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About the cover:
On June 15, 1814, the Board of Trustees officially titled their collection of books the “Library of Ohio University” and established a list of seven rules designated to govern the usage of OHIO’s first library. That 1814 Board of Trustee resolution cited in the minutes began the 200-year tradition of aiding academic excellence that defines Ohio University Libraries and continues to be celebrated today.
From the Dean of the Libraries

Nowhere does the old blend with the new quite so seamlessly as in a library. For 200 years, our Libraries has been the proud steward of unique treasures and now adds thousands of electronic resources to our collections annually.

Since the Vernon R. Alden Library was dedicated in 1969, print collections have grown six-fold to 3 million volumes. Journal subscriptions, government documents, manuscripts, rare books, art and international collections have more than tripled. The OHIO Libraries is now recognized as one of the top research libraries in North America — an extraordinary achievement made possible by several generations of librarians, faculty, administrators, staff and donors.

In those same 45 years, libraries have undergone more change than in the past 300 years. We have moved from a print world in which information was scarce, organized, and tightly controlled, to a networked world in which information is ubiquitous, disorganized, and widely available. Most scholarship is now born digital.

OHIO Libraries has always embraced these changes, steadily integrating new information technologies with the time-tested services students rely on. Librarians still staff the reference desk but, increasingly, questions come electronically. Quiet study spaces remain in Alden Library, but our most heavily used areas are those that integrate network access and collaborative workspace. Book collections remain important, but electronic journals and online databases that students, faculty, and staff can access from any place and at any time now comprise 95 percent of new purchases. Last year OHIO’s faculty and students downloaded 1.8 million full-text articles from the Libraries’ website — that’s 67 articles for every student and faculty member.

Alden Library remains one of the most frequented buildings on campus, with entrances up 60 percent in the past five years and four percent from last year.

There’s some irony that in this age of ubiquitous information, our Libraries maintains its centrality to the academic mission. It is a testament to its enduring value as a premier learning environment, as well as a tribute to the creativity and dedication of its staff.

Scott Seaman, Dean of Ohio University Libraries
Imagine OHIO without a library or books. In 1804, when the Ohio Legislature established Ohio University, that was the case — the University was little more than a grand conception in the middle of a great wilderness. The first move toward constructing a building was the opening of the Academy in 1808, but it was not until 1811, seven years after OHIO’s beginning, that the first official set of books was purchased.

On June 15, 1814, another milestone was reached: the Board of Trustees officially titled their collection of books the “Library of Ohio University” and established a list of seven rules to govern the usage of OHIO’s first library. Thus began the 200-year tradition of aiding academic excellence that defines Ohio University Libraries and continues to be celebrated today.

The following pages are an excerpt from the publication, “200 Years of Discovery: The Bicentennial of Ohio University Libraries,” which takes a look at the history of OHIO Libraries. This issue of Gatherings begins with OHIO’s earliest library collection in the Academy and moves through time to the College Edifice (today’s Cutler Hall), Carnegie Library, Chubb Library and finally to Alden Library.
200 Years of Shared Discovery:
The Bicentennial of Ohio University Libraries
During Manasseh Cutler’s time at Yale (1761-1765), he developed an interest in the emerging field of botany. This 126 page, leather-bound journal titled, “Book XI. Description and Notes on American Indigenous Plants,” was handwritten by Cutler during the years 1793-1797. The journal contains his research, sketches and notes of various plants and their uses and is part of the Manasseh Cutler Collection in Alden Library’s Mahn Center.

Manasseh Cutler (1742-1823), known as the father of Ohio University, was an ordained minister, a Yale graduate and father of seven children: Ephraim, Jervis, Mary, Charles, Lavinia, Elizabeth and Temple (Ancestry.com). Cutler was instrumental in forming the Ohio Company, which purchased 1.5 million acres of land in the Northwest Territory. This land purchase set the groundwork for the document, An Act Establishing an University, and eventually the establishment of Ohio University.
The instruction of young boys, eight or nine years of age, from the American revolutionary generation rigorously concentrated on the study of Greek and Latin. Those same boys, in turn, demonstrated a polished proficiency in those studies for entrance into college.

