What’s Up with Community Engagement @ the library™?

by Fannie Cox, Outreach and Reference Librarian, RAI, Ekstrom

First one might ask, what is Community Engagement (CE)? And, why does it matter at the University of Louisville (UofL) Libraries?

Let us begin with a definition, “Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.” Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University. (2018). Defining Community Engagement. Providence, RI Retrieved October 28, 2018 https://www.brown.edu/swearer/carnegie/about

In 2008, UofL became a Carnegie designated Community Engagement Classified Institution in Curricular Engagement (CE). Then in 2015, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching re-accredited the University’s Community Engagement designation so that it not only included Curricular Engagement, but also Outreach and Partners (O&P).

Currently, Community Engagement is one of five priority areas outlined in the University’s Strategic Plan known as, The 2020 Plan. in reviewing the UofL
Libraries' Strategic Plan, it is clear that the libraries are aligned with *The 2020 Plan*, as it relates to Community Engagement:

**Goal 1: Engage and learn more about our users and our community to meet their evolving needs.**

**Strategy 3:** Strengthen the libraries’ Outreach/Community Engagement (CE) program

- **Objective:** Develop a clear plan and identify priorities for working with under-served or non-traditional communities
- **Objective:** Seek opportunities to support campus and community outreach initiatives

**Goal 5: Create inviting, flexible, and engaging spaces to enhance the campus learning and research environment**

**Strategy 3:** Sponsor activities that engage our multiple user communities.

- **Objective:** Host exhibits and events.
- **Objective:** Seek opportunities to support campus and community initiatives.

The library's goal of Outreach is to promote Information Literacy and encourage critical thinking in community organizations, both off-campus and on-campus, that either support, or provide a service to our students. At Ekstrom Library, the position of Outreach was created in 2006. In this position, the Outreach and Reference Librarian is Fannie M. Cox. She is responsible for:

- Identifying opportunities, making contacts and participating in library-related partnerships with community groups in the greater metro region;
- Coordinating and/or monitoring Librarian faculty on the Belknap campus who participate in Outreach programs that are either professional or community based; and
- Acting as a point person to those people's involved in various outreach activities.

Also, Librarian Cox is the library's Faculty Liaison to the Office of Community Engagement's Signature Partnership Initiative (SPI). The overarching goal of the SPI is to collaborate “with community partners, enhance quality of life for residents in West Louisville by improving the overall educational attainment levels to equal those of Metro Louisville in general, through the integrated enhancement of health, social and human services, and economic viability of the community.” ([https://louisville.edu/communityengagement/signature-partnership-1](https://louisville.edu/communityengagement/signature-partnership-1), Accessed October 29, 2018).

Some examples of Cox’s Outreach and Community Engaged Research programs/projects include: the Lincoln Foundation’s Math and Science Summer Academy, YMCA Black Achievers, Simmons College of Kentucky, Wayside Christian Mission, Asia Institute – Crane House (AICH), 8th Annual Children’s Picture Book Writing Workshop, Central High School, Atkinson Elementary School, United Way’s Books and Barbershops, Ghana, West Africa’s University of Development Studies (UDS), the University of Notre Dame, the UofL College of Education & Human Development (CEHD) Graduate Stu-
So, why is the University involved in Community Engagement? During the early years of Community Engagement at the University, then-President James Ramsey deemed the University as the “Citizen’s University.” Community Engagement provides multiple ways in which faculty, staff and students at UofL can “work together to address social, economic, educational and health issues facing our community and change lives together.” (https://louisville.edu/communityengagement/community Accessed October 29, 2018)

Because of our Outreach partnerships and Community Engaged Research endeavors, the libraries have:

- Expanded our visibility to those who do not know what other roles libraries perform, who we serve, and how we provide support with our resources.
- Maximized our power by participating with groups through joint action, building human capital, and community support.
- Shared our many talents, skills, and resources.
- Established good will.
- Expanded programming and outreach by reaching new audiences, creating and enhancing programs and services.
- Marketed the library’s programs and services to increase awareness.
- Developed community and campus connections to provide support and to seek support.
- Won CE awards and increased job satisfaction.

So if you are interested in CE and you have an idea for a library project for the UofL Give a Day Program, or an Outreach Program, share your idea by emailing Fannie Cox fmcox@louisville.edu or call 852-2705 to talk. Let’s Get It Done!
Ekstrom Library
Dean’s Office
Happy Anniversary!

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Research Assistance and Instruction
Welcome, Lidiya!
RAI welcomes Lidiya Grote as the Social Sciences Teaching and Faculty Outreach Librarian. Lidiya started on October 8 and has been making the rounds to different departments and libraries to get to know everyone. Lidiya will be responsible for supporting students and faculty and working with collections in the areas of Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. She will also be working with Amber and Rob to support the “Find Your Fit” class that is part of the University’s accreditation-mandated Quality Enhancement Plan. You can find out more about Lidiya personally in the New Employee Spotlight!

Farewell, Josh . . .
RAI was very sad to say good-bye to Josh Whitacre, who while technically was no longer officially “in” our department, was very close to a number of us who had worked with him for 10 years. Josh was given a pizza send-off with the gift of a perpetual calendar (ha, get it? We’re nothing if not literal) for his new desk at Bellarmine. We wish him all the best in his new position!

