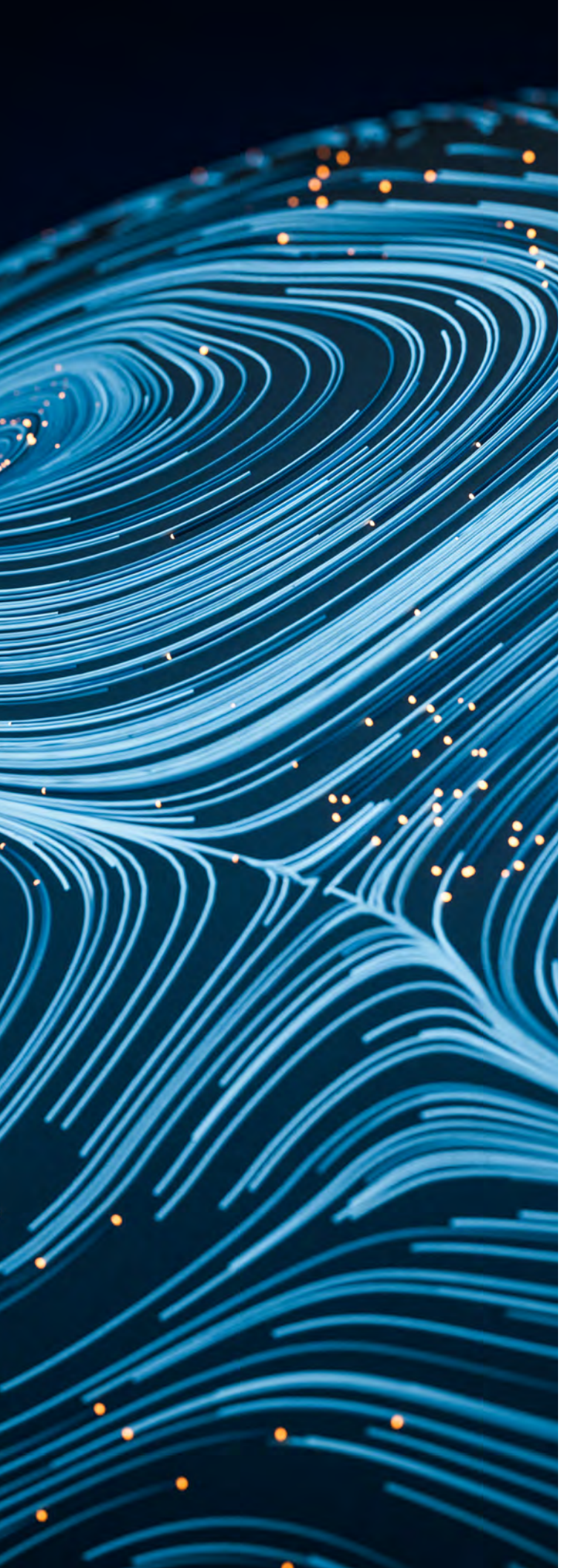
LIB2026



PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Libraries and School of Information Studies



About the cover

Artificial Intelligence

The cover of LIB2026 features an abstract image inspired by artificial intelligence, reflecting Purdue Libraries' growing role in helping the Purdue community navigate emerging technologies. Through AI literacy initiatives, courses, and research support, Libraries helps students, faculty, and researchers understand AI, critically evaluate AI-generated information, and explore its applications in academic and research settings.

As AI transforms how knowledge is created, accessed, and shared, Purdue Libraries supports the responsible and effective use of these tools in research, teaching, and learning. By connecting the Purdue community with resources, expertise, and opportunities to develop AI skills, Libraries encourages thoughtful engagement with this evolving technology. The cover represents the intersection of technology, information, and human inquiry, highlighting the Libraries' commitment to supporting innovation and advancing knowledge discovery.

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LIB2026

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WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Welcome to LIB2026, my first issue as associate vice provost and dean of Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies. Since stepping into this role in March, I have been inspired by the dedication and expertise of our Libraries community and grateful for the many supporters whose partnership makes our work possible.

Purdue Libraries connects people with knowledge and creates opportunities for discovery, learning, and innovation. This issue highlights that work—from hands-on student learning and new spaces to helping the Purdue community navigate AI and an evolving information landscape.

You will also see how Libraries is advancing research through AI-enabled tools and technologies, extending the reach and impact of Purdue scholarship, and bringing people together through programs such as GIS Day and Digital Humanities Day. Our celebration of Purdue authors further highlights the scholarship, expertise, and creativity of our community.

Stewardship remains equally central to our mission. Through exhibitions, archival collections, and digitization efforts, Purdue University Archives and Special Collections preserves Purdue's history while making its resources available to researchers, students, and the broader community.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and investment in this work. Together we are building a strong foundation for the next generation of learning and scholarship.

Nicole Kong
Associate Vice Provost
Dean of Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies

DR. NICOLE KONG

Leading Purdue Libraries Into a New Era of Knowledge

Dr. Nicole Kong serves as associate vice provost and dean of Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies, a role she assumed on March 16, 2026. A longtime member of the Purdue community, Dr. Kong joined Libraries in 2012 and became the associate dean for research in 2021. Previously, she served as the Libraries' geographic information systems (GIS) specialist, with expertise in geospatial information retrieval, data management, visualization, and spatial analysis.

Dr. Kong's work in geospatial information science and digital scholarship supports research and teaching across disciplines. Dr. Kong has contributed to over $25 million in sponsored research supported by agencies including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her research integrates data stewardship, information science, and emerging technologies to address complex research and educational challenges.

Dr. Kong has received national and international recognition, including the American Library Association's Map and Geospatial Information Round Table Honors Award in 2023. At Purdue, she received the university's Seed for Success Award in recognition of her contributions to sponsored research. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Peking University and her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University.

As dean, Dr. Kong leads Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies in advancing student success, research excellence, and community engagement while preserving knowledge and ensuring trusted access to information. Her priorities include strengthening information and AI literacy, research data management, scholarly communication, and collaborative learning while expanding Libraries' role as a place where people, ideas, and disciplines come together to learn, discover, and create.

Dr. Kong brings strategic vision and a strong belief in the power of people and partnerships to her work. Outside the university, she enjoys spending time with her family and caring for her four chickens.



Please consider supporting student success in Libraries

giving.purdue.edu/libraries

Your gift helps advance research, inspire learning, and provide access to resources that empower our Purdue community. Scan the QR code to give today and make an impact on the future of Purdue Libraries.

LEARNING BY DOING

Student Innovation Across Purdue Libraries

Purdue Libraries is a place where students learn by doing, turning ideas into real projects that improve campus experiences. This feature highlights three student-driven initiatives that showcase creativity, collaboration, and impact across library spaces, services, and learning experiences.

Purdue Libraries Student Video Contest 2025–26

The Purdue Libraries Student Video Contest challenged undergraduates to answer a simple question: What do incoming students most need to know about Purdue Libraries to succeed?

An annual tradition from our recent past, the contest returned with creative submissions that highlighted everything from hidden study spaces to essential research resources. The winning videos offer practical guidance for new students while showcasing the creativity and communication skills of their creators.

Winners:

- First place: **Behruz Toyirov,** freshman, data analytics, technologies, and applications
- Second place: **Safanur Rafi,** junior, computer science
- Third place: **Skylar Grosch,** junior, film and video, and communications

Learn more and watch the winning videos
purdue.link/video_contest

Experiential education with executives in residence: Designing an escape room

When students in Associate Professor Michael Witt's learning community partnered with Purdue alumna and former FBI executive Amy Hess through the Executive in Residence program, they took on an unusual challenge: create an investigative-themed escape room.

Students developed a fictional scenario in which Purdue Pete and men's basketball coach Matt Painter are kidnapped and a mysterious artificial intelligence (AI) system, PeteGPT, is at the center of the case. Students designed puzzles, built the narrative, and refined the experience through testing and feedback.

