generous gift to expand the library’s 24-hour study space. The space, located on the second floor, will accommodate multiple learning styles through equipment and furnishings. These resources will include a large “fishbowl” for team project work with enhanced lighting, additional power ports throughout the dedicated area, mobile carts with computer displays, large and small group tables, individual study seats (carrels) and a small computer cluster.

The past academic year was a transition year as we left Building 35 and settled into temporary locations that we will call home for the next two years. The library’s services and programs, however, remain focused on student success, the user experience and on our core mission of connecting people to knowledge and to each other. To achieve this mission, the library’s digital space is as important as its physical space. To that extent, we are continuously focusing on accessibility and inclusivity; we want everyone who interacts with the library’s digital space to be able to easily navigate and access it and to feel represented in the way we present our resources and services. The highlights of the research and scholarship that librarians and library specialists, as librarian-scholars, are currently undertaking (see story on Page 12) underscore our commitment to Learn by Doing, student success and user engagement.

As our team of dedicated librarians and library specialists is expanding, I hope you will enjoy reading about the diverse experiences, backgrounds and contributions that our new and current team members make to Cal Poly and to the profession.

In closing, I want to echo my former colleague Wayne Bivens-Tatum’s description of libraries as places “where values other than the strictly commercial survive and inspire, places people can go, physically or virtually, and emerge better people, their lives improved and through them, perhaps our society improved.” (Bivens-Tatum, W. (2012). Libraries and the Enlightenment. Los Angeles: Library Juice Press)

As you read about the library’s activities during the 2022-23 academic year, I know you all, as library supporters, advocates, donors and friends, share the same conviction that Kennedy Library is succeeding in its role of embodying Cal Poly’s values and enabling our community to contribute to improving the world.

For that, I am immensely grateful.

Adriana Popescu
Dean of Library Services

Kennedy Library Continues to Serve Campus:
Transformation of Building Begins

2022-23 marked the final year the Kennedy Library building was open before its $77 million transformation project began. In addition to the regular work of an academic year, faculty, staff, students and leaders across campus worked together to ensure the library’s programs and services could continue during the building’s renovation, as well as to make spaces available across the campus for students to study and collaborate.

Penny Sandman, Facilities Planning and Capital Projects preconstruction project manager for the project, worked closely with the library team over the past year. “It’s been an extraordinarily complex project with numerous stakeholders. It’s impactful to the entire campus population as opposed to a single college, program or targeted group of stakeholders,” Sandman said.

“Minimizing construction time is always important, but this project has an extra layer of construction schedule importance. Given the impact on student study space, the project team developed strategies early on to compress the construction schedule, as well as to start and complete the transformation to coincide with the academic calendar.”

As library faculty and staff prepared to move out of Building 35, they worked closely with builder Hensel Phelps and architect Miller Hull on deciding where to relocate services and on designing temporary services to best serve employees and students. Dean of Library Services Adriana Popescu appreciates working so closely with Facilities Management and the designers and builders on this effort.

“The Miller Hull and Hansel Phelps teams developed a strong understanding of what services and resources we had in Building 35 and what was needed in our temporary service points,” Popescu said. “They played an important role in helping to design workspaces, identifying which services could go

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The campus commitment to finding and prepping temporary space for the multitude of services and programs housed in the library was unprecedented. “To understand the scale of the physical move effort, imagine moving 100 2,000-square-foot houses that folks have lived in for 43 years,” Sandman said. The recently renovated Crandall Gym will serve as the primary “mini library” service connection point during the transformation. Services and resources available in Crandall include course reserves, the Digital Projects Lab, the Research Help Desk and Cal Poly Print and Copy. The library team has also made many popular resources available in Crandall, including adding new architecture books and journals, literary journals, picture books and books in Spanish in the Teacher’s Resource Collection and senior projects on microfiche. The space also includes two microfilm readers and two scanning stations for researchers.

