

RALPH BROWN DRAUGHON LIBRARY

AUBURN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMER 2020





A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As I am writing this message, we are in the process of preparing to facilitate the campus faculty and graduate students' access to the physical materials in Ralph Brown Draughon (RBD) Library for their research and teaching projects this summer. After closing our library buildings in March, we are moving into the next phase of this uncharted course we are on.

The disruption the COVID-19 pandemic caused to campus teaching, learning and research is unprecedented. Nonetheless, in past weeks I have seen the resilience, adaptability and commitments from the library faculty and staff. They have provided remote support to meet the needs of online teaching and learning.

In this issue, you will find glimpses of the services and programs from these individuals who demonstrate innovative ways to deliver library services and make an impact on students' success. Some examples are library faculty from the instruction and research department quickly converting from a physical help desk to virtual chat services, in addition to taking phone calls and responding

to email inquiries. The subject librarians have kept connections with the faculty in all academic departments, schools and colleges. They often took requests directly from faculty, pulled materials from shelves and then arranged for pickups outside the libraries. The interlibrary loan department continued filling the lending and borrowing requests from the campus and beyond.

Circulation's staff made every effort to ensure that items checked out to the students were renewed for an extended period so they were more worry-free during their remote learning period. The departments of systems and research support, in consultation with the experts at the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, created a pathway to ensure students had remote access to various software packages residing in the high-end computer at the RBD Library. Special collections and archives kept adding new digital content accessible to everyone near and far.

The construction of the Libraries' Innovation and Research Commons on the first floor of the RBD Library is progressing well. It will be an excellent space to highlight the services, spaces and technologies to support the university's research agendas. I am grateful for having a team of outstanding library faculty and staff whose tireless efforts ensured uninterrupted library services during the most uncertain time.

This year, the Libraries' Tiger Giving Day project reached and surpassed its goal with your generous support! The funds from this giving event enabled us to purchase a long list of high-tech items to be checked out to students at no cost. These items include a Nikon D3500 DSLR with accessory bundle for students to take high-quality photos in a wide variety of disciplines, smartphone ring light for close-range light


4,707
WORLDWIDE
LENDING REQUESTS FULFILLED
FOR RESEARCH MATERIALS
(from Mar. 15 through June 15)

that clips to a smartphone's front or back, compact microphones for video recordings to be attached to the top of a camera or smartphone rig, compact LED lighting to be attached to a smartphone rig and many other items.

This high-tech equipment will enhance students' skills and enable them to continue exploring other technologies. Your generous funding contributions have allowed us to provide the best experience for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and look forward to your continuing support.

War Eagle!
Shali Zhang
Dean, Auburn Libraries

ADAPTING TO REMOTE WORKING

Academic libraries from across the country have been grappling with the question of how to provide services and resources to faculty and students during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the absence of professional standards for this sort of emergency, and due to geographical "hot spots" of infections, most university and college libraries have forged their own path. In early March, when the news regarding COVID-19 began to pick up steam on campus, librarians and library staff at Auburn started discussions about possible contingency plans. News and information about the virus in those early days changed on a daily basis, however, and the university had to take action quicker than anticipated. University administration asked students not to return after spring break and most of campus closed in mid-March. The majority of librarians and library staff began working from home.

All departments in the library immediately set to work on plans to offer remote library services and programs. For research and instruction librarians, those plans needed to include ways to continue collaborations with teaching faculty from across campus to ensure students continued learning crucial information literacy skills. The university has placed an emphasis on information literacy, defined as the ability to effectively locate, evaluate and use information, and has prioritized it as one of nine general education

student learning outcomes. Librarians play an important support role by assisting faculty and academic programs in the development of strategies to incorporate information literacy into classes and the curriculum. This work needed to continue despite the disruption, and while prior to the COVID-19 pandemic librarians had created online learning materials, the majority of their instruction still happened face-to-face in the classroom.

During the early weeks of remote teaching, the research and instruction department followed the lead of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, which had already jumped in to assist faculty with remote teaching. Librarians offered their services to the Biggio Center, including fielding questions about teaching online, particularly related to research and library resources.

