

# 6 Essential Booth Library Updates for Fall 2025

Booth Library supports students and faculty by providing access to resources, research assistance, teaching support, technology, and spaces for learning, collaboration, and community. These supports are evolving and ever changing with lots of exciting developments for the coming year!

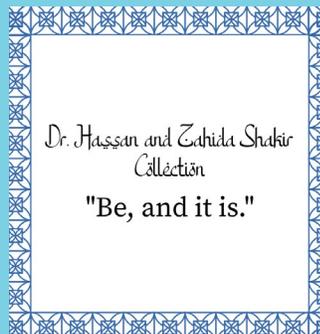
## 1 Expanding Access to Information

New additions to our digital offerings include the **Cambridge University Press 2025 Full Collection, Comics Plus, Feature Films for Education,** and **MedOne ComSci.**

Booth Library offers a rich collection of more than **1 million physical items**, including books, periodicals, media, maps, music scores, and government documents. Beyond our shelves, you'll find a vast digital library—over **878,000** e-books and access to thousands of journals, newspapers, and reports. For streaming content, users can explore a library of more than **46,000** videos and **20,000** audio titles—covering everything from documentaries and feature films to lectures and music.

## 2 Initiative on Islamic Perspectives

Booth Library is excited to announce the launch of a new program, the **Initiative on Islamic Perspectives**, beginning in the 25–26 academic year. This initiative honors the legacy of Dr. Hassan and Zahida Shakir and promotes interdisciplinary learning, cultural understanding, and community engagement through thematic, annual explorations of Islam and Muslim cultures.



### Key components of the initiative include:

- **The Dr. Hassan and Zahida Shakir Collection:** The first 40 titles of this new collection—books and media—were selected collaboratively by librarians, faculty in History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies, and Muslim Student Association (MSA) student leaders. Spanning genres and age levels, these materials are being integrated into teaching and research.
- **Visiting Scholar Program:** A scholar will visit campus this spring. Each year, a scholar connected to the selected theme will deliver a public talk, visit classes, and engage with students. Planning is underway for this year's visiting scholar. The Library, in partnership with MSA, will host exhibits and events for campus and the broader community. Funded by Dr. Abdur Shakir, the Initiative on Islamic Perspectives supports teaching, research, and dialogue to enrich EIU's academic and cultural life. Each year, a new theme (e.g., art, science, history, religion) will guide acquisitions and programming. Faculty input helps align with courses and student interests.

## Publish Open Access with Cambridge—No Fees

Booth Library's new Read & Publish agreement with Cambridge University Press allows EIU faculty and affiliates to publish Open Access (OA) articles without paying Article Processing Charges (APCs) in hundreds of eligible Cambridge journals.

Even articles accepted earlier in 2025 for non-OA publication may qualify for retroactive OA conversion. Authors can check journal eligibility and [find step-by-step publishing guidance on Cambridge's website](#). As part of this agreement, the full 2025 Cambridge journal collection—over 400 titles—is also accessible to all EIU users.

### 3 Partnering for Student Learning and Success

Booth Library equips students with the tools, skills, and confidence to succeed academically. Last year, over 4,000 students attended research sessions—reflecting our strong faculty partnerships and commitment to learning. This fall, we're enhancing support with updated tools and expanded collaboration.

- **Orientation LibGuide:** A brand-new guide designed for all students new to EIU, including transfers. It features a special section for remote learners to help them take advantage of library resources. Explore everything from locating materials and borrowing technology to printing and more!
- **Empowered Researcher Workshops:** Skill-building sessions to boost student research confidence and success. These sessions are offered throughout the semester and are open to students from every discipline.
- **Research & Communication Support Services:** Help your students succeed with drop-in support for writing, research, and presentations—available right in the library through our partnership with the Writing Center.
- **Teams Video Research Help:** A new option for supporting students remotely—librarians are now available via Microsoft Teams with screen sharing and real-time research guidance.
- **AI Sandbox:** Targeted programming to help faculty navigate the evolving world of academic AI tools.

These collaborative programs meet students where they are—and give them the confidence and support to go even further in your course..



#### Up the Learning Experience by Showcasing Your Students' Work:

Booth Library invites faculty to partner with us in displaying student research, writing, and creative projects. We're proud to have hosted 7 student-produced exhibits last academic year—and we're always looking to celebrate more outstanding student work. Contact your liaison to discuss opportunities!

### 4 New and Reimagined Learning Spaces

It's been over 20 years since Booth Library's last major remodel—and in that time, the way our campus community learns and researches has evolved dramatically. In response, we've reimagined and refreshed several key areas to better support instruction, collaboration, and research.

- **eClassroom:** Now a flexible, active learning classroom with movable desks, student laptops, OWL conferencing technology and monitors on multiple walls. This flexible space supports in-person, hybrid, and virtual instruction with integrated technology.
- **Collaboration Commons:** Located near the Research Help Desk, this reservable space features comfortable, lounge-style furniture and is ideal for in-library class sessions. Its proximity to a librarian allows for real-time support and collaboration. Drop by and bring your class!

Booth Library remains committed to designing responsive, adaptable spaces that meet the evolving needs of our students and faculty. Contact your liaison to reserve a space.





## 5 Tech for Teaching, Learning, and Creating

Booth Library technology ensures that ALL students have the tools they need to excel at EIU and prepare for future careers. These resources also allow faculty in any discipline to integrate innovation into their courses. The library has a large computer lab, a fleet of 270 laptops for extended loan, and access to equipment such as cameras, sound recorders, A/V editing stations, 3D modeling workstations, scanners, podcasting equipment, Virtual Reality goggles, and data analysis tools.

