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Libraries at the Intersection of Invention, Inspiration, and Innovation

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Dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications

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Unflattening by Nick Sousanis

Roadmap (chapter 6), January 21, 2014

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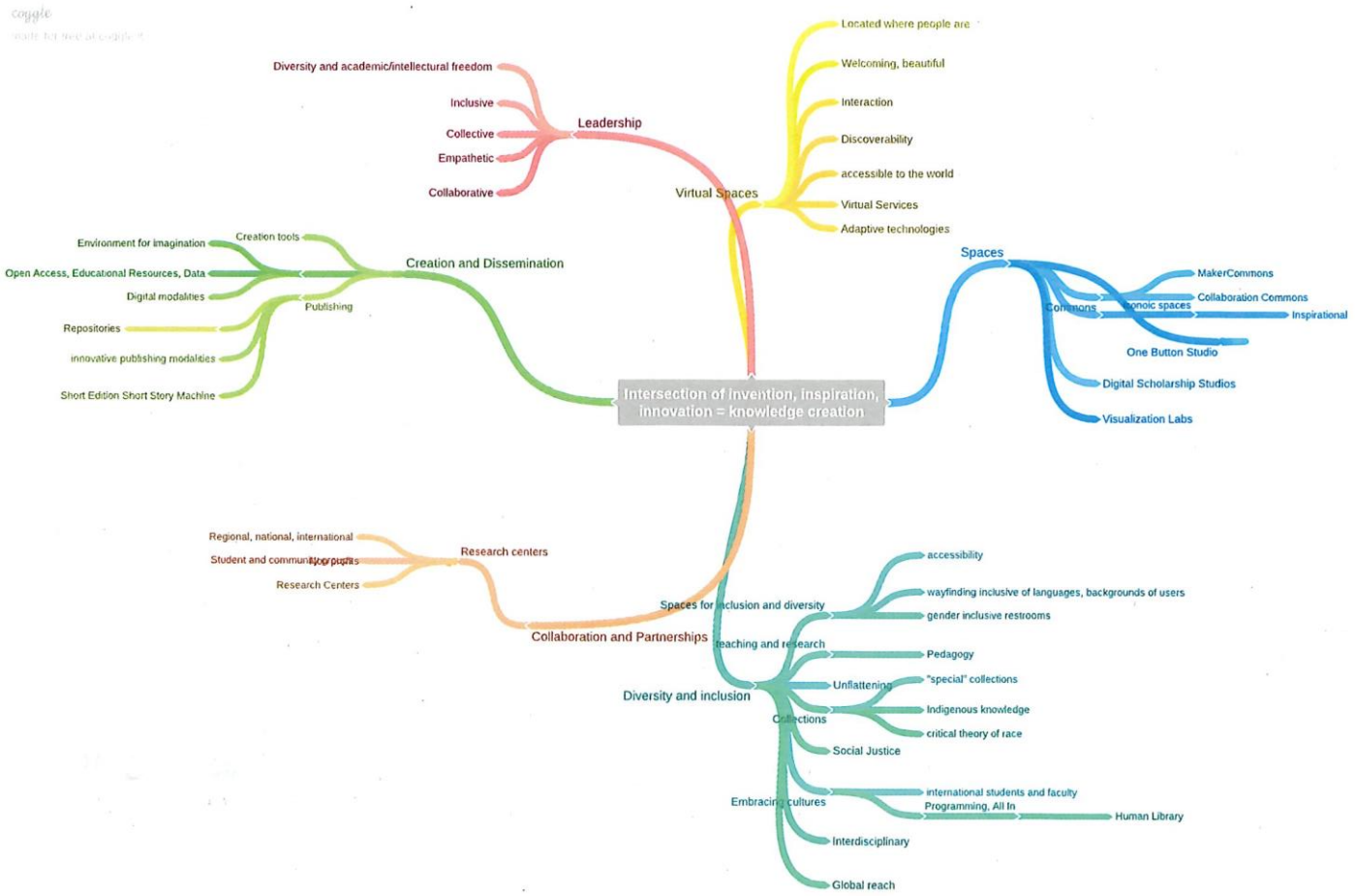
Mind Map



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Inspiring Spaces

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Special Collections Library Exhibition Room

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Paterno Reading Room

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Leisure Reading Room

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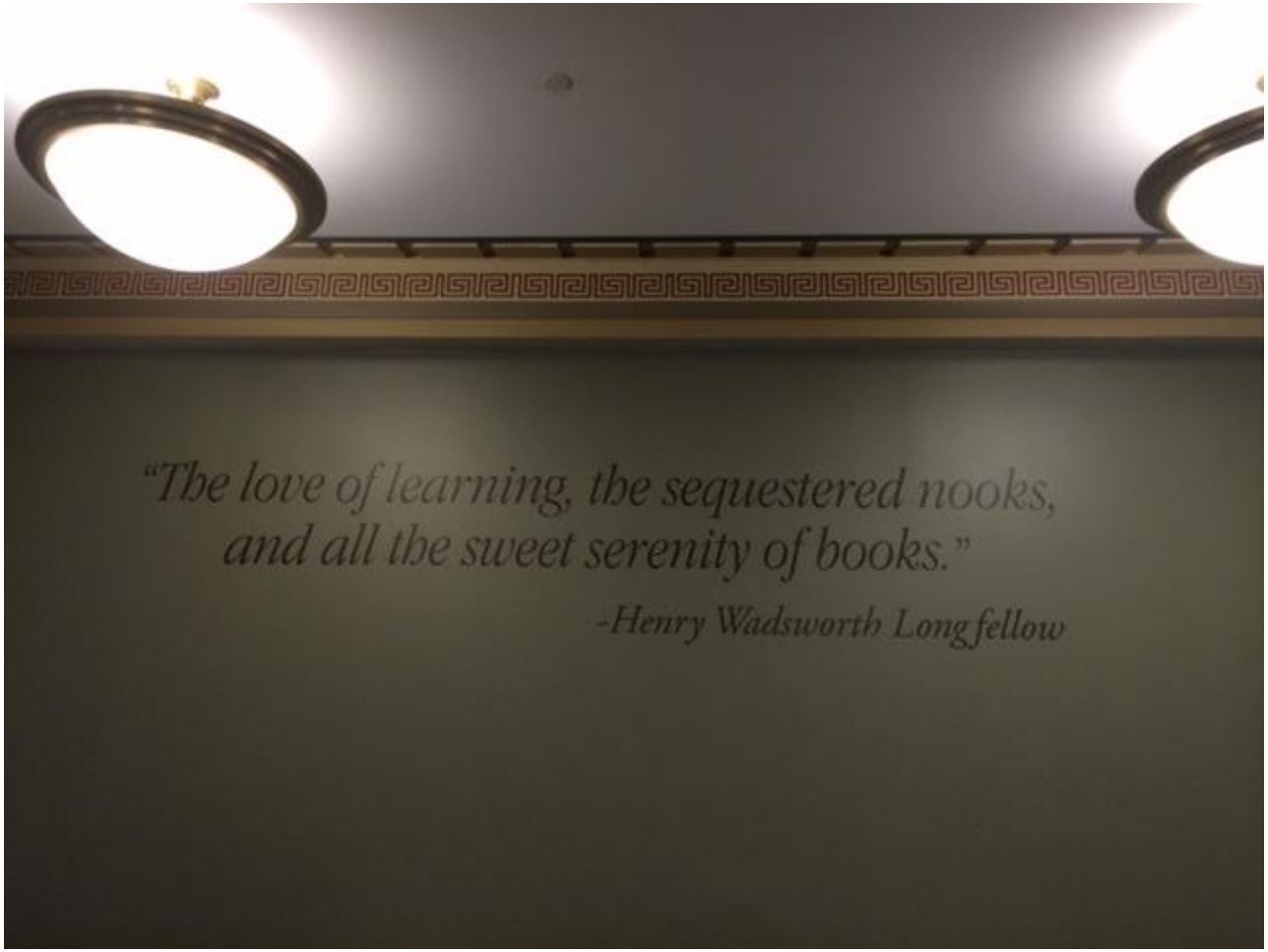

