From the BNC University Librarian

It has been a full year of new challenges and new accomplishments. We pivoted to online, reorganized work and people, and continued to serve our strategy statement by enhancing the Library’s position as an intellectual and creative hub that empowers our community by creating equitable opportunities for furthering knowledge, inspiration, and growth.

While masks and distancing pushed us apart, this past year has also brought us closer as we were forced to find new ways to collaborate, learn about each other, and stick together. Throughout the year, we struggled with feelings of fear and anxiety about campus and Library safety, shared excitement around new modalities that stretched us and brought out creative uses of technology, as well as found new ways to partner across the organization while we looked for the best way to serve our community.

The Library staff care deeply about the work and people at Brandeis, and, combined with the willingness to make sacrifices, we were able to continue to deliver meaningful teaching and learning support, take risks on scholarly resources and content delivery, and set new priorities for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which is at the forefront of everyone’s minds. I am proud of the Library team, and it is truly an honor to learn from each experience with them. The annual report will highlight the great work my colleagues have done over the past year.

— Matthew Sheehy
BNC University Librarian
Highlights from the Year

NEW TEAMS

INSTRUCTIONAL TECH TEAM JOINS THE LIBRARY

Two new staff members, Antoinette Davis and Stefanie Borntreger, joined the Brandeis Library to extend the instructional technology support on campus for undergraduate and graduate programs. More than 900 faculty requests for instructional technology support were resolved during the 2020-21 academic year. In collaboration with the Committee for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, the team revised the LATTE shell template based on student and instructor feedback. The instructional technologists also taught a wide variety of LATTE workshops and created LibGuides as resources for online and hybrid teaching best practices.

LEARNING DESIGN TEAM JOINS THE LIBRARY

Welcome to the Library, Learning Design Team! The LD Team is John McCormick (Associate Director of Learning Design), Zoe Baptista (Learning Designer), and Ashley Whittington (Learning Designer). They moved from the Rabb School into the Library in January 2021, now supporting digitally-enhanced teaching and learning across the university. They have extended and deepened prior collaborations with Esther Brandon (Digital Literacy Specialist), Antoinette Davis (Instructional Technologist), Stefanie Borntreger (Instructional Technologist), and others. Collaborative projects and work include Hybrid Teaching Workshops for the Heller School, the development of LibGuide resources for Online Teaching, LATTE shell updates, and the integration of learning design methods into faculty support staff practices.

COLLABORATIONS

SIMS SUPPORTS CREATIVE WORK ON A SOCIALLY DISTANCED CAMPUS

Sound and Image Media Studios worked closely with student performing arts groups, including the Adagio Dance Club, the Undergraduate Theater Collective, and Boris’s Kitchen to help design videos they could livestream in place of their end-of-semester shows. The student staff was happy to feel so engaged with our creative community!

When word got back to the Music and Theater Departments about the support that SIMS had provided, faculty reached out for help creating performance videos and multimedia for academic courses, including Professor Eisenberg’s Chamber Music course in the fall. These initiatives culminated in the support SIMS provided for the Theater Department’s Senior Thesis show in the spring, which was spotlighted in a BrandeisNOW story authored by SIMS employee Claire Ogden ’21. The seniors in the Theater department were all interviewed for our SIMStories podcast, in which they shared their appreciation that SIMS was able to help them move beyond “Zoom theater” in these capstone projects.

LIBRARY JOINS FOOTPRINTS PROJECT

The Brandeis Library has joined “Footprints,” a digital humanities project that aims to trace the movement of thousands of Jewish books and uncover stories about the spread of knowledge and culture around the world. Footprints is an online platform that aggregates information about the ownership, location, movements of specific copies of early modern Jewish books. Each “footprint” is a piece of information that shows, ideally, that a specific book was owned by a specific person in a specific location at a specific time.

UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARY COUNCIL

The Undergraduate Library Council met virtually during the academic year to discuss Library services and resources during COVID-19, learn from managers about what different units of the Library do, and brainstorm ideas about how to market Library services and spaces when students return to campus.

UNIVERSITY RECORDS MANAGEMENT

URM had 202 requests for assistance with shredding, off-site storage, digitization, and general records and information guidance from 19 departments or offices across campus. A report from Iron Mountain also shows the positive impact our shred program has on the environment: 3,113.2 lbs of CO₂ emissions were avoided, preserving the equivalent of 36.1 trees.

