

# The Scholar

A quarterly newsletter for the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis | Vol. 5 | November 2019

## FILM & MEDIA ARCHIVE UPDATE

*Black Champions* digitization project is complete

## ON VIEW AT OLIN LIBRARY

Exhibit and colloquium offer in-depth look at Samuel Beckett

## Washington University Libraries Support Students Through Educational Resource Initiatives

In light of the rising costs of university textbooks and other learning materials, the Washington University Libraries are spearheading two new programs that connect students with affordable educational resources.

**Be Textbook Savvy** is an initiative that encourages students to utilize the University Libraries' collections and services to find textbooks for their classes. Through the University Libraries, students can access millions of course-required books at absolutely no cost. Some are housed in the Danforth Campus libraries, while others can be borrowed from libraries throughout the country or accessed digitally via the University Libraries' website. To spread the word about the program, the University Libraries staff have hosted student workshops and created instructional and informational marketing tools, including a [Be Textbook Savvy video](#).

Through the second new initiative, **Open Educational Resources and Affordable Textbooks at Washington University** (OERAT@WU), the University Libraries hope to advance the use of open educational resource solutions (OERS) among faculty and students. OERs include a range of freely available learning materials, from open-access textbooks to online readings and other digital assets, that can be used alone or in combination with traditional library materials.

Students anywhere in the world can access OERs at any time, and they can access the material repeatedly. The use of OERs instead of traditional textbooks or course packs can help students save money. As the Libraries work to establish OERAT@WU, they plan to engage with campus partners and work with interested faculty to develop an understanding of the program

For more information about these initiatives, contact [Cheryl Holland](#),



Students gathering informational materials at a fall 2019 Be Textbook Savvy event./ WU Libraries

subject librarian for political science, sociology, education, and library science, at [cholland@wustl.edu](mailto:cholland@wustl.edu) or 314-935-6626.

## Strategic Objectives Moving Forward



The University Libraries Strategic Plan, developed with your input, was finalized in summer 2019 and already we have sprung into action.

Libraries staff have set up teams and identified leaders to carry out the plan's 32 objectives and 18 broader goals, which support six strategic directions. **Of the 32 objectives, 12 are already underway, with another 12 slated to begin before the end of the academic year.**

In the coming weeks and months, University Libraries staff will continue to focus on fulfilling the plan's objectives.

Please visit [the Strategic Plan section of our website](#) for more details, and contact us at [librarystrategicplan@wustl.edu](mailto:librarystrategicplan@wustl.edu) if you have questions.

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## News from the Film & Media Archive

The Washington University Libraries' Film & Media Archive has successfully completed the project [Level Playing Field: Digitizing and Disseminating William Miles' \*Black Champions Interviews\*](#). The project was completed with the support of a 2018 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

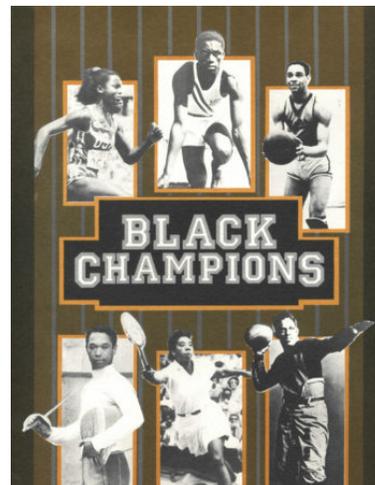
The grant of \$27,228 supported the work of Film & Media Archive staff, who reassembled and coordinated the digitization of Miles' 1986 documentary series *Black Champions* and the 32 complete interviews conducted for it. The series highlights the accomplishments of some of the greatest African-American athletes of the twentieth century and features interviews with Arthur Ashe, Wilma Rudolph, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and former St. Louis Cardinal Curt Flood.

While portions of the interviews appeared in the original documentary, the full interviews have never been available until now and required considerable reconstruction. The 16mm prints and 16mm magnetic sound tracks

were in fairly good shape, according to Tyler Bequette, film preservationist at the Film & Media Archive, but the interview portions needed for the final program had been cut out and were missing from the prints.