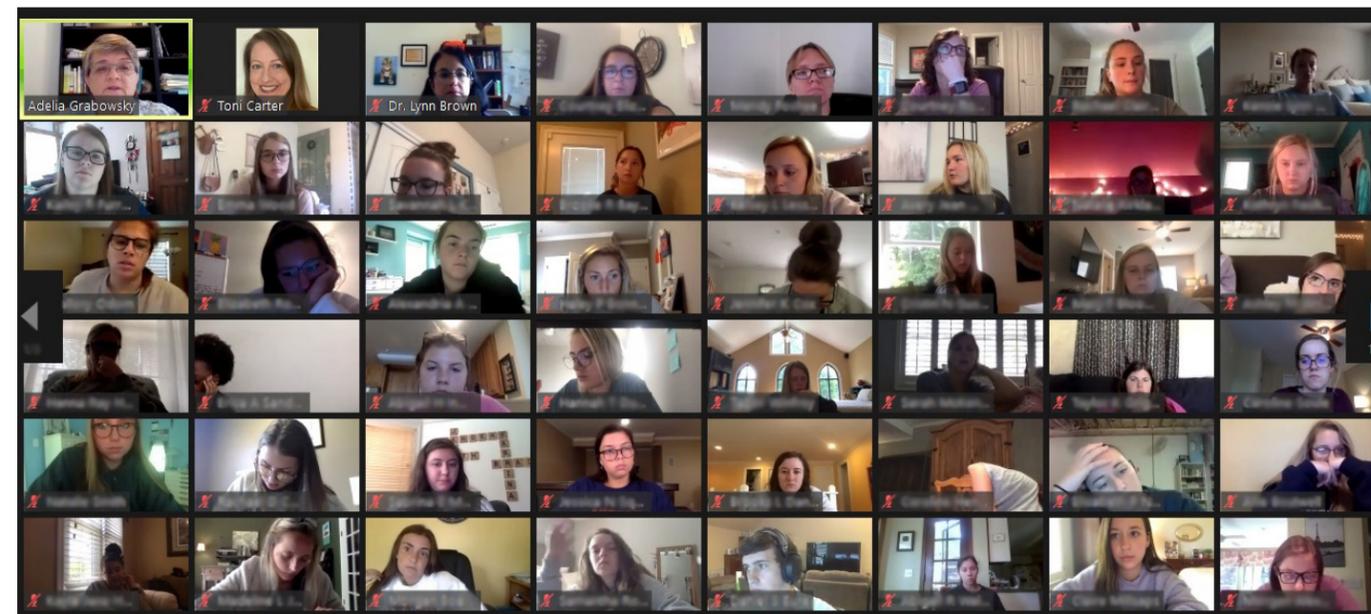
In addition to partnering with the Biggio Center to support students and faculty, research and instruction librarians worked to bring online meeting and teaching software, such as Zoom, into the virtual classroom. A small working group of librarians set off to empower their colleagues in the department with skills and confidence to teach online. Research and instruction librarians immediately took advantage of these learning opportunities, and by the end

of April, most felt proficient if not confident using the software. They soon learned how to incorporate best practices for using Zoom into the remote classroom environment.

Prior to COVID-19, the research and instruction department had plans to embed library resources into the university's online learning management system called Canvas. This would allow faculty to point students to library resources and research-related learning modules within the system, where students spent much of their time.

The pandemic fast-tracked those plans and librarians have been busy preparing online learning materials that will soon be available in Canvas. In addition, an online, day-long Savvy Researcher Boot Camp was offered in late May in which librarians and campus partners provided sessions on research-related topics for graduate students.

While we continue to face an uncertain future regarding in-person instruction, research and instruction librarians will continue to develop strategies to support the university's teaching mission. Fortunately, this work will not be in vain. Much of the skills learned and resources created can be used after things return to "normal."



Librarians Adelia Grabowsky (top left) and Toni Carter (second from top left) work with Dr. Lynn Brown's nursing class via Zoom.

BY THE NUMBERS

56,288



PAGES SCANNED AND ELECTRONICALLY DELIVERED TO RESEARCHERS ON CAMPUS AND WORLDWIDE

(from Mar. 15 through June 15)

TALES FROM THE PANDEMIC

How Auburn University Libraries adapted to remote working operations during the COVID-19 outbreak

When the word came from the university administration in March that Auburn would move to a remote instruction model and the buildings of Auburn Libraries (AUL) would close, the leadership of AUL had already been preparing to make plans for such a contingency.

To both continue to perform its essential mission to support research and learning, and protect the health of its personnel, AUL quickly acted to put in place systems to allow for the continuation of as many regular services as possible while finding workarounds for those that could not immediately be provided. AUL also made it possible for many personnel to do their jobs remotely.