The project introduced students to design thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving while demonstrating how experiential learning can bring classroom concepts to life.

Learn more about the escape room
purdue.link/escape_room

▼ Michael Witt and Amy Hess with a few of the students in his learning community who created the escape room.





▲ PurdueTHINK team members Ashwin Parab, Aryan Bakshi, Bradan Lenz, and Layla Schumacher with Libraries staff Jason Filer, Beth McNeil, Rebecca Richardson, and Phil Kolb.

From insight to impact: PurdueTHINK x Purdue Libraries

In the spring of 2026, a team of students from PurdueTHINK, Purdue University's interdisciplinary undergraduate consulting program, partnered with Purdue Libraries to explore how students interact with library spaces, services, and digital platforms and how those experiences can be improved through data-driven design.

The team—Aryan Bakshi (sophomore, computer science), Bradan Lenz (freshman, industrial engineering), Ashwin Parab (sophomore, mechanical engineering), and Layla Schumacher (freshman, industrial engineering)—worked alongside mentor Dean Emerita Beth McNeil to analyze Instagram engagement, evaluate website usability, and assess wayfinding challenges across library spaces.

Their recommendations included improved wayfinding signage, enhanced communication strategies, website improvements, and the development of OpenSeat, a tool designed to help students quickly locate and reserve study spaces. The collaboration provided students with real-world consulting experience while helping Purdue Libraries create a more intuitive and student-centered environment.

Learn more about the PurdueTHINK collaboration
purdue.link/Purdue_THINK

Your impact in action

Your support helps students transform hands-on learning into life-changing opportunities.

Noelia Alvarez



"The Student Partners for Information Research and Literacy (SPIRaL) program introduced me to the world of libraries and archives," said Noelia Alvarez.

That experience helped launch a junior fellowship at the Library of Congress, where Alvarez contributed to an AI Community of Engagement project. During a study abroad program in the Czech Republic, Alvarez conducted original research on 15th-century cuirasses from the Lobkowicz collection. Drawing on skills developed through her Information and Library Science courses, she presented her findings to members of the Lobkowicz family, one of the oldest Bohemian noble families.

Roma Koroneos



"Working in the archives has provided me with opportunities and experiences that have helped me grow in my academic and professional endeavors," said Roma Koroneos.

As a student employee in Archives and Special Collections, Koroneos contributed to a major digitization project that made 147 historical film and audio recordings publicly accessible online. Through archival research, metadata creation, and exhibition work, she gained firsthand experience that reinforced her goal of pursuing a career in archives and special collections.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AI Literacy at Purdue Libraries

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how students learn, faculty teach, and researchers discover information. From grant-funded research and new academic programs to campus resources and professional development, these efforts are positioning Purdue Libraries as a leader in AI literacy.

Research and innovation

Libraries faculty are advancing AI research and innovation in teaching, learning, and library services. Supported by the Innovation Hub Grant, Professor Wei Zakharov engages students in developing an AI tutor for big data science courses, while Professor Michael Fosmire, together with Libraries faculty Jerilyn Tinio, Victoria Dawkins, and Jing Lu, redesign writing assignments to foster critical evaluation of AI-generated content. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded "TACTIC in Lib—Transforming AI Consumers to Innovative AI Creators in Libraries," led by Professor Gang Shao, provides librarians with accessible AI learning opportunities to support instruction, services, and research.

Expanding AI education

Libraries faculty Jing Lu and Zoeanna Mayhook developed ILS 395: Information Strategies for the Use of AI, introducing students to AI through information literacy and practical applications in research, communication, and decision-making. A Department of Defense-funded project led by Lu and Mayhook applies AI-enhanced research and business intelligence tools to biotechnology commercialization. The AI Literacy Response Team is also mapping AI instruction across Purdue, identifying 27 courses and exploring new undergraduate courses, certificates, microcredentials, and professional development focused on AI-assisted research, information evaluation, and responsible AI use.

Resources for the Purdue community

Purdue Libraries is expanding AI learning resources through Jing Lu's Artificial Intelligence LibGuide and AI Literacy Essentials, which provide guidance on AI tools, research, copyright, ethics, and practical applications. Lu also leads AI Skills Drill Workshops, offering faculty hands-on experience with AI for teaching and research. Partners for Algorithmic Literacy (PAL), a nationally awarded program led by Samantha LeGrand and Zoeanna Mayhook, brings students and faculty together to co-design and explore responsible approaches to AI in the classroom.

Together these initiatives create a comprehensive ecosystem of AI education at Purdue Libraries, connecting innovative research, forward-looking curriculum, and accessible campus resources. By helping students, faculty, librarians, and researchers build the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to navigate an AI-driven world, Purdue Libraries is preparing the university community for the future of teaching, learning, and discovery.

▼ Samantha LeGrand shares her insights on the Partners for AI Literacy Program.



Learn more about the Libraries' Artificial Intelligence LibGuide
guides.lib.purdue.edu/ai

RECHARGE AND SUCCEED

New and Evolving Spaces in Purdue Libraries

From West Lafayette to Indianapolis, recent updates and events highlight how Purdue Libraries environments are adapting to meet student needs in flexible, welcoming ways.

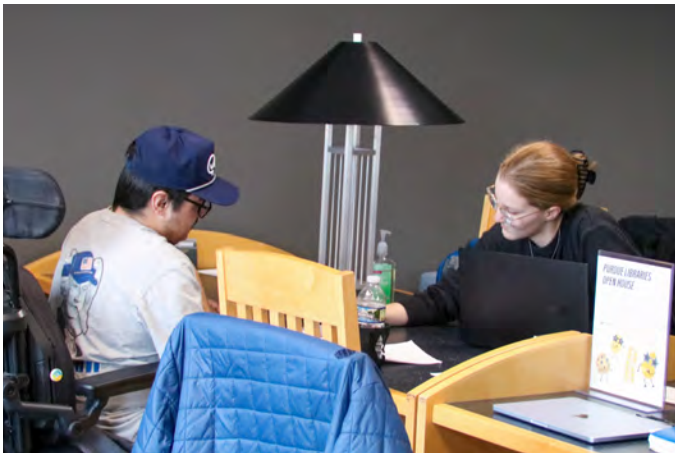
A growing hub in Indianapolis: Student Center Library

The Purdue Student Center Library in Indianapolis has quickly become a central study destination for students at Purdue University in Indianapolis. Located on the second floor of the Student Center (SCPI), the space offers flexible seating, computer workstations, and comfortable areas for both individual and group study.

Libraries hosted a Student Center Library Open House in February, highlighting resources such as research support, study tools, and campus partnerships, reinforcing the library's role as both an academic and community space.

Learn more about the Student Center Library
purdue.link/Student_Center_Library

▼ Students studying in the Student Center Library



A refreshed space for STEM study: Mathematical Sciences Library

The Mathematical Sciences Library (MATH) has reopened following a refresh that includes new furniture, updated carpeting, and improved lighting through a reconfigured layout. Additional group study rooms enhance collaboration opportunities, while a newly added testing room provides students with a dedicated space for online exams and individual academic work.

Learn more about the Math Library
purdue.link/Math_Library

A network of evolving learning spaces

Finding the right space has also become easier through OpenSeat, Purdue Libraries' real-time seat availability platform. Students can view occupancy levels across library locations before they arrive, helping them identify spaces that match their study preferences and schedules.

Whether preparing for an exam in a quiet corner, meeting with classmates to complete a project, practicing for a job interview, or taking a break between classes, students can find spaces designed to support both academic success and personal well-being. As Purdue Libraries continues to enhance and expand its facilities, these evolving environments remain central to fostering learning, connection, and student achievement.