Students, faculty and staff are able to request library books through OneSearch for delivery to the Library Pickup Lockers located on the Dexter Plaza on campus. Items not in Crandall or retrievable storage are still listed in OneSearch and can be requested from other libraries.

Sandman and her colleagues were struck by the depth and magnitude of the programs and services provided in the library. “It was enlightening to learn the depth of services provided under Dean Popescu’s umbrella and surprising to learn of the many library partner programs and services also housed in the library building,” The Academic Skills and tutoring centers; the Ombuds office; the Honors Program; the ITS Help Desk; the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology; and graduate student study labs are some of the library partners that needed temporary spaces.

The university put up three temporary structures in centrally located parts of the campus to help alleviate the loss of study spaces in the library building. In partnership with Associated Students Inc. (ASI), the second floor of the University Union (UU) has been made into a 24-hour, centrally located study space for students during the building’s closure.

The transformation team also partnered with Occuspace, creators of the Waitz mobile app, to make it easier to track availability of on-campus spaces. The Waitz app allows students and members of the campus community to check real-time occupancy of the study spaces so they can save time and know before they go.

Using predictive analytics, the app relays the busiest times of day for specific spaces and forecasts how occupied spaces will be by the week, day or even hour, letting users know if a specific space is potentially busy. The app has been successfully implemented at other universities, including Boston College and the University of Central Florida, among others. All data collected by the app is fully anonymized and complies with strict privacy regulations.

Another priority for 2022–23 was communicating with students, faculty, staff, supporters and additional audiences about the transformation, the upcoming building closure and how services and resources would continue.
The library worked with the communications and marketing team in the Cal Poly Corporation to create communications plans, social media campaigns, websites, answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and more to help share information with the university community. The communications team also hosted a town hall for the campus community and answered questions and addressed concerns from hundreds of interested students, employees and community members over the year.

The communications team met with the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) monthly and shared transformation updates, campaign ideas and the communication plan to get their feedback. Insights from SLAC were integral in the campaign development and in finalizing which direction to go. Students also were involved in the finer points of messaging and shared their feedback on what messages and strategies would resonate most with students. “Their input was critical to landing just the right tone, understanding how important the library is to student’s everyday life,” said Ellen Curtis, associate executive director for marketing and communications in the Cal Poly Corporation.

THE NEW KENNEDY LIBRARY BUILDING

At over 200,000 square feet, the library is the largest academic building on campus — almost twice the size of the newly opened William and Linda Frost Center for Research and Innovation. Due to the sheer size and age of the building, the project team has been strategic and passionate in finding ways to stretch the use of the project budget, which allows for approximately $375 per square foot.

“Providing for programmatic, aesthetic and infrastructure improvement with each dollar spent has been a priority in the project teams’ planning and design work,” Sandman shared. “The project team has been keenly aware of the importance of this project to student success and the fact that this type of funding doesn’t come along often.”

The scope of the transformation project includes a new main circulation stair; new fire sprinklers and a new fire alarm system; seismic upgrades; structural strengthening; new LED lighting; and new paint, carpet and ceilings.

The transformed building will include new classrooms and gallery spaces to showcase student projects. When completed, the library will offer around 300 additional study seats and 67 new classroom spaces.

The library’s Hub24 space, which stays open 24 hours for students, will be expanded in the renovated building to include the entirety of the building’s first two floors.

To make the building more comfortable, especially during warmer weather, the building will have an updated HVAC system with air conditioning and will have new exterior glazing for improved insulation.

The first floor will receive a fiber upgrade for improved wireless access. The library’s outdoor courtyard will be updated to allow students to continue to enjoy the outdoors while they study. A new Starbucks Café will open on the first floor, with Julian’s Café moving to the newly renovated and reopened 1901 Marketplace near the University Union Plaza.

New LED lighting will be installed, and the building’s roof will be replaced with one that can hold solar panels. The building will also include new all-gender and ADA restrooms on every floor. The construction team is also pursuing LEED certification for sustainable design.