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Franklin Atrium

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Inventive Spaces

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Sidewater Commons

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Knowledge Commons

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Knowledge Commons

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Knowledge Commons

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Maker Commons Opening

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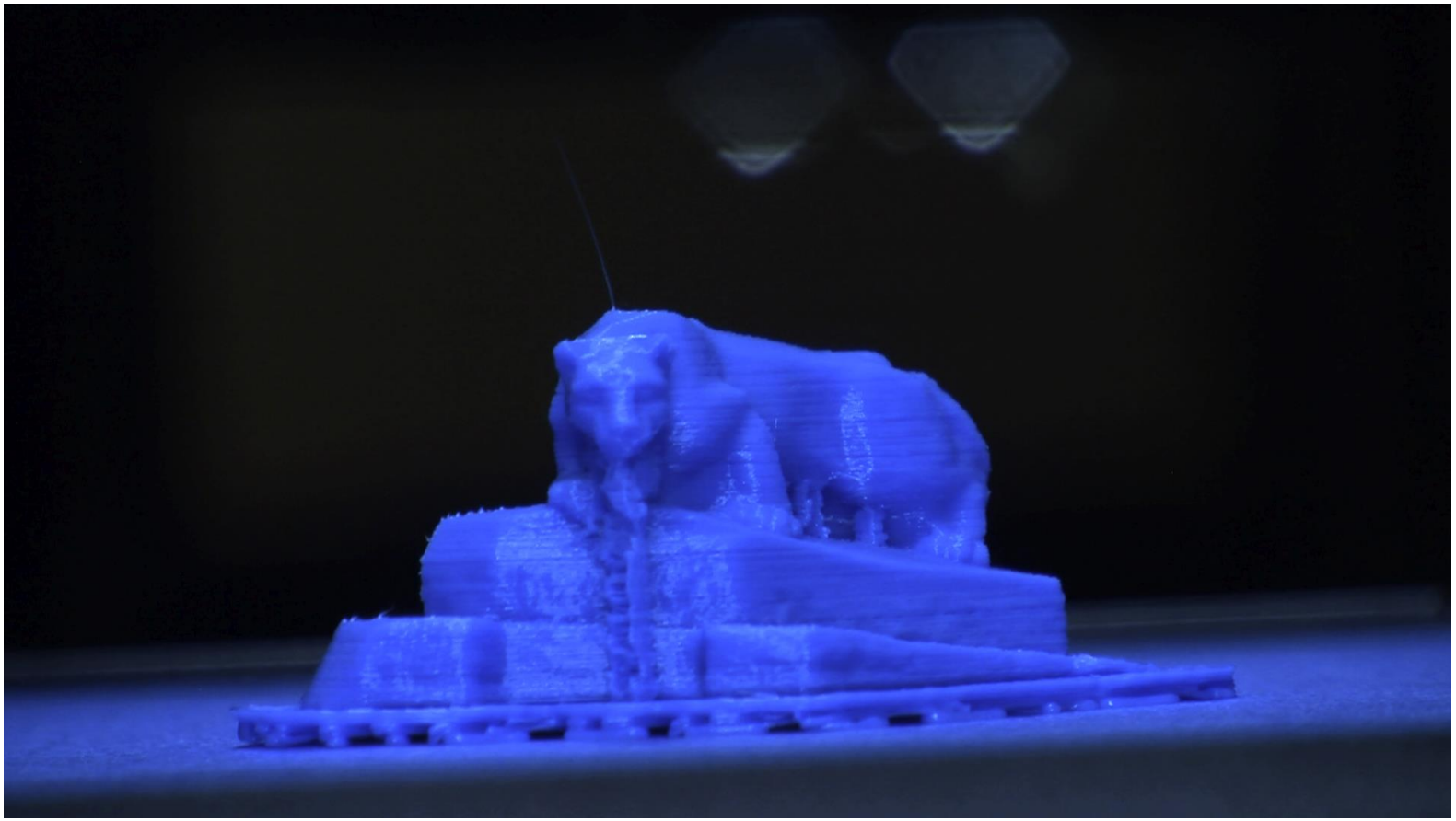
3D Printing in the Maker Commons



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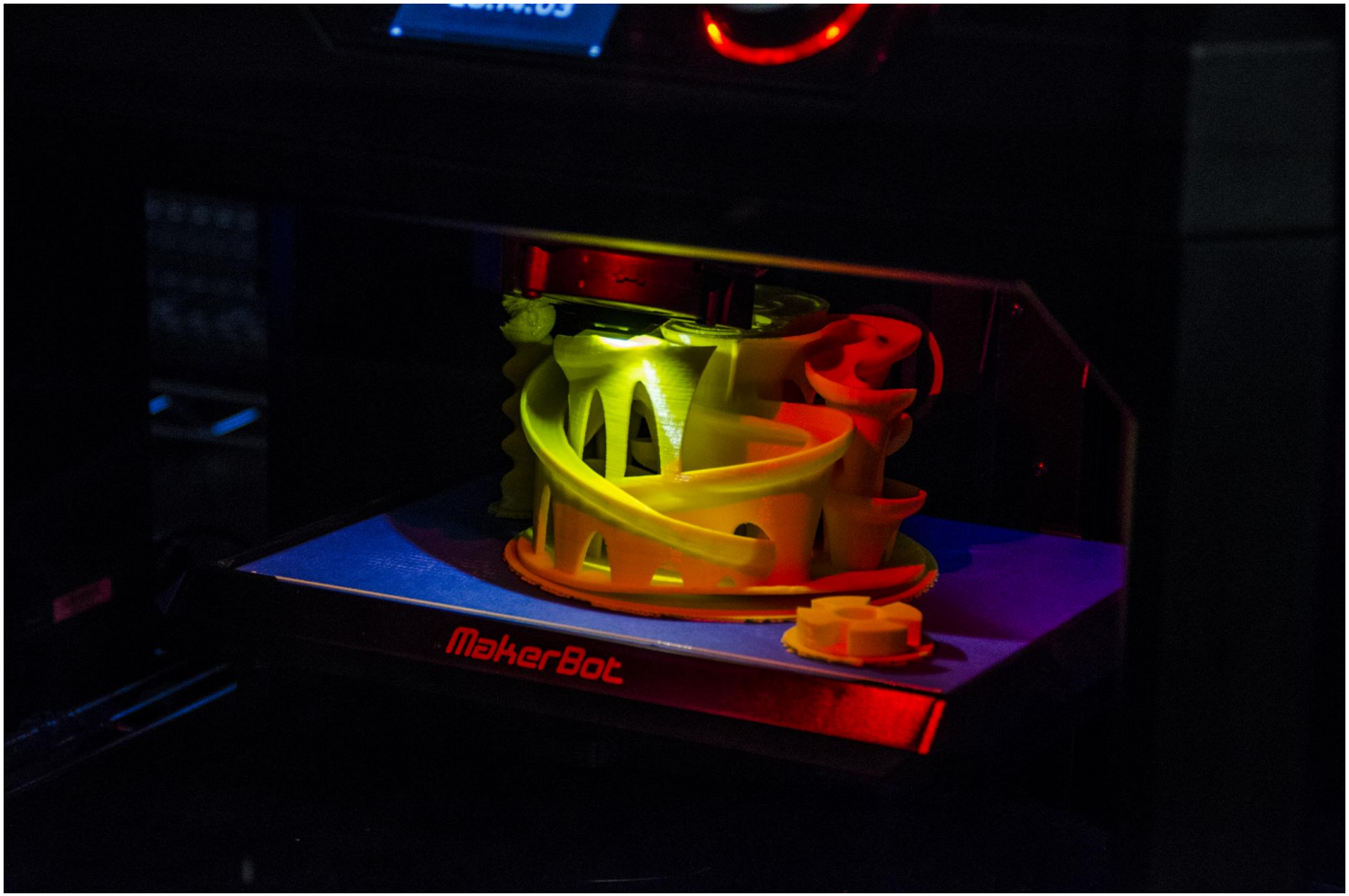
3D Printing in the Maker Commons



