

AFIT Librarian Newsletter

Check It Out

Third Quarter Newsletter 2026

Welcome to our newsletter, bringing you quarterly library highlights.



Library Usage Study

We are focused on empowering our community through the continuous growth and enhancement of our library. We conducted a Library Usage Study to gather important feedback from our library users. The data directly shapes future services, spaces, and collections to meet community needs. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts in the study. We greatly appreciate your feedback.

Library Presentations

Copyright Clarity: Phillip Elam provided a presentation on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in the library computer classroom as well as online. Attendees learned about what copyright protects, how to avoid infringement and the basics of fair use.

Predatory Publishers: Scams, Signs and How to Avoid Them: Wheeler Hall will conduct a presentation on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 11:00 AM, in the library computer classroom about predatory publishers who rely on deceptive marketing to exploit early-career researchers. Find out what the red flags are to look for and how to avoid them. Presentation will be hybrid.

Open Access: Kathleen Siry will conduct a presentation about Open Access on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 9:30 AM, in the library computer classroom. It will provide information on vendors and journals currently included in subscriptions the library has for Open Access. Presentation will be hybrid.

Operational Sciences Resources: a presentation by Catherine Stahl covering important resources for Operational Sciences (ENS) such as ACM Digital Library, IEEE, INFORMS, and O'Reilly on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in the library computer classroom. Presentation will be hybrid.



Librarian Liaisons

Sara Craycraft
sara.craycraft.1@us.af.mil
ENP
ENV

Phillip Elam
phillip.elam@us.af.mil
CE
EX
LS

Wheeler Hall
wheeler.hall.1@us.af.mil
ENG
ENY

Catherine Stahl
catherine.stahl.1@us.af.mil
ENC
ENS



Featured Library Advocate

Dr. Marc Polanka



Professor of Aerospace Engineering (ENY)

Photo Courtesy of Dr. Polanka / AF Photo

1. Tell us why the D’Azzo Research Library (DRL) is important to you?

The library is important as an avenue for obtaining scholarly articles so that my students and I can perform our research.

2. How do you utilize the library?

Much of my personal use is via the connectivity to various publishers – i.e., AIAA, ASME – where my access to these resources is provided by the AFIT library. Most of the time I don’t even realize that my access is possible via the library subscriptions as there are never any problems in utilizing these resources. I teach a course titled Technical Communications for Aerospace Engineers and the main part of this class is centered around students performing a literature review for their thesis. The library is a key element to the success of the students in this activity, and this starts with the library providing an overview of their capabilities to the students. Then the students are able to go to the library to find what they need. However, the best part of the library is the librarians as I often just ask them directly for whatever help or resources I need and they are always able to provide me with what I require. The librarians are also excellent resources for my students to acquire relevant material.

3. How do you describe the D’Azzo Research Library to others?

First off, I always start by saying that the library provides the best services to the AFIT community out of any of the support organizations. It was that way when I started here in 2009 and is still that way. Then, I usually talk about a library as “The place with the books”, but the AFIT library has grown to be more than just that. My wife is a librarian as well, and I have watched libraries transform from a source for printed material to a place where work gets done. The AFIT library has made strides to provide locations for students to study, work on projects, and to relax between classes. The connectivity between the library and the CIE has also been a benefit for our students.

4. What are the top three library services that you use?

I don’t often use things like interlibrary loan much or “Ask-a-Librarian” even though I am glad these services exist. I also don’t personally use the space the library offers as my office is an easier place for having meetings and whatnot, but again, I am grateful the library has these spaces, and I know many of my students spend a majority of their time in the library when not at class or in lab.

5. What are the top three library resources that you use?

For me the resources I use revolve around access to technical articles. I can view and download articles from publishers like AIAA, ASME, Elsevier, and others that I need for my research. If I can't find something, the librarians are just an email away and I can obtain anything I need.

6. Would you share a recent example of when a librarian has helped you with your research?

An example is when I was trying to track down the actual published version of an older paper that I had written. I had the "as submitted" version on my own computer, but not the "as published" version and I wanted to make sure I had the right version. There was an issue with gaining access to the ASME side of the library and the ENY liaison went out of their way to track down the issue and get it rectified so I could get the file I was looking for. I am constantly tracking down proper citation information on papers. Usually, it is for papers I am writing, but sometimes for papers that I review. Our access points to the many publishers allow me to pull up pdfs of most everything I am looking for.