Learn more about OpenSeat
lib.purdue.edu/openseat

PURDUE LIBRARIES IS *Helping to Shape the Future of*

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how research happens. Across disciplines, researchers are using AI to analyze complex data, uncover new connections, accelerate literature reviews, and generate discoveries at unprecedented speed. Yet the value of these technologies depends on the quality of the data, information, and human judgment behind them.

Purdue Libraries is helping build the foundation for this new era of scholarship. By preparing research data for AI applications, introducing researchers to emerging discovery tools, fostering conversations about responsible AI, and expanding visibility to Purdue scholarship, Libraries is helping researchers navigate and shape the future of research.

Far beyond its traditional role as a gateway to information, Libraries has become an active partner in the research enterprise, providing the expertise, infrastructure, and services that support discovery from data collection to publication.

Preparing research for the AI era

Successful AI begins with high-quality data. Researchers increasingly rely on well-organized, well-documented datasets that can be shared, reused, and analyzed by both people and AI systems. Purdue Libraries supports every stage of the research data lifecycle, helping researchers organize, curate, publish, and preserve data in ways that advance FAIR principles: making research data more Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

Working with partners across campus, Purdue Libraries is also helping prepare research data for AI-enabled scholarship. AI-ready datasets require more meaningful documentation as well as consistent structure, appropriate metadata, clear provenance, and careful attention to intellectual property and privacy. As AI intelligence becomes more deeply integrated into research workflows, expert data stewardship is becoming just as important as the technologies themselves.



▲ Jing Lu is one of several Libraries faculty focused on AI literacy and its application in research and teaching.

Finding better answers faster

As the volume of scholarly literature continues to grow, finding the most relevant research has become more challenging, and AI is changing how researchers meet that challenge.

One example is Scite, an AI-powered citation platform available through Purdue Libraries. Rather than simply counting citations, Scite analyzes how research is cited, helping scholars understand whether studies support, challenge, or simply reference earlier work. Researchers can use the platform to identify influential papers, explore scholarly debates, generate literature reviews, and evaluate citation networks with greater context.

Interest in the platform has grown rapidly since Libraries introduced it in 2023. Registered users have increased from fewer than 200 during the first year to more than 4,000 today, while AI-assisted

AI-Enabled Research



▲ Dr. Ben Lee of the University of Washington discussing how thoughtful decision-making is more important than ever in an AI-enabled world.

searches and literature analyses have expanded dramatically as faculty and students incorporate the tool into their research workflows.

Purdue Libraries complements these technologies with workshops and consultations that help researchers use AI thoughtfully and critically, emphasizing that while AI can accelerate discovery, informed human judgment remains essential.

Bringing AI conversations to campus

Supporting research innovation means more than providing new tools. It also means helping the campus community explore the opportunities and challenges that accompany AI.

Through its AI Literacy Speaker Series and related programs, Libraries brings leading scholars to campus to examine topics ranging from AI literacy to research infrastructure and real-world applications.

Recent speakers have included Dr. Ben Lee of the University of Washington, who explored the importance of critical thinking and decision-making in an AI-enabled world, and Dr. Dongfang Liu of the Rochester Institute of Technology (now with Libraries), who discussed how AI is moving from theoretical research into practical applications across science, healthcare, and engineering.

Libraries also welcomed Dr. Sayeed Choudhury, associate dean at Carnegie Mellon University Libraries and executive director of the Open Forum for AI (OFAI), whose presentation examined how openness, transparency, and collaboration will shape the future of AI. Together these conversations help prepare Purdue researchers to engage with AI as not only a technology but also a force reshaping research, education, and society.

Contributing to the future of AI

In 2026, Libraries became a partner in the OFAI, an international initiative led by Carnegie Mellon University that brings together universities and nonprofit organizations committed to building open, transparent, and human-centered AI infrastructure.

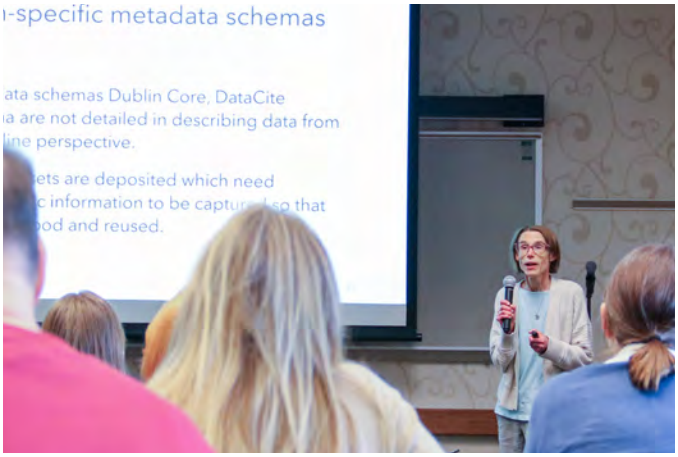
Libraries faculty and staff now serve on four OFAI working groups focused on data, research, workforce development, and technical infrastructure, contributing Purdue's expertise while collaborating with peers around the world on emerging practices for responsible AI. The partnership reflects Libraries' longstanding leadership in data stewardship, information governance, and open scholarship, extending that work into the rapidly evolving AI landscape.

Looking ahead

By supporting AI-ready research, introducing innovative discovery tools, engaging the campus community in conversations about responsible AI, and expanding access to Purdue scholarship, Purdue Libraries is helping build a research ecosystem where innovation and knowledge can thrive.

EXTENDING THE REACH *of Purdue Research*

Working alongside faculty, researchers, and graduate students, Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies helps ensure that Purdue scholarship reaches the broadest possible audience. Through open access publishing support, digital repositories, research data services, and research impact expertise, Purdue Libraries increases the visibility, accessibility, and long-term influence of Purdue research, helping discoveries made on campus create lasting impact around the world.



▲ Reid Boehm bringing her latest research to the forefront, sharing insights and ideas with the academic community.

Making Purdue research available to everyone

Research has the greatest potential to change lives when it is available to everyone who can benefit from it. Purdue Libraries helps make that possible by removing barriers to access and supporting researchers throughout the publishing process.

Through open access publishing agreements with major publishers, Purdue researchers can publish in participating journals without paying article processing charges. These agreements make research immediately available to anyone with an internet connection, whether they are fellow researchers, clinicians, industry professionals, educators, policymakers, or members of the public.

The benefits extend well beyond affordability. Openly available scholarship reaches broader audiences, is more likely to be read and cited, and can be incorporated more quickly into future discoveries, public policy, and professional practice.

The agreements also help Purdue researchers comply with evolving federal public access requirements. Under the 2022 Nelson Memo (officially "Ensuring Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research"), the results of federally funded research must be made immediately available to the public. Purdue Libraries helps researchers meet these requirements while eliminating a financial barrier that might otherwise limit access to their work.

For many researchers, Purdue e-Pubs provides another pathway to broaden the reach of their scholarship. As Purdue's institutional repository, e-Pubs enables authors to share publisher-approved versions of their work through green open access, which means that research remains freely accessible even when the published journal article resides behind a subscription paywall.

This year Purdue e-Pubs celebrates its 20th anniversary, a milestone that reflects two decades of connecting Purdue scholarship with readers around the globe. Today the repository contains nearly 96,000 publications that have been downloaded more than 42.8 million times.

The impact of e-Pubs extends far beyond academia. Research shared through Purdue e-Pubs has been cited in more than 1,500 public policy documents and dozens of clinical guidance publications, demonstrating how openly accessible Purdue scholarship informs decisions in government, healthcare, and industry.

Preserving research for future discovery

While publications communicate research findings, the underlying data often become the foundation for future discoveries. The Purdue University Research Repository (PURR) provides researchers with a secure long-term platform to preserve, publish, and share research data. Every published dataset receives a unique digital identifier, rich descriptive metadata, and integration with researchers' ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) profiles, making the data easier to discover, cite, and reuse.