What follows are stories of the many successes AUL has had in adapting to working in a pandemic environment while trying never to let our users down when they needed us.

Making Physical Collections Accessible

The thing that is immediately lost to library users when the building closes is ready access to the volumes housed in it. Making the information in those volumes available again was a high priority.

The initial step was provided by the subject liaison librarians. These librarians, who support each of the areas of study at the university, took requests directly from faculty, pulled materials from shelves and then arranged for pickup outside the libraries.

Sarah Hamilton, Auburn professor of history, took advantage of this service for a key piece of research and said, "... I am incredibly grateful for all that you and the rest of the library folks are doing. It's a crazy situation and you are all working really hard to make things easier for the rest of us."

The chat services that had been in place for years suddenly became much more important as a communications tool between librarians and users in these endeavors. By the first week of May, librarians had responded to 491 library services requests via chat.

Barbara Bishop, subject librarian in communications, journalism and theatre, undertook another route that required less

direct contact risk. As a member, Bishop petitioned the HathiTrust digital preservation network to declare an emergency that would allow access to copyrighted material online matching AUL's physical collections. When approved, the percentage of the AUL digitally accessible online collections jumped from approximately 29% to almost 48%.

Interlibrary Loans Keeps Research Materials Flowing

Interlibrary Loans' (ILL) regular mission is the borrowing of research materials from other libraries for Auburn researchers and the lending of our own research materials to other libraries in the U.S and around the world. This function was deemed essential to Auburn's research mission, making their continued operation critical. Other libraries closed their ILLs to all but electronic resources, resulting in Auburn being one of the very few libraries in the nation with access to physical volumes during the pandemic.

The librarian heading ILL, Gail Barton, has continued full operations while doing her best to protect the health of staff, and even adding some services.

From March to May, 1,662 requests were made for research materials from Auburn users. In the same period, 4,662 requests came from libraries worldwide.



Gail Barton (foreground) and Brenda Ray of interlibrary loans scan research materials for Auburn researchers and partner academic libraries.

When distant borrowers request materials from AUL, pages are scanned from print and article, chapter, table of contents or index is provided to the requester electronically. This service was extended to Auburn users to cut down on in-person interactions.

These requests are assisted by subject liaison librarians that pull materials for their faculty and deliver it to ILL for scanning and delivery.

All together close to 30,000 pages of research materials were scanned for Auburn users and borrowing libraries in the first two months of the pandemic closure.

Sometimes obtaining materials for researchers resulted in some logistical gymnastics that involved cooperation among many AUL departments.

A professor for small animal surgery at the University of Munich contacted the veterinary medical branch library looking for an article from Auburn Veterinarian. The veterinary subject librarian, Rob Buchanan, checked the collection and found that branch holdings began after the requested 1976 issue date but discovered that special collections and archives had the volume and issue needed. Buchanan contacted ILL with the researcher's information and ILL in turn contacted special collections. Almost immediately Library Technical Specialist Elizabeth Bates pulled the journal from the archives and provided it to ILL personnel for scanning and delivery to Germany.

Circulation Steps In

When the decision was made to close campus and start remote instruction, thousands of AUL books were in users' hands. Many of them with borrowing periods running out.

Head of Circulation JP Pendleton automatically renewed 5,932 outstanding books so students and faculty struggling with their first days of remote instruction would have one less thing to worry about. Pendleton further forgave all outstanding late fines.



JP Pendleton, head of circulation.

When it became apparent that not all students had computers capable of participating in remote instruction, Pendleton worked with the AUL Systems Manager Denise Baker to reconfigure and offer computers, normally checked out to students in the library, to the Office of the Provost and Auburn University Bookstore for use by students.

Building Operations Keeps Moving Forward

For Building Operations Coordinator Bob Yerkey, the closed building has been a case of mixed blessings. On the one hand, the work on the new Innovation and Research Commons space on the first floor has been unhindered by the need to route users



Bob Yerkey, building operations.

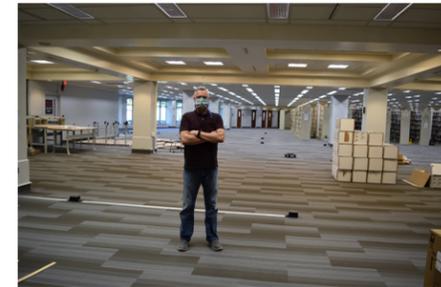
"...I am incredibly grateful for all that you and the rest of the library folks are doing. It's a crazy situation and you are all working really hard to make things easier for the rest of us."

