The library and computer lab currently employ five students without whom we would not be able to function: Darren Mabrey, Lisa O’Hearn, Kelly Kristl, Zac Wolfe and Onita Morgan-Edwards. We only lost one student this year to graduation, and we were able to bid a fond farewell to Miracle Elam.

Our students staff the front desk, answer questions by email, walk-in and phone, process We Deliver and OhioLINK materials, shelve books and are the public presence of the library. Our staff often works on special projects for the library, and answers reference questions covering directional items to more complex issues.

Our front-line reference desk staff consistently receives exceptionally high ratings from multiple surveys, indicating both how valued they are as well as how they help live the mission of the library and institution.

Not surprisingly, library students are highly engaged not only with the faculty and students in their classes, but also in the library, computer lab and writing culture they are in—often acting as the bellwether for areas of concern for the campus. We have been told several times that the library is considered by our students to be an essential part of student services.

Our students (including the Writing Center staff) are the lifeblood of the library. They are strong advocates when prospective students drop by the library on a tour, actively encourage fellow students to be more engaged with the library collections and the research and writing process overall, and have created many opportunities for the librarian to present to their classes.

The library remained a stable force in the midst of the changes occurring on campus and throughout the University system.

As will be elaborated below, the library has partnered with the Dizney Writing Center to create and teach a 1-credit Library Research Readiness class. This was initiated in the fall of 2015, repeated in spring 2016, and running again this fall. We have also double-numbered it to be available to interested graduate students. Word of mouth promotion from faculty and peers has been invaluable.

The 5 campuses of the Antioch University Library System have a shared catalog in WorldCat Local (WCL) to facilitate sharing between campuses and
increase visibility for national interlibrary loan lending. Our numbers continue to increase in our ability to participate in this; last year we added more states to our list of where our material has been sent—we have now loaned items to 27 states!

The Library Director continues to participate as an active member of the campus, university, and consortium communities. The library itself continues to be an active member of both OPAL and OhioLINK, and represents the Antioch University Library System in both these consortia.

The Library Director continued as the Library Director for Antioch University Connected. Each student in each cohort has been contacted by email by the director personally welcoming them to Antioch, and continued conversations exist spanning several courses. This personalized welcome has also been duplicated for each new cohort of AUM students, with an email mentioning the services of the McGregor Library as well as the Writing Center.

We also continued our Food for Fines food drive during National Library Week. This year was a solid year, with 26 food items donated, all distributed locally.

A substantial addition to our collection has been an influx of art books—gorgeous coffee-table sized editions, along with exhibition catalogs, donated by C. Richard Heil, in honor of his wife, artist Beth Heil (née McKinnon). These had been lovingly collected over their 50 year marriage. In all, close to 500 items were donated. In addition, Mr. Heil donated over 10 artworks created by his wife. 3 are on display in the library, and the rest will be auctioned to provide scholarship opportunities for our students. (see last page for...
Methods of Learning, has a component for one of the projects that requires students to contact the librarian to understand how to conduct academic research as well as how to navigate the AUC online library resources.

What was most beneficial to these AUC students was the required exposure to library resources and library databases. As Box 1 shows, this was not always a painless process.

As mentioned above, we launched a new course, approved by the campus Curriculum Committee, called Library Research Readiness. This introduces students to the entire range and process of research and writing from brain-storming, outlining, drafting, research, navigating databases and relevant information sources, and finally presenting to a peer audience. Response has been small but mighty, and we hope to encourage all incoming students, especially those in the 3+1 pipeline, to consider this course as an elective.

The bulk of instruction this year continued with the Antioch University Connected (AUC) students. One of the first classes students take, Modes and

Instruction and Assessment: the breakthrough

Student comments continue to show that simply being exposed to the library during orientation is not enough—research skills need to be reinforced and applied to have any efficacy. Google continues to be the default ‘database,’ and so we have stopped decrying this and instead started showing through hands-on activities why students might want to reconsider this practice.

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What was most beneficial to these AUC students was the required exposure to library resources and library databases. As Box 1 (right) shows, this was not always a painless process.

Box 1 2016 AUC Student Feedback

“I am learning that Google is much easier to do research through because you can find exact topics you want to write about. Using the school library is difficult because it brings up so many articles and journals.”

“I had an extremely hard time obtaining my research information because I am highly dependent of Google and Yahoo searches.”

“Academic research is simply not my idea of a good time. Why must academic language be so difficult?”

“Even after speaking with Steve when I go onto the library site before I even start typing words or topics to look for, I’m immediately blocked with fear.”

Box 2 demonstrates that students found that perseverance pays off; many responded that after they pushed through the wall, they understood the value of the resources they have access to.

Box 2 2016 AUC Student Breakthroughs

“My research habits will change considerably in the future.”

“Scholarly research has exposed me to a new skill I am grateful for.”

“…using the Antioch Library instead of Google has led me to find my own personal online library.”
Art in the Library
From the Heil Collection:

From the Permanent Collection: