Serving as Northeastern University’s learning and research hub for 30 years
A Note From

Dean Dan Cohen

One of the many remarkable aspects of libraries is their dogged persistence. Over the centuries, libraries have not only lasted through major upheavals like wars and recessions, but have continued to help their communities, often without interruption—a safe island in a chaotic sea.

This year’s pandemic is a major challenge to our lives and our institutions, but the Northeastern University Library has and will persist, providing resources and services to students and faculty throughout these unsettled times.

Without missing a beat, the library staff moved fully online in March, expanding or creating new virtual channels to connect with our community and to aid classes and researchers with whatever they might need, from electronic books and journals to assistance with capstone projects and lab work.

Our librarians have doubled the number of in-depth online consultations and drop-in sessions, and added multiple chat and videoconferencing options to reach thousands of patrons spread across the globe. We swiftly added over a half-million e-books and thousands of e-journals to our collection so that scholarship could continue for everyone from their homes. We are also helping faculty with essential research on COVID-19, from digital maps of medical cases to dozens of specialized new databases.

In these pages, you will find other inspiring stories of what the Northeastern University Library is doing to engage and support our community. I think you will find it uplifting, and I hope that you can add momentum to our work by supporting the library in whatever way you can. We’re here for you, now and in the future.

With warm wishes from our library family to your family,

Dan Cohen
Vice Provost for Information Collaboration
Dean of the Northeastern University Library
Professor of History

Meet the New Library Staff

Antonio Banrey, Digital Media and Video Coordinator. Antonio works in the library’s Recording Studios, where he was previously a co-op in 2018. He provides support for video and audio recording sessions and leads workshops on various topics related to production.

Rob Chavez, Senior Digital Scholarship Developer. Rob is developing a broad digital scholarship infrastructure within the library’s repository to support a number of new systems. He previously worked at the New England Journal of Medicine and at Tufts University.

Drew Facklam, Digital Metadata Supervisor. Drew manages the metadata for the library’s digital collection, making it possible for users to discover and access library resources. She previously did similar metadata work at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York.

Kate Kryder, Research Data Analyst. Kate is a data visualization specialist who graduated from Northeastern’s information and design visualization program. She has tackled data in a variety of fields, including environmental consulting, construction, finance, and most recently, the MBTA.

Ella Lesatele, Metadata Librarian. Ella works to improve discovery and access to library resources. She was previously a metadata assistant at the Northeastern University Library and also worked on a large-scale digitization and cataloging project at Harvard University’s Fine Arts Library.

Dina Meky, Global Campus Outreach and Online Learning Librarian. Dina works with students, faculty, and staff at Northeastern University’s global campuses and its online programs, and serves as the subject specialist librarian for Analytics, Corporate and Organizational Communication, and Informatics. She previously worked at Berkeley College and Rider University.

Gina NortonSmith, Project Archivist. Gina serves as the project archivist for the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, a group focused on researching and supporting policy initiatives on anti-civil rights violence in the U.S. and other miscarriages of justice between 1930 and 1970, based out of the Northeastern University School of Law. Gina previously worked as a litigator, a faculty member, a higher education administrator, and a community archivist.

Lindsay Olson, Metadata Librarian. Lindsay works to improve discovery and access to library resources. She previously worked as a film cataloguer for the American Film Institute in LA.

Jess Valli, Help and Information Coordinator. Jess hires and manages the student employees who staff the Help & Information Desk. She previously worked in several historic Boston locations, including the Cardinal Cushing Library, the Mary Baker Eddy Library, and the Paul Revere House.
Library initiative saves students thousands

We all remember textbooks. Memories of those big chunky books organized into chapters and sections, with tons of figures and charts explaining everything there is to know about a discipline. We stayed glued to them throughout each semester for the assigned activities and exercises they included. We studied them front-to-back for midterms and final exams.

From Anthropology to Zoology, textbooks are still used heavily. They are written by experts, reviewed by experts, and published by reputable academic publishers and other media companies—they are reliable. The problem is that prices have risen sharply, students in turn are paying more and must often turn to alternatives or choose different paths in the curriculum if none can be found.

Multiple studies have analyzed the rise in the price of textbooks. A study concluded early in the last decade showed that between 2002 and 2012 the price of textbooks increased 82%. Another looked at 2006-2016 and found an 88% increase. More studies are underway. As the price of textbooks rises students are spending more. Annually, students spend an average of more than $1200 on course materials, mostly textbooks.

When students can’t afford new textbooks, they have no alternatives but to pool funds to share books, rent, or purchase used copies, or use a copy on reserve at the library. Sometimes the only option is to purchase a new copy of a required textbook when the book includes accompanying online content in the form of activities, quizzes, or other coursework—a used or shared copy is of no use. Given these factors, in various surveys students have reported making decisions on which courses to enroll based on what the required textbook(s) will cost.

It is no wonder there is a growing movement to utilize free/open educational content, and Northeastern University Library is on the front lines. Working with faculty and partners across the institution, librarians are helping faculty discover, evaluate, and integrate freely available textbooks and other Open Educational Resources (OERs), many of which are authored and reviewed by experts. For example, in Biology, multiple faculty members discontinued use of costly textbooks in favor of freely accessible, open texts: students enrolled in various Biology courses have saved over 100K since the summer of 2018. In related work, librarians are working to ensure faculty know how to maximize use of library-subscribed content such as online journal articles and e-books through dynamic reading-list creation tools and other services.

The library is actively presenting, creating partnerships, and raising awareness about the issues students face, and the options faculty have for finding and integrating alternatives and utilizing existing library content. Savings will continue to grow as the library works with more departments. The library is proud to be a part of this important movement.

Boston Research Center begins work with $650,000 Mellon Grant

In September, the Northeastern University Library received a $650,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to implement the next phase of the Boston Research Center (BRC). The BRC is based in the Northeastern University Library and is dedicated to the study of Boston, enabling researchers from around the world to shed light on the city’s past, present, and future. The BRC serves as a place for students and scholars, Boston residents, and anyone interested in the history and culture of Boston to work together to combine special collections and contemporary data in an effort to better understand the past and envision the future.

This next phase of the BRC’s growth will, through partnerships with Boston community organizations, focus on the development of new digital collections and technological systems to empower these organizations to tell the story of their work and their neighborhoods. This builds on the strengths of the Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections, a frequent partner with organizations in Boston and a trusted steward of local community archives, and will allow the BRC to serve as a digital community history lab where the creation of new collections and technology is driven by the needs of the people whose histories are represented in those collections. It also serves as a further iteration of the library’s work to build inclusive information systems for cultural heritage.

The BRC is also now entering into a new partnership with the Boston Public Library (BPL). The BPL will play a key role in community outreach and technology development by drawing upon its extensive history of technological innovation and active partnerships with neighborhood communities served by its library branches.

“We deeply appreciate The Mellon Foundation’s generous support for this critical next phase of the Boston Research Center and how it forges strong connections with communities around Boston and with the Boston Public Library,” said Dan Cohen, the Dean of the Library at Northeastern. “And we look forward to helping to reveal new insights about our city through the BRC’s network of individuals and institutions.”

Early projects for the BRC include a collaboration with the BPL to develop an inventory and map of public art in Boston; an exploration into the use of computer programs that use natural language processing, a form of artificial intelligence, to recognize names and places in the East Boston Community News; and research into methods for holding online local history events that will allow us to gather community input. Work on each of these projects will begin this summer with the help of graduate students Avery Blankenship, Danielle Rose, and Shannon Webber.

For more information on the work of the BRC, visit bostonresearchcenter.org.
Building a Strong Foundation
Librarian Regina Pagani develops unique relationship with the School of Architecture

Since fall 2019, Regina Pagani, the Arts, Humanities, and Experiential Learning Librarian, has been bringing the library to a major site of creativity and innovation on the Boston campus: The Architecture Studio at Ruggles.

In partnership with students and faculty in the School of Architecture, Pagani organized a weekly research help pop-up in the Studio. This pop-up includes a reference service desk, where students can meet with Pagani to ask research questions related to course assignments or even in-the-moment questions related to their studio projects. Students also utilize this service for inquiries related to their personal research interests, including how to find books on a favorite architect or how to locate data on LEED-certified projects in a specific region.

The pop-up also connects students with library resources and services. In fall 2019, the pop-up featured key architectural journals and magazines that students could browse. The following spring, Pagani asked faculty to curate a list of books, journals, and more on a theme of their choosing, and to provide a short statement contextualizing their chosen resources. Accompanying the display of these resources at the pop-up, a digital guide to these recommendations is available to all using the library’s reading list management system, Leganto.

The pop-up is just one example of new collaborations with the School of Architecture. Along with the Northeastern Center for the Arts and the School of Architecture, the library co-sponsored a celebration of the launch of the final issue of Praxis: A Journal of Writing and Building, which was co-founded by Associate Professor Amanda Lawrence. To accompany this day of programming, the library organized a featured display of all Praxis issues from its two-decade run in the Hub, Snell’s designated display space on the first floor.

Additionally, numerous architecture classes have visited the Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections through the Teaching with Archives program. In these class sessions, students have explored visual records specific to Boston’s urban landscape, including the Emerald Necklace park system. Through historical visual resources, students engaged in critical placemaking and used archival photographs to understand the development and use of an area over time.

First-year programming expands

The first-year programming saw continued growth and success in the 2019-2020 academic year. Evie Cordell, the First-Year Experience and Undergraduate Engagement Librarian, provided support to roughly 2,500 first-year students in a variety of ways, including teaching information literacy and orientation to the library and research classes and workshops; developing and facilitating online learning tools; and providing reference and support.

This year the library partnered with the N.U.in Program. The N.U.in Program sends first-year students on a global experience their first semester of college. Cordell partnered with N.U.in to develop a research assignment that used Northeastern University Library resources. Cordell also partnered with Dina Meky, the Global Campus Outreach and Online Learning Librarian, to provide online research and reference support to 1100 N.U.in students and their instructors.

The library also piloted their new teaching and learning iPad program. These were heavily used in the first-year library scavenger hunts. Several programs including the General Studies Program, NUImmerse, English, Mathematics, Linguistics, etc. used the iPads for the scavenger hunts. Students were able to explore and interact with the library as a space. Using the iPads, they uploaded photos to a private Instagram account, where students were able to view everyone else’s photos. The response for the library scavenger hunts and the iPads has been overwhelmingly positive.

We are grateful to Gene and Corinne Reppucci for their ongoing support of the first-year program.

New collections support programs, stress relief

Two new collections at the Northeastern University Library serve the dual purpose of supporting existing academic programs while also providing enjoyable and stress-relieving activities.

The library recently unveiled its new Board Game Collection, a selection of board and card games organized by Evie Cordell, First-Year Experience and Undergraduate Engagement Librarian. The games support the Game Design academic program while also providing fun social activities for students during their free time.

In spring 2020, Research and Instruction Librarian Brooke Williams and Cordell unveiled the Cookbook and Food Writing Collection, a selection of more than 100 titles that include works by Boston-based chefs; international cuisines; vegan and vegetarian diets; documentaries and films; and recipes for busy college students. The collection is perfect for students studying food writing, or for anyone that is looking to try out some new cuisines.

To browse our Board Game Collection, visit bit.ly/NUbroadgames.

To browse our Food Writing and Cookbook Collection, visit bit.ly/NUcookbooks.
Teaching with History

Teaching with Archives program introduces groups to Boston's and Northeastern's history

On any given day in the Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections, you could find a Northeastern student, a National Parks Service Ranger, a Boston Public Schools high schooler, or a Greater Boston community member visiting for a class using primary sources. The classes, workshops, and experiences offered by the Archives are a result of the Teaching with Archives program led by Molly Brown, the Reference and Outreach Archivist, and Regina Pagani, the Arts, Humanities, and Experiential Learning Librarian.

Teaching with Archives classes equip participants to locate, read, and engage with primary sources such as meeting minutes, correspondence, photographs, local newspapers, and more related to the history of Boston's social justice organizations as well as Northeastern University's history.

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) continue to include the Teaching with Archives program in their curriculum educating high school juniors about Boston's school desegregation history. The BPS students visit the Archives to learn more about the long history of education activism and find primary sources to incorporate in a chapter they are writing about an activist. Students are asked to consider their chapter as a way of contributing to popular historical records about desegregation, and expanding it by embedding community informed archival records in their telling of an activist's life.

The sessions taught by Brown and Pagani emphasize experiential learning and encourage reflection about the participants' own role in history, how their neighborhood, school, and beyond are part of the story of Boston's past and present. They welcome anyone interested in learning from the Archives and Special Collections' records.

Find more about the Teaching With Archives program at library.northeastern.edu/services/archives-special-collections/services/teaching-with-archives

Local youth study Latinx history and culture through Historias de Boston

For the third year this summer, the National Parks Service's youth program "Historias de Boston" will return to the Archives and Special Collections to kick off their Latinx cultural heritage documentation project. Historias de Boston is a new youth employment program from the National Parks of Boston designed to engage youth in exploring the connections of the Latinx communities of Boston throughout the city's history.

At their sessions with Reference and Outreach Archivist Molly Brown, the Historias de Boston team listens to oral histories from the Archives as a group and explores materials from the Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción records and the Carmen Pola papers to think creatively about what Latinx history in Boston looks like in archival records, and how they could contribute to our understanding of the past.

The session in the Archives and Special Collections helps direct and empower the students as they go out to begin collecting their own history. During the 6-week program, students research and gather stories within the three different sites of the National Parks of Boston and the Boston Latinx Community. Their final project results in a group video project as well as personal video reflection which are all deposited and preserved in the archives.

You can find the past two years of Historias de Boston stories deposited to the Archives at latinhistory.library.northeastern.edu/historias-de-boston
Snell Library opened its doors in the fall of 1990. Over the past 30 years, it has seen adaptations and transformations to turn it into the learning and research hub it is today.

Clockwise from top: Snell Library in 1996; Harvey “Chet” Krentzman, Chairman of Northeastern University’s capital campaign, University President Kenneth G. Ryder, and University Senior Vice President for Development Eugene M. Repucci, Jr., review blueprints for Snell in 1988; Board of Trustees member George Snell and his wife Lorraine unveil the plaque dedicating the building in their names at a ceremony on November 1, 1990; Snell Library gets constructed in 1988. Photos courtesy of Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections.
Left: A worker completes the lettering on Snell Library in 1990. (Photo courtesy of Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections.)

Below left: A student listens to a record in this undated photo from the 1990s (photo courtesy of Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections). Today, the Recording Studios has state-of-the-art video and audio recording and editing equipment (Brooks Canaday/Northeastern University). And yes, we still have record players.

Below middle: Students work on computers in Snell Library in the '90s (photo courtesy of Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections) and today (Adam Glanzman/Northeastern University).

Below right: Looking down from the 4th floor to the 3rd floor in the '90s (photo courtesy of Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections) and today (Matthew Modoono/Northeastern University).

Bottom: Snell Library in 2014 (Brooks Canaday/Northeastern University.)
Library Podcast Team brings student voices to airwaves

With the help and guidance of the library’s Podcast Publishing Team, many Northeastern classes have adopted podcasting in lieu of their usual term paper or final project. Over the past few semesters, Jon Reed from the Digital Media Studios and Brooke Williams from the library’s Research and Instruction team have worked with classes in English, History, Architecture, and other departments to help students learn how to create, record, edit and publish their own podcasts.

Using the university’s Digital Repository Service and the library’s CERES Exhibit Toolkit platform, the library is able to create a stable website for class assignments to be sent out to Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and the world. The first project published was Speak Up! Podcast, coordinated by English Professor Elly Jackson.

“The library podcast opportunities are as good as they get and should be blasted all over the campus and around the world,” says Jackson. “My classes set up podcast assignments that have now reached 25 published podcast recordings from undergraduate research, and these are up on Apple Podcasts. I believe educational podcasting has a great future and I am proud of the team at our library’s podcasting service. This is a stellar partnership and I cherish their talents and commitment to experiential education.”

Some examples of podcast episodes produced by the Speak Up! students include “Death By Chocolate” and “Jet, Set, Go - A Podcast on Medical Tourism.” All can be heard at speakup.northeastern.edu.

Sarah Sweeney, manager of the Digital Repository Service, and Patrick Murray-John, Associate Director for Systems, have both played major roles in getting the podcast publishing program up and running.

Post-production workspace, live-streaming among new Studios services

A wide array of equipment, services, and workspaces at the Recording Studios has made it even easier for members of the Northeastern University community to be seen and heard.

Last year, the Studios unveiled its new post-production workspace. It contains a variety of equipment to create audio, such as the mastering and mixing of final vocal/music tracks, and integrate video and audio files into a final edited piece. Its workstation is equipped with key software and plug-ins and also allows for users to connect their own computer to the display system.

The Studios also launched a live-streaming service. Using multiple cameras and high-quality audio, this service allows users to directly broadcast their events online using Facebook Live or another channel.

The live-streaming service debuted with a concert by first-year student Petrina Danardatu, hosted on the Northeastern University Library’s Facebook page, for International Education Week. Studios staff have also collaborated with academic programs to stream events like an alumni interview about the Disability Justice Project with the Journalism Department for Giving Tuesday. They have also collaborated with Northeastern University’s Green Line Records to stream and record videos for some of their artists.

The Recording Studios continue to support the Northeastern community in their video and audio recording needs.

For Studios naming opportunities, contact g.mansfield@northeastern.edu.
Since 1977, Northeastern University has hosted an annual Holocaust Awareness Week, which was renamed Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Week in 2019. During each year’s program, one or more Holocaust survivors have given talks to students and faculty as part of the Philip N. Backstrom, Jr. Survivor Lecture Series. Beginning in 1993, these talks were video recorded and later cataloged and digitized for the Holocaust Awareness Committee (HAC) Archive, which launched in 2019. This digital archive resides in Northeastern University Library’s Digital Repository System (DRS).

While these videos became more accessible to researchers via the HAC Archive repository, information about the talks was not searchable and the videos had not been transcribed.

Thanks to a gift from Abbot (DMSB’76) and Lisa Gilman, transcripts of all 92 videos from 31 survivors were professionally produced this past year. Jessie Sigler, a Northeastern senior majoring in Computer Engineering with minors in History and Jewish Studies, used these transcripts to complete a mini-Capstone project. Her goal was to make these videos more accessible to those who want to learn more about the Holocaust. These transcripts provide vital information about the Survivors’ specific experiences and locations, such as place of origin, names of concentration camps, and other details valuable to researchers exploring the archive in depth.

Sigler collaborated with Debra Mandel, the library’s Jewish Studies liaison; metadata librarians; and digital scholarship administrators to execute her project. New abstracts and metadata (keywords) have been added to the digital archive so viewers and researchers can now locate relevant videos and descriptive information by searching appropriate terms. The transcripts are ADA-compliant, enabling those with auditory processing issues or those who with hearing loss to also experience the testimonies.

Quick Links

Holocaust Awareness Committee Archives  
holocaustawarenessarchives.northeastern.edu

Philip N. Backstrom, Jr. Lectures  
bit.ly/BackstromLectures

Survivor Videos (transcripts will be linked to the videos soon)  
holocaustawarenessarchives.northeastern.edu/home-2/annualevents/survivor-testimonies

For information on how you can help maintain and support our special collections, contact Gail Mansfield at g.mansfield@northeastern.edu.

Preserving and Analyzing History

Digital public scholarship of COVID-19

With the COVID-19 global health crisis spreading rapidly on an enormous scale, the need for proper documentation of this challenging moment in history is greater than ever. The Northeastern University Library and Northeastern’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities have joined forces with a vast network of historians, curators, and students in a nationwide effort to develop, analyze, and expand a #Covid19Archive digital repository. This new digital repository aims to create a lasting historical record of the unprecedented global experiences of COVID-19.

