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# Library Newsletter

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## Contents

### People

- 2 Qatar Fulbright Project:  
Librarian Jenny Turner
- 4 New Faces in the Library
- 5 New Books by Library Faculty
- 6 Remembering Lynne Weber

### Services

- 7 Expanding Textbook Affordability

### Events

- 8 Minnesota State Mankato  
Authors Reception
- 8 Library Services Teams Up with  
the Minnesota Humanities Center

### Spaces

- 9 Lockers in the Library
- 9 Relocating the Kiyo  
Suyematsu Music Library



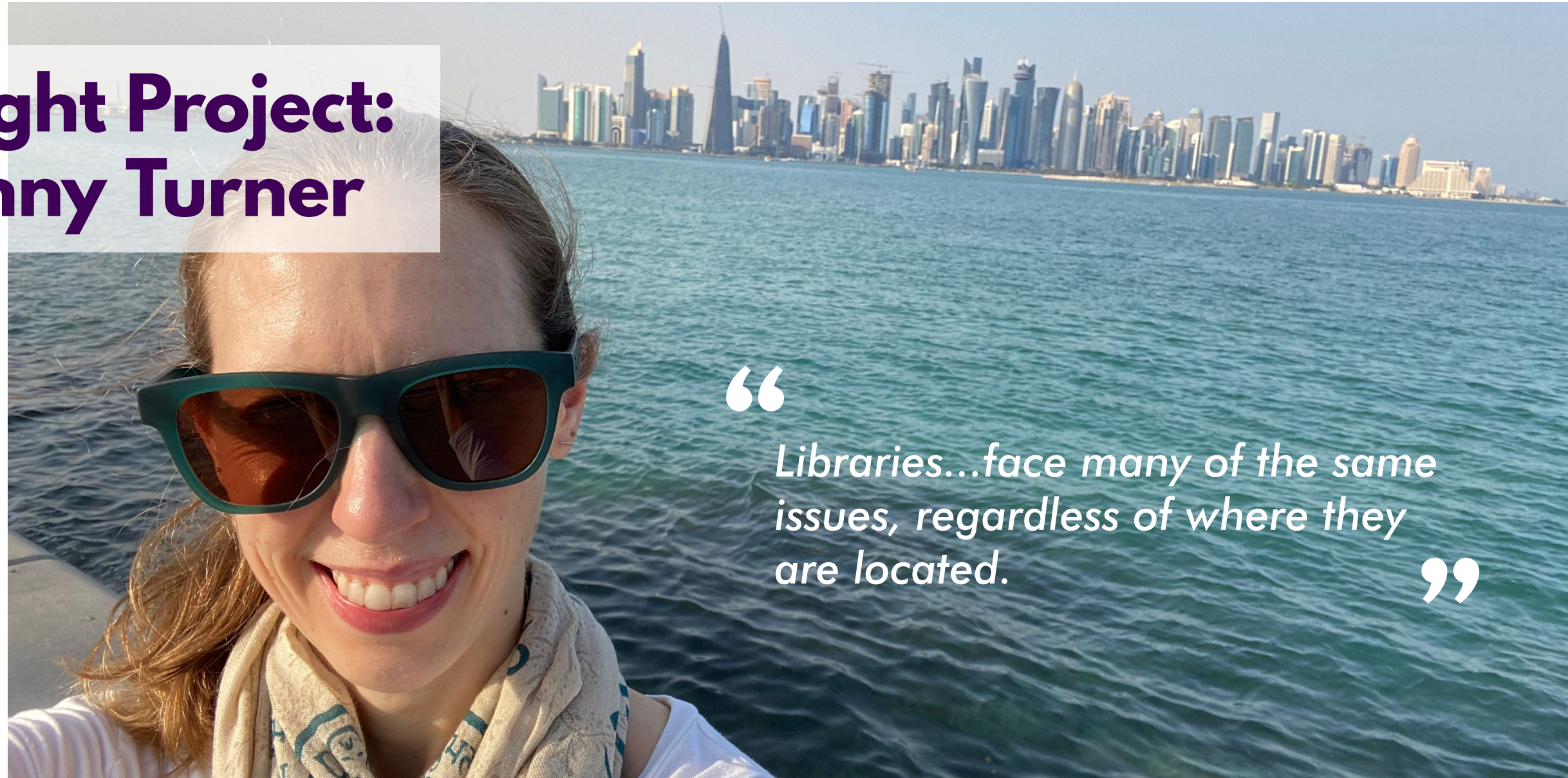
# Qatar Fulbright Project: Librarian Jenny Turner

Minnesota State University, Mankato Librarian Jenny Turner was selected by the Fulbright Specialist Program to train librarians abroad.