The repository continues to grow alongside Purdue's research enterprise. Since its launch, PURR has supported more than 6,000 registered users, 2,100 published datasets, and nearly 2,700 research projects representing more than 50 academic departments.

Fiscal year 2026 marked another period of significant growth. Researchers created 198 new projects, published 140 datasets, and generated record engagement, with more than 900,000 dataset views and 200,000 downloads. PURR also surpassed the milestone of 2,000 published datasets while expanding support for accessible artificial intelligence (AI)–ready research data and strengthening partnerships across Purdue's campus, including collaborations with the Rosen Center for Advanced Computing, the Institute of Physical AI, and the Bindley Bioscience Center.

For researchers, these services mean more than preservation. They provide measurable evidence that their work is being discovered, downloaded, and used by others around the world, extending the influence of Purdue research long after a project concludes.

Helping researchers maximize their impact

Publishing research is only part of the story. Ensuring that research is accurately attributed, easily discoverable, and represented correctly in global databases is equally important.

Kevin Wiggins, former research impact librarian for Purdue Libraries, worked directly with faculty to improve the quality of Purdue's publication data in "Scopus" and "Web of Science," the databases that support research discovery and inform many national and international university rankings.

By verifying author affiliations, correcting publication records, and resolving duplicate researcher profiles, Purdue Libraries helps ensure that Purdue scholarship receives proper recognition while making it easier for collaborators, funding agencies, and other researchers to find Purdue expertise.

Purdue Libraries also empowers researchers through workshops and one-on-one consultations focused on scholarly impact, open access publishing, research metrics, and research data management. Its flagship workshop, "Scholarly Impact: Open Access, Open Data and Metrics," has been presented to departments, colleges, and graduate student organizations across campus, helping researchers understand how thoughtful publishing and data-sharing strategies can increase the reach of their work.

Many faculty members who seek guidance on research metrics also discover opportunities to strengthen their scholarly profiles, improve publication records, and better showcase the full scope of their research accomplishments.

A partner in Purdue's research mission

Every dataset preserved, every publication made openly available, and every researcher profile improved contributes to a larger goal, ensuring Purdue discoveries reach the people who can build upon them.

Together, open access publishing agreements, Purdue e-Pubs, PURR, and research impact services create an integrated system that supports researchers throughout the research lifecycle, ranging from publication and data sharing to long-term preservation and global discovery.

As Purdue's research enterprise continues to grow, Purdue Libraries remains an essential partner in expanding the visibility, accessibility, and influence of Purdue University's scholarship. By helping research travel further and reach more people, Purdue Libraries ensures that Purdue discoveries continue to inspire innovation, inform policy, and improve lives around the world.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Purdue GIS Day 2025: "Unlocking GeoAI Data and Tools"

Purdue GIS Day 2025, themed "Unlocking GeoAI Data and Tools," brought together more than 200 students, faculty, and industry professionals for a day of presentations, posters, and networking focused on advances in geospatial technology and artificial intelligence (AI). Geographic information systems (GIS) technology enables users to collect, manage, analyze, and visualize geographic data to better understand spatial patterns and relationships. Directed by Purdue Libraries Associate Professor Gang Shao, the event highlighted the expanding role of GeoAI across disciplines.

Hosted by Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies and sponsored in part by Amazon Web Services, Cultivate Geospatial, and Ecopia AI, the event strengthened collaboration between academia and industry in advancing geospatial innovation. Keynote speaker Gregory Brunner of Esri presented "Integrating AI Across GIS," highlighting how AI can improve spatial analysis, visualization, and decision-making.

The program included 29 student research posters, four industry and research presentations, a career panel, and a faculty panel showcasing GIS research and real-world applications ranging from open geospatial data systems to statewide data access. The day concluded with student poster awards, including new Digital Humanities recognitions. Winners received certificates and cash prizes, and the graduate recipients also received ArcGIS for Personal Use licenses to support research. The event highlighted Purdue's growing leadership in applying AI to geospatial science and preparing students for an increasingly AI-enabled workforce.

The following were undergraduate award winners:

- **Andrew Thompson,** "Evaluation of Connected Vehicle Pavement Roughness Data for Statewide Needs Assessment"
- **Sophia Pimentel,** "Mapping Magical Realism: GeoAI and the Spatial Imagination of Cien Años de Soledad" (Digital Humanities winner)

The following were graduate award winners:

- **Kendahl Hejl,** "Characterizing Shoreline Changes of Lake Huron with Small-Sat Imagery"
- **Max Gosch,** "The Impact of Fluvial Erosion on Archaeological Sites in Kansas" (Digital Humanities winner)



▲ Winners of the 2025 Purdue GIS Day poster competition: Max Gosch, Kendahl Hejl, Andrew Thompson, and Sophia Pimentel.

Learn more about Purdue GIS Day 2025
purdue.link/GIS_Day_2025

HIGHLIGHTS FROM
Digital Humanities Day 2026

On April 7, Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies hosted its first annual Digital Humanities Day in Stewart Center, bringing together students, faculty, and researchers for a half-day of presentations, discussion, and community building, showcasing interdisciplinary digital humanities work across campus. Digital humanities is an interdisciplinary field that applies digital tools, methods, and technologies to research, teaching, and scholarship in the humanities and related disciplines. The event highlighted innovative projects and fostered connections among scholars using digital approaches to explore human culture, history, language, and society.

A panel featuring students in the certificate program highlighted projects spanning literature, communication, linguistics, history, anthropology, and education. Presentations explored digital approaches to language and culture, computational historical analysis, and broader questions about technology's role in research.

The following were graduate student presenters:

- **Diana Torres Arias,** Comparative Literature
- **Loizos Bitsikokos,** Communication
- **Lane Matthew Bradley,** Communication
- **Marlene Burtscher,** Linguistics
- **Priya Makarand Dabak,** Curriculum & Instruction
- **Daeun Kang,** Linguistics
- **EmmaRose Milburn,** Anthropology & History
- **Kostiantyn Moharychev,** History



▲ Ryan Cordell taking the stage at DH Day to share ideas and engage in conversations at the intersection of digital humanities and research.

The event concluded with a keynote by Ryan Cordell, associate professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, whose address, titled "Anemoia, AI, and Skeuomorphism: The Material Turn in Digital Humanities," examined how analog practices such as printing presses and typewriters are reemerging as a way to engage with today's AI-driven digital environments critically. Discussions explored how AI can support research, text analysis, and digital scholarship while also prompting important conversations about ethics, creativity, authorship, and the evolving relationship between technology and human inquiry.

Digital Humanities Day 2026 highlighted the strength of digital humanities scholarship at Purdue and fostered continued collaboration at the intersection of technology, humanities, and creative research.

Learn more about Digital Humanities Day 2026
purdue.link/DH_Day_2026

CELEBRATING PURDUE
A Year of Books, Scholarship,

Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies continued its tradition of honoring faculty scholarship with two successful editions of "A Celebration of Books" during the 2025–26 academic year, recognizing more than 150 Purdue authors whose recently published works reflect the depth and breadth of research across campus.

The fall 2025 celebration, held on December 2, marked the largest event in the program's history, spotlighting more than 100 authors representing disciplines ranging from engineering and education to philosophy, technology, agriculture, and the arts. The spring 2026 event, hosted on April 22, celebrated more than 50 additional authors who published books during the spring semester.

At both events, faculty, staff, and guests gathered to recognize the enduring impact of scholarly publishing and the role that books continue to play in advancing discovery, teaching, and public engagement.