RESEARCH

VIRTUAL RESEARCH HELP

Although the Research Help desk was closed for in-person appointments in the 2021-2022 academic year, staff offered research support through email, chat, and Zoom consultations.
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE PRIZE WINNERS

To recognize students who apply exemplary Library research skills, we selected the Research Excellence Prize winners for 2021 from a pool of outstanding student submissions. Congratulations to this year’s winners:

• Prize for research that contributes to understandings of racism and anti-racism: Brianna Lackwood, *Imagining Black Food Justice Through a Black Femme Literary Hermeneutic*
• Prize for graduate student research: Rafael Abrahams, *“Intimate With the Stars and the Trees”: Black Conservationism in the Progressive Era*
• Prize for research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections: Logan Shanks, *The Quest for Black Social Mobility and the Role of Black Women Leadership*
• Prize for research that makes use of materials in the Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections: Lucca Raabe, *“Rational” Racism: How the Math Department at Brandeis Functions to Reproduce Racial Inequality*
• Prize for research conducted in a University Writing Seminar: Logan Shanks, *“Us had the kind of love couldn’t be improved”: An Exploration of Black Relationships in The Color Purple*
• Prize for research conducted in a University Writing Seminar: Roshni Ray, *Women’s Interpersonal Friendships: Grassroots to Impactful Feminist Movements*
• Prize for research conducted by an undergraduate outside of UWS: Jocelyn Gould, *A ‘Pandemic Effect’? Women’s Candidate Emergence Amid the COVID-19 Crisis*

BORROWING

NEW PICK-UP LOCKERS

In fall 2020, the Library installed new pick-up lockers in Usdan to allow patrons to collect materials if they are unable to come to the Information and Borrowing Desk. Once their items are ready, patrons receive an access code to pick up their items.

UPDATES TO INTERLIBRARY LOAN AND SCAN ON DEMAND

As part of the Library’s ongoing efforts to improve user experience, the Document Delivery service was renamed “Scan on Demand” to make it easier to understand how this service can support research, teaching, and learning.

The ILL Usability team significantly updated and reorganized the website’s Interlibrary Loan and Scan on Demand section, based on the findings from the 2019 usability study. New features include a combined ILL and Scan on Demand webpage and updated FAQ. Patrons also are now able to make interlibrary loan requests using shorter forms within the OneSearch interface instead of needing use ILLiad to do so.

TECHNOLOGY

ONESEARCH UPDATES

The Library went live with a new version of OneSearch at the beginning of summer 2021. This new version of OneSearch allows for near-instantaneous updates to the content that appears in OneSearch when that content is added or updated behind the scenes. It also introduces several user interface improvements, including recommend-ed resources that appear at the top of a user’s search when that search matches certain predefined keywords.
NEW UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS WEBSITE

This past year, University Archives and Special Collections has been working to convert and make accessible its website and the more than 15 videos, 25 digital exhibits, 120 collection essays, and 1,000 images that can be found on it. In addition, staff are beta-testing a reference chat widget!

BRANDEIS TECHNE SCAPP BOT PROJECT

The Autodesk Incubator collaboration between Professor Alex Ratzlaff in the Classics Department and the Research Technology and Innovation department in the Library to develop a new 3D scanner for archeology has pivoted and grown since the Boston incubator closed its doors in March 2020.

The initial goal of the project is to fabricate a prototype “Single Camera Automated Photogrammetry Platform” (SCAPP) with the final designs and methodology available for reproduction through an open-source platform.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, Brandeis University Press had a productive year with all staff working remotely. The Press published seventeen new titles, and some of the highlights include placing the new preface to Roxana Robinson’s Georgia O’Keeffe, A Life, in the New Yorker; Robinson spoke at several events including a talk with Professor Nancy Scott at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, and also to a large alumni group.

David Der-wei Wang’s Why Fiction Matters in Contemporary China, based on his Mandel Center for the Humanities Lecture series, received excellent reviews in scholarly journals and he was awarded a fellowship at Harvard for his work on this book.

Cedric Cohen-Skalli’s biography of Don Isaac Abravanel, published in the Tauber Institute series, is also garnering excellent review attention, and the Tauber institute ran a well-attended seminar based on the book.

Spring 2021 saw the publication of two Boston-themed books. Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them, by Boston city archaeologist Joe Bagley, won a Boston Preservation Alliance Award (usually awarded to buildings), and Joe spoke at many events in May.

Nancy Schön's Ducks on Parade! has proven to be an instant hit, which has been helped by her TV appearances and events. The Old North Church is displaying images from the book in their courtyard throughout the summer. Hadassah Lieberman’s Hadassah, An American Story has also had a high profile, and Hadassah has been doing many events including talking to a large Brandeis National Committee (BNC) crowd, and to the Brandeis Women’s Network group, as well as Jewish communities all over the US and Canada with more to come.