- Sarah Hamilton, Auburn's Department of History

around the construction area and work carefully to maintain normal operations. On the other hand, the inevitable work interruptions as contractors and materials suppliers go through their own pandemic

issues has created scheduling issues that have to be carefully managed.

Add in a couple of severe weather events where the RBD Library had to host up to 63 shelter seekers a night, and it has been an interesting time to be in charge of an essentially deserted building.



Chris Mixon stands in what will be the new Innovation and Research Commons.

The Media and Digital Resource Lab Becomes the Innovation and Research Commons

The information technology specialists in the Innovation and Research Center (formally Media and Digital Resource Lab) have been taking advantage of this unexpected absence of users to better prepare for the opening of their new facilities that will add 3D printing, virtual reality development and laser cutting to their already impressive suite of capabilities.

As many students and faculty have become used to taking advantage of the high-end computers and powerful software offered in the library, Senior Technical Specialist Chris Mixon, working in conjunction with the systems department, developed a way to allow users with even moderately powerful machines to remote access the 85 computers in the library running software such as ArcGIS Pro, Autodesk Architecture and SolidWorks computer-assisted design software.

Special Collections and Archives Takes Advantage of the Quiet Time

Of all the departments in AUL, special collections is probably the one that is most closely tied to the physical assets in the building. A steady stream of researchers come from all over the world for direct access to its unique holdings, and Auburn classes visit for research and instruction.

With no researchers coming in, special collections personnel are productively using the time to catch up on archiving and digitizing donations and acquisitions that continually come into the department.

Acting Head of Special Collections Greg Schmidt has been digitizing football halftime shows from the 1980s and '90s. Staff have been growing the ArchivesSpace, turning unstructured text documents into structured, manipulatable data. ArchivesSpace is not yet online and publicly browsable, but this effort during the closure is making that day approach much faster. These range from records of the League of Women Voters of Alabama to the papers of writer Eugene Sledge.

"You've made some superannuated kids very happy."

- Mount Holyoke, retired professor

... And the Human Element

When music appreciation professors realized that a key element of their classes, attendance at a live concert, would not be fulfilled, Government Documents and Music Librarian Liza Weisbord stepped in with a creative solution. Using the Naxos Video Library, a streaming service provided through AUL, over 350 students were able to virtually watch a concert.

Mount Holyoke ILL made a special request on behalf of a retired professor for an article his father had authored in the November 1931 issue of Southern Architect and Building News. Kasia Leousis, head of the library of architecture, design & construction, arranged to have the article scanned and provided through ILL to Mount Holyoke. The professor's reply upon receiving the article said, "Several years ago my sibs and I learned of the existence of this article written by our dad soon after he graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in architecture, but we haven't been able to locate a copy until I had the notion that it would cost us nothing to request it through MHC's ILL. Cost us nothing, but not so you! At risk of imposing more time costs upon you, I wonder where you located a library holding this obscure rag, and with the ability and willingness to send a scan. You've made some superannuated kids very happy."

Auburn University Libraries made it possible—even in a pandemic.

EXPLORE AUBURN HISTORY THROUGH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Anyone who attended Auburn University fondly remembers all the publications that informed and entertained students as they worked their way through their studies. You probably kept your *Glomeratas*, but what about the issue of *The Plainsman* that reported on a cow elected as homecoming queen in the late 1970s? Probably not. But there is a way to read that article, thanks to the efforts of the AUL special collections and archives (SC&A) department.

SC&A has been working diligently to digitize and post online many of the publications that were such a part of day-to-day life on *The Plains*, making these windows into another time at Auburn available to both serious researchers and casual browsers. This ongoing effort has archived projects that had a finite run, while others that come out even today are regularly updated as new issues are produced.

Most of these resources may be accessed at the SC&A digital collections website: diglib.lib.auburn.edu/browsecollections.php

The Glomerata – SC&A has every volume and adds the latest issue when it is published. If you need a birds-eye view of life on *The Plains*, the *Glomerata* yearbooks are a great source. Athletic events, concerts, parades, clubs and organizations can all be found in its pages. The many photos are a walk down memory lane.