The growth in faculty publishing has also been supported by Purdue University Press, which has expanded opportunities for Purdue authors to publish scholarly books. Since the launch of the Books Initiative, the Press has worked with 177 faculty book projects, including 47 published titles, 31 books in production, and 61 under contract as of June 2026. The initiative has also increased the availability of openly accessible scholarship, with 77% of published, in-production, and contracted titles (107 of 139) released as native open access, helping extend the reach of Purdue research to readers around the world. The Press continues to provide professional editorial, production, and accessibility services for every title, supporting the broad dissemination of faculty research.

The fall 2025 program featured presentations from five Purdue authors who shared insights into their newest publications and the experiences behind writing them:

- **Douglas Comer,** distinguished professor of computer science, discussed "Operating System Design."
- **Roberto Gallardo,** vice president of engagement, highlighted "Indiana at a Glance."
- **Anne Lucietto,** associate professor in the School of Engineering Technology, shared "Women in Engineering Technology—Innovating for the Future."
- **Jacqueline Mariña,** professor of philosophy, presented "Kant's Metaphysics of the Will."
- **Wayne Wright,** associate dean for research in the College of Education, reflected on four recently published works focused on bilingual education, language diversity, and social justice.

Provost Patrick Wolfe addressed attendees during the fall event, noting the significant growth in faculty publishing activity across the university. "I thank you for the support, encouragement, and dedication," Wolfe said. "We have published nearly double as many faculty books this calendar year … and there are many more in the pipeline."

Sunil Prabhakar, vice provost for faculty affairs, also delivered remarks during both celebrations, recognizing the authors' accomplishments and emphasizing the importance of scholarship across Purdue's academic community.

The spring 2026 celebration continued that momentum, featuring presentations from the following participants:

AUTHORS and Discovery

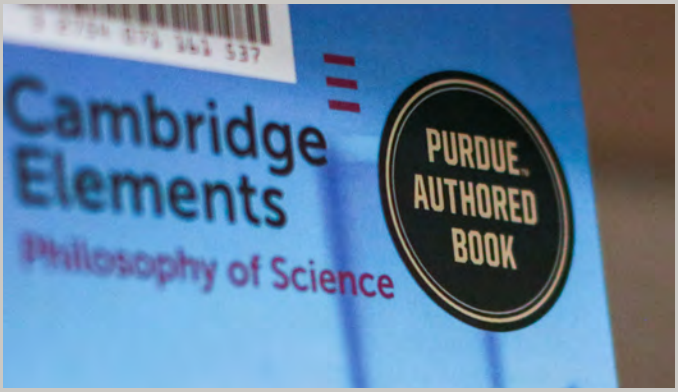


▲ Wayne Wright poses with four of his books, reflecting his contributions to scholarship and publishing.

- **Christian Butzke,** professor of food science, author of "Wine Appreciation"
- **Abigail Engelberth,** associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering, author of "Clear and Concise: Technical Writing for Biological Engineers"
- **Beth McNeil,** Libraries and Information Studies professor, co-author of "Championing Change for Global Marginalized Librarians"
- **Barry Pittendrigh,** John V. Osmun Endowed Chair in Urban Entomology, co-author of "The Right to Knowledge: A Learning-Systems Approach for the Sustainable Development Goals"
- **Torsten Reimer,** professor and director of the College of Liberal Arts Research Academy, author of "The Routledge Handbook of Communication and Social Cognition"

Together, the events highlighted the persistence of research, the power of ideas, and Purdue's continued commitment to knowledge creation across disciplines.

Learn more about A Celebration of Books
purdue.link/CoB_fall2025
purdue.link/CoB_spring2026



▲ A "Purdue Authored Book" sticker featured on a book cover.

Purdue Authored Books on Display in HSSE Library

Visitors to the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (HSSE) Library in Stewart Center can now explore a dedicated display featuring books recognized during "A Celebration of Books" events.

Located near the Cornerstone Reading Room on the first floor of the HSSE Library, the collection includes titles authored by Purdue faculty and staff across a wide range of disciplines, including engineering, education, computer science, liberal arts, technology, and the social sciences. The books are available for browsing and checkout.

Each title is marked with a distinctive "Purdue Authored Book" sticker on the cover and the spine, making it easy for visitors to identify works created by members of the Purdue community. The display offers students, faculty, staff, and visitors an opportunity to engage directly with the scholarship being produced at Purdue.

Learn more about the book display
purdue.link/HSSE_book_display

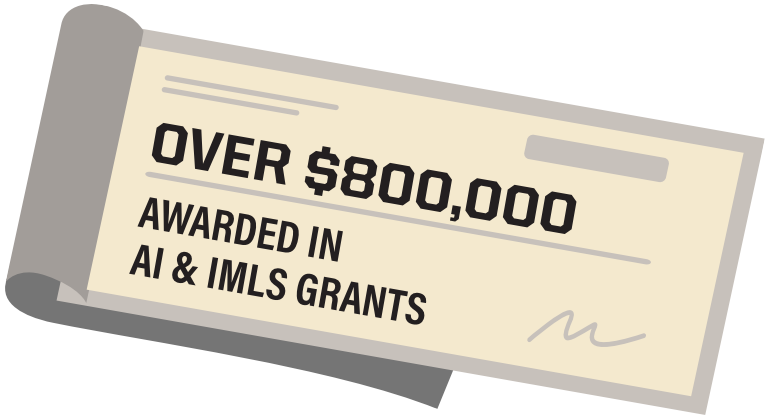
▼ Purdue-authored books on display in the HSSE Library.

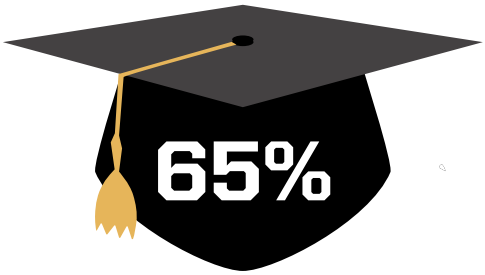


THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



Estimated cost savings for students through affordable course materials

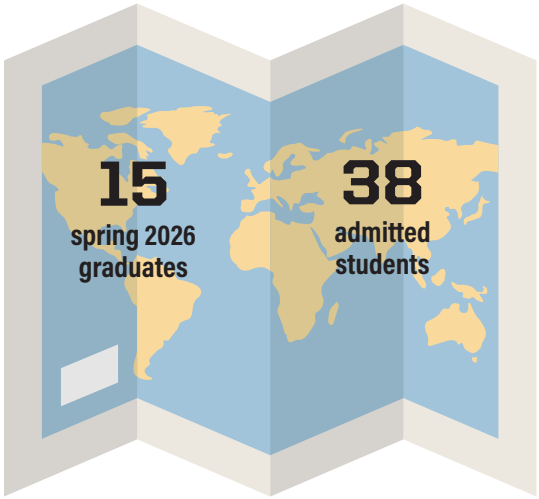




of Purdue students graduate debt-free



GRADUATE GIS CERTIFICATE





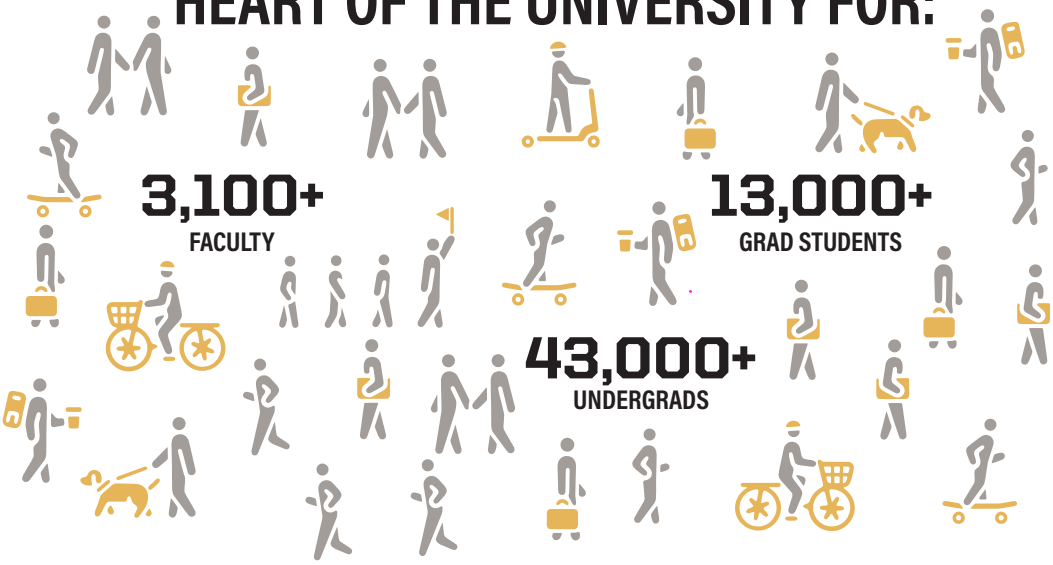


1,000,000+
social media views across 66 countries

TOP 5 COUNTRIES

United States | United Kingdom | India | Bangladesh | Canada

PURDUE LIBRARIES IS THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR:

