



INSIDE ARTHURLAKES LIBRARY COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

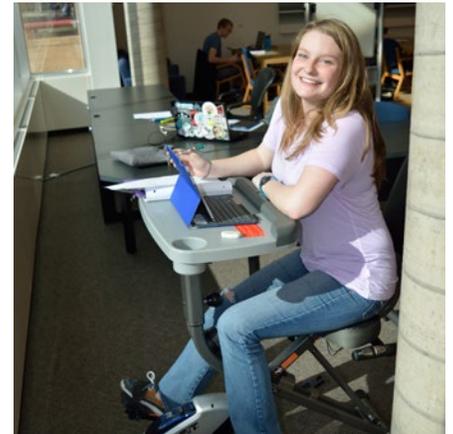
Reducing Student Stress for Finals Week and Beyond

As every Mines student, faculty member or alum knows, Finals Week is the most stressful time of the semester. In December, the Library introduced fun and exciting events plus new equipment to relieve tension, provide calories or draw a smile from our students. During the busiest days of Finals Week when students are literally camped out on all floors, the Library conducted its first ever Random Act of Pizza event. Staff members loaded up hot pizza, napkins and plates on book carts, then walked the floors inviting students to feast on A Random Act of Pizza. Students were surprised and very grateful for the much needed nourishment. Fun was had by one and all.

Students also need physical activity and often can't find time between studying, labs, homework and participating in club events to squeeze in exercise time. A recent psychological study conducted at Clemson University determined that light physical activity while working or studying has positive benefits, both emotional and physical, without reducing

work or study outcomes. To that end, the Library installed two FitDesk bikes on the main floor in order to provide alternative study space that promotes health and fitness while studying. FitDesk bikes are ergonomic stationary bikes with an attached laptop station so students can study, utilize their devices or work on homework. FitDesks are also an ideal setup for faculty and teaching assistants to grade papers.

In addition to the FitDesks, the Library provides rest and recreation tools, including giant bean bag chairs, board games and a puzzle table with challenging jigsaw puzzles available. The Library instituted an open food policy since students spend long hours at study, research or writing papers. Students, faculty and staff can also satisfy caffeine cravings at the Book and Brew, serving locally roasted coffees and energy drinks. The Library is continuing its commitment to create an atmosphere that is conducive to study and fosters collaboration with peers while offering innovative and relaxing venues that promote learning.



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the open door

Note from the University Librarian, Carol Smith

A fellow University Librarian recently stated, “A library should be a place that is as inspiring as it is welcoming, both an incubator of creativity and a monument to human complexity.” I like the sound of that!

The staff of the Arthur Lakes Library has had a very busy spring semester considering just how this admirable vision for modern academic libraries can be fully realized to best support Arthur Lakes’ unique community of users, and developing a comprehensive plan to guide us there in terms of both physical library renovation and innovation of library resources and services.

From January to March, the Library hosted a weekly series of eight discussions centered around the broad themes in MIT’s influential October 2016 *Future of Libraries Taskforce Report*. This report, one year in the making, yielded broad recommendations for how academic libraries should evolve to advance the creation, dissemination, and preservation of knowledge in the 21st century. Each session was well attended by a mix of students, faculty, staff, and community members, generated lively discussion, and generated numerous ideas for how the Library should advance its mission in the digital age. Summary reports of user recommendations generated at each session can be found on the Make Mines Library blog at makemineslibrary.wordpress.com.

These spirited conversations with our library stakeholders directly informed a reevaluation and revising of the Library’s mission statement. The new, updated mission of the Arthur Lakes Library is:

We foster a rich and responsive information environment that empowers learning, discovery, critical thinking, and knowledge creation for Mines and a sustainable global society.

The library team then deeply considered our aspirational vision and core values and crafted new statements for each to share with the community; these can be found at library.mines.edu/LIB-Mission-Vision-Values.

In conjunction with the Mines Geology Museum, the Library also engaged in an intensive 12-week process to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to advance the Library with

respect to both short- and long-term physical space improvements, innovative services for research and scholarship at Mines, and determine how the library team can align itself to achieve these goals.

It is often said that the most challenging aspect of organizational innovation is determining what to let go in order to move forward. After considerable deliberation, the library team decided to cancel its venerable and much enjoyed annual book sale in favor of devoting staff energy to our newly identified strategic initiatives. The book sale will be missed by many – including the Library staff! – but was a necessary step in order to support new goals. The good news: In place of the book sale, the Library now hosts a free book giveaway shelf just inside the main entrance of the library. The selection is ever changing and books are flying off the shelves, so stop in often to peruse the latest titles.

The only constant is change, of course, and the Library has been deeply considering how to not just keep up with but lead changes in the rapidly evolving information ecosystem at Mines. I look forward to providing you with progress reports as our strategic plan goes into action.

As always, my door is an open one.



on our website

New Online Services for Students, Faculty and Staff

Academic Journals in a Beautiful, Browseable Format

With more journals moving to electronic format every day, the ability to quickly and effectively browse academic journals has become increasingly difficult. Frustrations abound with multiple clicks, pages and a host of interfaces.



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Change the Way You Think About Our World

kanopy

Arthur Lakes Library has recently introduced the online video service, Kanopy. The database includes more than 26,000 films including documentaries, indie and foreign films, must-see classics and blockbuster movies. It features a streaming interface making it easy to watch, share and discuss films across campus. It is "Netflix for smart people" and an excellent tool for flipped classrooms. To access Kanopy, simply go to their website: mines.kanopystreaming.com and start watching. If you are off campus, make sure you're signed into the VPN.

LibGuides: Revamped and Revitalized

Users may have noticed a dramatic new look to our research guides recently. They utilize a new platform that enables us to create resources that are much more visual and vibrant. The guides also interact with an all new Database A-Z list that allows for resource recommendations at a granular level.



This fall, Anna Seiffert, E-Resources and Collection Assessment Librarian realized that switching to a new tool for creating and managing research guides was a necessity. The content management system simply was not designed to do the work required. Anna and her team launched a massive project to not just migrate, but re-imagine the content and layout of the research guides, focusing on creating user friendly content that was succinct and engaging. The new guides are a great resource for users reluctant to ask questions or have questions when librarians are not available.

Want to Learn a New Language?



Work is not yet completed as we explore future uses for this new platform. Stay tuned! libguides.mines.edu. The Library is proud to offer Mango Languages to all Mines students, faculty and staff. Mango is an online resource with over 70 languages that allows users to create an interactive language and cultural learning experience. From Spanish to Swahili, Shakespearean English to Icelandic and Pirate to Ancient Greek, Mango teaches practical conversation plus cultural awareness for the world's most popular languages. With a variety of formats and multiple learning levels, Mango makes it easy to learn a new language using your computer or device. Mango offers a free mobile app that allows you to learn whenever and wherever you are, in the Library or on the go. First-time users must create a profile in order to access the resource. connect.mangolanguages.com/mines/login?u=271926

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