

AFIT Librarian Newsletter

Check It Out

First
Quarter
Newsletter
2026

Greetings! Welcome to our quarterly newsletter. We are excited to share with you the latest updates from our library. [Check it out.](#)

Winter Textbook List

The Winter Textbook List is at the circulation desk in the library. The library staff checks the collection to determine which titles we have in our collection in print and as e-books. The Winter Textbook List was sent out to AFIT All on 19 December 2025.

Library Liaisons Department Assignments

One of our librarians, Elizabeth Irvine, departed on December 18th. Until her position is filled, the academic departments to which she was a liaison are temporarily reassigned to other librarians. Sara Craycraft: ENP, Wheeler Hall: ENY and Phillip Elam: EX. They have reached out to their new departments. Please let them know if you have any questions.

Library Usage Study

Our Library Usage Study is collecting valuable information from our customers. It is being conducted quarterly for a year. Please look for the questionnaire inside the front doors of the library. Your input in the study is very important, providing crucial information about how the library's resources, services, and spaces are utilized by our customers. We want to hear from you.



Librarian Liaisons

Sara Craycraft
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ENC
ENG
ENY

Featured Library Advocate

Captain Benjamin Ainsworth, AFIT/ENV Student



Photo courtesy of Capt Ainsworth (AF Photo)

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

The D'Azzo Research Library has become an essential part of my research process. The staff is extremely helpful in guiding me toward the resources I need and ensuring I have access to the right materials to complete my work. It's a place where I can truly focus, collaborate, and make meaningful progress on my work. The staff are consistently welcoming, professional, and incredibly supportive, and interacting with them is often a bright spot in my day. Beyond being a productive environment, the library provides a momentary break from the intensity of research, offering a space where I can reset and recharge before diving back in.

2. How do you utilize the library?

For the first three quarters of my time at AFIT, I was in the library nearly every day. It quickly became my primary space for collaborating with classmates, working through challenging concepts, and staying on track with assignments. The quiet and comfortable environment made it an ideal place to focus on studying and make steady progress on my research. Although I am not there every day now, it remains my go-to spot, and I still find myself there multiple times a week. The staff have also played a major role in my research experience, particularly in helping me locate sources for my thesis that I could not find on my own. Ms. Craycraft has been especially helpful, consistently finding materials in a very timely manner. Their support and the library's resources have made the entire research process far less stressful.

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

When speaking to the new cohort that just arrived, I describe the library as one of AFIT's most valuable resources. I highlight the wide range of research tools available and emphasize how accommodating and supportive the staff are in helping students navigate their research needs. I always encourage new students to stop by the library as soon as possible so they can take full advantage of everything it offers.

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

The top three library services I use are the library's conference rooms, for collaborating with classmates; the research specialists, who provide assistance in locating sources for my research; and the online library portal, which allows me to search and review journal articles.

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

The top three library resources I use are the books, including through the interlibrary loan service, online journal articles, and AFIT Scholar for reviewing previously completed theses.

6. Would you share a recent example of when library staff helped with your research?

Back in November I was finishing the final portion of my literature review, and I could not locate three sources through the online library database or within the library's physical collection. I reached out to Ms. Craycraft, and she was able to obtain the two journal articles I needed within minutes. She also secured the book I requested through the interlibrary loan service, which arrived in just a few days.

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

Yes. The library's collection has fully supported both my coursework and my thesis research. I've been able to find the materials I need, either directly through the library's holdings or quickly through interlibrary loan, to successfully complete my studies.

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

My favorite memories at the library come from my everyday interactions with the staff. They are consistently upbeat, polite, and genuinely invested in helping students succeed. Whether I needed assistance or was simply stopping by, those friendly conversations always made my day better and added a personal, welcoming touch to my research routine.

9. Have you utilized the library's interlibrary loan service?

Yes. I've used the interlibrary loan service, and it was a quick and seamless process. The staff handled everything efficiently, and the book arrived very quickly.