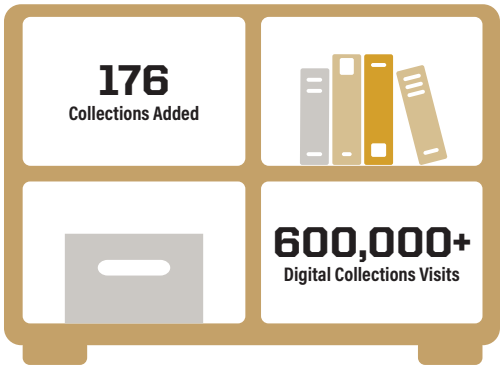


1,550 POLICY PAPERS CITED ePUBS

1,300 eRESOURCES DOWNLOADED EVERY HOUR

ePUBS HAD OVER **6,000,000** DOWNLOADS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



PURR DATA CONTRIBUTED TO

2,102 PUBLICATIONS

7,238 GRANT SUBMISSIONS

EXPANDING ACCESS

Purdue Libraries Advances Accessibility

Accessibility is central to Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies' commitment to ensuring that information, resources, and learning opportunities are available. Through digital accessibility guidance, publishing initiatives, repository improvements, and staff leadership, Libraries is embedding accessibility into how the Purdue community creates, shares, and accesses information.

Supporting accessible digital content

The Purdue Libraries "Digital Accessibility Guide," developed by the Libraries Accessibility Working Group, provides faculty, staff, and students with practical tools for creating accessible digital materials. The guide offers best practices, checklists, and training resources for developing accessible course materials, presentations, research outputs, and online content.

Making scholarship more accessible

Libraries is also advancing accessibility through its publishing and repository programs. Purdue University Press has long supported broad access to scholarship, with more than 200 open access books available to readers worldwide. Beginning in 2025, the Press updated its publishing workflows so that all newly published ebooks meet the highest accessibility standards. Led by Katherine Purple, editorial, design, and production manager, the initiative also includes reviewing existing publications to improve accessibility across the Press's catalog.

The Purdue University Research Repository (PURR) team also continues to enhance accessibility across its platform, resources, and user support materials. Through collaboration with the Rosen Center for Advanced Computing, the team has strengthened system accessibility and achieved more than 90% compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards.

The Libraries Publishing Program and Purdue e-Pubs have similarly incorporated accessibility into publishing practices. Since 2023, new publications have been required to meet accessibility standards, while staff and volunteers continue efforts to remediate previously published content and improve access to Purdue scholarship.

Recognizing accessibility leadership



Sarah Reifel, digital accessibility coordinator and senior instructional designer at Purdue Libraries, received Purdue University's Focus Award in the staff category for her contributions to accessibility initiatives across campus. Presented by the Office for Civil Rights during Disability Awareness Month, the award recognizes individuals whose work improves access to education and information within the Purdue community.

Upon receiving the award, Sarah said, "I am very honored to receive the 2026 Focus Award. Bringing awareness to some of the challenges faced by the disability community is a humbling and invaluable experience. Advocating for improved accessibility is such a small way that I can contribute to increasing access to resources, information, and experiences for everyone, and I am happy to be doing so."

Through these efforts, Purdue Libraries continues to strengthen accessibility across research, teaching, and scholarly communication. By integrating accessibility into its services and workflows, Libraries is helping ensure that Purdue knowledge reaches and benefits the widest possible audience.

Learn more about the 2026 Focus Award
purdue.link/2026_Focus_Award

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Digitizes Gilbreth Recordings

Purdue University Archives and Special Collections (ASC) has completed a project to digitize 147 film and audio recordings related to the pioneering work of famed industrial engineers Frank and Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, made possible by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources' Recordings at Risk program.

The recordings are now described and publicly available through the ASC collections database. They include previously unheard lectures, interviews, and instruction, personal recollections, and films showing practical applications of their motion study research in industrial engineering, home economics, agriculture, and more.

The Gilbreths combined engineering and psychology to improve efficiency and reduce worker fatigue, developing chronocyclegraphs to photograph motion and therbligs, the 18 fundamental motions used to analyze manual tasks. The term "therblig" is an anagram of "Gilbreth," preserving the "th."

Digitizing the recordings

Archivists submitted a proposal to the Council on Library and Information Resources' Recordings at Risk program in 2024 and began work on the project in September of that year. Since then, a team of archivists, digitization specialists, and student employees have worked to make these materials accessible by coordinating with specialized vendors, analyzing recording content, conducting quality checks, and creating online descriptions for each item.

The following team members are responsible for this project:

- **Katey Watson,** clinical assistant professor and France A. Córdova archivist (principal investigator)
- **Ben Parnin,** archivist for digital preservation (co-principal investigator)
- **Neal Harmeyer,** assistant dean, Archives and Special Collections; head, Virginia Kelly Karnes Research Center; and clinical associate professor (co-principal investigator)
- **Cliff Harrison,** senior manager for digital programs
- **M. Lewis,** digital collections photography assistant
- **Roma Koroneos and Mallory Wells,** student employees



▲ Frank and Lillian Gilbreth performing motion study analysis of a typist, undated. MSP 8, Box 163, Folder 1. Courtesy of Purdue University Archives and Special Collections.

Learn more about the Recordings at Risk program
purdue.link/Gilbreth_Digitization

FROM MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

Exhibitions and Receptions at Purdue University

Purdue University Archives and Special Collections (ASC) recently brought together students, faculty, and the community through two major exhibitions: "Beyond the Binding: Medieval Manuscripts from Farm to Fragments" and "Forms and Functions: A Selection of Materials within Purdue University Archives and Special Collections." Each exhibition was paired with a well-attended reception that highlighted student learning, collaborative curation, and the public impact of archival work.

"Beyond the Binding": Medieval manuscripts and a record reception

Debuting in December 2025, "Beyond the Binding" showcased original medieval manuscripts on loan through the Manuscripts in the Curriculum program administered by Les Enluminures and manuscripts preserved within ASC. The exhibition was the result of a multi-year collaboration led by Professor Michael Johnston, Assistant Professor Kristin Leaman, and Clinical Associate Professor Adriana Harmeyer and supported by Purdue Libraries, the Troutner Teaching Fund, and Archives and Special Collections.

The exhibition was closely tied to ILS 59500: Medieval Manuscript Studies, taught by Leaman and Harmeyer, a course where students studied manuscript culture and also served as curators. Their work shaped the final exhibition, which combined loaned medieval materials with items from Purdue's own collections.

The opening reception in December 2025 drew more than 100 visitors to the celebration, located in Archives and Special Collections and the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (HSSE) Library in Stewart Center. Guests filled the gallery to view rare manuscripts up close, engaging in conversations about medieval bookmaking, preservation, and historical interpretation. Ten student curators led the exhibition experience, marking the culmination of a semester of hands-on research and installation work completed in just a few days.