The Plainsman – Where the *Glom* gives a birds-eye view, *The Plainsman* captures in great detail the week-to-week happenings at Auburn. Since 1922 it has had everything from feisty political debates in the editorial pages to sections on arts, entertainment and sports. *The Plainsman* is the No. 1 chronicle of what was happening around campus. Even the advertisements for local businesses, bars and restaurants are fascinating.

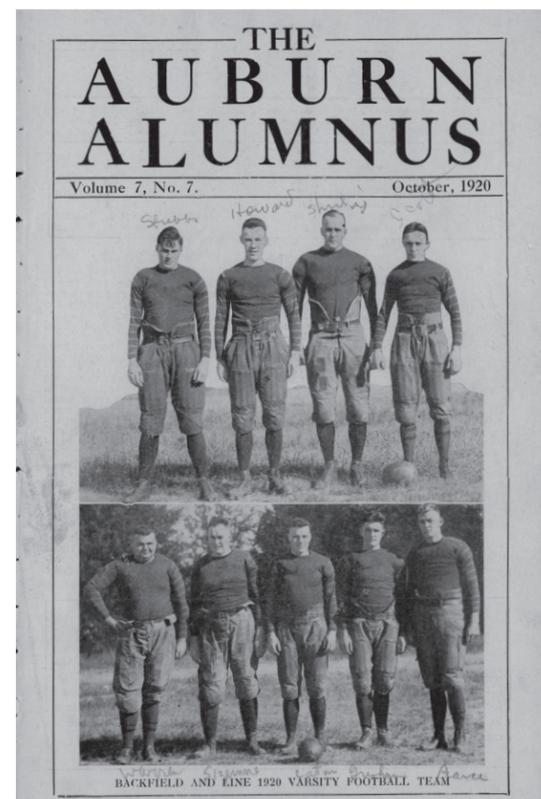
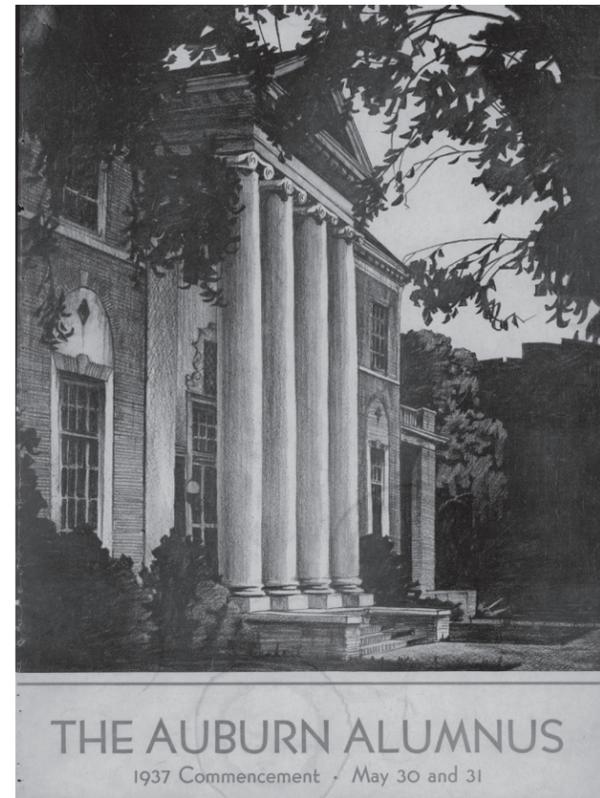
Football Programs – If you've been to an Auburn football game, you know the game program is an essential part of the experience. Look back at the history of Auburn football through these colorful programs.

The Orange & Blue – This student information publication that ran alternately as a magazine and newspaper predated *The Plainsman*, running from 1893-1922. And while no one is alive who was a student at Auburn while this publication was active, it offers a great window into the history of Auburn student life.

Auburn Catalogs – Course catalogs show the academic picture at Auburn. See the course descriptions of classes you took and what you might have missed.

Theses and Dissertations – If you were a graduate student, you may want to look up your own or a classmate's thesis or dissertation at etd.auburn.edu/.

Most recently, through a generous gift from the late C. Harry Knowles, an alumnus of Auburn University, and his wife, Dr. Lucy Rorke-Adams, the complete run of *The Auburn Alumnus* from 1913 to 1939 has been digitized and is available at archive.org/details/@aulibraries.



