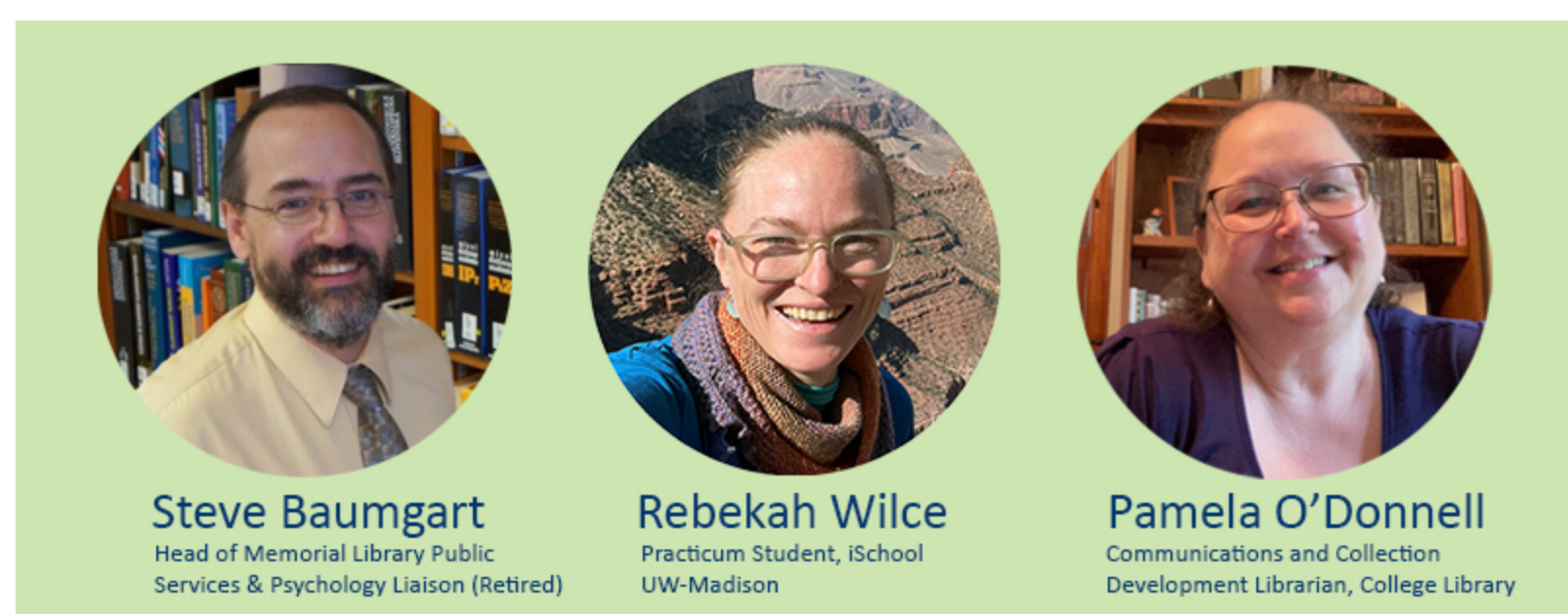


Establishing Wellness (as a Collection) at UW-Madison



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Communications and Collection Development Librarian, College Library

2003

College Library, the undergraduate library on campus, created the Open Book Collection to mimic a bookstore browsing experience.

2017

Open Book's Self-Help section was combined with the relocated Career Collection to become the Career & Student Success Collection.

May 2024

Steve Baumgart, the selector for Psychology, approached College Library about collecting popular psychology/wellness materials for a browsable, accessible collection.

June 2024

A one-time sum of \$500 was allocated to purchase materials for the new collection. Bekah Wilce, a graduate student in the UW's iSchool began her practicum at College Library.

June 2024

Working with Pamela, Bekah drafted a policy for developing the Wellness Collection. After incorporating feedback from Steve, this document provided guidance for the entire project.

June 2024

Bekah identified 101 titles from other Open Book sections to be re-assigned to Wellness. Titles related to the optimization of skills remained in Career & Student Success.

July 2024

With the start of the new fiscal year, 128 titles identified by Steve were ordered. Bekah selected another two dozen titles to purchase, some as both print & ebooks.

July 2024

The Wellness Collection was designated as a location in our catalog and the 101 titles were relabeled and re-assigned. Bekah also weeded the Career & Student Success Collection.

Collection Development Policy

The Wellness Collection features popular non-fiction related to mental health and wellness. Works are primarily recently published – in the last six to seven years – unless a work is considered seminal or recommended by one of our campus partners (e.g., University Health Services, Employee Assistance Office). Although College Library is primarily focused on facilitating discovery and learning for undergraduate students, the Wellness Collection is intended for the entire university community. Books are selected for their relevance to wellness topics such as mental health, happiness, resilience, thriving, healing, empowerment, and mindfulness. Books are primarily collected in English, with an emphasis on North America and a focus on the United States. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core tenets of the collection as we strive to represent a multitude of experiences and intersectional identities and needs to reflect our campus population. Collection decisions place importance on who is being represented in wellness literature and supporting, valuing, and purchasing materials that introduce the unique perspectives and needs of underserved and marginalized communities. Materials from the perspective of a neurodivergent population as well as resources for a variety of learner types in an academic institution are actively sought. The fund is administered by the library with recommendations from and coordination with the selector for psychology and other campus partners. Both print (with a preference for paperback) and electronic formats are collected, to increase the safety of vulnerable patrons. Materials will be removed from the physical collection at College Library when their currency lapses and/or due to space considerations or low circulation. Items in the collection removed from College Library are sent to the Verona Shelving Facility. Wellness literature is a genre that has academic value in both its current and historical context. It provides not only social context for the times in which it was written, but also the potential for analysis as a genre.



August 2024

New shelf signs to label the collection were ordered/installed.

August 2024

Pamela promoted the Wellness Collection on social media. Images and links to Bekah's blog post on the library's home-page appeared on Facebook, Instagram & Threads.

August 2024

As the final piece of her practicum, Bekah designed a poster and created a display in Open Book highlighting the Wellness Collection.



Key Takeaways

1. The Wellness Collection has proved popular in the ten months since its inception with over 20% of the collection currently in circulation.
2. With UHS Let's Talk and other campus partners providing counseling services in College Library, the Wellness Collection ensures resources are available to recommend.