▲ Student curators of "Beyond the Binding" listening to remarks during the exhibition reception, celebrating their work and the ideas behind the exhibition.

The reception highlighted both the academic rigor and accessibility of the project, as students shared how working directly with centuries-old materials reshaped their understanding of archives, history, and scholarly work.

Learn more about "Beyond the Binding"
purdue.link/Beyond_the_Binding

"Forms and Functions:" Opening reception celebrated archival formats

In the spring of 2026, "Forms and Functions: A Selection of Materials within Purdue University Archives and Special Collections" opened as a broad exploration of archival formats across centuries. Co-curated by archivists and 11 student employees, the exhibition featured materials from more than 40 collections ranging from the 15th century to the present day.

The exhibition demonstrated the diversity of archival materials at Purdue—manuscripts, photographs, personal papers, illustrations, and even obsolete media such as floppy disks—while introducing visitors to how archivists describe, preserve, and make collections accessible.

TO MODERN MEDIA

Archives and Special Collections

Learn more about "Forms and Functions"
purdue.link/Forms_and_Functions

The opening reception on March 5, 2026, brought together faculty, students, and community members to Archives and Special Collections in the HSSE Library. Attendees explored the exhibition while hearing directly from curators and student participants about the selection and interpretation of materials.

A student panel was a highlight of the evening, offering behind-the-scenes reflections on the curation process and emphasizing the hands-on learning experience of working in archives. Students described gaining new insight into archival research, collection management, and the interpretive work required to present historical materials to the public.

The reception underscored the collaborative nature of the exhibition, with archivists and student employees working side by side to create an accessible and engaging public display.

Exhibitions in dialogue

Although "Beyond the Binding" and "Forms and Functions" differ in scope—one focusing on medieval manuscripts and the other on the breadth of archival materials—they share a common emphasis on experiential learning and public engagement. Both exhibitions were shaped by student participation and launched through receptions that brought archival work into the public eye. In each case, students did not simply view materials; they also engaged with the processes behind their selection, interpretation, and presentation.

Together, the exhibitions demonstrate how Purdue University Archives and Special Collections uses exhibitions and receptions to not only showcase materials but also highlight the people and collaborative work that bring history to life.



▲ Student curators Maxwell Splaine, Roma Koroneos, Hannah Cano, and Scarlett Strong at the "Forms and Functions" exhibition reception.

Exhibitions on display

On display from August 25 through December 11, 2026, at Purdue University Archives and Special Collections, "The History of Home Economics at Purdue: How It Shaped Our Campus and Our Lives" examines the profound and lasting influence of home economics on the university and beyond. The exhibition is open Monday through Friday during the fall 2026 semester from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, located on the fourth floor of the HSSE Library in Stewart Center.

This spring, explore the history of steam locomotives through "Steam, Steel, and Snapshots: The William A. Swartz Collection of Locomotive Photographs, Publications, and Records." This exhibition, which celebrates the preservation of railway history and Purdue's unique connection to the industry, is on display January 19–May 27, 2027, at the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT *Research and Teaching Highlights*

Purdue Libraries and School of Information Studies marked a year of achievement through its annual research, teaching, and recognition events in 2025–26, highlighting faculty and staff contributions across the Libraries community.

National recognition for Purdue Libraries faculty

- **Michael Fosmire** received the ASEE Engineering Libraries Division Homer I. Bernhardt Distinguished Service Award, recognizing sustained leadership, scholarship, and service in engineering librarianship and engineering education.
- **Samantha LeGrand, Jing Lu, and Zoeanna Mayhook** received the ACRL Instruction Section Innovation Award for the Partners for Algorithmic Literacy (PAL) project.
- **Michael Witt** was named 2026 Learning Community Instructor of the Year, and his Engineering in the World of AI Learning Community was recognized as Learning Community of the Year, highlighting innovative approaches to integrating data and AI concepts into student learning.
- **Jason Reed** received the 2026 Drug Information and Library Science Section Member of the Year Award, recognizing his meaningful contributions to the section and his service to the profession.

Celebrating Research 2025

- **Chao Cai:** "Cultivating Evidence: The Evolution, Collaboration, and Intellectual Landscape of Evidence Synthesis in Agriculture"
- **Bert Chapman:** "Recent U.S. Government Policy Literature on Critical and Strategic Minerals"
- **Zoeanna Mayhook, Anvi Datta** (undergrad), **Lauren Coons** (undergrad), and **Cara Putman:** "A Systematized Review of Business Ethics Education: An OUR Scholars Project"



▲ Neal Baker sharing his research, offering fresh perspectives and insights with the academic community.

- **Pete Pascuzzi and Colin Roberson** (undergraduate research assistant): "Exploring PICR Research Impact, Collaborations and Expertise with Bibliometric Data"
- **Jing Lu:** "Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Research Librarianship"
- **Reid Boehm and Jerry Kuang:** "Describing Repository Datasets Using Domain-Specific Metadata Standards"
- **Kelly Burns, Reid Boehm, and Koushiki Pohit** (graduate assistant): "The Quest to Gamify Best Practices in Research Data Management"
- **Innocensia Owuor and Nicole Kong:** "Engaging the Campus GIS Community through Effective ArcGIS Online User Management"
- **Gang Shao:** "Estimating Canopy Height from a Single High-Resolution Aerial Image Using Deep Depth Models"
- **Reid Boehm and Kate Thacker** (graduate student intern): "Repository Data Reporting Project: Metrics Assessment for Growth and Development"
- **Wei Zakharov:** "Elevating Data as Scholarship: Open Data and Publishing in Data Journals"

PURDUE LIBRARIES

- **Neal Baker:** "Business Students and the Academic Library: A National Study of Perceived Importance:
- **Annette Bochenek:** "Primary Source Analysis in ILS 300: Information, Culture & Society"
- **Rachel Fundator, Thom Gerrish, and Clarence Maybee:** "Informed Learning in Place: Tales from a Field Station"
- **Nastasha Johnson and Mark Puente:** "Researching Library Leadership Development Strategies for BIPOC Populations in Research-Intensive Environments"
- **Bethany McGowan:** "Training Citizen Diplomats for Contested Information Spaces: Developing and Testing the Information Diplomacy as Pedagogy Framework"
- **Dave Zwicky:** "Trademark and the ACRL Information Literacy Framework"
- **Mark Puente and Anna Munson** (graduate research assistant): "Indigenous Language Revitalization Efforts within Global Library and Archival Institutions"
- **Michael Fosmire:** "SoTL Scoping Reviews"
- **Adriana Harmeyer:** "Unexpected Provenance: Surprises among the Rare Book Collections"
- **Jean-Pierre V. M. Hérubel:** "Bibliometric Profile of a Unique International Phenomenon: The Doctorat D'Université-Update"
- **Nicole Kong:** "Enabling the Geospatial Turn in the Social Sciences through Cyberinfrastructure Training"
- **Kristin Leaman:** "Printing Ælfric in Early Modern England, 1566–1687"
- **Spencer Stewart:** "DH Approaches to Generative AI"



▲ Adriana Harmeyer speaking about the "Beyond the Binding" exhibition curation process.

