



Libraryinsider

Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh Library System's *Library Insider*. Here, we share brief updates on library spaces, services, programs, and people, and extend invitations to library-hosted events we hope you will find interesting. Thanks for reading!

In this Issue:

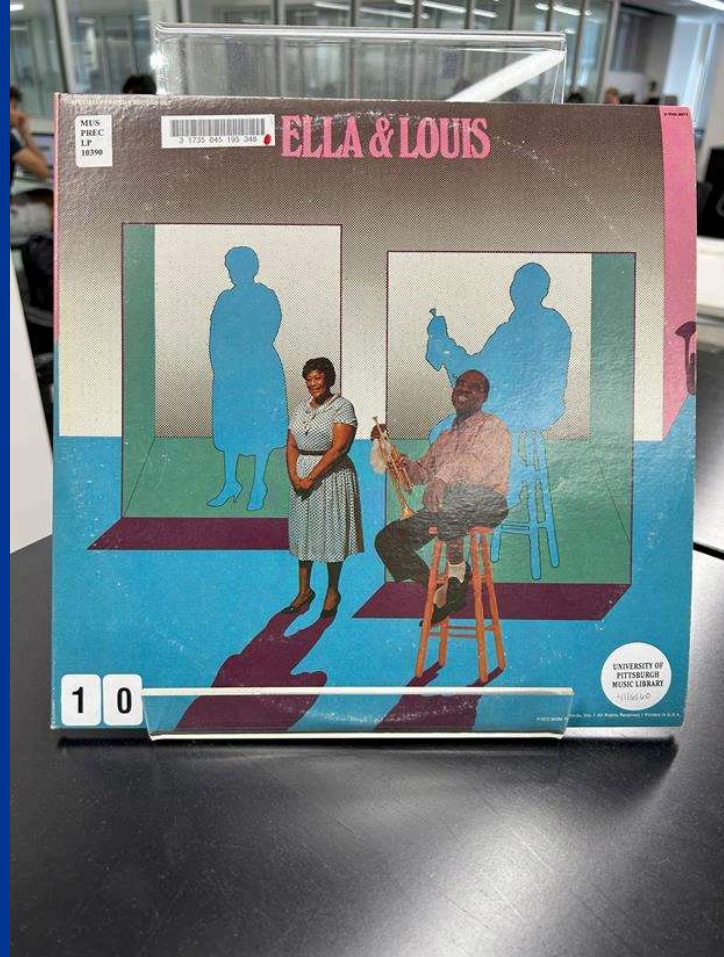
Spotlight Collections at Hillman Library
The Ahmad Jamal Archive in Homewood
A Collaborative Mural Project is Underway at Hillman Library
The Text & conText Lab's Columbian Hand Press Added to Global Database
Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition
Archival Scholars Research Award (ASRA)

Spotlight Collections at Hillman Library

Explore the Spotlight Collections at Hillman Library to discover a rich world of stories, history, and creativity! Spotlight Collections showcase books and media curated for awareness and celebratory days or months, such as International Women's Day or Women's History Month.



Browse collections on the first floor celebrating International Women's Day, Black History Month, and Asian American Pacific Islander Month.



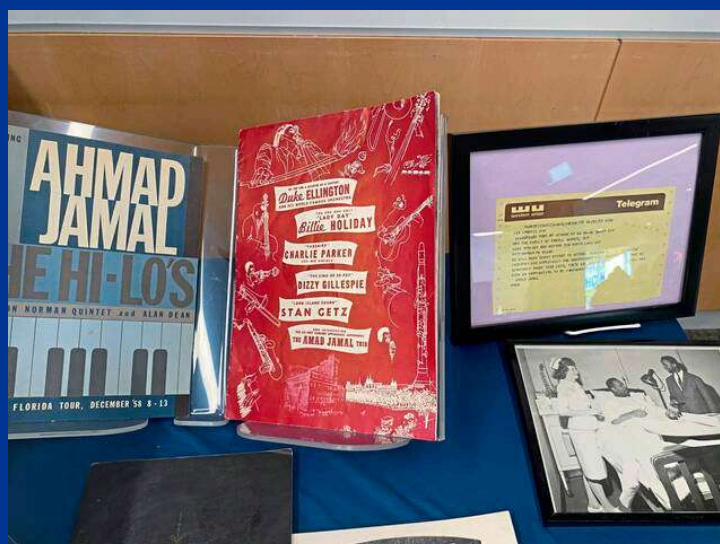
Head to the second floor to explore two newly curated collections: an in-depth look at the ULS jazz collections and "Retellings, Expansions, and Re-imaginings" of beloved children's stories.



