University of Arkansas at Monticello

Fred J. Taylor Library Annual Report

Academic Year: 2023-24

Describe the Library's mission, vision, and strategic plan.

The Taylor Library supports UAM's Mission.
The Strategic Plan is appended to this report as Addendum Four.

Describe the link between the Library's mission, vision, and strategic plan and those of the university.

The Library's Plan derives directly from UAM's Strategic Plan. It aims to vigorously support those sections of the university's plan that are germane to the work of the library, seeking ways to cooperate with other departments or organizations – on campus and off – to better fulfill the UAM Mission.

Discuss the Library's progress toward meeting its strategic plan goals in the last academic year.

This Plan has only been in place since late July of 2024, so not in time for any action during 2023-24.

The Library was not fully staffed for a significant part of the 2023-24 year, which seriously hindered our making progress on any of our goals. But we were fortunate to receive in July and process through the year a world-class gift of materials in Botany from the widow of Dr. James Zarucchi. Several hundred volumes were added to the Library's collection and, owing to the depth and breadth of the titles, our Botany collection now ranks as certainly the finest in Arkansas, and possibly within our region.

We also were enabled, thanks to a gift from the Centennial Fund, to obtain permanent access to the invaluable JSTOR collection. This immediately gave us access to thousands of E-Books and full-text electronic journals, access made easy thanks to our WMS Library System.

In short, our scholarly resources were significantly enhanced this year!

Library Statistical Survey

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	% change
Library Collections				
Books (Physical) Titles	99,891	103,428	109,028	+5.4%
Volumes	142,515	132,743	132,126	-0.5%
E-Books	4,790	7,308	19,979	+173%
Journals (Paper)	93	77	81	+ 5.2%
Electronic Journals	2,264	2,264	53,326	
Library Visitors	38,953	38,752	41,557	+7.24%
Library Circulation	3,388	1,294	1,426	+ 10.2%
Interlibrary Loan – Items Borrowed	40	42	86	+104.8%
- Items Sent	234	282	368	+ 30.5%
Book Expenditures	$25,343	$ 17,922	$ 28,430	+ 58.6%
Subscription Expenditures	$174,886	$164,773	$153,297	-7.0%
Total Collection	$200,229	$182,695	$181,727	-0.5%
Other Operations	$ 96,911	$ 73,329	$ 86,748	+18.3%

Assessment Narrative Including Summary of All Changes Predicated on Assessment Data:

Because of the Library's faculty and staff turnover last year, we were unable to take any action in establishing direct assessment of Library services. Our focus for most of the year was keeping the lights on, the service desk staffed, and our online systems functioning. Therefore, there are no programmatic changes to report.

That said, in terms of indirect assessment, the Library experienced notable increases in the number of visitors to the Library and in items checked out, bucking the national trend.   Also, our usage of Interlibrary Loan, notably for borrowing materials for UAM students and faculty, increased dramatically. Some of this can be attributed to more direct marketing of Library services, thanks to our new faculty hires. The increased usage of Interlibrary Loan is likely owing to our enhanced online resources, and two in particular:

1.	Our WMS system, in addition to providing access to books and full-text articles held by UAM, provides links to materials not on campus. It also provides a seamless transition to WorldCat, with its wealth of citations to articles and books not held at UAM.

2.	Our expanded Nursing resources similarly provide citations to resources available only through Interlibrary Loan. This is a service we are glad to provide to the UAM community.

Both of these upticks point to ways we can further build on these to increase student use of the Library, as detailed in the following Strategic Plan tactics:

1.1.3: Our plan is to begin work during the Fall Semester in conjunction with the UST 1001 program administrators to incorporate library literacy instruction into the program and establish some measures for more directly assessing our work.

1.1.4: We are also finalizing plans for a much more energetic Library presence during Orientation this year, and increase student awareness of Library services.

1.3.2: We plan to bolster Library participation in Information Literacy on campus, especially in curricular and programmatic infrastructure.

Faculty Reports:

Faculty

Table 7: Faculty Profile, Teaching Load, and Other Assignments (Data Source: Institutional Research)

Faculty Name	Status/ Rank	Highest Degree	Area(s) of Responsibility	Other Assignments
LaShonda Campbell	Assistant	J.D.	Collection Development	Reference, Literacy Instruction, Liaison to CIS and Education
Renée C. Clark	Associate	Ph.D.	Electronic Resources Coordinator; Ask-A-Librarian; UST 1001: Pathway to Success UST 4001: General Studies Capstone	Reference, Literacy Instruction, Liaison to Humanities and Business; Social Media Coordinator
Beth Stewart	Assistant	M.L.I.S.	Special Collections	Reference, Literacy Instruction, Liaison to Forestry and

		M.B.A.	Government Documents UAM Archivist	Social/Behavioral Sciences
Daniel Boice	Associate	M.A., AMLS	Administration	Reference, Literacy Instruction, Liaison to Nursing and Math & Science

What significant change, if any, has occurred in faculty during the past academic year?