Department Chair and Instructional Services Librarian Jenny Turner recently returned from a 6-week Fulbright Project to Qatar, during which she worked with the Qatar National Library on professional development and user experience.

Turner first learned about the Fulbright Specialist Program (aimed at enhancing professional knowledge and developing institutional partnerships in over 150 countries) at a faculty development meeting several years ago. “At the time,” Turner said, “these seemed more doable to me than the longer-term Fulbright programs.” Fast forward several years, and Turner has completed two Fulbright Specialist Grants: one in Kolkata, India in Spring 2019, and her just-completed experience at Qatar National Library in December 2021.

The process for applying to the program was complicated: Turner was first accepted onto the Fulbright Specialist Roster in 2018, applied for the QNL experience in summer 2021, and was accepted in August. Turner finally departed in November for her 6-week trip—and had only 4 days to pack due to logistical challenges on finalizing travel dates. The focus of Turner’s project this time around was “providing training and consultations for reference



“  
*Libraries...face many of the same issues, regardless of where they are located.*  
”

and information services staff at Qatar National Library,” most of the staff of which do not hold Masters in Library Science degrees since a program does not exist in their country. Over the course of her 6 weeks, Turner offered 8 workshops for QNL staff on topics ranging from “Research Skills Using Freely Available Resources” to “User Experience & Impact Evaluation” and “Envisioning the Future of Libraries” and more. She also hosted a webinar for Librarians across the whole of Qatar, 6 small group consultations, and visited Georgetown University and Northwestern University’s Qatar campuses—all while simultaneously continuing with her duties at Minnesota State University.

For Turner, experiences like this one are important to seek out. “I have been interested in cultural differences since middle school,” she said, “so finding opportunities to work and learn in other countries and cultures is one of the professional goals I set for myself in graduate school.

“It’s easy to get set on the way “we” (mainstream, majority-white US organizations, schools, libraries) [operate], and important to seek opportunities to learn how others experience the world and discover other ways of doing things.”

Now having completed two Fulbright Specialist Projects, Turner is more cognizant than ever that

“libraries seem to face many of the same issues, regardless of where they are located,” and is looking forward to incorporating the collaborative discussion techniques utilized during her workshops in Qatar into her teaching at home. More than specific teaching takeaways, Turner’s Fulbright projects have reinforced for her that “it is always good to decenter your own experience from the experience of others.”

Turner expressed gratitude for the opportunities to seek out new perspectives, knowing that the best way to do so is “if you try to listen and observe more than speak and act.”

# Dr. Michael Gutiérrez

Director of Library Operations and Access Services



# New Faces in the Library

**D**r. Michael Gutiérrez joined Memorial Library as the Director of Library Operations and Access Services in January 2022. Prior to coming to Minnesota State University, Mankato, Dr. Gutiérrez served as Head of Public Services for the Hilton M. Briggs Library at South Dakota State University. He also served as Department Head for Reference and Research Services at New Mexico State University, and as Reference and Instructional Services Librarian for the Hugh M. Morris Library at the University of Delaware.

“I enjoy interacting with students doing research or studying and collaborating,” Dr. Gutiérrez said. “It’s satisfying to know the library can provide an environment where teaching, learning, and creating can occur.”

Dr. Gutiérrez is looking forward to exploring southwestern Minnesota as well as discovering different aspects of Mankato. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, cooking, new food, and exploring the outdoors.

## Andres Cazares Reyes Information Technology Specialist



**Andres Cazares Reyes** graduated from South Central College in May 2021 with degrees in Information Systems and Network Services.

Within weeks of graduation, he joined the Memorial Library as an Information Technology Specialist.

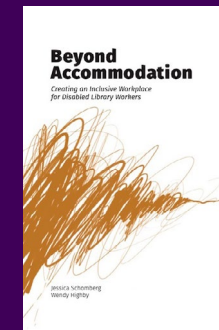
Since starting at Minnesota State Mankato, Andres has kept busy assisting students, faculty and staff resolve technology issues and the challenges technology both new and old presents.

When he isn’t working, Andres enjoys playing video games with friends and staying active by playing basketball. “It’s been fun getting to know the people who work in the library. It’s especially rewarding to help staff and students who aren’t comfortable with technology but feel better after I show them how to do something,” Cazares Reyes said.