Including the three one-hour programs that make up the series, 55 picture elements and 76 sound elements were digitized. When the files came back from the lab, Digital Archivist Jim Hone reassembled the interviews. Hone's process involved re-matching or syncing the digitized camera rolls of each interview with the digitized version of the sound recorded at the time of production. He then carefully removed the portions of each interview used in the digitized programs and re-integrated them into the original interview.

While the majority of the work on the project had been accomplished by October, the Film & Media Archive received an extension from the NHPRC in order to promote the grant at conferences, including the Oral History Association Annual Meeting in October and the Association of Moving Image Archivists Conference in November.



[Researchers can now view the complete interviews](#), many with transcripts, as well as a dynamic two-minute trailer created by Hone to promote the project.

For more information about the Film & Media Archive, contact [Joy Novak](#), head of Special Collections Management for the Julian Edison Department of Special Collections.

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## Short-term Collection Space Management Project Concludes

The [University Libraries' Short-term Collection Space Management Project](#) has concluded. Background information on the project, including a list of titles retained by the Libraries at faculty request, has been posted online.

As a reminder, the goal of this initiative was to alleviate the Libraries' collection space shortage by selectively removing outdated reference works and print journal volumes to which the University Libraries have immediate or near-immediate alternative access.

This project has reduced the immediate space congestion, ensuring there is sufficient space to preserve research collections and to incorporate our normal acquisition of new books in the coming years.

The Libraries will now begin to develop a [long-term collection management strategy](#) as part of our five-year Strategic Plan.

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## Introducing the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Assignment Service

Research articles and related materials are increasingly created, disseminated, and preserved in digital formats. The University Libraries support the research of the university community and its sharing of digital research products through its [Digital Object Identifier \(DOI\) assignment service](#).

The DOI is a specific, persistent identifier that can be assigned to any entity for sharing on digital networks. The University Libraries provide a DOI assignment service for members of the Washington University community: DOIs are assigned to all materials deposited in the Libraries' repository and publishing platforms, including the [Open Scholarship repository](#) and the [Digital Gateway](#), and DOI assignment also is available to WashU researchers generally.

Please contact [Digital Library Services](#) for more information.

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## Connecting Contexts: The Modern Literature Collection and *The Letters of Samuel Beckett* on Display

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's Nobel Prize win and the 30th anniversary of his death. A new exhibit in John M. Olin Library entitled **Connecting Contexts: The Modern Literature Collection and *The Letters of Samuel Beckett*** commemorates these events while celebrating the Irish author's life, work, and legacy.

On view in the Ginkgo Room on Level 1 of Olin, Connecting Contexts spotlights manuscript materials and published texts from the University Libraries' Modern Literature Collection (MLC), one

of the foremost Beckett repositories in the world. It connects these materials with information and excerpts from *The Letters of Samuel Beckett*, the first comprehensive edition of Beckett's letters.

Joel Minor, curator of the MLC, organized the exhibit with consultation from Lois Overbeck, co-editor of *The Letters of Samuel Beckett* and director of the Letters of Samuel Beckett Project at Emory University. The exhibit will be on view through December 15. An online version is coming soon.



Trial proof of line etching, by Avigdor Arikha, 1970, from the Samuel Beckett Papers, Modern Literature Collection, Washington University Libraries. © 2019 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / DACS, London

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### RELATED EVENT | WHAT IS THE WORD: CELEBRATING SAMUEL BECKETT

November 7-8, 2019, Olin Library and Mallinckrodt Center

**This two-day colloquium is devoted to the writings of Samuel Beckett**, with a particular focus on questions of translation and performance. Presentations and workshops will bring traditional humanistic scholarship into conversation with creative writing, translation, performance, pedagogy, library exhibits, digital humanities initiatives, a film screening, and more. The colloquium will feature presenters and scholars from around the country.

As Washington University is home to one of the premier collections of Samuel Beckett materials, colloquium participants will have a unique opportunity to explore his oeuvre and impact.

[Visit the colloquium web page for more details and to register.](#)

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## Welcome to Christie Peters

**Christie Peters** joined the staff of the Washington University Libraries on October 1, 2019, as **head of the Research and Liaison Services Department**. In this role, Peters is responsible for the operation, planning, management, assessment, and delivery of the services of Research and Liaison Services. She oversees the department's subject librarians. In addition, she guides the department as it engages in, promotes, and supports scholarly and curricular activities for faculty and students and the greater university community.

Peters came to the Washington University Libraries from the University of Kentucky, where she worked most recently as the head of the Science and Engineering Library and eScience Initiatives. She brings a wide range of professional experience



Christie Peters. Jennifer Killion/WU Libraries.

to her new position and has a strong background as a research librarian and as a leader of library research departments.

Peters holds a master's degree in history from the University of Houston, a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a bachelor's degree in history from North Carolina State University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Peters' office is located on Level 1 of Olin Library. She can be reached at [christie.peters@wustl.edu](mailto:christie.peters@wustl.edu) or 314-935-2756.

# Law Library Hosts Midwest Research Expo

On Wednesday, September 25, the **Washington University School of Law Library hosted the Midwest Research Expo**. The event gave Washington University faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to stop by the Law Library and learn about new legal resources. Several vendors, including academic publishers Brill and Gale, the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, LLMC Digital (Law Library Microform Consortium), PowerNotes, Westlaw, and LexisNexis were represented at the event.

The Expo came about thanks to a collaboration between Washington University's Law Library and three other academic law libraries in the Midwest: the Albert E. Jenner, Jr. Memorial Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign, Saint Louis University's Vincent C. Immel Law Library, and the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law Library. The libraries teamed up to host a series of half-day vendor expos across four days, September 23-26. In addition to Washington University, the Midwest Research Expo traveled to the other collaborating institutions.

At Washington University, the event took place in the Janite Lee Reading Room of the Law Library. The participating vendors presented and promoted their research resources and products to students, faculty, and staff.

A raffle was held for one-day use of a private study room in the Law Library during finals, and plenty of snacks and swag, including cups, blankets, and note



Students picked up legal research information and swag in the Law Library during the Midwest Research Expo./WU Libraries

pads, were available. Law Library staff look forward to hosting the expo next year.

## SELECTED UPCOMING EVENTS

all free and open to the public / [view additional events](#)

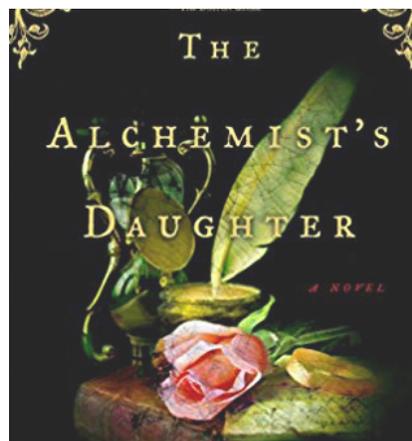
**BLACKS IN AMERICA**  
400 YEARS+ 1619-2019  
*Commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blacks in the United States*

**400 Years Forward:  
Freedom in Our Time**

**Sunday, November 10**  
3:00–5:30 p.m.  
Graham Chapel

The last of three lectures in the Blacks in America series, this Mary Curtis Horowitz Lecture for Civic Engagement and Social Policy event will feature a keynote talk by **Karine Jean-Pierre**, NBC & MSNBC political analyst, plus additional speakers, performances, and more.

Visit the [Blacks in America website](#) for more details and to RSVP.



**WashU Libraries Book Club:  
The Alchemist's Daughter**

**Wednesday, November 20**  
4:00–5:30 p.m.  
Becker Medical Library

The [WashU Libraries Book Club](#) November selection is *The Alchemist's Daughter* by **Katharine McMahon**. Book Club events begin with a showcase of collection materials related to the reading, followed by a discussion of the book.

*Note: this event takes place at the Becker Medical Library, located at 660 South Euclid Ave. (63110), on the Washington University Medical Campus.*



**FEEDING CAHOKIA**  
Early Agriculture in the North American Heartland



**Faculty Book Talk:  
Gayle J. Fritz**

**Thursday, November 21**  
4:30–6:00 p.m.  
Olin Library, Rm 142

Professor Emerita of Anthropology **Gayle J. Fritz** will discuss her new book, *Feeding Cahokia: Early Agriculture in the North American Heartland*. The book explores the agricultural practices and social divisions that characterized Cahokia, an ancient city founded by Native Americans on the Mississippi River. The book also investigates the role of women as farmers and participants in Cahokia's workforce.