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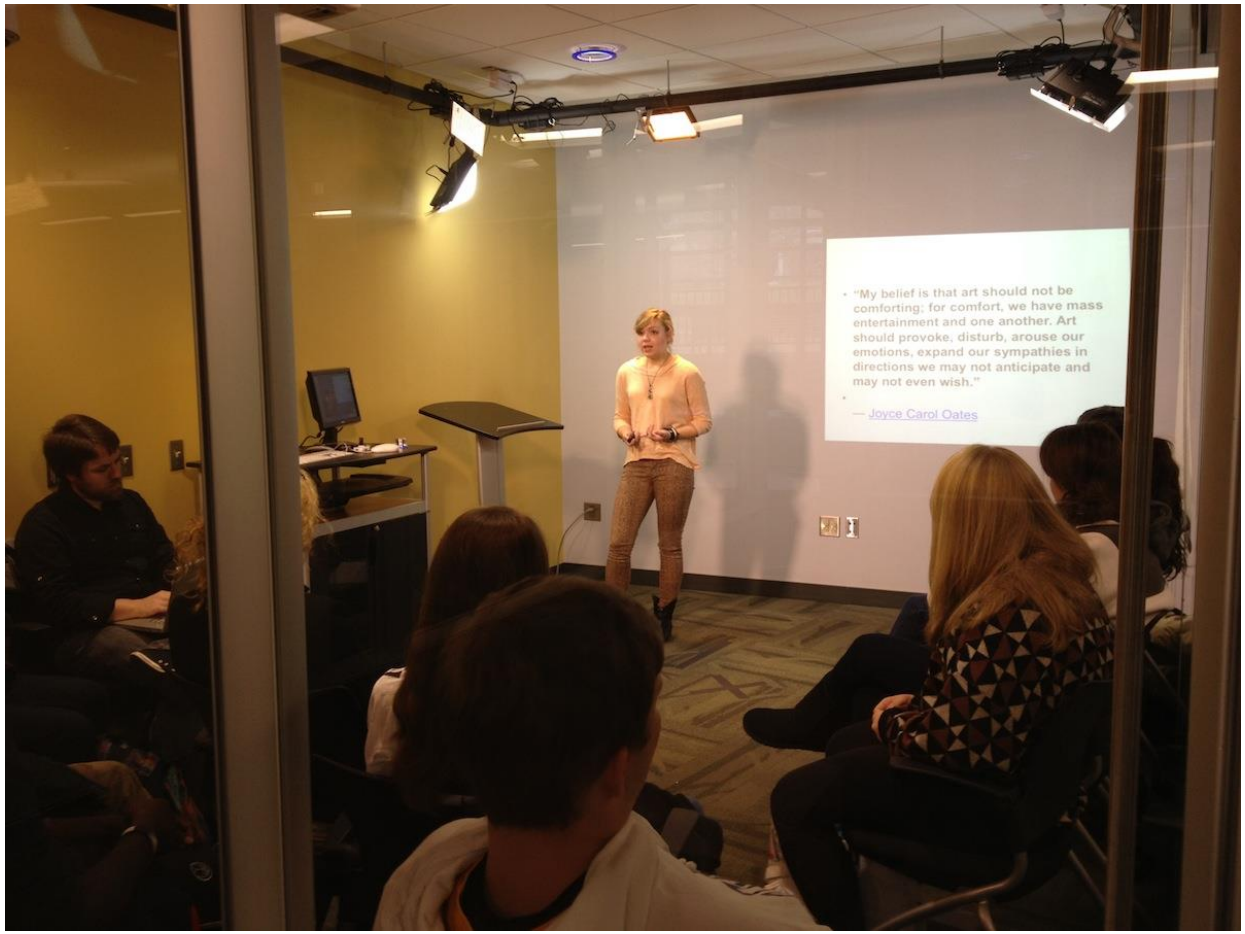
One Button Studio



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Adaptive Technology

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Future Spaces

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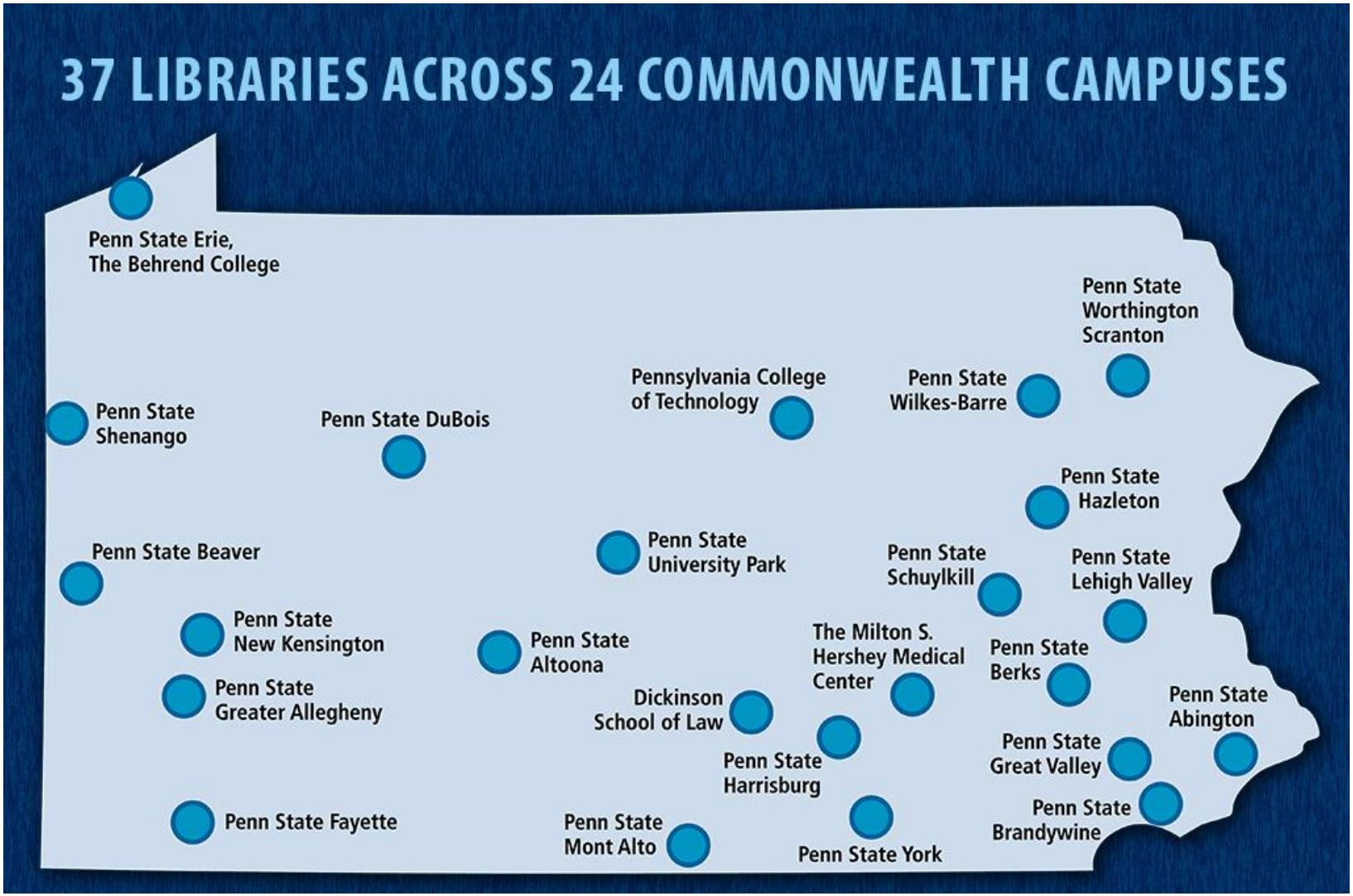