“The library has been called the beating heart of the campus, even as it has been in need of updated systems and improved access to services,” Sandman said. “It will be exciting to see the difference the transformation project improvements will make for all students, faculty and staff. The expanded Hub 24 space, the reorganization of service points and improved thermal comfort while simultaneously making the building more sustainable excite me the most. The heartbeat will no doubt get even stronger with these transformational changes.”

To stay informed on the transformation, visit https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/planning-capital-projects/project-news/kennedy-library/.
promoting academic services and allowing access to an array of collections through online platforms.

Student researchers will develop project plans, collect and analyze data, and evaluate and develop methods to represent their findings and develop, test and deploy solutions.

“I was excited to pursue this project to work more with students, tap into their knowledge and join them in a Learn by Doing experience,” Cribbs said.

“I appreciate the partnership with library staff members Mercedes Rutherford Patten and Danielle Daugherty, who brought valuable perspectives on how the web can best support new and transfer students,” added Cribbs. “Tim Strawn, director of collections strategy and discovery, advocated for and supported creating paid student positions, when previously all the students were volunteering.”

Cribbs plans to increase collaboration across campus, including working with Disability Resource Center (DRC) students to build accessibility into the site and partnering with classes to look at social media strategy and usability testing and improvements. She sees opportunities to continually bring projects to students interested in emerging technologies and create opportunities for various groups of students.

“With the library building closed, digital interfaces are more important than ever,” Cribbs said. “I hope people will want to take surveys, provide their own feedback and help to implement a culture of UX in the library.”

Foundational Learning and Engagement Librarian Mercedes Rutherford Patten has worked on a user experience assessment and usability study on the Foundational Experiences Program Research 101 LibGuide.

The purpose of the Research 101 LibGuide is to introduce college-level foundational information, visual and data literacy skills to novice users. Students will find information on the research process and how to conduct research using Kennedy Library tools like the OneSearch Catalog and databases. The learning objects include self-guided tutorials, videos and handouts.

With the help of student research assistant Trista Wang, a second-year graphic communication major,
Rutherford-Patten facilitated focus groups that interviewed faculty, first-year and transfer students, and library employees about their experience using the current Research 101 LibGuide. The findings from the focus groups and additional activities have been tremendously helpful in designing a new Research 101 LibGuide that meets the needs of students and faculty and accommodates diverse learning styles and abilities.

“It’s so cool to be a mentor to Trista and experience her growth in a Learn by Doing research project that will have significant impact on user experience with this key library resource,” Rutherford-Patten said. “The final product may not only create better user experiences for Cal Poly and local communities seeking foundational information literacy resources, but it may also inspire other academic libraries to follow suit in how we organize and deliver these skills in a digital library environment.”

After usability testing the first Research 101 LibGuide prototype, Rutherford-Patten and Wang will review the findings and compile key insights that will inform a second prototype version. Based on these insights, Wang and fellow student research assistant Snehith Jonnaikode, a second-year master’s student in computer science, will work on the design and backend coding of the LibGuide.

From there, Rutherford-Patten plans another round of usability testing to improve the prototype and then go live with the new Research 101 LibGuide in spring 2024. Following this, she will work with co-investigators Cribs and Daugherty and the student researchers to co-author a manuscript on this research and present at a conference in summer 2024.

Jeanine Scaramozzino, librarian for the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics and School of Education, continued her yearslong research on the Cal Poppy Research Project. The project involves collaboration with members of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (CSAI) student club, over 50 students and numerous staff and faculty representing every Cal Poly college.

The project has resulted in the creation of a chatbot to share the history and research of Cal Poly’s Swanton Pacific Ranch (SPR). The database for this chatbot allows text and voice conversations between the platform and a person specifically about the history and research of Swanton Pacific Ranch.

Scaramozzino’s focus on SPR has had a significant impact on student-led research and faculty collaboration and has opened opportunities for thesis, independent study and senior project research. She says that student initiative has taken this project far beyond its original scope and that students have benefited from their work on the project.