The Library experienced significant faculty turnover in 2023-24:
- Elizabeth Parish, our Digital Resources Coordinator, resigned in early July of 2024.
- Dr. Renée Clark, our Collection Development Librarian, stepped into this position a few weeks thereafter.
- Ms. Beth Stewart began her work as Special Collections Librarian on August 1, 2024.
- The position of Collection Development Librarian was vacant until November 1, 2024, when Ms. LaShonda Campbell began.
- Dr. Clark was granted tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor.

List/briefly describe notable faculty recognition, achievements/awards, service activities and/or scholarly activity during the past academic year.

<u>Faculty Scholarly Activity</u>

Renée Chérie Clark
　　"The Long Reach of Arkansas's Country Music," in *Time has Made a Change*, ed. by Tina Murdock and Andrew Grenade, Univ. of Illinois Press (in process).
　　Facebook series on Black-Owned Businesses

Beth Stewart
　　Mounted several displays in conjunction with campus events, and publicized them on Facebook

Daniel Boice:
　　Naming Arkansas: Curious Place Names from Greasy Corner to Sock City. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2024.
　　Series of sixty-second radio talks on KUAR: *Naming Arkansas.*
　　Fifteen book reviews in *Catholic Library World*.

Notable Faculty or Faculty/Service Projects

LaShonda Campbell:

UAM: Athletic Committee

Profession: Southeastern Library Association
Planning and Development Committee
Continuing Education and Staff Development Committee
Conference Committee

Community: New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church Pantry and Youth Involvement Ministries
Greenville High School Booster Club Volunteer
Greenville High School PTA Member
Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival Volunteer
Greenville Hot Tamale Festival Volunteer

Renée Chérie Clark:

UAM: Committee on Committees
Technical Programs Curriculum & Standards Committee
Faculty Equity & Grievance Committee
General Education Committee
Gay Straight Alliance: Faculty Co-Advisor
University Assembly: Parliamentarian
Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Search Committee for Special Collections Librarian
Search Committee for Collection Development Coordinator
Team Captain for Walk Across America library team

Profession:
Southeastern Library Association New Member Round Table

Community: Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, Monticello Branch: Friends of the Library, President
Arkansas Symphony Board of Advisors

Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church, Warren
Accompanist at First United Methodist Church, Monticello

Beth Stewart
    UAM: Search Committee for Collection Development Coordinator

Daniel Boice:
    UAM: HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer
                Strategic Planning Coordinator
                Search Committee for Collection Development Coordinator
  Professional: Arkansas Library Association: Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
                Catholic Library Association: Book Review Co-Editor for *Catholic Library World*
                CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas: Juror
  Community: Monticello Planning Commission: Chair (July – December 2024)
                Monticello Kiwanis: Secretary
                American Planning Association, Arkansas Chapter: Executive Board Member

__Addendum: Library Strategic Plan__

The Fred J. Taylor Library

Strategic Plan   2024-2027

Goal One: Promote Opportunity and Success for All Students

Outcome 1.1: Support the transition from high school to post-secondary education to career by developing marketable skills in students and providing access to employment opportunities.

Strategy 1.1.1 Collaborate with Admissions and other departments to participate in area
     schools' early career initiatives
a.   Actively participate in high school career fairs and campus high school days to highlight librarianship careers
b.   Incorporate a Taylor Library booth/table at career fairs on the Monticello, Crossett, and McGehee campuses.

Strategy 1.1.2   Partner with Student Engagement to assist with Weevil Jumpstart Program.

Strategy 1.1.3 Support the transition from high school to postsecondary education by
encouraging consistent Library involvement with UST 1001 classes.
a.   Support Faculty Librarian participation in teaching UST 1001 classes to
increase critical thinking, information literacy, and active engagement with
information.
b.   Develop an Assessment system using pre- and post-tests for UST 1001
classes.

Strategy 1.1.4 Collaborate with UAM Administration, Schools, and Departments in order
to foster support of university programming to increase student success.

a.   Partner with Admissions and Student Engagement to assist with Move-in Day
b.   Actively Participate in orientation activities
    i.   Partner with Admissions/Campus Ambassadors to include the Taylor Library as a regular stop during
      campus tours

    ii. Create/provide Library survival kits that include key items such as bookmarks, pen & pad with library UAM Taylor Library logo

    iii. Implement/schedule activities to encourage use of the library during first week of school

    iv. Assess and modify De-Stress resources, including offering stress- reducing treats or activities during exam periods

      Date: Fall 2024 and ongoing

Strategy 1.1.5 Enhance partnership with Career Services:
    a. Host/assist with mock interviews and resume development.

Outcome 1.2: Prepare students for success with active learning and personalized engagement opportunities that motivate persistence and create opportunities for life-long learning.

Strategy 1.2.1: Enhance library participation and contribution across campus-wide and community engagement activities to promote student success and to increase awareness of library resources and services.

Strategy 1.2.2 Participate in the scholarly conversation in accessible, inclusive, and equitable ways that promote student success.
    a. In addition to existing celebration of faculty scholarship, find ways to celebrate and promote student scholarly and creative achievements.