A man much in the mold of the revolutionary generation was Manasses Cutler (1742-1823), best remembered today as the father of Ohio University. As a young man, Manasses was “placed under the instruction of Rev. Aaron Brown, in order to obtain a sufficient knowledge of Latin to enable him to study medicine” (Cutler). Manasses entered his freshman year at Yale in 1761.
The revolutionary generation was enamored of the classics—Cicero, Horace, Virgil and Plutarch to name a few. It is from here that they obtained their knowledge of history. The history of ancient societies contained valuable lessons for the emerging nation of America.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, many prominent Americans were not only readers but also collectors of books. It was a time when a single shelf of books represented an enormous collection, and libraries, as we know them today, did not exist.

Private libraries, nevertheless, did come to the new land of America with the first European Colonies. These private libraries contained very few books, which were mostly of a religious nature. However, as the Colonies grew and a new country took shape, so too did private libraries. As early as the 1670s, there were booksellers in Boston “to aid the buyers of books” (Harris). Private libraries became commonplace among professionals, government officials and large landowners.

Much in this tradition was the mid-17th century founding of Yale College, when clergymen, intent on establishing a tradition of European-style liberal education on American shores, endeavored to establish a college in New Haven, Connecticut. The college was named to honor Welsh merchant Elihu Yale, who donated more than 400 books along with other goods, helping to found both the infant institution and its first library.

It was as an undergraduate browsing Yale’s library shelves that Manasseh Cutler happened upon a book written by Linnaeus, an early publication in the new field of scientific research called botany. “Few, if any, scholars at Yale or Harvard had, at that time, given the subject any attention” (Cutler).

This discovery led to Manasseh Cutler’s lifelong interest in the study of botany and eventually to his role as one of the early members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Manasseh graduated from Yale College with high standing in 1765.

The importance of books to the revolutionary generation was amply demonstrated by President John Adams’ establishment of the first Library of Congress in 1800. In 1815 after a fire destroyed the original collection, Thomas Jefferson sold his personal library, containing more than 6,000 volumes, to the Library of Congress.

Clearly, Americans valued books and reading, and this mutually shared sentiment soon expanded beyond the physical boundaries of the New England states into the lands of the American West. The written word not only helped mold the thoughts and actions that characterized the American Revolution, but was also instrumental in guiding the revolutionary generation that would later form universities and libraries in what was then called the Northwest Territory.
This early map of Ohio found in “The Journal of a Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains” by Thaddeus Mason Harris is based on the surveys of Rufus Putnam. The gridded map dated May 20, 1780 was a part of the plan for military appropriation in the area. The grids measured the width of the streams in the blocks, which was necessary to know for travel and survival. Shaded squares on the map mark land designated to the local Native American tribes. It was no coincidence that every village was located near a body of water. This map unfolds from within the rare book now stored in the Ohio University Libraries’ Mahn Center.
The Academy 1808

The first move toward constructing an actual building on campus was not until April 5, 1806 when the Ohio University Board of Trustees made plans for the Academy.

The two-story brick structure sat close to where Galbreath Chapel sits today. One room up and one room down, a clapboard roof, and three or four small windows per floor, the building was finished in 1808 for a total cost of $500. Jacob Lindley, a Princeton graduate, was not only the sole teacher, but also the administrative head of the school and the president of the Board of Trustees.

The Academy was originally meant for university studies, but as students arrived, it became obvious that they were unprepared for university work, so the Academy took on a dual role as a preparatory school. An ad in The Ohio Gazette and Virginia Herald from August 11, 1808 called it an “appendage to the said university.” Three students enrolled for classes: John Perkins, Joel Abbott and Brewster Higley.

In May of 1809 the Board of Trustees appointed a committee to look into buying books and the “necessary apparatus” for experiments. The apparatus of the period consisted of scientific instruments such as telescopes, protractors and moving models of the solar system.

