

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM:



HOW ONE REGIONAL PUBLIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IS STAYING AFLOAT

PRESENTED BY ANDREA PARTON, DISCOVERY AND ACCESS
LIBRARIAN

STORY TIME!

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Once upon a time, the crew of the Boreham Library at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith (UAFS) had only 2 of 6 librarian positions filled, Jordan and Carolyn, with one of the empty slots being for the Director of Library Services.

Jason would take that position in late 2021, knowing that he would need to hire 3 additional librarians in rapid succession.

I was the first of the 3 librarians he hired, followed by Karen as Student Success Librarian, then Sierra as Scholarly Communication Librarian. With a full crew, the Boreham Library was ready to launch a quest Jason called “Let’s Get Loud” after the Jennifer Lopez song.

Our goal for this campaign was to increase the library’s engagement and visibility in the campus community.

3 PHASES

Pre-Jason

“Let’s Get
Loud”

Maintaining
Momentum

“LET’S GET LOUD”

Jason is a motivating leader who proactively advocates for his team. He did not micromanage but was available for guidance when needed.

During his 2 years at UAfS, the faculty and staff of the Boreham Library made progress in a variety of ways, such as by

- volunteering at and attending more campus events,
- hosting more events in the library,
- taking on a course for students on academic suspension,
- starting an Institutional Repository,
- switching to a new LMS,
- participating in shared governance, and
- being active in state professional organizations, like ArLA and AAIM.



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CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

Amid a couple of staff changes, Jason and Sierra announced that they would also be disembarking, and Karen retired in May of 2024.

As our numbers have dwindled, we have reassigned committee representation, and Carolyn has taken on extra liaison areas. Other instructors have joined the SAS course, and staff members have taken on event planning to help spread the work load.



KEEPING MY HEAD ABOVE WATER

- Prepare to take on more
- But not too much!
- Focus on silver linings
- Ask for help





MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

Despite being short-staffed, we are still getting everything done, plus moving forward with new initiatives, such as switching from Dewey to LC

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
I WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

EMAIL

Andrea.Parton@uafs.edu

PHONE

(479) 788-7206