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John M. Lilley Library, Behrend College

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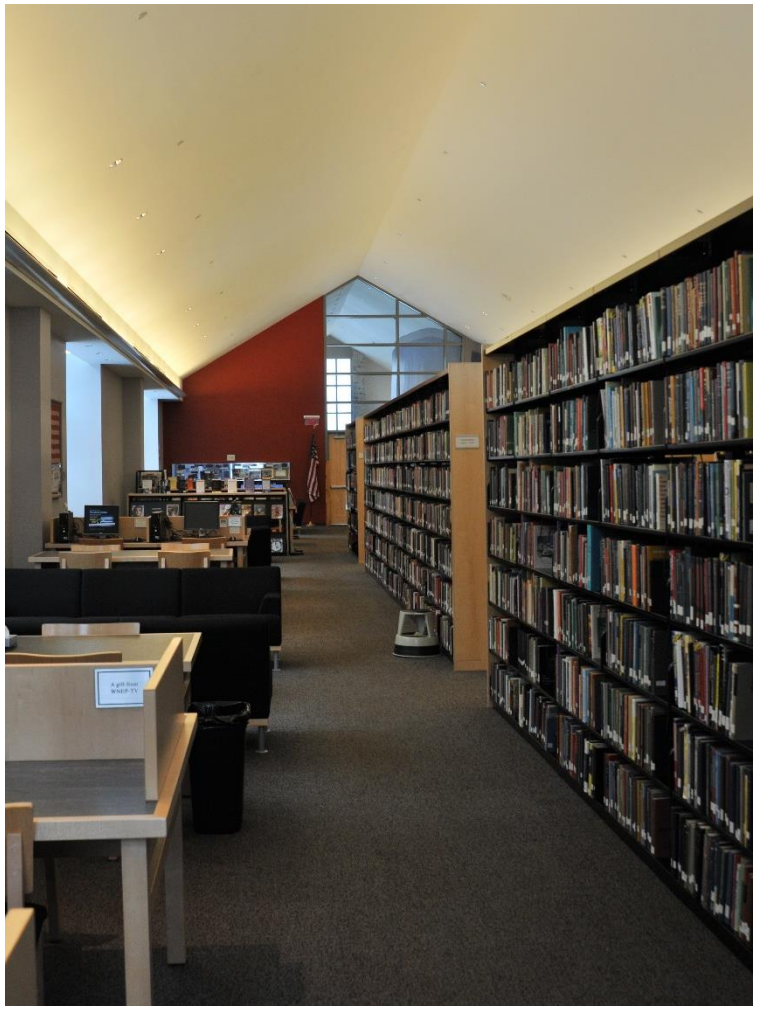
Nesbitt Library, Penn State Wilkes-Barre



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Adaptive Technology

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Future of the Libraries

Café at West Pattee
AUGUST 2013

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Future of the Libraries

Café at West Pattee
AUGUST 2013

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Future of the Libraries

Gathering Space at West Pattee
AUGUST 2013

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Future of the Libraries

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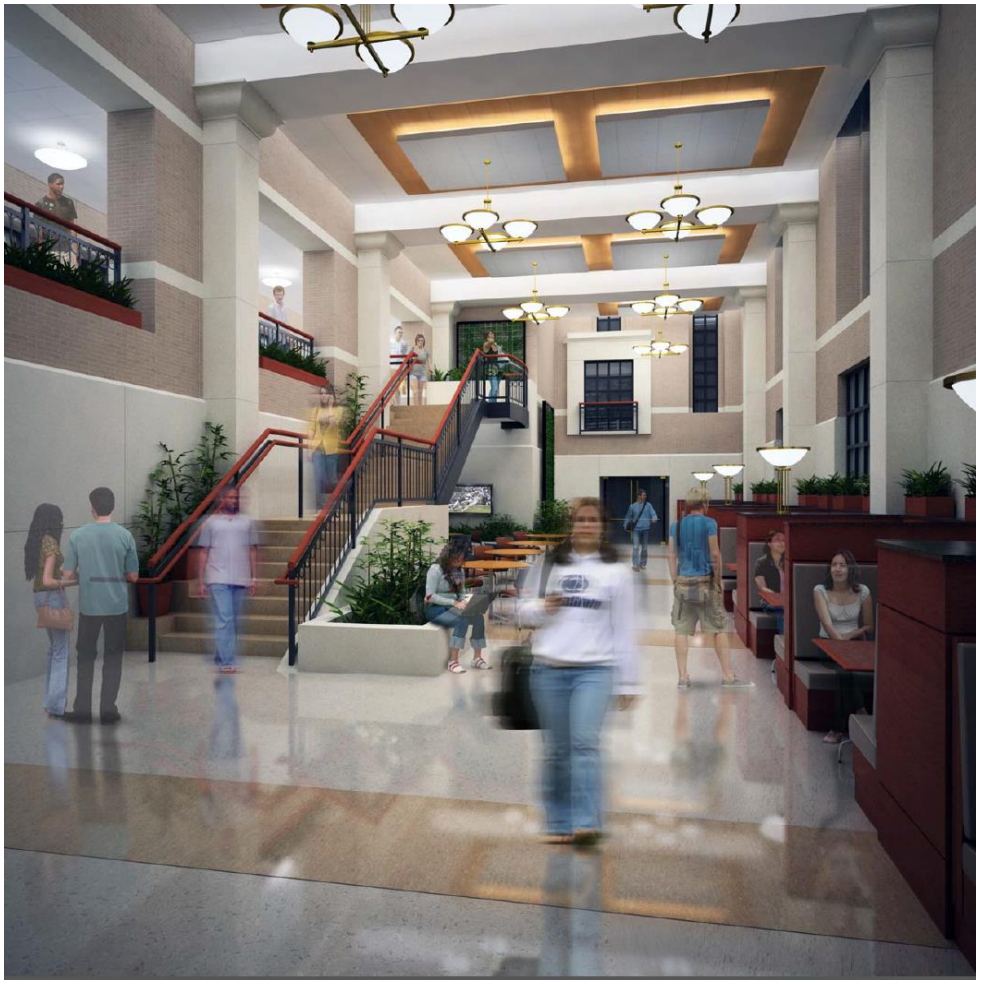
Future of the Libraries



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Library Users and Spaces

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Study Space Research

- Methods
- Focus Groups
- Observation
- Interviews with Knowledge Commons Personnel
- Conversations with Students
- Flip Charts
- UX Café
- Examination of Existing Library Space Study Data

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UX Cafe

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Workspace Focus

- *"Spread out, it looks like a disaster zone" – Undergraduate student, describing what her workspace typically looks like*
- *"If it's a homework, I'd be working through the homework, I'd be working on the homework, I'd be searching things if I'm stuck, and I'd have a calculator, and a book open" – Undergraduate student, describing what her workspace typically looks like*

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Soft Seating 'Living Room' Focus

- *"The desks that they have there are not convenient to have your computer on" – Undergraduate student, describing furnishings in the Knowledge Commons "living room" areas*
- *"I need a table to get stuff done. If I don't have a table, I can't do anything" – Undergraduate student*
- *"I'd rather have more just productive space than soft space" – Undergraduate student*