It was Lindley’s cousin Stephen Lindley, a minister from Marietta, who gifted him with the book “Johannis Cocceji ... Commentarivs in Librum l Jobi ....” The rare book is an Arabic to English translation of the biblical book of Job written by a 15th century theologian and published in 1644. For its time, the book was quite controversial because of the author’s interpretation of the biblical story. It is believed to be one of the earliest books held by Ohio University Libraries. Inside one can see handwritten notes in the margins thought to be done by one of the Lindleys.
This map of the Ohio University campus at the beginning of the 1800s was used in The Ohio Alumnus (1932) to illustrate that the campus was “first laid out from time to time between 1800 and 1804 in compliance with the Act of 1799, and consisted of two tracts, ‘B1’ and ‘B2’...of 3.60 acres each.” On the northern portion of the College Green where students now sit, study, or just soak up the sun, sheep once grazed. Many other changes can be seen here as well, such as street names. In those days it was “Mulberry Street,” rather than Park Place, flanking the south side of the “B1” plot where the Vernon R. Alden Library now sits.
From the beginning, books were important for the instruction of students. Jacob Lindley’s purpose, as the sole instructor, “was to give his pupils [the] basic skills in writing, mathematics, public speaking, geography, Latin, Greek, logic and philosophy” (Hollow).

In 1810, a year later, the committee appropriated $308 worth of funds, and finally in 1811—the University purchased its first books. They were expensive, and the trip to get them was difficult, but the trustees’ desire to own and to provide access to them was the beginning of the first Library of Ohio University.

In 1812, the trustees continued to increase OHIO’s Library when they allocated $300 to seek “classical and professional books and other apparatus that may be deemed necessary” (Minutes) for the institution.

Although the Academy’s library first began to flourish in 1811, the Ohio University Libraries is dated 1814. That was the year that the trustees “adopted, for the Library of Ohio University” (Minutes), its first rules and regulations.

This composition of Library rules marked a significant point in the history of the University Libraries because it was the first time that the Board of Trustees officially titled their collection of books “The Library of Ohio University” and established a list of seven rules to govern OHIO’s Library.

Two such rules were: “No student shall be allowed to have in his possession more than one book at any one time,” and, “No book shall be used by a student without being previously covered with a wrapper of paper” (Minutes).
Resolved that the following Rules and Regulations be adopted for the Library of the Ohio University:

1. No student under twelve years of age shall be allowed to use or take books from the University Library except by the special permission of the President.

2. For all damage done a book by the possession of a student, the President shall be authorized to charge such fine or fines as he shall deem proper, provided such fine is not less than 6% cents nor more than the value of the book so damaged.

3. No student shall be allowed to have in his possession more than one book at any one time.

4. No book shall be read by a student without being previously covered with a wrapper of paper.

5. Any student that turns loose a book belonging to the Library shall forfeit the same and pay the sum of Fifty Cents, and be deprived of the use of the Library for three months.

6. All fines collected under the above Regulations shall be appropriated by the President to the purchasing of new books for the use of the University.
“I enter the [Academy] building and there I see the heavy tables and benches where we used to thumb the Lexicon and ply the pencil and slate in solving the knotty problems of Arithmetic and Algebra. There stands the rostrum and the little poplar pulpit. I see as of old the small library in the northwest corner of the building, with its terrestrial and celestial globe standing in the window and a small case of surveyor’s instruments, the only apparatus of the then infant college.”

It is with an air of fondness that alumnus, Solomon S. Miles (1816), reminisced about the Academy and its first library.
While students were enrolled in the Academy’s preparatory school, in the same building, University students were also doing work leading to the Bachelor of Arts. To receive a degree, students needed “proficiency in Virgil, Horace, Cicero, Xenophen, Homer, the Greek Testament, geography, logic, arithmetic, algebra, conic sections, natural philosophy, the general principles of history, jurisprudence, English, grammar, rhetoric, belles lettres, criticism, and more pragmatically, surveying and navigation” (Hollow). The first two graduates in 1815 were John Hunter and Thomas Ewing. Ewing later became a U.S. Senator, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Interior.

At this time, when there were only 14 students enrolled, it was already apparent that the Academy building would not be adequate for the growing school. So, the trustees began to make plans for the “College Edifice,” a three-story structure with all the comforts the small Academy did not have—labs, dorms, offices, lecture halls and—a library.

This gray granite sundial marks the site of the first Ohio University building, the Academy, which was erected in 1808. It was on this land that the long-standing reputation for academic excellence at Ohio University began when Thomas Ewing and John Hunter became the first OHIO graduates. The sundial was erected in 1907, a century after the Academy was built.
This 1815 document announces the first degrees ever given by Ohio University. The recipients, Thomas Ewing and his classmate John Hunter, were examined in the “different branches of Literature, to wit—Grammar, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Logic, Geography, Astronomy and the various branches of Mathematics” and were deemed “entitled to a degree of Bachelor of Arts and Sciences” (Minutes) by a committee that included the OHIO Board of Trustees members.
When the College Edifice opened in 1818, it afforded the University room to grow.