## New Books by Library Faculty

### Jessica Schomberg

Minnesota State Mankato Librarian Jessica Schomberg recently co-wrote *Beyond Accommodation: Creating an Inclusive Workplace for Disabled Library Workers* along with Wendy Highby, Librarian at University of Northern Colorado. The book, published in 2020, explores how “Truly creative changes” can “make the workplace more genuinely democratic and healthful for disabled individuals and have the potential to increase the well-being of all workers.”



According to Schomberg, writing this book included “Collaborative use of personal narratives from the authors, excerpts with interviews with librarians with disabilities at other institutions, interwoven with disability theory and research on disabled people in the workplace.” Both Schomberg and Highby, who work at libraries and have disabilities, saw a need for this kind of research and writing. “At the time we wrote the book there was very little written from that perspective, advocating for workers,” said Schomberg.

*Beyond Accommodation* is available now at [Litwin Books & Library Juice Press](#).

### Monika Antonelli

*Libraries & Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact*, published in 2022, is a new book by Minnesota State Mankato Outreach Librarian Monika Antonelli, who co-wrote and edited the manuscript with members of ALA’s Special Task Force on Sustainability René Tanner, Adrian K. Ho, and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich. The book includes chapters “pushing the envelope on a variety of topics related to sustainability and libraries,” said Antonelli. Among its topics are discussions of why sustainability matters to libraries and user communities, the role libraries take in their communities during disaster recovery and planning, and connections between antiracism and sustainability work



“I am proud of the work my fellow authors (Tanner, Aldrich and Ho) and I did in our chapter,” Antonelli added, “which examines how libraries can play a pivotal role in supporting the evolution of Doughnut Economics and how this new economic model aids the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

*Libraries & Sustainability* is available now through [ALAEditions](#).



## Sara Haugo Late Night Supervisor

**Sara Haugo** first began working in Memorial Library as a Student Assistant, and, after graduating from Minnesota State University,

Mankato with a degree in Anthropology, accepted a temporary position in Memorial Library as Late Night Supervisor in Circulation Services. Here, she helps supervise the Library during evening hours and makes sure it is safely closed every night.

“Fortunately, I love coffee and that helps me stay awake,” Haugo said.

When not working, Sara enjoys spending time with her family, boyfriend, and her cat. Sara’s temporary position will end in May 2022, when she will move on to new adventures. Her contributions to Memorial Library have been greatly appreciated!

# Remembering Lynne Weber

Librarian and Associate Professor Lynne Weber was a colleague and friend.

**L**ongtime Librarian and Associate Professor, Lynne Weber, passed away on November 11, 2021.

Lynne served in various roles during her long career at Minnesota State University, Mankato but is perhaps best remembered for her work at the Kiyu Suyematsu Music Library before retiring from the University in Spring 2020. Library staff celebrated this occasion with a drive-through retirement event in the parking lot near the Performing Arts Center due to COVID protocols.

Lynne was a dedicated music educator and musician and performed as a cellist with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra since 1971.



A life-long learner, Lynne earned several university degrees during her lifetime.

Colleagues remember Lynne for her intelligence, service, and kindness. Casey Duevel, Coordinator of Library Reference Services, said, “Lynne was a wonderful colleague. She had many accomplishments as a librarian, but the legacy that she leaves behind is her kindness. She was generous and truly cared for everyone she worked with or helped. She would be the first person to praise someone for a job well done, and she happily shared her team’s accomplishments for them to receive recognition. She was a lovely person, inside and out, and we miss her.”

“*...the legacy she leaves behind is her kindness.*”

# Expanding Textbook Affordability On Campus

**I**T Solutions and Library Services are partnering to provide assistance and expertise to aid in reducing or eliminating textbook costs for students without sacrificing quality information. One of these [Textbook Affordability](#) measures is an increased use of [OER \(Open Educational Resources\)](#), which are low-to-no cost materials that are licensed with [Creative Commons copyrights](#), allowing for reuse, remixing, and redistribution of the materials.

Another solution is the use of [Library resources](#), which are available at no additional cost to students and often offer faculty a 1:1 replacement for current course materials. Library Services provides access to more than 200,000 eBooks, 65,000 journals with more than 4.5 million articles – most of them scholarly and/or peer-reviewed. These solutions are in addition to the physical resources within Memorial Library. For example, the Textbook Reserves and Maverick Textbook Reserve

Program provide expensive textbooks for students to borrow for a few hours at a time rather than purchasing or renting their own copies. Library faculty are always available to provide support and aid in navigating these resources.