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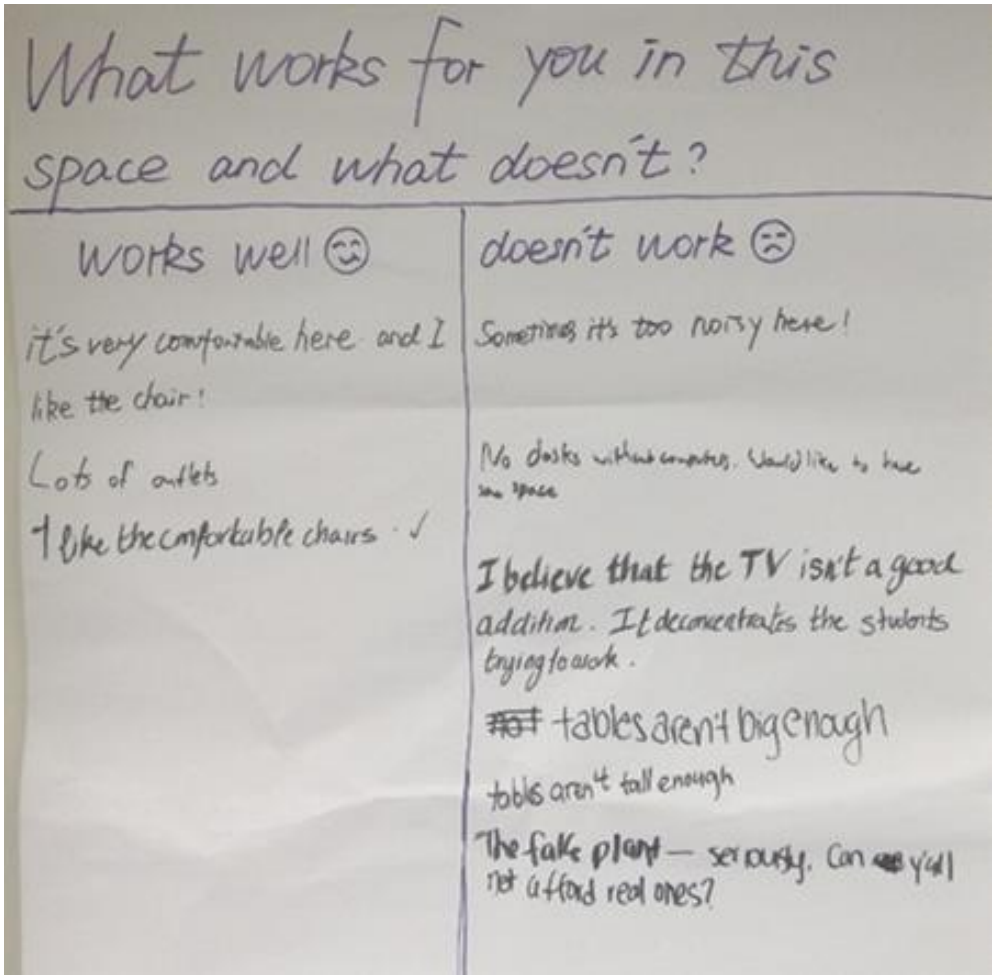
Study Space Surveys



What works for you in this space and what doesn't?

works well ☺	doesn't work ☹
it's very comfortable here and I like the chair!	Sometimes it's too noisy here!
Lots of outlets	No desks without computers. Would like to have more space
I like the comfortable chairs ✓	I believe that the TV isn't a good addition. It deconcentrates the students trying to work.
	~~not~~ tables aren't big enough
	tables aren't tall enough
	The fake plant — seriously. Can y'all not afford real ones?

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Study Spaces

"I have always been crazy about the reading room. As you know it's a replica of Westminster Hall in London, on a somewhat smaller scale… I was thrilled when I was given a carrel. Honor students were allowed to have carrels in the stacks. I loved it because it made me feel like a scholar."

- Mount Holyoke Alumna[1]

1. Brook, F., Ellenwood, D., & Lazzaro, A. E. (2015). In Pursuit of Antiracist Social Justice: Denaturalizing Whiteness in the Academic Library. Library Trends, 64(2), 246-284.

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The Future of Libraries

"Libraries will not longer be geared primarily to direct readers but instead to content contributors, community curators, text-mining programs, machine learning algorithms, and visualization tools."

Ad Hoc Task Force on the Future of the Libraries, led by Chris Bourg, MIT

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All In at Penn State

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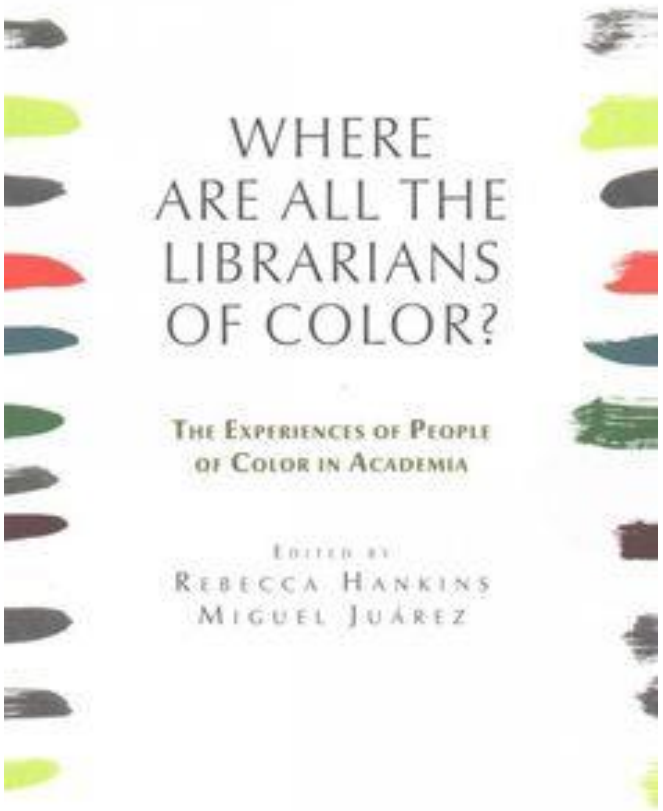
Where are all the Librarians of Color?



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Human Library

Photo credit: Toronto Public Library

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Diversity and Technology

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Spaces for Inclusion & Diversity

- Relabel restrooms as gender inclusive
- Replace all stationary tables in library classrooms with adjustable-height tables so that students of all abilities can use any workstation
- To reflect the diversity of our student body and campus community, place artwork from a variety of cultures in prominent visible locations
- Replace large service desks at the library entrances with smaller, more welcoming tables

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Spaces for Inclusion & Diversity

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Common Space Features

- Library spaces that incorporate classical architecture features – suggesting modes of thought that fit with the Western tradition of learning…[2]
- Space that contain representations (statues, portraits, plaques) of wealthy, usually white, often, patrons.[3]
- Spaces that are named after those benefactors, suggesting that the kind of wealth and status that would allow one to earn or own a space is to recognized, valued, and striven for…[4]

2. Frampton, K. (1985). *Modern architecture: A critical history*. London: Thames and Hudson.
3. Costello, C. Y. (2001). Schooled by the classroom: The (re)production of social stratification in professional school settings. In E. Margolis (Ed.), The hidden curriculum in higher education (pp. 43–59). New York: Routledge.
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EMPOWER STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND USE THEM AS SITES TO SOCIAL JUSTICE BY:[5]

- Inviting students and faculty to suggest (or create) art, decorations, flyers, or names of rooms that affirm their cultural identities
- Choosing architectural and spatial styles that reference spatial traditions beyond the common European architectural tradition

5. Brook, F., Ellenwood, D., & Lazzaro, A. E. (2015). In Pursuit of Antiracist Social Justice: Denaturalizing Whiteness in the Academic Library. Library Trends, 64(2), 246-284.