On May 19, 1818, the president of the University, Jacob Lindley, said, “The Trustees determined to proceed in an important work without delay, and they have, in the course of the last year, erected a spacious and substantial edifice, of brick, eighty-two feet in length, and fifty-one feet in breadth, three stories high, [that is] sufficient with their former building, for the convenient accommodation of more than one hundred students” (VFM 1818).

The expense of each term in the Academy was $3, and the college courses taught at the College Edifice cost $4, which included “tuition,
Jacob Lindley (1774-1857), a Princeton graduate, Presbyterian minister, Pennsylvania native and father of nine, was selected by the first Board of Trustees of Ohio University, led by Rufus Putnam, “to organize and conduct that institution” in 1808 (MSS 51). Lindley was the “prime mover in securing the erection of the first college buildings and was the founder of the local Presbyterian church” (MSS 51). It was the Academy building that housed the institution’s first library.
room-rent, use of the library and servants’ hire,” (VFM 1822) read the earliest known catalog of the young University and its new structure.

In 1819, builders were still finishing the upper floors where they created 15 dorm rooms, two literary society halls and three recitation rooms. The library was soon situated in the southwest corner of the third floor.

The final cost of the building was a staggering $17,806. The trustees, sensing an economic calamity on the horizon, sought alternate ways to defray the cost of the College Edifice by turning to “subscriptions” or donations “to unloosen the purse strings of able citizens and bring balance of the fund” (Martzolff) that was due.

That same year, 1819, Joseph Dana, a language teacher who was fairly new to the school, was sent to the East to raise money for the University. During his tour, he purchased “rare and valuable classical books to the amount of $237” (Minutes). Despite the high costs, Dana said that those books were “indispensable to complete a library such as this University ought to possess.”

In 1820, the Board of Trustees “allowed A. G. Brown (1822) for services as [a] Librarian the sum of $15.00” (Minutes), in addition to his teaching salary, making him the first “official” librarian.

The College Library, said Archibald Brown, is “well selected and valuable. It has lately received [an] accession of books to the amount of one thousand dollars” (Mirror, 1825).

Among the early books owned by the Ohio University Library is this 1709 vellum-bound Greek Bible, “Vetus Testamentum, ex Versione Septuaginta Interpretum.” Frederick Hall, a professor and author who visited the campus in 1837, wrote, “No one, however, fixed my gaze so strongly as a copy of the Septuagint. I have never seen that venerated volume in more sumptuous trappings, except in a single instance, and that was in the Royal Library, collected by the Third George of England and presented, by his successor to the British Museum.”
The “Library” in which Archibald worked was not a Library like that of modern day. Lending was not its primary function; reading was. Previously, the Library had been staffed by a succession of faculty who had other duties to worry about, so the Library was only open one hour a week for checking out one book at a time.

The Library continued to grow, little by little. In 1827, the trustees reported the small collection had grown to 1,000 volumes.

Archibald noted that besides the University Library, there were two literary societies composed of students, and each had a valuable collection of books. These libraries were “for the use of their members, [and] together contained about 800 volumes” (VFM 1827).
Those literary society libraries were a big selling point in college catalogs, and for many years, trumpeted as important additions to a student’s tools.

In 1878, the two literary societies’ libraries merged and donated their books respectively to the Ohio University Library. In 1885, in the first official count, there were 7,000 volumes stacked everywhere in a very small space in the College Edifice.

Through the 1880s and 1890s, a slow but steady growth can be charted: 8,000 books in 1890; 12,000 books in 1893; and 15,000 books in 1895. The influx of new materials also increased when OHIO became an official government depository in 1886. The number of library books continued to rise, until they finally outgrew the space.

In the fall of 1901, President Alston Ellis reported to the trustees that the Library of Ohio University “was a fire hazard” (Minutes), and that something had to be done. ☢
Carnegie Library (1905-1930) had a strong presence in the University and in the Athens community with a patron enrollment of over 1,700 people in 1907. One method used by the librarians to promote the Library’s collection was the “Buffalo open-shelf” plan where all the popular new books were displayed for patrons to inspect and to enjoy as soon as the books were catalogued. In 1930, the library collection was moved to a new and larger facility.
In the early 1900s, the steel baron Andrew Carnegie was providing money to communities in order to construct libraries. Although libraries of higher education were not his typical investment, a committee from Ohio University convinced him to partially fund a new library building, with the promise that OHIO would guarantee access to the public.