- **Jean-Pierre V. M. Hérubel:** "Stories We Tell Ourselves: Higher Education Institutional Histories"
- **Bert Chapman:** "Recent U.S. Government and Foreign and International Government and Commercial Literature on Maritime Shipping"

Celebration of Teaching 2026

- **Kristin Leaman:** "Codicology and Curation: Describing the Medieval Book"
- **Adriana Harmeyer:** "Beyond the Binding—Beyond the Classroom: Exhibition Curation as Course Output"
- **Samantha LeGrand:** "Information Studies Research Accelerator Learning Community: Instructor and Student Perspectives on the New LC"
- **Annette Bochenek:** "Case-Based Learning with Primary Sources: A Pan Am Archival Case Study"
- **Chao Cai:** "Building a High-Enrollment Course through Community, Research, and Online Learning"
- **Bert Chapman:** "SCLA 509 Strategic Intelligence Organizations, Technologies, Procedures, Policies"

- **Melissa Chomintra:** "ILS 230 and AI: God Save the Queen Diva"
- **Neal Harmeyer:** "Reflections on ILS 132: Introduction to Museums and Archives"
- **Sarah Huber:** "Creative Formats: Making Knowledge"
- **Jo Otremba and Wayne Hastings:** "Fostering Gen Z Student Curiosity and Engagement in the Archives"
- **Innocensia Owuor:** "Honors Contract in Introduction to GIS (ILS 250): Enhancing Student Learning and Career Development"
- **Michael Witt:** "Experiential Learning with Executives in Residence: Escape Room Episode"
- **Jerilyn Tinio:** "Stewarding Student Life Histories: A Data Literacy Fellows Program"

This year's teaching award winners were also recognized:

Teaching for Tomorrow Fellowship Awards Program

Bethany McGowan, senior fellow

Teaching Leadership Award

Samantha LeGrand

Libraries Teaching Award Winners

- **Melissa Chomintra**
- **Michael Witt**

Learn more about Celebrating Research
purdue.link/Celebrating_Research_2025

Learn more about Celebration of Teaching
purdue.link/Celebrating_Teaching_2026

Libraries Faculty Published Books in 2025-26

Purdue Libraries faculty published books exploring information literacy, creative communication, library leadership, social justice, and space policy. These publications showcase faculty expertise and contribute new perspectives to research, education, and professional practice across a range of disciplines.

Bert Chapman
"Space Strategy and Military Doctrine: Policy Documents of NATO Allies"

Bert Chapman examines civilian and military space policy documents, helping readers understand the role of public knowledge in informed policymaking.

Sarah Huber
"Creative Formats Across Media and Disciplines"

Sarah Huber explores how different formats shape the way ideas are communicated, understood, and experienced, offering practical strategies for educators and students.

Clarence Maybee
"**The Information Literacy Handbook"**

Clarence Maybee brings together international research and expertise, forming a comprehensive resource for researchers, educators, library professionals, and students.

Beth McNeil
"Leading Libraries: Perspectives from Lived Experiences"

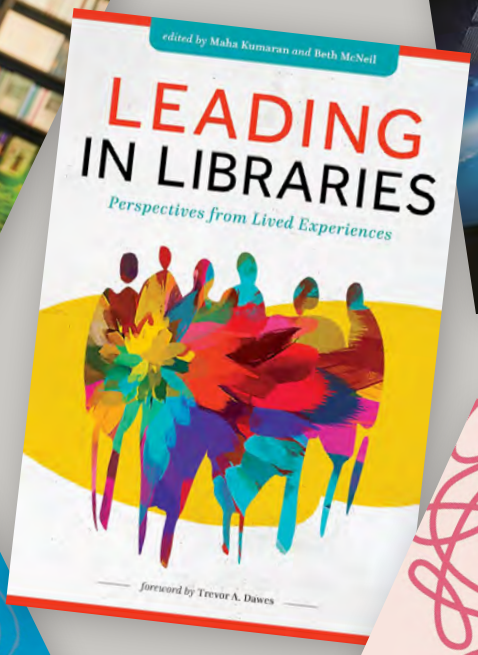
Beth McNeil explores how library leaders can navigate changing institutional expectations, offering valuable insights to build more equitable and responsive libraries.

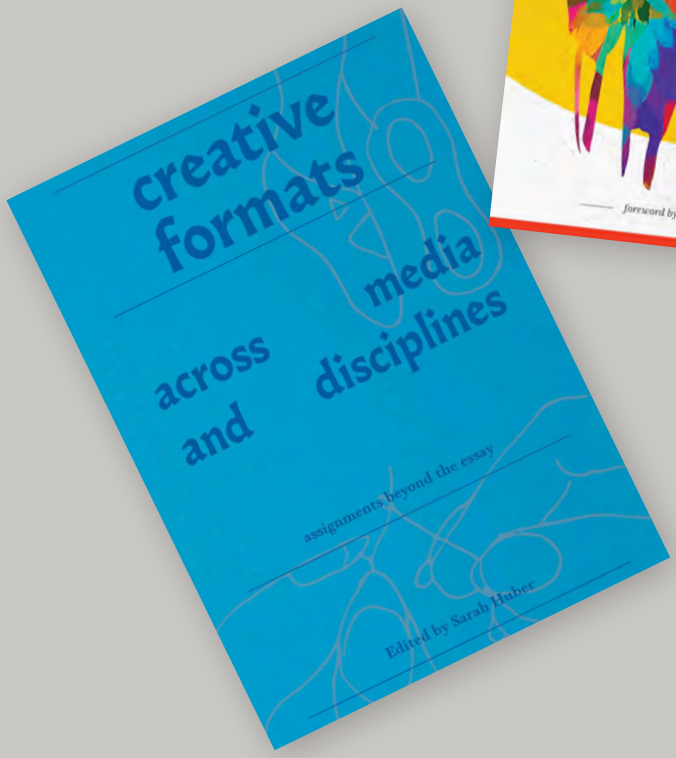
Beth McNeil and Mark Puente
"Championing Change for Global Marginalized Librarians"

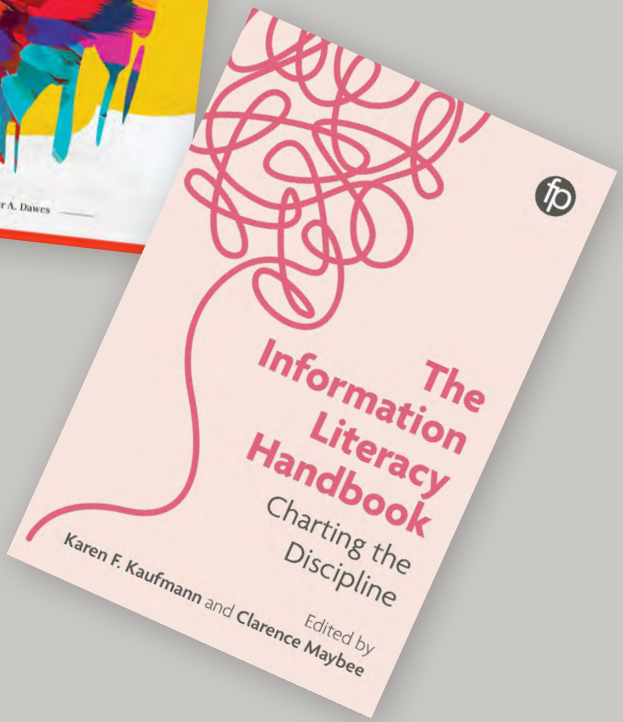
Beth McNeil and Mark Puente examine the barriers that affect marginalized librarians, emphasizing the importance of amplifying underrepresented voices.


Championing Change for Global Marginalized Librarians
Beth McNeil, Maha Kumaran, and Mark A. Puente
IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today


SPACE STRATEGY AND MILITARY DOCTRINE
Policy Documents of NATO Allies
Bert Chapman
PRAEGER SECURITY INTERNATIONAL
BLOOMSBURY


edited by Maha Kumaran and Beth McNeil
LEADING IN LIBRARIES
Perspectives from Lived Experiences
foreword by Trevor A. Dawes


creative formats
across and media disciplines
assignments beyond the essay
Edited by Sarah Huber


The Information Literacy Handbook
Charting the Discipline
Edited by
Karen F. Kaufmann and Clarence Maybee