Booth Library technology is expanding again this year!

- **New 3D resin printer** offers high-detail prototyping and creative output. Instructors can request consultations for incorporating this and other technology into their courses, and individual support is available for students using these tools.
- **3D printing on demand** continues to be free for all students and faculty this Fall!



## 6 Innovative Learning with Technology

**Digital literacy** is the ability to use technology to find, evaluate, organize, create, and communicate information safely and responsibly. Proficiency in digital tools and scholarship is imperative for academic success and career readiness!

**The Center for Student Innovation (CSI)** is the campus-wide resource for equipping our students and faculty with the requisite skills. Its programming will greatly expand this academic year.

- **Daily Discovery Hours** offer hands-on, walk-in learning in 3D printing, podcasting, and green screen technology
- **101 Workshops** are designed to give participants a beginner-friendly introduction to the technology. Each session focuses on one type of equipment; podcasting, 3D printing, or green screen.
- **Learning Labs** providing instruction on 3D design, virtual reality and audio production, and more will be offered to all campus members throughout the semester
- **Recurring training sessions for Adobe Creative Suite** applications: learning opportunities empower ALL students and faculty to use digital technology confidently and incorporate it into their work. Upon request sessions for specific courses can be provided.

Booth Library welcomes **Dr. Devansh Saini** as the new **Center for Student Innovation Director**. After serving as interim director last spring, Dr. D now returns to the role for AY 25-26. He is an Assistant Professor in the School of Technology. If you're interested in incorporating technology into your courses, reach out to Dr. D for an expert consultation, [dsaini2@eiu.edu](mailto:dsaini2@eiu.edu).



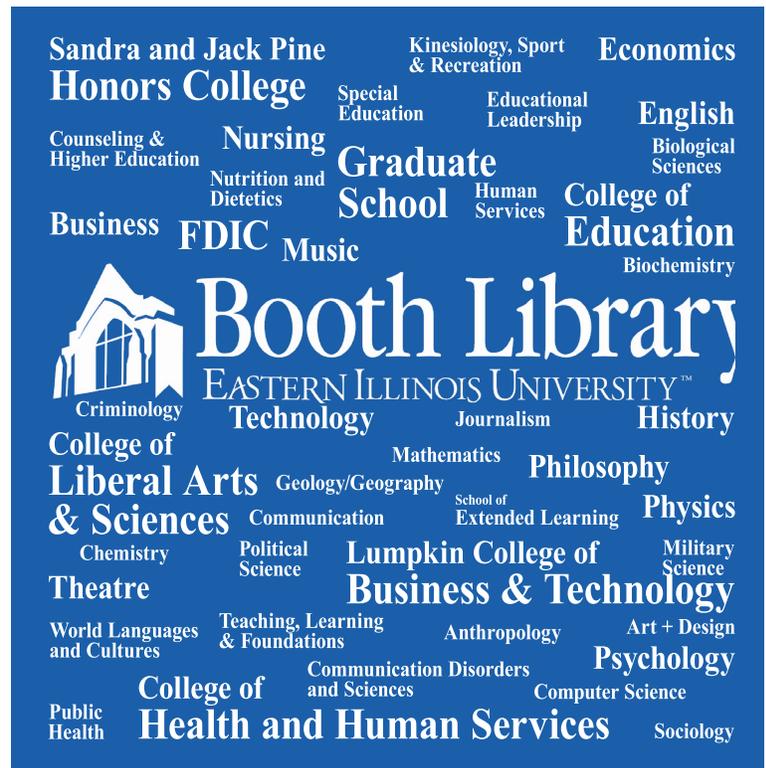
# Partner with Your Library Liaison

Relationships between librarians and the faculty and students in academic programs are essential. Each discipline has a library faculty member as their liaison.

## The role of the liaison includes

- helping students develop critical information literacy skills
- providing specialized research support, including one-on-one consultations, assistance with literature reviews, and guidance on using advanced research
- fostering two-way communication and ensuring awareness of library services and resources
- working closely with faculty to identify and acquire resources
- supporting teaching through the incorporation of library resources and information literacy

Please contact your librarian colleagues at any time and for additional information or to provide your feedback on all of the developments in Booth Library.



**David Bell**  
dsbell@eiu.edu

English, Journalism, Sport, Theatre

**Steve Brantley**  
jsbrantley@eiu.edu

Art and Design, Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, History, Human Services, Community Leadership, Political Science

**Todd Bruns**  
tabruns@eiu.edu

Technology

**Ellen Corrigan**  
ekcorrigan@eiu.edu

Art and Design

**Janice Derr**  
jmderr@eiu.edu

Africana Studies, Gender/Race/Sexuality Studies

**Kirstin Duffin**  
kduffin@eiu.edu

Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Communication Disorders and Sciences, Geography, Geology, Math/Computer Science, Physics, Statistics

**Sarah Johnson**  
sljohnson2@eiu.edu

Economics, Government Documents, Library Science, Statistics

**Stacey Knight-Davis**  
slknight@eiu.edu

Nursing, Public Health & Nutrition

**Michele McDaniel**  
mkmcdaniel@eiu.edu

Business, Counseling, Children's Literature, Education

**Amy Odwarka**  
aodwarka@eiu.edu

Communication Studies, Philosophy and Religion, Psychology

**Bill Schultz**  
wnschultz@eiu.edu

Music

**Brad Tolppanen**  
bptolppanen@eiu.edu

World Languages and Cultures



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