This was no hardship as the trustees had, from the beginning, allowed “all students of Law, Physic, or Divinity residing within the Town Plat who have been members of the University for one year, or more, or any Teacher of a school within the above limits” (Minutes) to use the books.

The new Carnegie Library was dedicated on June 14, 1905. It was beautifully constructed: a stained-glass dome allowed natural light to brighten the entrance, and the floor of the second level was made of glass. There was also a vestibule, an area where hats, wraps and umbrellas were left to avoid clutter and distraction in the study areas.

The Carnegie Library was the first to resemble a modern day library. There were circulation privileges, book shelves, government documents and children’s books. With a larger library came a larger variety of rules and systems that were used to manage the use of materials.

Charles Matthews, the first full-time librarian at OHIO, began creating the first card catalog in the first building solely established as an Ohio University Library. The western corridor of the building was soon filled with “files of cards” or a library catalog. It was a new and daunting concept. Students and faculty were expected to browse through drawers and drawers that contained bibliographic cards. Each card represented a book or magazine that was owned by the Ohio University Library.

A pamphlet from Carnegie Library gave an insight into the rules of the day. The “stacks” were open 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. but closed earlier on weekends. Fines for overdue books ran as high as 2 cents per day, and a reserve system was already in place for overnight use of specific materials.

As promised to Andrew Carnegie, both OHIO students and Athens residents were welcome in the Library, and even nonresidents could “draw books upon showing satisfactory references” (General Rules).

Despite its beautiful construction and successful library practices, Carnegie was destined to be the shortest lived of Ohio University’s libraries.

According to Thomas Hoover’s book, “The History of Ohio University,” Carnegie Library “was in no way fitted for a library. Even when built, it did not begin to house all the volumes belonging to the University.” Hoover continued by writing, “Almost every corner was piled high with important documents.”

Along with the University, the Library of the early 20th century was growing more rapidly than planned. After just 20 years in Carnegie Library, the collection had nearly quadrupled to 72,000, well beyond the planned capacity of the building.

Once again, the Board of Trustees stressed the need for a new library, and this time, the Ohio Legislature agreed. ✶
In this interior view of Carnegie Library, the Library's earliest card catalog sits against a grand marble pillar. The drawers held index cards listing each book in the Library's collection using the Dewey Decimal System. “Chosen as being the one used, more perhaps than any other, in modern libraries both public and technical” (Athena 1911), the Dewey Decimal System made it easier for library patrons to pinpoint the location of the books they desired to find on their own.
This pamphlet from 1928 explained the general rules and regulations of Carnegie Library. Many were typical of libraries today, while others may now seem a bit odd, such as “[only] two books at a time may be drawn; one only being fiction” and “bags and satchels for carrying books are prohibited.”
Book plates are commonly found on the inside front board of a book. The wording is generally simple, incorporating the name of the owner and, in this case, the location. This book plate was inserted into the Libraries’ acquisitions from 1931-1969 during the years of the Edwin Watts Chubb Library.
This external view of Chubb Library, taken at the corner of Union and Court streets in the 1940s, gives a picture of the grandness the Library possessed. The large building was comprised of three levels, high ceilings and multiple rooms. The two entrances visible in this photograph were originally designated for freight and parcel receipt only.

The Georgian-style architecture of the Edwin Watts Chubb Library, on the northwest corner of the College Green, was completed in 1931 with an ultimate storage capacity of approximately 250,000 volumes.

Included in its amenities were the Children’s Room, which housed a juvenile collection, and the stacks area where thousands of books were available to students and faculty alike.

On the main floor, Chubb Library housed the card catalog, the library office, the Reserve Reading Room, where faculty would have books specific to their classes set aside for student reference, and the Reference Department, which held the majority of the reference materials that were “to be used in the building during the day, but may be removed overnight” (Handbook).

Named for Edwin Watts Chubb, who served Ohio University as a professor, dean, and two-time acting president, Chubb Library eventually featured up-to-date technology with a Xerox machine available for student use and a rentable typewriter for speedy paper writing.

The new library continued to expand over the next 40 years. By the 1960s, however, at 17,500 students, the University had once again outgrown its Library. ★
Chubb Library’s “open stack policy” permitted all students, faculty members and residents of Athens to find their own books within the stacks that made up the core of the Library. Located in the stacks were tiny carrels. These small workstations were designated for University graduate students, but if they were unoccupied, all students could use them, as needed.
Chubb Library was a productive place. Students studied silently and diligently, rarely, if ever, engaging in study groups. Multiple long tables were provided for library patrons in the Reference Room, reading rooms, rare book collection and other areas for individual study and quiet reading during library hours. The Library was open most days from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., a shock to modern-day students who fill the Libraries for the frequent all-nighter.
Busy scene in front of the circulation desk as students check out library material, ca. 1960s.
The book card is now a thing of the past, but for students using Chubb Library from 1931-1969, it was a necessary step in the library borrowing process. Students, faculty and community members who possessed ID cards were able to borrow circulating library materials for up to two weeks at a time by simply printing their name on the book card in the pocket in the back of the book. The book card, which was kept on file in the Library during the period in which the book was checked out, allowed librarians and students alike to know who had the book and when it would be returned. Renewals were permitted as long as the student presented the volume in person. Renewal services and multiple checkouts proved useful for students like R.B. Westbrook who, as shown on the book card, checked out the book “Advertising Production Methods” by Albert W. Dippy at least three times.
Two students talk while sitting at a study carrel inside Alden Library, November 1979.
When Vernon R. Alden came to Ohio University as its 15th president in 1962, he hoped to lead Ohio University to a “New Frontier” of excellence and national prominence in order to meet the needs of a student body that was expected to climb to 26,000 within the decade.

In 1963, a study by the Ohio Board of Regents showed that academic libraries in “Illinois and Michigan had about a third more basic requirements—[and] the state-assisted schools in Ohio about a third less. Ohio University was next to the bottom of the list with a 37% deficiency.”

In response, President Alden’s administration made the construction of a new library a priority over all other building needs for the University.

“We had to replace a couple of buildings, [Boyd Hall, a women’s dormitory and the old women’s gym on Park Place] and that was a bit controversial because we wanted the Library to be in a central location,” said Alden.

At seven stories high and as long as a football field, the Vernon R. Alden Library finally opened its doors May 23, 1969, beginning a new chapter in Ohio University Libraries.

In 1996, Ohio University Libraries earned its place among an elite group of major university and research libraries in the United States and in Canada as a member of the prestigious Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

Thanks to technology, and the ever-increasing emphasis that the Libraries is placing on shared resources, nowhere does the old blend with the new quite so seamlessly as in Alden Library.

As in the past, quiet study spaces still remain in Alden, but currently, the most heavily used areas of the building are collaborative workspaces. With the opening of the Learning Commons, a student-oriented and technology-enriched environment in 2004, the Library’s hours extended to 24 hours a day, 5 days a week in addition to its regular hours.

In 2010, the Libraries’ collections grew to 3 million items—ranking Ohio University as the 64th largest library in North America.

Alden Library fills many niches for many different researchers’ needs and creates a comfortable place for Ohio University students, faculty and community members to research, to study and to collaborate—day or night.

Though buildings, students, and times have changed since the first Library of Ohio University in 1814, OHIO’s Libraries has continued to set the intellectual tone of the campus and continued to contribute to the outstanding quality of education that the University offers.
Students study in the second floor Learning Commons in Alden Library on Tuesday morning, November 17, 2009.
President Emeritus Dr. Charles Ping’s new book, “A Conversation about Ohio University and the Presidency, 1975-1994,” was celebrated by the Libraries, which has a tradition of collaborating with The Ohio University Press to publish the memoirs of OHIO’s presidents called the oral history program. Interestingly enough, this tradition was initiated by President Ping and later supported by President Glidden. The first published history was of John Baker, followed by Vernon Alden, Harry Crewson, Claude Sowle and now Charles Ping. Special thanks went out to Vernon Alden for his support of the Vernon and Marion Alden Endowment, which helped to financially support this project.
(From right) Ohio University President Roderick McDavis introduced President Emeritus Dr. Charles Ping and Professor Emeritus Dr. Samuel Crowl at An Evening with Charles J. Ping on November 7, 2013 in Alden Library. The event, which celebrated the release of his book about Ohio University and his presidency, featured an invitation-only guest list including former OHIO presidents, alumni, Friends of Ohio University Libraries, University dignitaries and members of Dr. Ping’s family. (Photo by Tyler Stabile/Ohio University Libraries)
Jan Scites

Home: Basking Ridge, N.J.