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

A great book I recently checked out through the interlibrary loan service is *Self-Efficacy: The Exercise of Control* by Albert Bandura.

Interlibrary Loans

Need an item that is not in the library's collection? Submit a request using our AFIT Interlibrary Form. It can be found at: [About Interlibrary Loan - Interlibrary Loan - LibGuides at The D'Azzo Research Library at AFIT](#)

STINFO

A STINFO (Scientific and Technical Information) briefing was presented by librarian Wheeler Hall in the library computer classroom on Monday, 8 December 2025. These briefings assist with the identification of STINFO markings.

New Display: Paper about Ezra Kotcher Receives Award

The library has an exciting new display that features an award from the Royal Aeronautical Society presented to Dr. Timothy Takahashi for a paper he wrote titled, “Ezra Kotcher: Father of Bell X-1 and X-2”. **Dr. Takahashi shared the process of writing his paper with us.**

“The D’Azzo Library at AFIT has been a remarkable treasure trove for me and my students. Since 1919, AFIT and its predecessors, has been a nexus of scholarly work supporting aircraft design. As a result, the library has a unique broad collection of primary source material stretching back more than 100 years.

During my summer visit three years ago, my students and I were fixtures at D’Azzo library. We scoured these archival reports trying to piece together the developmental history of many military aircraft with the particular goal to better understand the decision making process which led to success. It was that summer that AFIT librarian Ruth Randall let me know of the existence of the Ezra Kotcher collection.

As my summer term was winding up, I had a few days with few commitments. I decided to ask to see the Kotcher collection. Ruth and the librarians quickly presented me with more than a dozen boxes of Kotcher’s personal papers. A treat awaited me. Upon opening the first box, it became clear to me that this was no random collection, but that Colonel Kotcher had carefully curated memorabilia from his early career as a civilian and mid career as an Air Force officer.

Relevant to my Royal Aeronautical Society paper, the original material that Colonel Kotcher had preserved included both scrapbooked press releases as well as hand-written meeting notes dating from the early 1940’s. It became clear to me that he was the driving force behind the technical design of the Bell X-1 rocket plane which General Yeager successfully piloted to “break the sound barrier” in 1947.

Kotcher’s personal notes from 1943-1946 provided the foundation for my scholarship. It showed that he was the leader of conceptual design team, setting technical requirements and sketching a concept vehicle which Bell developed into the final aircraft. The notes reveal how Kotcher was the nexus between Bell, earlier Air Force projects and NACA fundamental research.

Without Kotcher’s influence, the X-1 would never have been built – the Air Force most likely would have acquiesced to the NACA (and Navy’s) desire for a slower turbojet propelled research aircraft. Kotcher’s detailed meeting notes revealed the personalities and technical positions behind the politics which led to the compromise where the Air Force sponsored the Bell X-1 and the Navy backed Douglas D-558.”



QR Code to Access Paper

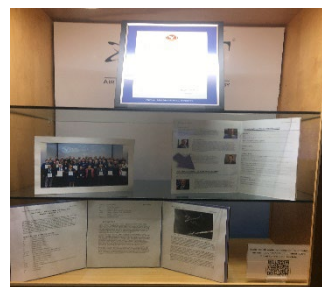


Photo Courtesy of K. Siry

Library Webpage

Visit the library's webpage! It is your gateway to valuable information about library research resources and services. Take a look: <https://www.afit.edu/LIBRARY/>

On the library webpage you will find LibGuides, a content management system our librarians use to curate knowledge and share information.

<https://afit.libguides.com/?b=g&d=a>

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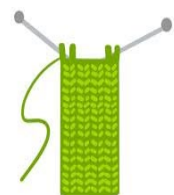
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<https://afit.libguides.com/ebooks>

Tuesday Knitting Group



The Tuesday Knitting group that was begun a few years ago by Ruth Randall, Library Technician, meets at 1100 to 1200 in the CIE on Tuesdays. It is a relaxed, small group meet up. Join us to work on your needle arts projects such as knitting, crochet, embroidery, and cross-stitch. Ruth can help you get started if you are a beginner. The Tuesday Knitting Group is an example of the library being involved with our community.



