Like many libraries in South Dakota and nationwide, Briggs Library closed to students, faculty and the community for a lengthy period due to COVID-19, beginning March 13 and reopening Aug. 5. The new norm of the fall 2020 semester meant that library faculty and staff needed to modify how to conduct physical operations and increase electronic resources to meet faculty and student needs. A $14,000 South Dakota Humanities Council CARES Act Grant helped the library accomplish this mission.

Applying for the grant was “an opportunity to enhance our services and adjust to our new circumstances,” Michael Gutierrez, head of public services, said. Gutierrez added that the library was still operating and meeting the research needs of patrons during the facility’s closure.

Many new tasks became a part of regular duties with the reopening of the building. The book collection had to be handled with extra care and incoming materials were placed in a quarantined state for a certain number of days. Print materials were scanned for students to access through a learning management system.

The SDHC CARES Act Grant supported the hires of student assistants, like civil engineering senior Rohit Mali, to aid in the fluid operations of the library after the building reopened.

For example, in partnership with campus IT, we doubled the number of circulating laptops and extended the loan period. We also identified ways to better serve students who were quarantining or isolating.

Our e-textbook efforts continue to grow as we endeavor to eliminate costs for student learning materials where possible. We are working with the University Bookstore and in partnership with other BOR institutions to see if we can expand these efforts even further.

After all the preparations this summer, it was fun to encounter some of our first questions when students returned to campus and again as they prepared to leave campus for the holiday break: Where can I find a book to read? It appears our college students are looking for some consistency in the swirl of change that we are all encountering. A good book can be a comfort!

I hope your holidays provide comfort as we look to the future.

Kristi Tornquist

Continued on page 4
Donors’ gifts impact three student assistants

The year 2020 has been full of surprises. For three Briggs Library student assistants, an unexpected announcement was pleasant and welcome: they were the recipients of donor-supported gifts.

Three Briggs Library student assistants received scholarships funded by Dinus and June Briggs.

Amber Napier
Recipient of the Han and Bang Kim Library Student Employee Recognition Award

Spencer Kappenman
Recipient of the Hilton M. Briggs Library Excellence Scholarship funded by Dinus and June Briggs

Katie Halverson
Recipient of the Hilton M. Briggs Library Excellence Scholarship funded by Dinus and June Briggs

Two technical services staff retire

The Technical Services Department saw two of its longtime staff members retire this semester.

Computer support specialist Jim Kepford and library technician Patty Vick retired in September and October, respectively. When Kepford started 22 years ago, the library’s circulation area had one dot matrix printer between every two computers, making for a lot of noise. One of his first projects was to implement the university’s new print system. Once he installed two large HP laserjet printers, the noise decreased to a library norm.

Retirement plans include seat time with his motorcycle and convertible.

“I have always enjoyed working with the people in the library. It’s been a great 22 years,” Kepford said. Vick watched the physical changes of the building during her nearly 19 years at Briggs Library. The look of the main floor evolved over time as library materials transitioned to online, with areas of bookshelves and newspaper racks making way for open study spaces and new offices.

Vick plans to be on the move in retirement seeing friends and traveling, as well as devoting more energy to card-making.

“I have enjoyed my time working at Briggs Library and have made some life-long friends,” Vick said.

We wish Kepford and Vick the best in this new chapter of their lives!

Open PRAIRIE

https://openprairie.sdstate.edu

PAPERS ADDED 22,138
DOWNLOADS WORLDWIDE 1,387,379

Open PRAIRIE is the SDSU public access institutional repository (IR). The IR supports the collection, preservation and dissemination of SDSU’s scholarship and creative output. It provides permanent storage of and public access to institutional materials. It has been a Briggs Library service since September 2015.
Wokini Challenge Grant awarded to Archives student training project

Students will bring new preservation skills to their hometown communities, thanks to a Wokini Challenge Grant awarded to the SDSU Archives and Special Collections.

Through the grant project, “Impact Through Preservation: Training American Indian Student Assistants for Tribal Archives and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices,” two American Indian student assistants will be hired to receive specialized training that will later be applied to educational fieldwork at tribal archives and tribal historic preservation offices (THPOs). The grant awarded $9,800 for the project.

Archives will train these students in fundamental archival, preservation and digitization principles and methods as they work with original source documents. The students will directly contribute to the scholarly landscape of the university as they assist in making digital SDSU materials available to researchers worldwide.

The students will be paired with tribal archives and THPOs in or near their hometown. When the students return home at the end of the academic year, they will use their training to assist with processing materials at the tribal archives and THPOs. These organizations have collections that are valuable to the tribes—and other researchers if the organizations make the items publicly available—as they preserve the Oceti Sakowin language and culture.

This is the third Wokini Challenge Grant awarded to Archives. Each grant project focuses on training and opportunities for students.

Continued on page 4
SDHC grant, cont. from page 1

system, after ensuring that the digitization complied with copyright. All of the computers, scanners and study stations that were used during the day were sanitized. The reference desk was relocated to promote social distancing, a move that also resulted in increased visibility of the reference librarians.

The CARES Act Grant funded student assistant positions to help with these extra tasks and to provide coverage of the circulation desk. The student workers also scanned materials for distance education students and for faculty who were conducting research or needed supplemental materials for their courses.

Another priority of the semester was for the library to acquire more electronic resources suited for the demands of online and hybrid online/in-person classes. The grant monies allowed the library to invest in e-resources, including 38 film titles purchased through Kanopy, a subscription database, for use by faculty and students. These included documentaries, instructional films and films pertaining to topics such as politics, history, mental health and education development.

Where in the World Did We Go?

Library materials are on the go! From January through November 2020, the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) department connected with libraries across the nation and in 14 countries. ILL borrowed 370 physical items and 1,332 scanned articles for SDSU patrons, and loaned 964 physical items and 3,434 scanned articles to other libraries. ILL experienced a spike in loaned materials this year as Briggs Library was one of the earliest libraries in the nation to fulfill ILL requests during the COVID-19 shutdowns.

Wokini grant, cont. from page 3

“We are so honored to have received the Wokini Challenge Grant for the third time,” Michele Christian, archivist and special collections librarian, said. “In the past, working with the students has been an amazing experience. I look forward to working with new students this year. I am proud to be a part of giving students an opportunity to assist their communities with preserving their history.”