“Experience with knowledge graphs and machine learning skills are currently among the most sought-after skills, and students have been hired by major tech companies based on their work with the Poppy chatbot,” Scaramozzino said.

Swanton Pacific Ranch is recovering from a 2020 fire that destroyed much of the facility, including an SPR archive and library.

“Irreplaceable knowledge was lost in the fire; the public and researchers regularly seek out information about the ranch’s history, and no resource was available onsite or online,” Scaramozzino said. “Now we have a Digital Commons Swanton site, and a physical chatbot and an online chatbot are hosted in the cloud on a GoogleServer instance. We also have a significant amount of documentation, GitHub code, computer science class reports, senior projects and other resources available for use and continued development.

“I am proud that we could be a good partner to the Swanton community, further support scientific inquiry into SPR and preserve and share free and accessible information so scholars can continue the conversation at many different levels,” Scaramozzino said.

The team’s research and work has been accessed over 2,500 times through Cal Poly’s Digital Commons.

“With this project, we did what librarians do — connect people with information and the resources they need to succeed.”

Leyla Cabugos, librarian for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, is modeling a new kind of peer-review workflow with her recently published research plan, “Examining the meaning and methodological characteristics of the systematized review label: A scoping review protocol.”

Cabugos’ study, now underway, explores authors’ use of a new term to signal a departure from gold standard research methods in evidence synthesis, the process of transparently, systematically and comprehensively reviewing existing evidence on a topic or question. “We believe it is helpful to understand what researchers mean, and model for each other, when they use this label,” Cabugos says.

Before beginning their study, Cabugos and her co-investigator at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, submitted their plan to a journal that offers a Registered Reports track. This innovative practice, now adopted by over 300 journals, is designed to promote transparency and completeness in the scholarly record. A Registered Report protocol undergoes editorial and peer review before data collection begins, and robust plans receive the journal’s in-principle commitment to publish the results regardless of the findings. The research report undergoes a second stage peer review to ensure the research protocol was followed, and any changes to it are documented.

Cabugos encourages faculty and students to consider submitting articles to journals that follow this practice, some of which also offer fee waivers for Cal Poly authors to publish their work open access through an agreement with the California State University (CSU). She notes, “The opportunity for formative feedback, as well as the guarantee of being able to publish one’s research, may be particularly beneficial for early-career researchers.” Cabugos also hopes those involved in journal publishing will explore offering a Registered Reports track, particularly to expand the options for authors in the agricultural and natural sciences.

Cabugos’ interest in new publishing workflows was inspired by a formative experience receiving peer reviews on a manuscript based on her thesis research. “The reviewers made suggestions of how to improve my methodology, which I agreed with but was no longer in a position to implement.” As a librarian-scholar, Cabugos continues to seek experiences with innovative practices and to share those that she hopes will “make the research landscape more supportive and coherent.”
William Ashley, a retired doctor from Arroyo Grande in San Luis Obispo County, has been a book collector for over 40 years. His donation of the Joe D’Ambrosio Collection represents the largest single gift of artists’ books to Special Collections and Archives.

Donor Spotlight

William Ashley donates a comprehensive collection of works by Joe D’Ambrosio and makes gifts of financial support to Special Collections and Archives.

When William Ashley was a teenager, a neighbor with the largest private collection of bird eggs introduced him to the concept of collecting one thing completely. Ashley had traded baseball cards and collected postage stamps with zeal in grade school, but the collection of bird eggs represented something different: an intentional, methodical approach to collecting that was inspirational and motivating to him. “It was a turning point in my life,” Ashley said, reflecting further, “The focus of collecting: organizing, analyzing and knowing the variations and what made things valuable set me on a new path.”
For Ashley, that new path became book collecting, a serious avocation he has cultivated over several decades. In that time, most of his energy and resources have been directed toward specific authors such as John Fante, Charles Bukowski and Henry Miller, and artist Joe D’Ambrosio. With such prolonged dedication, what sustains a collector’s passion to collect is a question that often arises. Ashley described the source of his enduring interest and momentum to the process of collecting itself. "It’s the means rather than the ends," he said. Seeking and finding elusive books are an undeniable thrill of that process, but the deeper rewards are following curiosity, gaining new knowledge and building fruitful, sometimes unexpected relationships with people along the way.