MARGHERITA LIGORIO JOINS AUL AS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



In January 2020, Margherita Ligorio became the development officer at the Auburn University Libraries. As the new development officer, Margherita is actively involved in planning, executing and evaluating the fundraising and community outreach and awareness for AUL.

Originally from Italy, Ligorio moved to the United States in 2013 and worked in development and advancement for non-profit

organizations. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in international and diplomatic sciences from the University of Trieste, Italy.

Ligorio will be focusing on AUL's fundraising efforts, and on student and faculty support. Her goal is to provide the Auburn community with high quality printed and digital collections and all the resources needed to support learning, teaching and research. Under the direction of Dean Shali Zhang, AUL aims to expand their collections and special collections, along with acquiring advanced technology equipment to support research and scholarship of students and faculty. AUL would also like to support its hardworking and dedicated student employees with more scholarship opportunities.

Ligorio appreciates that libraries are many things to many different people. She sees that the private funding secured for AUL benefits all of Auburn. By supporting AUL, donors support the entire student population, not just the student of one academic unit. Donor support also goes a long way to make sure AUL provides faculty with the resources needed to advance learning and research. Philanthropic support also helps to preserve Auburn history. It represents a place for community, where the Auburn Family can come together and build memories.

"I am excited to be part of the Libraries team and be able to contribute to its important mission," Ligorio said. "I look forward to getting to meet all our fantastic current donors who have been very loyal and have supported the Libraries' efforts for many years."

DIPLOMA DONATION REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

The special collections and archives department recently received an artifact of great significance to the university's history: the diploma of Margaret Kate Teague (1873 - 1960), one of the three women to graduate from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute's first class to accept women in 1894.

Teague's diploma is a major artifact in the history of Auburn University and the changes that have occurred in the years it has served Alabama and the world at large. The admission of women in 1892 and the first graduating class of women in 1894 was the beginning of a series of steps that opened Auburn University to diverse applicants.

After the death of her mother in 1890, Teague came to Auburn from Toledo, Arkansas, to live with her aunt. She was tutored and studied for the API entrance examination. She passed the examination and was admitted as a junior in 1892. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree with distinction in 1894.



After her death in 1960, the diploma was passed down in the family. Teague's grandson, James "Jim" Pinkerton, and his wife, Nieta, (Tulsa, Oklahoma) became caretakers of the diploma. Both felt strongly the diploma should be returned to Auburn for permanent safekeeping and history.

"We are very pleased and honored to have been entrusted with this rare artifact that documents a great step forward in education equality at Auburn," said archivist Tommy Brown. "This diploma is one of only three that were awarded to women in the first class that admitted women. The fact that it has survived to come to us for preservation is amazing."

The diploma has been preserved in a museum-quality frame and will be on display in special collections and archives through the end of 2020.



AUBURN
LIBRARIES

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Produced by the Auburn Office of Communications
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DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR LIBRARIES TECHNOLOGY FUND

We are living through unprecedented times, and although the need for new and innovative technology in our libraries has been growing for years, the current crisis has highlighted how essential library digital resources are. Even though the buildings of Auburn University Libraries were closed through the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the faculty and staff continued to work hard to support our campus community and provide electronic resources to students and faculty, such as scanned resources, eBooks and other digitized content, and the means to deliver it to our users with minimal in-person contact. Your past generous gifts have helped us through this current crisis. Thank you for your loyalty and support.

But we can do even better.

In view of the current needs and challenges, we created the Technology Fund to give our friends and supporters the opportunity to make sure we continue our work, providing access to scholarly material and resources to students and faculty through any crisis. With your help, we can also more effectively preserve and grow our collections online, along with our own digitization efforts. Our goal is to grow our focus on the accessibility of digital content. These new innovations would also significantly improve the way our alumni and the community discover content, making it more accessible and relevant to them.

We know that these are challenging times for many. However, if you are able to make a contribution, no matter how small, we are pleased to share with you this opportunity to help and we humbly ask you to consider our Technology Fund.

To give, use the enclosed envelope, go to our website at lib.auburn.edu/give/, or contact Margherita Ligorio at mzl0134@auburn.edu.

If you would like to arrange an online meeting to learn more about how your generosity impacts AUL, new projects, or to talk about the future of the Auburn University Libraries, please contact Dean Shali Zhang at shali.zhang@auburn.edu, or Margherita Ligorio, our development officer, at mzl0134@auburn.edu. You may also arrange a Zoom conference with either individual.