A Student-Initiated, Faculty-Led Project

The #Covid19Archive digital repository embodies the experiential liberal arts by combining teaching and research. It falls under the leadership of Victoria Cain, Associate Professor of History, and is guided by Dan Cohen, Dean of the Northeastern University Library, two distinguished leaders with extensive experience in curating historical collections. Historians and students will work closely together in a unique instructional and learning environment by gathering items to add to the repository, curating exhibits, and analyzing data in the archive as the pandemic unfolds. While contributing to the development of an important historical resource, students will benefit from a novel research opportunity and develop valuable digital skills.
Parents, alumni and supporters celebrated Phase I of the Furniture Renewal Initiative at a special appreciation reception held in the Anna Reppucci Memorial Alumni Reading Room. Supporters of our comfortable new couches and study carrels were recognized by Dean Dan Cohen and their names are now included on the digital screen display in the library's lobby. Thanks to all participants!

There are still opportunities to support the Renewal Initiative II. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated. All donors will be recognized on a permanent plaque installed following the Library's upcoming renovation. Contact Gail Mansfield for more information at g.mansfield@northeastern.edu or 617-373-5452.

Parents group visits the Archives

During Family Weekend, the library welcomed members of the Parent Leadership Committee. The group joined Archivist Molly Brown for a discussion and look at historic samples from The Boston Globe archives. Guests had an opportunity to mingle, meet with Dean Dan Cohen, and discuss library services and programs available to support their students.
Alum Abbot Gilman DMSB'76 and his wife Lisa hosted a pair of events to celebrate the library and its recently acquired archival collection from *The Boston Globe*.

In June, the Gilmans welcomed over 60 visitors to their Seaport residence. A unique visual history of the Boston Seaport district was shared and guests met Dan Cohen, Dean of the Library, and Archivists Giordana Mecagni and Molly Brown.

Then in February, alumni, parents and friends from the Hollywood, Fla., area joined Dan, Giordana, and Director of Development Gail Mansfield for a fun, informative evening at GG’s Waterfront Restaurant, graciously hosted by the Gilmans. The evening showcased Boston photographs, publications, and more treasures from the library’s Archives and Special Collections. Attendees enjoyed the historic retrospective of the City of Boston as seen through the lens of *The Boston Globe* photographers.

We are grateful to the Gilmans for hosting these events and spreading the word about the exciting Archives and Special Collections now at the Northeastern University Library.

Parents Susan and Jim Dworak (Helena KCCIS’21) graciously hosted a “Meet the Dean” reception at the South Beach Yacht Club in San Francisco in September. Guests heard about the library’s programs and expanded services for students as well as alumni benefits after graduation. In addition to meeting Dean Dan Cohen, the group had an opportunity to meet Hillary Mickell, new Regional CEO and Dean of Northeastern’s San Francisco/Bay Area campus. Many thanks to the Dworaks for their hospitality!

Director of Development Gail Mansfield visited Eli Lilly & Company in Indiana this summer. Lilly employs several hundred Northeastern alumni and dozens of co-op students across the globe. Senior Director Eric Schultz (BHS’84) (top left) led a comprehensive tour of the company’s headquarters. Schultz has been employed at Lilly for more than 30 years.

Mansfield also re-connected with Dr. Leo Rand (COS’53), former Chancellor of the University of Indiana. Dr. Rand (bottom left) is enjoying semi-retirement following a distinguished career in higher education administration at the University of Indiana, the University of North Carolina, Youngstown State, and the University of Detroit.

Dan Cohen (near right, with Hillary Loftus and Chris Cummings) gathered with parents and alumni in February, discussing information on library services, new programs and tools available to students and alumni, a facilities update, and upcoming plans for the future of the library.
Neighborhood Matters is a lunchtime series that celebrates the ways in which community groups have shaped the neighborhoods surrounding the Northeastern campus, organized by the Northeastern University Library Archives and Special Collections. All events are free and open to the public.

Interested in attending? Email g.mansfield@northeastern.edu to join our mailing list.