To a collector like Ashley, reflecting on the value of a collection for research and education, and making a donation to an academic library, are often the final steps in the lengthy-yet-satisfying process of collecting. "I am grateful for institutions and the important part they play in preserving our history," Ashley stated. "They are the guardians of treasures." In 2019, Ashley donated his sizeable collection of books and works on paper by artist Joe D’Ambrosio (1934-2009) to Special Collections and Archives. "I made the decision to donate my collection to Cal Poly so it would be cared for and available to other people," Ashley said. There was a book that started Ashley on his path to collecting the books that would be gifted to Special Collections and Archives. In the early 1990s, a color-illustrated, letterpress-printed edition of a Charles Bukowski short story caught his attention. He was so impressed by D’Ambrosio’s treatment of the book design, he asked to visit his California studio. Ashley quickly purchased three books, which became the foundation of a collection that today comprises over 150 items, including limited edition artists’ books, silkscreen prints and posters, prospectuses describing forthcoming books, promotional postcards, holiday cards and hand-carved woodblocks and mat board “plates” D’Ambrosio used to print illustrations.

Since his initial gift to Special Collections and Archives, Ashley has donated at least a dozen additional items, which he is checking off a shrinking wish list. “I continue to actively search for books that are not in the collection,” he noted. Examples include variant bindings of titles and keepsakes that are either unrecorded in or published after D’Ambrosio’s 2003 Book Club of California bibliography. Aside from one-of-a-kind books that are unlikely to be resold, the collection is moving ever closer to being a complete representation of D’Ambrosio’s art, which is Ashley’s goal. While D’Ambrosio’s books were widely collected and are held by many academic and research libraries and museums, Ashley’s collection is unmatched by any other institution. The California State Library, which commissioned D’Ambrosio to design a terrazzo floor with abstracted letterforms for its rotunda, is the only other institution with large holdings of D’Ambrosio’s work. Whether purchased at auction or directly from
booksellers, having a complete collection continues to spur Ashley, who said, “Obtaining a complete set is, in a sense, all the pieces of the puzzle. Having the full picture will help future researchers discern the direction the publisher or artist was taking and how their lives evolved.”

In addition to research value, the Joe D’Ambrosio Collection meets many collection development criteria for Special Collections and Archives. Not only does the collection complement the hundreds of limited edition artists’ books and fine press books currently in Special Collections and Archives, it also adds examples of California artists presses and publishers to the larger collection, and less commonly published works by such notable authors as James Joyce, Edgar Allan Poe and Ray Bradbury. Most critically, the collection provides many points of entry for curricular and exhibit uses at Cal Poly, particularly for students in art and design, graphic communication, English and architecture majors.

As an artist who used the book as his chosen form of expression, D’Ambrosio brought his diverse talents together to create eclectic, individualistic books with laborious handwork considering he made editions usually of 10 to over 100 copies. The collection showcases the versatility of D’Ambrosio’s skills, which include writing, design, letterpress printing, printmaking, papermaking and paper molding, bookbinding and box making, collage and paper engineering. As a former engineer by profession, D’Ambrosio had a sophisticated understanding of the formal, structural and functional properties of materials he selected for projects, and he understood their expressive and decorative qualities as well. His choices were sometimes novel and experimental, resulting in books that can challenge the notion of what a book should look like, how it should physically operate, and how it should unfold narratively and emotionally. He used words, scale, color, pattern, texture, reflection and even sound to create immersive, absolute art objects — the very definition of an artist book. The collection provides a holistic picture of D’Ambrosio’s career, tracing his output as a solo artist, a commissioned artist and as a collaborator with other artists. For his own work, D’Ambrosio handled all aspects of creation, from concept to fabrication to marketing. For student instruction, analysis, critique, comparison, interpretation and inspiration, the opportunities the collection presents are endless.