*OER and Library resources allows instructors to bring in more diverse voices.*

OER and Library resources come with benefits to instructors as well. Primary among these is academic freedom; instructors can choose their readings, and their courses are not dictated by the textbook or the publisher. Instructors can also mix and match between Library resources and OER materials. In addition, using OER and Library resources allows instructors to bring in more diverse voices and support culturally responsive teaching and anti-racist pedagogy, allowing instructors to more easily include locally relevant materials

to help students make the connection between the content and their community.

Study after study shows that OER have the same or better quality as traditionally published textbooks. OER are easy to update under Creative Commons licensing.

Finally, creating OER content showcases faculty expertise and impact; platforms such as [Cornerstone](#) provide one with user data from around the world. OER research and publication options are plentiful, and instructors are encouraged to speak with college administrators about creating and using OER content as part of their professional development, tenure, and promotion goals. For more information about using OER content, contact [Carrie Miller](#). For information about placing items on Reserve, contact [Steve Johnson](#). For textbook questions, contact [Casey Duevel](#).

## Minnesota State Mankato Authors Reception

The 2022 Minnesota State Mankato Authors Reception was held on April 5, 2022 in the Marilyn J. Lass Center for Minnesota Studies, located on the second floor of Memorial Library.

The event honored faculty and staff authors who have written and/or edited books with publication dates between March 2020 and March 2022. The current list of authors is [available online](#).

The Minnesota State University, Mankato Authors Collection is an important part of how Library Services documents the intellectual heritage of the University and celebrates and honors the scholarly and creative achievement on the Minnesota State Mankato campus.

If you have published works that need to be included, contact [University Archives](#) at 507-389-1029.

## Library Services Teams Up with the Minnesota Humanities Center

To help improve civic engagement in Minnesota, Library Services collaborated with the [Minnesota Humanities Center \(MHC\)](#) on an online Concern-Gathering Session held on January 25, 2022. Concern-Gathering Sessions are an outgrowth of a partnership between the Minnesota Humanities Center, Harvard University, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Kettering Foundation. The focus of this work is to create civic renewal activities with the goal of developing a grassroots model for restoring the health and credibility of our state and national electoral systems.



The session was hosted by Outreach Librarian Monika Antonelli with assistance from University Archivist Daardi Mixon. In attendance were eight community members and a Minnesota State Mankato student. Minnesota Humanities Center Directors of Strategic Partnerships Casey DeMarais and Tryg Throntveit facilitated the discussion which focused on the question, “What concerns do you have regarding our state and national election systems and voting culture?” -The collected responses will be used by the Minnesota Humanities Center to produce a series of “pathways toward electoral health” central to state-wide deliberative citizens’ forums that are being planned for the second half of 2022.



## Relocating the Kiyo Suyematsu Music Library

Collection will be consolidated, housed on east end of the first floor.

Library Services is in the process of relocating the Kiyo Suyematsu Music Library from the Performing Arts building to Memorial Library. The move is

on schedule to occur between May and June 2022. To prepare for the reduced available space of the Music Library’s new location, library faculty and staff are deselecting some music library materials.

Deselection is a regular practice for maintaining a healthy library collection, and various scores will be removed to decrease the collection’s footprint. The primary criterion for their removal is duplication and lack of usage. If there has been no use of a score in the past five years, only one copy of the score will be retained.

The relocated Kiyo Suyematsu Music Library collections will be situated on the east end of the first floor and sit beside the Dooley Map Library. Scores and sheet music will be housed on one or two rows of shelves that currently hold current periodicals, and the Compact Disc collection is designated to be housed between pillars with seating and study tables on either side. Library Services hopes to obtain a portable listening room for students that can be installed on the east wall.

For further information or questions, please contact [Bobby Bothmann](#), Catalogue and Metadata Librarian, by email or at 507-389-2010.



## Lockers in the Library

Students who spend the day on campus now have a spot to store their extra gear.

During fall 2021, Memorial Library installed free self-service lockers located on the first floor and in the Educational Resource Center (ERC).

“We know the library is a popular place to gather, and we saw lockers as a useful amenity for the campus community,” said Diane Lochner, Library Technician, who helped oversee the project.

Students set their own 4-digit code each time they use a locker, eliminating the need for a padlock or key. The lockers have already proven popular with students as an ideal way to lighten their daily load.

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