Herman Cohen, Writings on Neo-Kantianism and Jewish Philosophy edited by Samuel Moyn and Robert Shine, published in Tauber’s Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought, has had excellent early reviews and is poised to become a standard text on Herman Cohen. Last, but not least, BUP is publishing Honoring the History of the Brandeis Library, edited by Sarah Shoemaker, and sponsored by the BNC, in late summer.

BUP ACQUIRES UPNE BACKLIST

In January 2021 Brandeis University acquired UPNE which more than doubles BUP’s backlist to over 700 titles. In order to accommodate UPNE, BUP instituted a new title management system and a new website, which can be found at brandeisuniversitypress.com. This acquisition also brings more income in sales, as well as broadening the subject areas in which BUP publishes.
# VOTEDEIS SUPPORT
Aimee Slater’s LibGuide on voting was highlighted as a resource on the VoteDeis website. She was also available at the Library to offer free notary services—socially distanced and with lots of hand sanitizer!—to students who have ballots or paperwork with this requirement. The Library also provided stamps and envelopes for voters!

EAT, SLEEP, MOVE WEEK!
In November, the Library created a book display and playlist for Eat, Sleep, Move Week. Working together with the Health and Wellness Programmers Group, the book display and playlist aimed to promote wellness and healthy habits.

CODESTELLATION 2020
The RTI team joined Professors Hickey, Salas, and Liu to judge the seventh annual Codestellation in November. Hosted by the BITMAP club, this friendly, inclusive, low-barrier-to-entry design competition rewards participants for trying a new technology they have not used before. More than 100 hackers gathered virtually and submitted 23 projects to the judges.

SPRING SEMESTER
DEISHACKS
The MakerLab partnered with IBS to put on DeisHacks, a 48-hour virtual hackathon for social good in March. The event paired hackers with local nonprofits to build real-world solutions.

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS VIRTUAL EVENTS
In celebration of both Preservation Week and the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts, University Archives and Special Collections presented “Saving Your Stuff! How to Preserve Your Personal Collections” and “Art in the Archives,” a virtual show-and-tell that featured photographs, posters, sculptures, manuscripts, and paintings on the edges of pages (known as fore-edge paintings).
Enhancing Collections

HENRI LAZAROF COLLECTION
University Archives and Special Collections is delighted to announce that the recently processed Henri Lazarof Archives, a gift in honor of Henri Lazarof, is now open to researchers, and the finding aid is live. This archival collection documents the life, career, and prolific works of renowned contemporary composer Henri Lazarof (1932-2013). Collection materials include manuscripts, programs, recordings, and more, and provide insight into Lazarof’s early years in Bulgaria, Israel, and Italy, his education at Brandeis, and his subsequent career as a faculty member at UCLA and an internationally successful composer.

In addition, the digital exhibit “Henri Lazarof: A Life in Music” celebrates Lazarof’s youth, education, and career, as represented in the archival collection housed at Brandeis. The exhibit includes digitized manuscripts, audio clips, photographs, posters, interviews, awards, documents and more.

TEACHING HOLOCAUST COLLECTIONS WITH KEENE STATE COLLEGE
University Archives and Special Collections staff continue their ongoing collaborative work with colleagues at Keene State College. The goal of this work is the promotion of Brandeis’s and Keene State’s shared strengths in Holocaust archival resources and their use by faculty, students, and outside researchers. Throughout the year, teams from Brandeis and Keene State hosted dynamic conversations regarding the collections and how teaching the materials had been adapted for Zoom instruction.

Materials from Holocaust-related collections at both institutions were used to give students an introduction to archival analysis and research. Also included in the class session was a tutorial on finding aids. Brandeis and Keene State are working to expand these conversations at the two institutions to further engage faculty in using archival resources and to encourage the shared use of these resources by both student bodies.

CAROLINE GOLDBACH ISRAELI STAMP COLLECTION
This collection highlights how “ordinary” lives can reflect much broader historical narratives. Caroline Goldbach, née Meyers (1922-2020), lived her entire life in Indianapolis, Ind. There, she met Fritz Goldbach, who had fled Nazi Germany in December 1938, six weeks after Kristallnacht. Fritz’s two sisters, Ilse Chorin and Martha Speyer, escaped to Israel. Over the years, they sent stamps from Israel to Caroline, forming a material link among the dispersed siblings. The collection was donated to University Archives and Special Collections by Caroline Goldbach’s two daughters, Anne Goldbach and Lisa Goldbach Geisse.