In addition to the extraordinary Joe D’Ambrosio Collection, which will serve the Cal Poly community and off-campus researchers, Ashley has made other meaningful gifts that strengthen and extend his involvement with the library. “I am also giving financial support to help maintain Special Collections and Archives,” Ashley said. This kind of giving started with his direct funding for custom archival boxes to stabilize and protect his collection. More recently, Ashley has begun to provide other financial gifts, which will enhance Special Collections and Archives operational abilities. The Library and the Special Collections and Archives unit are grateful to work with donors like Ashley, who recognize the real costs associated with caring for, using and showcasing collections that are rare by the very nature of their limited production.

Ashley embodies a model donor whose relevant collecting and appreciation for public access have benefited Special Collections and Archives, and by extension, Cal Poly faculty, students and staff, and the public. His tenacity, knowledge, graciousness and generosity have garnered respect among Special Collections and Archives staff who regard community members like Ashley, and other likeminded friends, as partners in cultural stewardship and higher education. Given the forthcoming Library Transformation Project, relationships where interests, values and needs align have never been more essential. Donors are agents of such transformational change, and the Kennedy Library staff thanks and welcomes them.
Meet the Builders and Designers:

Crucial Partners in Kennedy Library’s Transformation

For the Kennedy Library Transformation project, Cal Poly partnered with two leading construction and architecture companies: Hensel Phelps and The Miller Hull Partnership.

The choice was guided by Dean of Library Services Adriana Popescu and Director of Collections Strategy and Discovery Tim Strawn, who served on the campus selection group in fall 2021 to review proposals from builders and architects.

Hensel Phelps is an employee-owned company with a culture based on dedication and commitment to delivering excellence for its clients and employees. Established in 1937, Hensel Phelps plans, builds and manages a diverse range of domestic and international project types that encompass development, new construction and renovation, and facilities management for a variety of project types, including aviation and transportation, commercial office, educational, government, healthcare and more.

Founded in 1977, The Miller Hull Partnership is an international, award-winning architecture and planning firm specializing in performance-based designs for public and private buildings. Each of Miller Hull’s projects is distinguished by a big idea and designed to express a client’s inspirational vision while remaining navigable and down-to-earth from a user’s perspective.

Danielle Buttacavoli, a principal with Miller Hull, has worked on the design, coordination and construction documentation for the renovation.

“As a native Californian, I’m familiar with Cal Poly and an admirer of the beautiful concrete brutalist structure that is the Robert E. Kennedy Library,” said Buttacavoli. “The existing library has an incredible design that leverages passive strategies to stay cool in the summer with existing concrete sunshades that keep the direct sun away from exterior windows. Through the renovation, we’ve been able to improve these sustainable strategies with additional insulation to decrease energy consumption while adding more efficient heating and cooling so that folks are comfortable within the library.”

As part of the collaborative design-build planning and construction process used by Cal Poly and the California State University (CSU) system, the Cal Poly group selected the builder, Hensel Phelps, and then worked with Hensel Phelps to bring the architect, Miller Hull, into the project. The collaborative design-build process helps bring the designer and builder closer together and has been shown to cut down on delays and unexpected costs. Hensel Phelps came to the transformation project with a strong record of delivering projects in this way, and Miller Hull had experience with collaborative design-build as well.

Danielle Buttacavoli, a principal with Miller Hull, has worked on the design, coordination and construction documentation for the renovation.

“Learn by Doing: Website UX Research for Academic Libraries” at the Designing for Digital (D4D) Conference in winter 2023. The library team members shared on their series of UX assessment studies, evaluating and improving the Robert E. Kennedy Library’s digital landscape of front-facing web interfaces, discovery platforms and virtual portals. Cribs won the First Time Attendee Award, awarded to an e-resource/systems management professional who has not attended D4D in the past, and Daugherty won the D4D Student Registration Award, awarded to a current student in an information science program.