Fannie
Fannie M. Cox recently served on a panel presentation at the 2018 Joint Conference of Librarians of Colors (JCLC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The panel was titled, “Multicultural Children’s Literature: Who’s Evaluating? Are Selectors Culturally Competent to Evaluate Children’s Literature? Where Is the Evaluation Happening (Awards/Vendor/Library)? And How Is Diverse Children’s Literature Being Used in Libraries?” The discussion focused on the Kirkus Collections’ diverse children’s and young adult literature.
Law Library
Publications and Presentation
Marcus Walker published “A Pearl of a Librarian” in the Summer 2018 issue of Kentucky Libraries, and “I’ll Expect a W.P.A. Check in the Morning” in the July/August 2018 issue of Bench & Bar, Robin Harris & Erin Gow presented “Getting Published in IN-FO-CUS and Kentucky Libraries” at the KLA/KASL Joint Conference on September 21.

UofL Law Librarian Pearl Weiler sits with three law students (left to right), Chester Hart (class of 1947), William (Bill) Harvin (class of 1942), and Shadrach (Shad) Boaz (class of 1942). All three students served in the Armed Forces during World War II. (Harvin and Boaz served in the Navy; Hart was in the Army. Hart, left to fight and returned to complete his degree.) Photo taken 1942.

To celebrate UofL’s Pride week at the end of September, the Law Library created a display of materials on LGBTQ-related legal issues.
NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Lidiya Grote

UofL position and department: Social Science Teaching & Faculty Outreach Librarian, Research Assistance and Instruction, Ekstrom Library.
Hometown: Kosiv, Western Ukraine
Schools Attended: Chernivtsi National University – the most architecturally beautiful school I’ve attended. My classes were held in a building complex currently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I received my bachelor’s degree from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania and my Master’s degree from University of Michigan
Significant Other/Family Members: My husband Todd and my son Nicholas (2)
Hobbies/Activities: Food and travel
Favorite Books: The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova; Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson; The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Favorite Food: Almost anything Italian

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Hodge

UofL position and department: Library Associate, Music Library
Year you started in the UofL Libraries: 1993 as staff but first started as a student assistant in 1989
Hometown: Louisville, KY but I now live in Indiana
Schools Attended: University of Louisville and University of Kentucky
Significant Other/Family Members: Married to my husband, Marty, for 23 years and our son, Marty, is 14 years old.
Pets: 1 dog, Smokey and 2 alley cats, Mama and Tugger
Hobbies/Activities: Right now my hobby is watching my son participate with his high school marching band as the sousaphone player. Now that I’m a band mom I’m obsessed with marching bands and I’m really excited about the theme this year: Elvis!
Favorite Books: I enjoy reading historical fiction particularly about the Civil War and one of my favorites is Jennifer Chiaverini’s Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker. I also love to listen to books to and from work and my go-to authors right now are Karen White, Liane Moriarty, and most recently Dean Koontz.
Introducing a new photographic collection recently added to the *Images of Kentucky & Environs* digital collection.

Warren Kellar Frederick, a native Louisvillian, compiled twenty notebooks — seventeen of which are extant — of diverse information on the history of Jefferson County, Kentucky from 1780 to the 1950s.

Patterns of land ownership in eastern Jefferson County — and the stately residences built there — particularly interested Frederick. He photographed or collected photographs of over 360 structures, most of which have been leveled or surrounded by suburban development.

The 423 images in this collection showcase houses, farms, businesses, and other buildings around Jefferson County, and have already proved useful to researchers since being uploaded! Because the titles of the images came directly from the Frederick notebooks, the descriptions may correct any inconsistencies with the records. The notebooks compiled by Frederick were a great resource for the metadata creation and are available to researchers in the University Archives.

Samples from the Frederick collection include - Church in Okolona (left), organized in 1799 and one of the oldest churches in Kentucky, a large Italianate style house (top, left), destroyed by the mid-1950s and a Gothic revival style house (top right) on Parsons Place in the Highlands area of Louisville.
Libary Exhibits

Archives & Special Collections

Louisville Underground Music in Photographs, 1980 - Present
Photographic Archives Gallery

Highlights from the LUMA Collection
including posters, artifacts, letters, zines, etc.
Kain Rare Books Gallery

July 13, 2018 - January 18, 2019*

*updated the closing date, and added -

Closing Reception:
Thursday January 17, 5 - 7 pm

Exhibit Cases
1st Floor West
Ekstrom Library

Through November 15, 2018

Walter and Jessie Stokes Family Papers

About the collection: http://owl.library.louisville.edu/2018/Owl2-418.pdf

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I’d like to thank Kurt Metzmeier for taking the time to bring me on board as a co-teacher in his legal research class this fall. It would undoubtedly have been much easier for him to develop this class by himself, but instead he shared his teaching and legal expertise with me so that I could gradually start building my own teaching experience. — Erin Gow

I would like to thank all the members of her department: Kelly, Fannie, Rob, Sarah, Sue, Lidiya, Latisha, Barb, and Amber. Not for anything in particular, but simply for being fantastic colleagues to work with. You all can be counted on to pick up the slack, to rise to the occasion, to jump in when it’s needed, and to occasionally tell me what I want to do is crazy and won’t work. 😊 I’m grateful to you all for making it both fun and inspiring to come to work every day. — Anna Marie Johnson.

Thank You ...

Fannie Cox  Melissa Laning
Carolyn Dowd  Rebecca Pattillo
Erin Gow  Jessie Roth
Anna Marie Johnson  Marcus Walker

... for contributing to this issue of The Owl