The Goldbach stamp collection joins several other collections held at Brandeis that document Jewish and Israeli history, including another collection of Israeli stamps (donated by Leo Sheinfeld), which covers the early decades of Israeli statehood.

NEW E-RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

PEARLMAN TAKEOVER DIGITAL ZINE
University Archives and Special Collections released a new article and accompanying digital zine by Ellie Tang Kleiman ’21 on the subject of The Pearlman Takeover. The Pearlman Takeover of 1975 was a solidarity movement for racial justice on the Brandeis campus, which sought financial commitments for minority students and the inclusion of Asian and Asian-American students in that pool. The article and zine are featured on the Black Space Portal, a space for primary source research projects that highlight the history and experiences of Brandeis People of Color.

AAPI TIMELINE ON BLACK SPACE PORTAL
In May 2020, University Archives and Special Collections released the student-created project “The Cultural is Political: An AAPI Timeline,” the newest addition to the Black Space Portal.

This timeline is about the activities of the Asian American Student Association (BAASA), the Third World Coalition, and the work to establish Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Studies at Brandeis. Additionally, the site includes 10 digital issues of the student publication Eastern Tide on the Portal.

This project was researched and written by Ellie Tang Kleiman, ’21 and technical assistance/building of the timeline was done by Khadija Tirmasi ’23 (with assistance from Maggie McNeely, Collections Archivist). This timeline will be expanded this fall to include a series of interviews with AAPI alumni.
Strategic Plan Progress

I. Core Services

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Expand the SIMS service desk
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Implement new server-client software (Helmut and Flow) to enhance the user experience at SIMS computer workstations
  - Assimilate new staff resources and equipment resources into existing training and tutoring program at SIMS
  - Develop, implement, and communicate new course reserve services and workflows to support remote learning
  - Implement delivery methods for accessing collections remotely
  - Update library services portfolio
  - Scale voter outreach efforts in advance of the 2020 election

II. Teaching and Learning

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Develop training materials and documentation to support faculty, TAs, DAs, and others in teaching with technology
  - Complete Ithaka Supporting Teaching with Primary Sources study
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Develop, document, and assess outreach strategies for connecting graduate students to library resources and services
  - Expand workshops and instruction for undergraduates conducting research in the sciences
  - Expand data analysis workshops
  - Foster undergraduate research in the humanities and creative arts
  - Provide research and information literacy instruction to writing intensive courses within majors
  - Create and train faculty on virtual grading options (Gradescope and Gradebook)
  - Partner with digital literacy classes
  - Work with faculty to approve department and individual classes for the Brandeis Core Digital and Brandeis Core Oral
  - Incorporate Zotero into UWS library instruction
  - Offer design thinking workshops for IBS
  - Design and implement an online tutorial about avoiding plagiarism for the Heller Summer Institute

III. Access and Equity

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Finalize the migration of the Library’s web presence to the new, more accessible template
  - Bring RTI online branding in line with University standards
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Develop and implement outreach plans for new repository and open journals platforms to highlight unique/diverse collections
  - Develop and implement internal guidelines around accessibility and format for Libguides
  - Continue developing recruitment processes to ensure we’re casting the widest possible net in an effort to diversify our workforce
  - Include accessibility (VPATs) as part of e-resources acquisition workflow
  - Develop a new LATTE shell to facilitate a more inclusive learning environment for online, hybrid and in-person teaching

IV. Process Improvements

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Extend reviews by the ONDA group for Archives and Special Collections
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Convene and gather feedback from advisory groups
  - Library Staff DEI Discussion Group will continue to offer staff development on topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion
  - Update and improve meeting and reporting guidelines
  - Reply to requests from patrons in 48-hours
  - Deploy chat widget on Archives website to contact ASC Librarians
  - Monthly meeting series between Archives and Special Collections and Systems
  - Creating Archives and Special Collections access policy documentation
  - Develop student staff expertise to perform advanced CATSS work

V. Digital Scholarship and Creative Works

- Tasks completed in FY-21
  - Enable seamless discovery of IR content locally
  - Identify Digital Scholarship resources/expertise we have and develop process for information sharing and cross-training
  - Select and implement a new IR
- Tasks established in FY-21
  - Contribute to digital literacy workshops in high school summer programs
  - Build a Machine Room for lasercutters and SLA and powder-based 3D printers to expand our material possibilities on campus
  - Offer new training in data analysis and coding (Summer of R and R workshop series, Intro to GitHub, and related programs)