Staff Book Picks for Winter Reading ❄️❄️❄️

Goleman, D. (2013) *Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence*. Harper.

Attention works much like a muscle: use it poorly and it can wither; work it well and it grows. In an era of unstoppable distractions, Goleman persuasively argues that now more than ever we must learn to sharpen focus if we are to contend with, let alone thrive in, a complex world. Goleman analyzes attention research as a threesome: inner, other, and outer focus. Goleman shows why high-performers need all three kinds of focus, as demonstrated by rich case studies from fields as diverse as competitive sports, education, the arts, and business.

Kahneman, D. (2011) *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Kahneman dives deep into the biases and errors of our "fast thinking" and reveals how they can skew our judgment, even when we believe we're making rational decisions. With groundbreaking insights into cognitive biases, heuristics, and the limitations of human thought, this book challenges how we view the world and the choices we make.

Matz, S. (2025) *Mindmasters: The Data-Driven Science of Predicting and Changing Human Behavior*. Harvard Business Review Press.

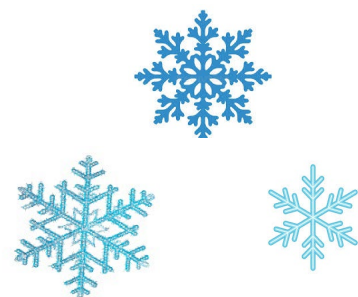
Matz, a pioneering expert on psychological targeting, explores how big data and algorithms analyze and influence human psychology and behavior. As algorithms become increasingly adept at accessing the human mind, they also become more powerful at controlling it,

Suleyman, M. (2023) *The Coming Wave: Technology, Power and the Twenty-first Century's Greatest Dilemma*. Crown Publishing Group.

A fascinating study that explores the transformative potential and existential risks of AI and other fast-moving technologies, outlining the significant challenges they pose to global power dynamics.

Sorkin, A.R. (2025). *1929*. Viking.

Historical and with the drama of a thriller, this book unravels the greed, blind optimism, and folly that led to an era-defining collapse. In 1929, the world watched in shock as Wall Street went into a freefall, wiping out fortunes and igniting a depression that would reshape a generation. With access to historical records and newly uncovered documents, New York Times bestselling author Andrew Ross Sorkin takes readers inside the chaos of the crash.



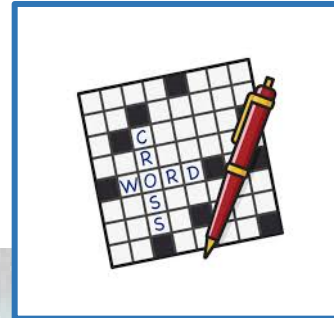
Answers to the Crossword Puzzle in Last Quarter's Newsletter

Across

- 02. archives
- 07. reserves
- 09. circulation
- 10. journal
- 11. collection
- 12. bibliography
- 13. librarian
- 15. research
- 16. stacks
- 18. weeding

Down

- 01. reference
- 03. abstract
- 04. digitize
- 05. author
- 06. database
- 08. acquisitions
- 12. borrow
- 14. catalog
- 17. renew



The Library Supporting Our Students



Providing curriculum support

Enhancing literacy and critical thinking skills

Acquiring and providing access to resources and technology

Providing expert librarian guidance

Developing research skills and assist with locating resources

Providing library instruction

Creating and conducting presentations

Participating in student orientations

Improving academic performance

Promoting reading and a love of learning

Providing a welcoming, enriching environment for study, research and interaction

Happy New Year from the Library!

As we turn the page into 2026, wishing all of our students, faculty, and staff a very successful and inspiring year ahead. A new year, a time for new beginnings and the pursuit of knowledge.



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

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B642

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433