7. Does the library's collection align with your needs?

Yes.

8. Can you share a favorite memory of the library?

One 'memory' is that on your homepage there used to be a set of three images that would cycle through and one of those images showed one of my research students sitting in one of your chairs.

9. How often have you utilized the library's interlibrary loan service?

Not often myself, however the librarians utilize this behind the scenes for me.

10. What is a great book you have checked out from the library?

I found some very useful books that I was grateful that they were in the library in the first place so that I could find the information I was looking for.



New Large Screen Monitor in Study Room 230

We have a new large screen monitor (75-inch screen measured diagonally) on the second floor in Study Room 230. Library customers can plug their laptop into the monitor providing a more immersive viewing experience. Large screen monitors are essential in academic libraries since they allow students to comfortably view multiple documents, analyze complex datasets, and work together on group projects without crowding around a small display. Maximize your productivity. Drop by and plug in today!

TUTORIALS

Coming soon, two new tutorials for the library's website!

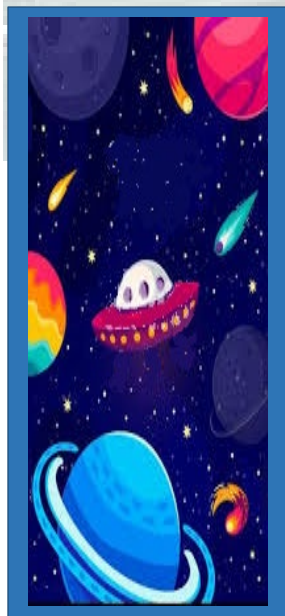
Zotero: This summer a Zotero tutorial will be added on our library website, created by Richard Mansfield, Digital Initiatives and Technologies Librarian. Zotero is a free, open-source reference management software designed to act as your research assistant. It helps you collect, organize, annotate, cite, and share research sources.

Mendeley: Phillip Elam, Electronic Services Librarian, will be adding a Mendeley tutorial this summer on our library website. Mendeley is a free reference manager by Elsevier, that helps you organize literature, collaborate with peers, share documents and automatically generate citations.



Our new tutorials will be available on the library website: **August 18, 2026.**

New Display: UFO's



Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered what's out there? We have a fun new UFO display that was created by librarian Catherine Stahl.

Available now to view, our display is timed to coincide with World UFO Day (July 2). Located on the first floor of the library.



Photo courtesy of C. Stahl

If you are a UFO skeptic, this display may make you think twice.

Library Website

Unlock the information you need. Our library website is your central hub for discovery. Explore information on library research resources, services and more!

<https://www.afit.edu/LIBRARY/>

Browse our newsletter archives. All issues of the AFIT Librarian Newsletter are available on the AFIT Library Website. Never miss an issue. Read the library newsletter at:

<https://www.afit.edu/LIBRARY/page.cfm?page=2157>

The AFIT Librarian Newsletter is also available on AFIT Scholar Knowledge Base at:

<https://scholar.afit.edu> Note: AFIT Scholar cannot be accessed on AFNET.



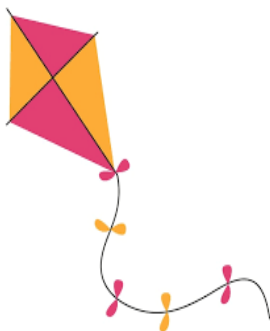
**KNOWLEDGE
IS
POWER**

Visit our library website, **be in the know.**

Library Historical Trivia

On July 1, 1731, Benjamin Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia, a successful lending library. It is notable that the collection was in English, when during the period most books held in academic and private libraries were only found in Latin.

Louis Timothee, hired as the librarian, was also the first paid librarian in the American colonies.