Profession: CEO and attorney.

Last Book Read: “1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus” by Charles C. Mann.

Hobbies and Interests: Collecting antique checker boards and Victorian and farm mantel clocks; hiking and walking cities when I travel.

Why I Support Alden Library: The Library was a great place for me while I was at Ohio University, and it still is now. Les Rollins talked to the Ohio Fellows about being Renaissance men and women. He said part of becoming that would be found at the seat of learning — the Library. I guess I love to read and to collaborate, and that is where I did that when I went to Ohio University.

Profile: A happy executive/attorney, who loves her family and friends, plus finds much joy in this place we call Earth.

Memorable Movie: “Alfie.” I watch a lot of movies.

Current Project: I have lots of projects: building a company into a national organization with an expert team, and most importantly, getting time to be with my family and to see my grandchildren grow up.

Favorite Memory: When I was in college, my mother picked up one of the gingko leaves that grow in front of the Ohio University Library, and she traced it for a hooked rug that she made for my birthday. She loved libraries, and it was not until I came back that I ever figured out when and where she got the leaves.
Warning: Endowments May Cause Excellence

By Doug Partusch

Endowments are the lifeblood of any academic library. An endowment, essentially, is a fund made up of gifts and bequests where the principal of the fund is maintained and invested. The interest generated from that investment is used as a source of income for the organization. Ohio University Libraries uses its endowment income to enhance excellence in teaching, learning and research at the University.

Income generated through endowments truly does make a significant difference in the amount of scholarly resources available to students, faculty and researchers at OHIO. It supports the purchase of new collections, preserves and maintains current materials and provides an ever-increasing number of electronic resources that benefit present and future generations of the Ohio University community.

Many donors have worked with us to create endowments to fund specific interests, while others have contributed to endowments that are more general in nature.

Some Library endowments have been established to recognize and honor faculty members who played an important role in a donor’s life. For example, The Raymond Gusteson Library Endowment, honors Professor Gusteson who taught political science at Ohio University from 1947-1991. The Gusteson endowment purchases materials like academic journals and sustains research conducted by the department of political science to keep alive the ongoing search for the political and the legal understanding of our country.

The Edward and Claudette Stevens Library Endowment, on the other hand, supports the acquisition of materials related to the history of primary and secondary education in the United States, which broadens student, faculty and scholars’ research and knowledge of our education system.

Other endowments support Ohio University’s chemistry program, Contemporary History Institute, and the needs of the physically challenged; or support the Libraries’ African American Studies Collection and the preservation of special collections. We even have an endowment to support the research needs of the Arts and Humanities junior faculty of the University.

All of our endowments must continue to grow, and new ones need to be established. Many university libraries have worked to acquire funding to support the work of visiting scholars and to support the digitization of significant special collections, which can then be shared with the world, on the web. Both of those needs exist here at OHIO. With your help, our University Libraries can continue to support the vital academic mission of every university department – and help students reach their academic goals.

As we celebrate the University Library’s bicentennial year and you think about your campaign gift, please keep in mind that establishing or contributing to an endowment is a wonderful way to honor a faculty member or a loved one, to support an academic interest, or to provide the resources, in perpetuity, to maintain and to grow the strong academic reputation of Ohio University.
Home: Boston and New York City.

Profession: Insurance Executive.

Last Book Read: “The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America” by Russell Shorto. It was a fascinating book.

Hobbies and interests: Golf, cooking, wine and reading.

Why I Support Alden Library: In an anachronistic phrase: In today’s cyber-warp-speed world, Alden Library remains at the core of learning at Ohio University.

Profile: Energetic, innovative, intelligent, thoughtful, dedicated, persistent, engaging, supportive and funny.

Memorable Movie: “Pretty Woman” and “Top Gun.”

Current Project: Helping an immunotherapy company in Atlanta.

Favorite Place on Campus: Bars on Court Street.
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