

**Profile of
Dirck Nagy
Library Assistant III, Murphy Library
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse
2024 Regents University Staff Excellence Award Individual Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Works late-night shift in Murphy Library during the academic year, until 1 a.m. each night; starts as other staff are leaving; the “evening face” of library to all patrons, including students and public.
- Assists in managing over 40 student workers and two lead student managers that assist during evening hours.
- Provides inventory control and growth planning of university library collections.
- Responsible for maintaining library stacks and shelving, including reshelving items borrowed from the library.
- Tactfully handles situations throughout his shift as the on-call manager; diffuses escalations.
- Increased responsibilities following the library basement flooding in August 2021; in charge of the arduous task of moving all materials back to the basement this past academic year, including the university’s vast journal collection; materials totaled over 77,000 government documents, reference items, and bound periodicals.
- Created a system for handling all items checked out of the library to make sure they are reshelved in the correct place, including double-checking that every single item has the correct status in the library system.
- Proactively devises creative solutions to shifting library collection when certain areas get too crowded.
- Dealt with staffing issues during COVID-19 pandemic; developed the three-day material quarantine system.
- Takes advantage of professional development opportunities to implement new technology and procedures.
- Learned to write special computer system queries using Alma Analytics to extract status information of shelved items to help with ongoing inventory and shelving analyses of the library's hundreds of thousands physical items; stays up to date with the library's many available technologies, print stations, and scanners to provide excellent customer service.
- Introduced the board gaming experience to students and library users; board games let library users of all types and ages take a break from screen or book time and foster an in-person social activity that also spurs critical thinking; games include chess, other strategy games, and challenging puzzles to provide library users with a means to de-stress and take a healthy break from the rigors of studying.
- Motivates staff to carefully manage library resources.
- Keeps focus on students and learning, both student employees and students who are studying.

In Dirck Nagy’s own words:

- “Traditionally, intellectual growth is encouraged in ways as simple as providing access to information, or as complex as tutoring, critiquing, and proofing. But a culture of curiosity can be stimulated in more subtle ways, such as: maintaining a comfortable venue where study is not only encouraged but is also respected; providing games and puzzles which require calculations and creative solutions, and exhibiting artwork without an overt agenda, challenging the mind only to inspect what it observes.”

In the words of colleagues:

- “By displaying a positive, customer first, and caring attitude, he truly does service as the evening anchor for this unit, library, campus, and beyond.”—*John Jax, Murphy Library Director, UW-La Crosse*
- “His concern for our patrons runs through everything he does and his service to Murphy and its patrons is invaluable....His efforts during the last year, particularly the spearheading of the vast journal reshelving project in the basement, have been exceptional.”—*Kevin Dinsmore, Murphy Library-Interlibrary Loan, UW-La Crosse*