New LibGuides



Open Access LibGuide

The library has a new Open Access LibGuide that provides a single, centralized location to find all the details regarding AFIT's Open Access (OA) publishing agreements. It is designed to save faculty time and save users and their departments money in Article Processing Charges (APCs). https://afit.libguides.com/open_access

- Explore all active agreements: find comprehensive details for ACM, ACS, Cambridge, IOP, and Springer all in one place.
- Track funding limits: instantly see which publishers offer unlimited OA publishing and which operate on a first-come, first-served limited token basis.
- Verify eligibility rules: quickly check author requirements (corresponding vs. contributing), eligible article types, and accepted journal lists for each publisher.
- Access submission guides: step-by-step instructions to ensure your fee waivers are applied correctly in the publisher portals.

Digital Reference Resources LibGuide

The AFIT Library is excited to announce the launch of our new Digital Reference Resources LibGuide, a cost-saving and modernization initiative designed to replace outdated print reference books with free, high-quality digital alternatives. Updating our reference collection's print volumes with current physical editions would have required an estimated expenditure of \$13,245. By selecting up-to-date, open-access resources across engineering, management, and defense studies, this initiative not only avoids those replacement costs but also ensures these valuable resources are accessible to you anytime, anywhere. We encourage you to explore the lists of digital tools to support your research and coursework. If you have recommendations for other beneficial reference resources that we can add to the guide, please feel free to suggest them to our team at afit.enwl.askalibrarian@us.af.mil

Find the new LibGuide at <https://afit.libguides.com/digitalreference>

Flying at the Library

Have you piloted our flight simulators on the third floor? If not, you are missing out on a great experience. Flight simulators allow users to practice challenging scenarios, such as instrument failures, stall recoveries, and extreme weather. Additionally, they enhance spatial awareness, critical thinking, and decision-making in a risk-free environment.



D'Azzo Research Library Electronic Resources



Photo courtesy of K. Siry

Phillip Elam, Electronic Resources Librarian

Phillip began working for the AFIT Library in October 2024. He had previously worked for the AFRL Library handling their electronic resources. He has brought to his position with AFIT a great deal of experience and knowledge of e-resources. Phillip handled the transition last year from EZ-Proxy to OpenAthens which has been very successful and beneficial to our library customers.



The D'Azzo Research Library provides access to over a hundred individual research databases and collections of eBooks/eJournals from twenty-three of the top academic, scientific, and technical publishers. Users can access eResources from AIAA, Elsevier, IEEE, Springer Nature, and a diverse array of additional providers. Faculty, staff, and students will find peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, proceedings, technical reports, etc. in the library's electronic collection to assist with research and teaching needs.

Start researching with the library's EBSCO Discovery Service portal, an easy-to-use federated search interface that allows users to query nearly all library databases simultaneously. Accessing EBSCO Discovery is easy, just click on the "Find Articles & More" button on the left side of the library's homepage <https://www.afit.edu/library/>. In addition, Engineering Village and Scopus (both from Elsevier), as well as ProQuest, allow for more focused citation searching to refine research topics.

To access the library's full list of eResources, visit the *A-Z Databases List* - <https://afit.libguides.com/az/databases>, which can also be found under the "Research Tools & Collections" menu on the library homepage.

Outside of AFIT's .edu network, users will need an OpenAthens account to authenticate into library eResources. Visit the library's OpenAthens self-registration page to request an account - <https://register.openathens.net/afit.edu/register>, or stop by the library in person to set one up!



Staff Book Picks for Summer



Bowen, José A. and C. Edward Watson. (2024) *Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning*. John Hopkins University Press.

A guide for educators on integrating AI into teaching, focusing on practical strategies, new assignment designs, and addressing academic integrity. Highly praised by educators for its balanced, pragmatic, and thought-provoking approach to generative AI in higher education.

Czerski, H. (2018). *Storm in a Teacup: The Physics of Everyday Life*. W.W. Norton & Company.

Storm in a Teacup is Helen Czerski's lively, entertaining, and richly informed introduction to the world of physics. Czerski provides the tools to alter the way we see everything around us by linking ordinary objects and occurrences to big ideas. In an engaging voice at once warm and witty, Czerski shares her breadth of knowledge to lift the veil of familiarity from the ordinary.

Fermi, R. and Samra, E. (1995) *Picturing the Bomb: Photographs from the Secret World of the Manhattan Project*. H.N. Abrams.