Cribs and Daugherty also presented at Internet Librarian 2022 in fall 2022, sharing a presentation on two case studies, their adventures in branding, site redesign, and user engagement as a response to the pandemic and the changing needs of users. They shared their experiences in gathering input and support from students and other employees in order to meet the needs of their users and improve accessibility.

Heather Cribs, systems librarian, and Danielle Daugherty, institutional repository coordinator, presented

Nikki DeMoville, electronic resources, acquisitions and resource sharing coordinator, participated in three joint California State University (CSU) and Ex Libris Data Excellence and Discovery meetings in spring 2023. DeMoville had an opportunity to discuss metadata and linking issues directly with Ex Libris product managers and developers.

Laura Sorvetti, archivist in Special Collections and Archives, co-presented “The People’s University: Assessing the State of the California State University (CSU) Archives” at the Society of California Archivists’ annual conference in Sacramento in spring 2023. The team shared findings from their systemwide survey of archivists and facilitated a community dialogue around conducting data-driven research projects and advocating for the needs of archives.
New Faculty and Staff

NEW STAFF
Abbi Wilson

Abbi Wilson, library services specialist III, works primarily in the Interlibrary Loan Department, but also lends her help in access services. Wilson helps Cal Poly students receive their Interlibrary Loan materials in a timely and efficient manner. Before working at Cal Poly, she attended UC Davis and worked at Shields Library as a student assistant in the Stacks Department. She also worked as a temporary hire at Shields Library, working with digitizing course reserves and Interlibrary Loan. Wilson joined Kennedy Library in November 2022. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from UC Davis and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in library and information science from San José State University. Wilson was born and raised in San Luis Obispo County, primarily living in Atascadero.

NEW STAFF
Maryam Momeni

Maryam Momeni joined Kennedy Library in 2023 in the role of public services and collection maintenance specialist. She plays a pivotal role in fulfilling public service responsibilities, maintaining collections and overseeing student assistant activities. Momeni previously worked at various institutions such as Harvard University, the Mabel Smith Douglass Library at Rutgers University, PEN American Center, Voxgov and Cuesta College. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Tehran, a Master of Arts degree in English-American studies from the University of Vienna, and a Master of Information degree from Rutgers University.

NEW STAFF
Mercedes Rutherford-Patten

Foundational Learning and Engagement Librarian Mercedes Rutherford-Patten leads and develops programming to support the development of information literacy and related competencies in the Foundational Experiences program. She also leads and develops library-related engagement and outreach programming for prospective and first-year students. Diversity, equity and inclusion are at the heart of her pedagogical approaches and research interests.

In recognizing that positionality influences her approach to teaching and how she interacts with the world around her, Rutherford-Patten grew up in a working-class union family of manufacturers, homemakers and farmers in a small community in the U.S. heartland. She is the first in her family to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees and has a special interest in supporting first-generation students in higher education. She earned a B.A. in biology from Central College, an A.S. in library information and technology from Cuesta College and a master’s in library and information science from San José State University.

NEW STAFF
Rosey Parks

Rosey Parks, director of development, returned to Kennedy Library in November 2022 on a part-time basis after serving as director of development from 2008-10. With over 30 years of experience in nonprofit organizations, including 20 years in fundraising, Parks leads the fundraising program for the Kennedy Library building transformation as well as raises funds for Special Collections and Archives, library students assistants and all other needs of Kennedy Library. Parks holds a bachelor’s degree in music education from Baldwin-Wallace University and master’s and education specialist degrees from the University of Virginia. In her free time, she is a vocalist, singing at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church and Cuesta Concord Chorus.
A gift to Kennedy Library touches every Cal Poly student.

We are the beating heart of campus and serve every member of our community to help them reach their full potential.

**BECAUSE OF OUR DONORS:**

- Research help is available daily through our online peer research assistance program.

- Kennedy Library is the only place on campus with open access to data tools such as GIS, and we offer one-on-one support and instruction.

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- Kennedy Library is renewed with modernized spaces that connect individuals to opportunities that enrich their academic experience and research.

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