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“Open” = Knowledge Creation

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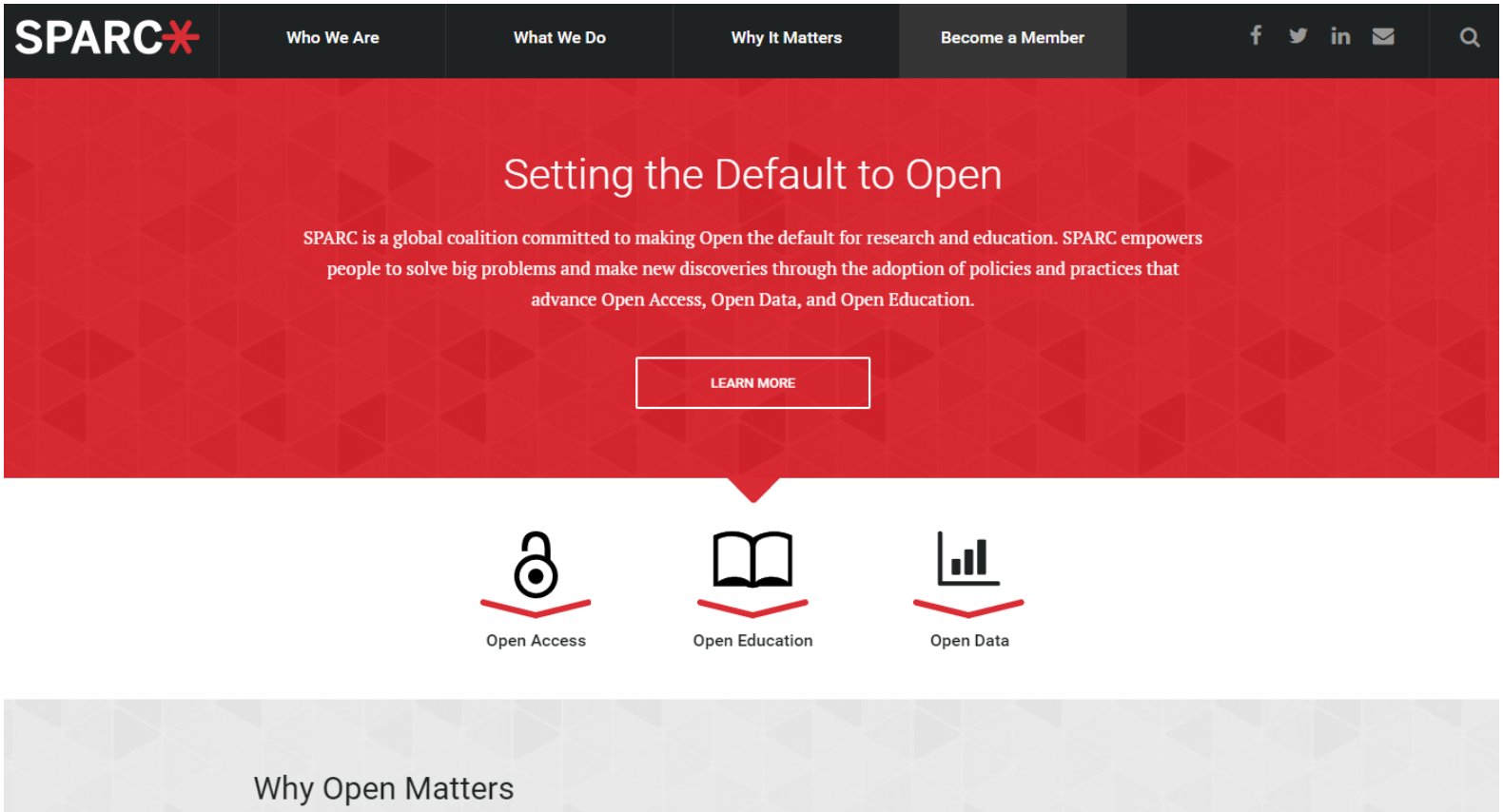
SPARC



sparcopen.org

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Open Textbook Network

research.cehd.umn.edu/otn

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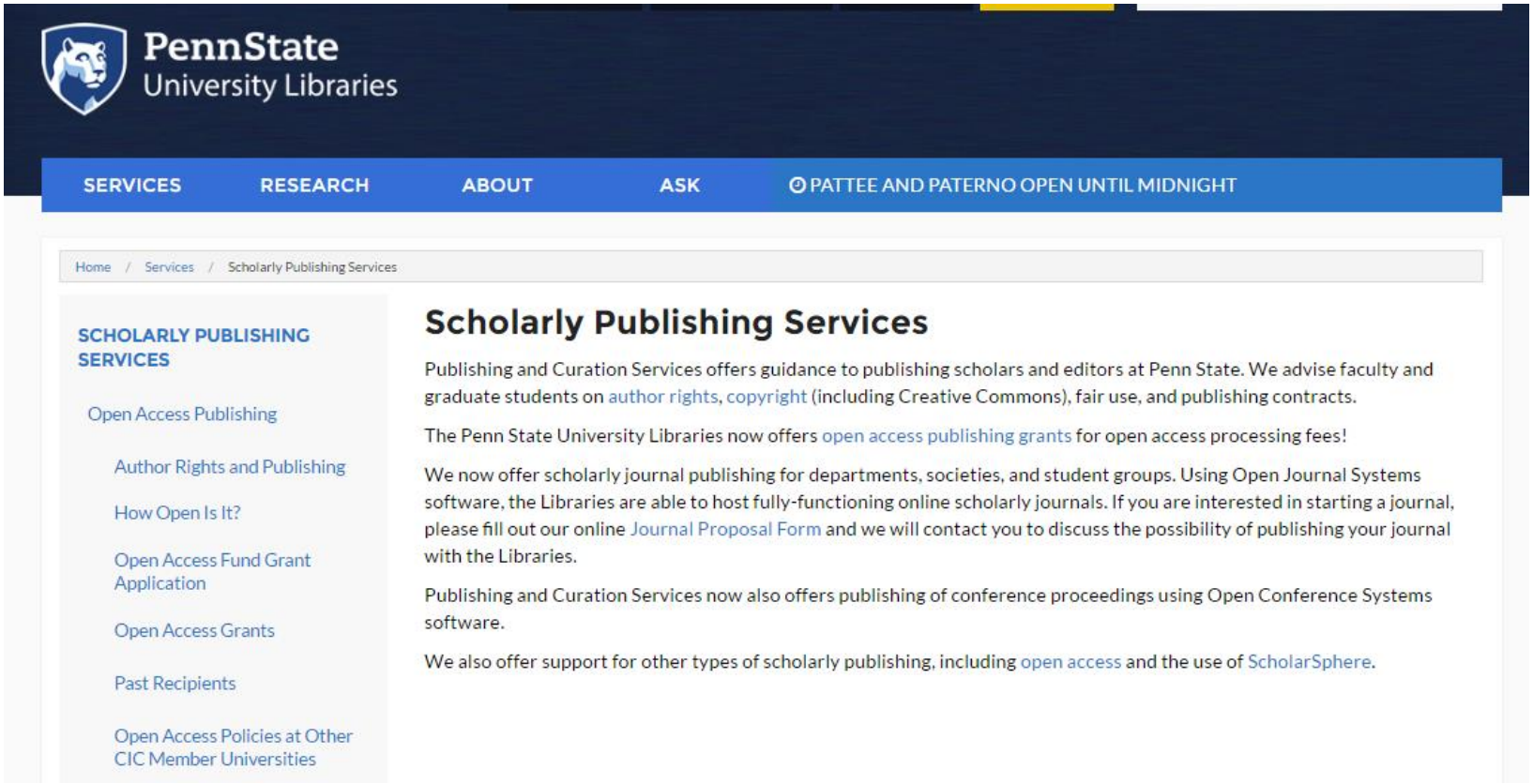
Scholarly Publishing Services



libraries.psu.edu/services/research-data-services/scholarly-publishing-services-0