Outcome 1.3: Develop partnerships with campus organizations, department programs, and student groups that encourage students, faculty, and staff to engage in scholarship and intellectual activities, and to share their knowledge and expertise to enhance successful student-centered culture.

Strategy 1.3.1: Partner with Admissions, Student Engagement, and other departments to enhance recruitment and retention.
    a. Co-sponsor or join visits to area high schools to speak with counselors and students about UAM.
    b. Develop information literacy and research skills brochure for high school students.

Strategy 1.3.2: Advocate for information literacy and academic research to be integrated into the university curriculum programming infrastructure.

    a. Assess library involvement in UAM curriculum to improve library support of and participation in teaching.
    b. Expand information literacy by integrating a library/department librarian link in all courses using Blackboard

c. Strengthen Information Literacy outreach, especially in ways that develop active reading and critical thinking.
d. Encourage liaison participation in and availability to instructional meetings of schools and departments.
e. Offer research assistance to support academic programs focusing on junior/senior course projects or capstones.

Strategy 1.3.3: Facilitate, support, and participate in interdisciplinary partnerships across academic departments to develop partnerships, including off-campus stakeholders, especially alumni.

Goal Two: Recruit, Empower, and Retain High-Quality Faculty and Staff

Outcome 2.1 Implement a marketing plan that attracts a qualified and diverse pool of faculty and staff.

Strategy 2.1.1 Attract, retain, and develop diverse Library Faculty and Staff

a. Increase funding for faculty and staff salaries annually contingent on enrollment and legislative appropriation.
b. Create clear expectations and job descriptions consistent with budget
c. Encourage collaboration and cross-training among all library staff.
d. Provide mentoring for faculty and staff in their library roles, research, and career goals.
e. Recognize and celebrate outstanding employee performance

Outcome 2.2 Enhance the working environment for library faculty and staff.
a. Strengthen library cohesion to better serve UAM.
b. Build systems, processes, and overall organizational capacity for engaging library employees around their expertise while supporting their excellence as individuals and in teams.
c. Support teams and team building to enhance Taylor Library's collective impact on research and academic achievement.
d. Identify and implement best practices and standards for internal communications, including regular activities and methods to keep employees within the library informed, especially where work intersects.

Strategy 2.2.1: Increase opportunities for staff development.

a. Build skills in leadership and teamwork at all levels through professional development and training opportunities.
b. Increase number and variety of staff workshops and trainings.
c. Increase funding available for staff training.

      d.   Increase opportunities for regional travel.

      e.   Collaborate with UAM Grant Office to expand training for writing and administering grants

Goal Three: Strengthen Institutional Resources

Outcome 3.1: Develop internal and external partnerships to strengthen Library resources

    Strategy 3.1.1 Develop strategic partnerships which support the Library, UAM, and the community consistent with regional and state workforce demands.

      a.   Assess and update the Library's relationships with campus support services, such as Information Technology Services, Development, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Academic Support Center for our mutual benefit.

      b.   Facilitate, support, and participate in interdisciplinary partnerships across academic departments.

      c.   Develop partnerships with off-campus stakeholders, including alumni.

      d.   Partner with other departments to help sponsor programs to bring awareness to socio-economic, educational and health and wellness challenges, i.e., health and wellness fairs, History Day, Dr. Seuss Day.

    Strategy 3.1.2: Seek new ways to partner with technical campuses.   Date: 2025

    Strategy 3.1.3 Strengthen partnerships with the Arkansas State Library and with other academic libraries for our mutual benefit.

    a. Enhance access to interlibrary loan services.

    b. Seek partnerships and grant funding for cooperative digitization projects, especially in Special Collections.

    c. Increase professional involvement at local, state, regional, and national levels.

      Date:

Outcome 3.2   Strengthen Library Resources

    Strategy 3.2.1   Increase budgets for Collections, Digital Content/Databases, and Special Collections

    Strategy 3.2.2 Assess and update current resources as appropriate.

        a. Provide relevant and accessible collections and digital programming to facilitate active engagement with

scholarship.

b. Assess usage of existing Collections including reference, journals, and government docs.

c. Develop the library's digital spaces, tools, infrastructure, and expertise.

d. Provide and promote access to course readings and content, and support open educational resources and diverse approaches to higher education curriculum.

e. Review/update Taylor Library laptops and hotspots to enhance access to high-speed technology for all UAM students

Strategy 3.2.3   Assess and update library infrastructure, equipment, and furnishings.

Outcome 3.3   Strengthen the Library's public presence

Strategy 3.4.1   Increase use of social media platforms to highlight library resources, promoting our presence in the region, state and beyond.

a. Implement and publish digital calendar instead of pdf document for UAM Academic Calendar and events

b. Work with University webpage administrators to enhance Library's website.

Strategy 3.4.2 Enhance physical accessibility of Taylor Library

a.   Provide more and better-marked visitor parking near the Library
Date: 2026

b.   Enhance external lighting around the building.
Date: 2027