Introduction by Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*. A collection of photos from Hanford, Washington; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Los Alamos, New Mexico – the cities built around work on the Manhattan Project. A fascinating visual history of the construction and daily life of three locations unique in American history.

Grush, Loren. (2023) *The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts*. Simon and Schuster.

A deeply researched book detailing the incredible history of the first American women selected to go to space. It provides a fascinating, character-driven look at the flight training and perseverance of these trailblazing pilots and scientists.

Kirkman, Bradley L. and Adam C. Stoverink. (2023) *Unbreakable: Building and Leading Resilient Teams*. Stanford Business Books.

This read is for anyone interested in leadership and organizational resilience. *Unbreakable* provides practical strategies for leaders looking to build teams that bounce back from these inevitable challenges. The authors share real-world stories and guidance for leaders to foster team resilience in the face of any crisis.



Faculty Resources

Visit our faculty resources page on the library website at:
<https://afit.libguides.com/faculty>



It provides a great deal of valuable information including:

Faculty materials, publishing scientific articles, copyright and fair use, patent resources and research assistance.

RESOURCES FOR FACULTY

Showcasing AFIT Faculty

We highlight a faculty member each month with a poster displayed in the library to actively promote faculty and their scholarship. The poster includes a photo and biography of a faculty member as well as information about a recent project or publication.

Previously we featured Dr. Rama Gorla (ENY) in March, Dr. Sanjeev Gunawardena (ENG) in April, Dr. Zachary Meisel (ENP) in May, and Lt Col Timothy Wolfe (ENG) in June. In July we are featuring Dr. Anil Patnaik (ENP).

We are very excited about our new initiative. It is our opportunity to celebrate and showcase the exceptional teaching, research and publication activities of our faculty at AFIT. Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

For more information contact Kathleen Siry, Chief of Reader Services.
kathleen.siry.1@us.af.mil

**FACULTY
SPOTLIGHT**

EBSCO Natural Language Search

EBSCO Natural Language Searching

Have you used EBSCO Natural Language (NLS) Search? It is an AI-powered search mode that allows you to search library databases using conversational questions or statements rather than complex keywords. It automatically translates everyday language into highly effective database queries which improve results.

Instead of trying to figure out which keywords and Boolean operators to use, EBSCO Natural Language Search simplifies the research process.

How It Works

- **Conversational Queries:** You can type your search exactly as you would ask a friend or Google. For example: *"How do electric cars affect global warming?"*
- **AI Processing:** EBSCO uses an AI-powered large language model (LLM) to analyze your sentence and identify core concepts.
- **Automated Translation:** The system converts your question into a traditional, structured keyword search behind the scenes, automatically adding relevant synonyms, academic terms, and correct Boolean formatting.

Elsevier LeapSpace



Have you tried Elsevier's new product LeapSpace? It is an AI-powered research workspace by Elsevier that combines generative AI with curated, peer-reviewed scientific literature to accelerate research workflows.

How it Works

- **Grounded Answers:** Responses are sourced exclusively from trusted, publisher-neutral content (including Scopus and ScienceDirect) to minimize the risk of AI hallucinations.
- **Deep Research:** An agentic AI tool that scans hundreds of sources to generate comprehensive reports, identify evidence gaps, and highlight contradictions.
- **Trust Cards:** Every AI insight provides transparent citations, confidence levels, and the reasoning behind why a specific source was cited.
- **Workflow Tools:** Users can plan projects, find collaborators, and upload their own PDFs to enrich their analysis.





Summer is the perfect time for attending library presentations and starting new research projects. Need help diving into a topic? Receive personalized guidance from our librarians on navigating complex databases or compiling literature reviews. The library is a sanctuary for productivity and focus. Settle into our quiet study spaces. Escape the summer heat and make the library your campus oasis.

Have a great Independence Day!



Enjoy the Summer



D'Azzo Research Library

Hours: 0800 - 1700

Open: Monday - Friday

Closed: Saturday, Sunday and Federal Holidays

We are open on AETC family days.

Circulation Desk 937-255-3005

Reference Desk 937-255-4207

Chief of Reader Services 937-255-7667

D'Azzo Research Library

AFIT

2950 Hobson Way

B642

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433