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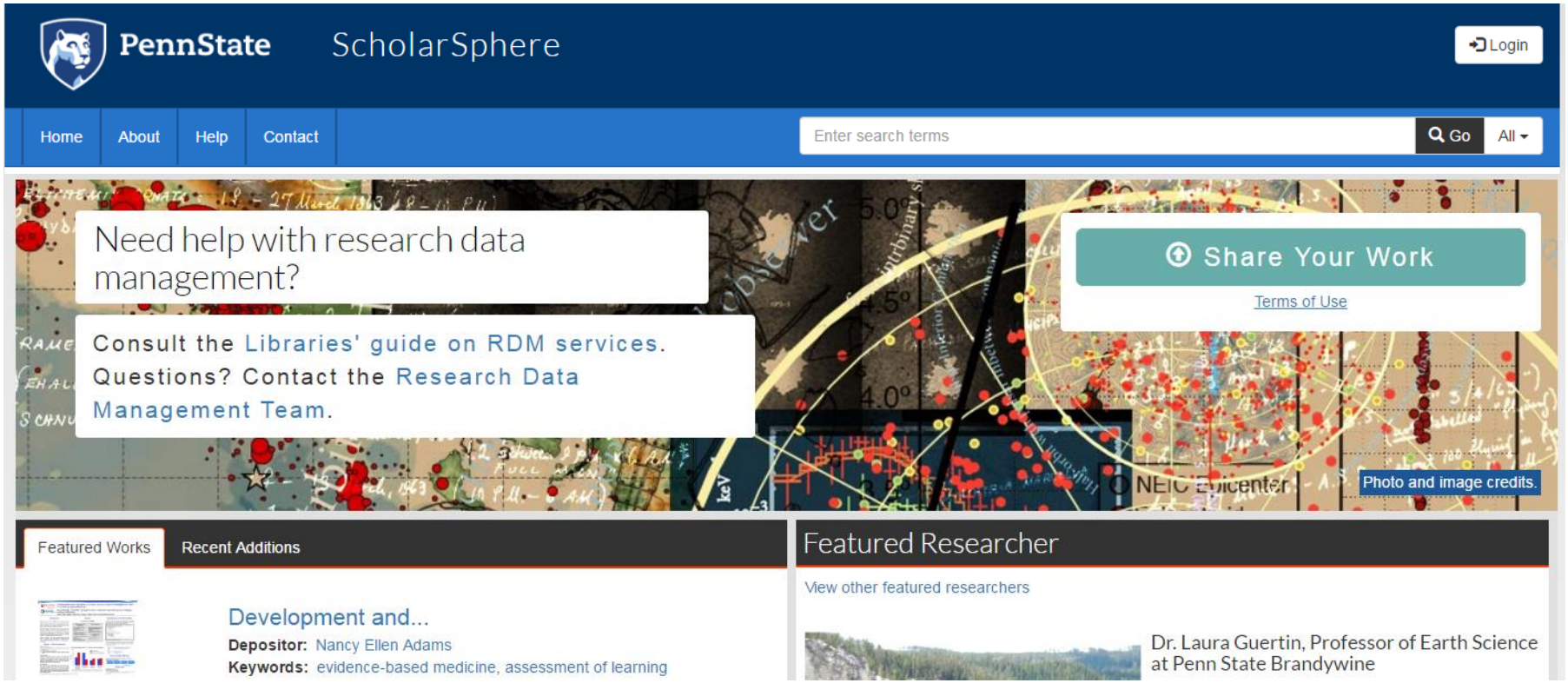
ScholarSphere



scholarsphere.psu.edu

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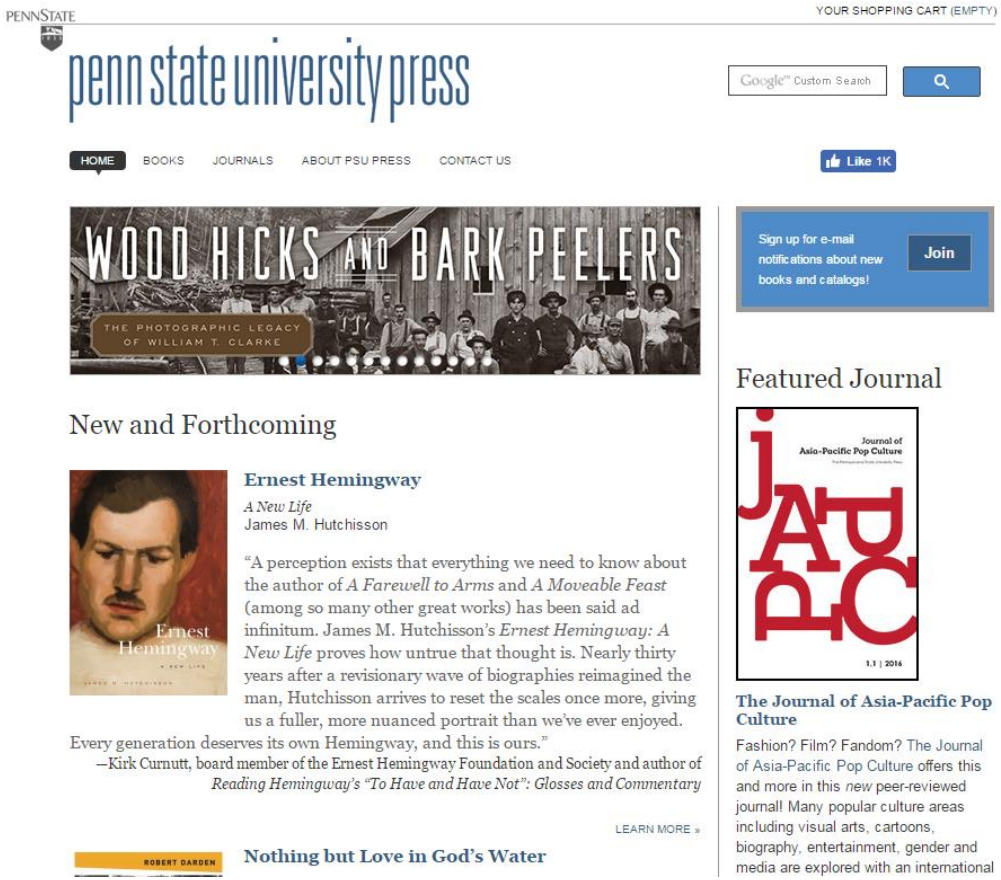

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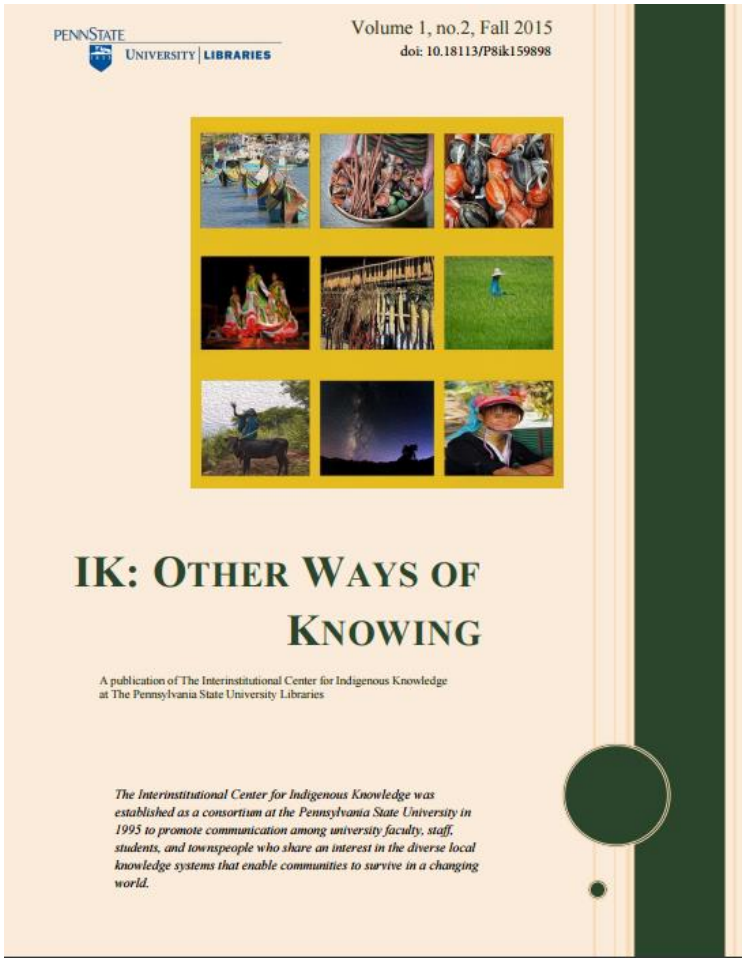
Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge: Other Ways of Knowing