All items can be checked out by the Pitt community, as well as by alumni and friends who have a [Special Borrower's Card](#).

Stop by and find your next great read!

The Ahmad Jamal Archive in Homewood



The "Journeys & Jazz" event at the Community Engagement Center in Homewood on Feb. 19 celebrated Ahmad Jamal's legacy and Pittsburgh's deep jazz roots. Items from Jamal's extensive collection of records, sheet music, photographs, and memorabilia, recently acquired by the ULS's Archives & Special Collections, were on display at the event.

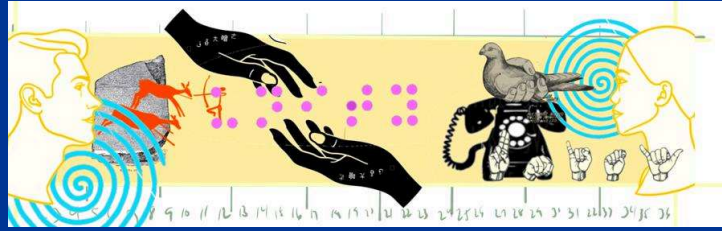


Speakers highlighted Ahmad Jamal's early career, his influential album "At the Pershing: But Not for Me," and his Chicago restaurant, *The Alhambra*. The evening featured discussions on jazz's cultural significance, Jamal's impact on music, and a live performance by the *Cliff Barnes Organ Quartet*. Attendees, including musicians and community members, reflected on Jamal's improvisational genius and Pittsburgh's rich jazz heritage, reinforcing the importance of preserving and celebrating local musical history.

Shaylah Brown photographed all event photos in her article "[Journeys & Jazz Celebrates Ahmad Jamal and Pittsburgh's Jazz History](#)," in the Tribune-Review.

A Collaborative Mural Project is Underway at Hillman Library

In January, the ULS commissioned local artist [Alison Zapata](#) to create a participatory mural at Hillman Library with the help of Pitt students. After a very competitive process, the eight students selected to participate have been busy brainstorming ideas, developing a design mock-up, and executing the mural under the artist's direction.



The finished mural, intended to celebrate textual and visual communication themes through history and cultures, will commemorate the completion of Hillman Library's multi-year reinvention, adding a large-scale creative work to the fully renovated library.





Stay tuned for updates as the project progresses.

The Text & conText Lab's Columbian Hand Press Added to Global Database

The fully functional Columbian hand press located in the collaborative Text & conText Lab of the ULS and Center for Creativity has been added to the [Worldwide Hand Press Database](#)!



Shannon Fink, the Center for Creativity Operations Manager, recently demonstrated this 2,000-pound

1884 printing press by hand-inking, layering cushioning, and pulling the level to create a perfect print.



Students, educators, and the Pitt community can interact with this incredible piece of history firsthand in the Text & conText Lab on the third floor of Hillman Library. The lab also features a Vandercook proof press and provides opportunities for bookbinding, papermaking, and much more. All Text & conText events are listed in the [ULS events calendar](#).

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition



Join us for the [3MT competition](#) to celebrate the exciting research conducted by PhD students, where competitors vie for prizes as they explain their complex research to a general audience in just three minutes.

Monday, April 7, from noon to 2 p.m.
Archives & Special Collections Room, third floor of
Hillman Library

[Learn more](#)

Archival Scholars Research Award (ASRA)



Join us for a conversation with the 2025 Archival Scholars Research Award (ASRA) winners! The winning undergraduate students will discuss their research using the University Library System's archival, rare, and special collections. Following the conversation, they will officially launch their exhibit on the Archives & Special Collections large-scale digital interactive wall.

Friday, April 11, 1-2:30 p.m.

Archives & Special Collections Instruction Room, 340 Hillman Library

[Learn more](#)

See What's Happening Next at the ULS



Check out our events and workshop [calendar](#) to find upcoming programs of interest. We hope to see you soon!

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