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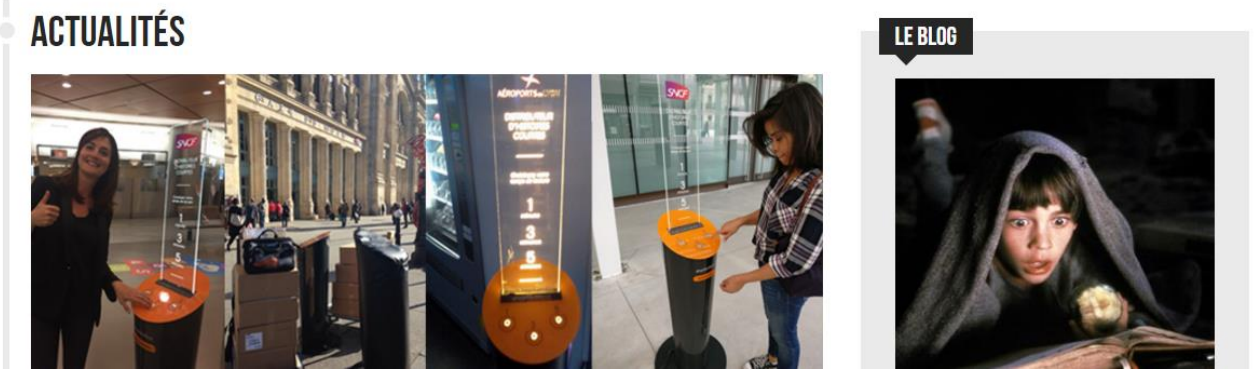
Short Edition Story Machines



short-edition.com

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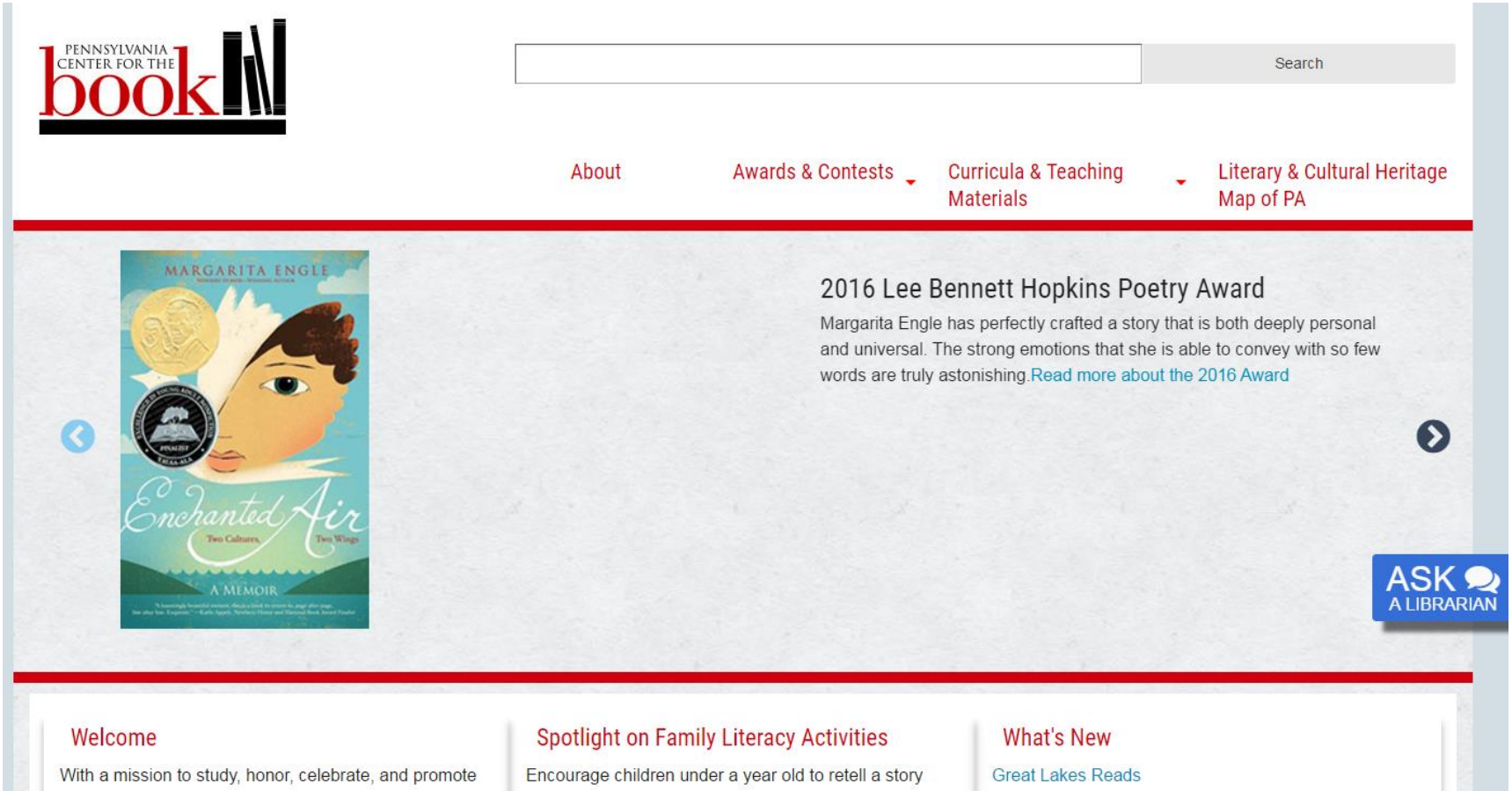
Pennsylvania Center for the Book



pabook.libraries.psu.edu

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New Forms of Leadership

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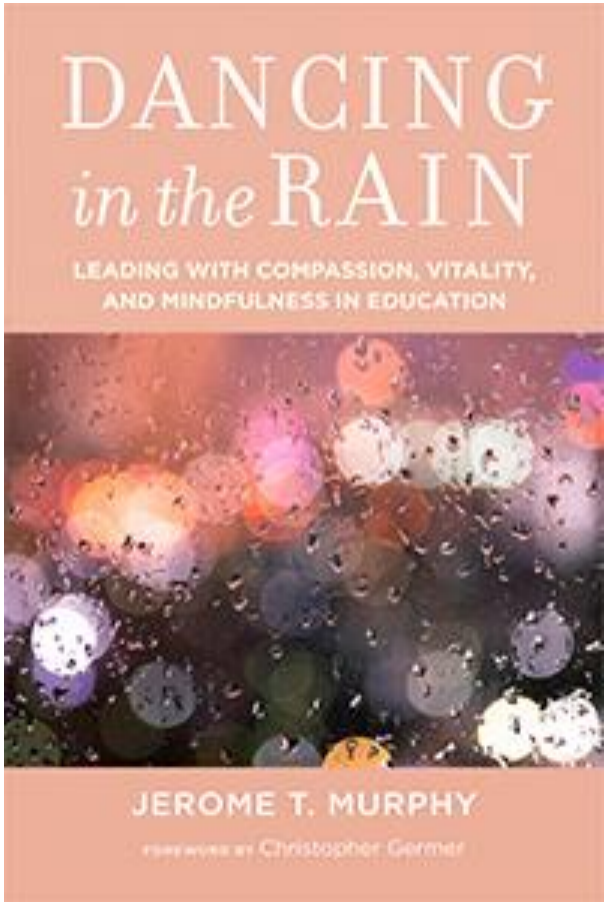
Dancing in the Rain