

COVER TO COVER

Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community



Uvalde's Will C. Miller Library at SRSU-RGC

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Cover to Cover is evolving to keep the SRSU community current on library and archives news. Keep up by visiting library.sulross.edu and following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) @srsulibrary.

Letter from the Director, Betsy Evans

There's nothing more energizing than the last few weeks of classes and gearing up for finals. This is when we see students getting down to business in our study rooms, group study areas, and heading back to the Lobo Den for tutoring and advising.

This semester was about stretching into our new(ish) roles in the Library and Archives. We completed a reorganization at the beginning of the academic year, taking into account our strategic goals over the next five years as a library and archives, and acting practically about recruitment and retention of library professional and paraprofessional staff. We are small but mighty, and we're ready to work for you in support of your students and your research and enrichment needs. A **Biennial Report for FY21-22** of the Library and Archives is now available here and in the **News & Reports** area of our website.



The Return of Nerd Nite!

This fall, **Victoria Contreras**, **Edwin Urias**, **Kayla Waggoner**, **Mike Fernandez**, and **April Aultman Becker** worked together to bring Nerd Nite back to the Big Bend. A very crowded and successful **Nerd Nite Big Bend** took place at Alpine Wine on November 10 featuring talks by **Stephen Hummel** of the McDonald Observatory, **Matt Walter** of SRSU's Museum of the Big Bend, and **Rebecca Potts**, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University. **Al Gomez** created the Nerd Nite Big Bend logo. Look for another Nerd Nite in the Spring. *Want to speak at a future Nerd Nite? Contact a staff member mentioned above.*

NEW QuickSearch user interface (UI) update coming Fall 2023

We are preparing for a Fall 2023 transition to a new and enhanced interface for **QuickSearch**, our one-stop-shop for searching, discovering, and accessing most of the Library and Archives' print and electronic resources. The new interface brings many new features, including personalized dashboards to save and organize research; new ways to refine, navigate, "like," and share search results; and the Concept Map, an interactive and visual search tool.

To learn more about the interface and features, see [this video introduction to the new interface](#) created by EBSCO, and [check out a tutorial of the Concept Map](#). Additional instructional guides from the SRSU Library will be made and shared soon.

**Congratulations to Library Student Assistants
Vanessa Salazar, Yaritza Garcia, and Kris Porter
on their December 2022 Graduation!****Archives of the Big Bend keeps busy with
Research RoundUp and Archives Bazaar**

Head of Archives and sole Archivist **Victoria Contreras** opened the Archives up to the SRSU Community in September with the first annual Research RoundUp to promote primary research among students, faculty, and staff. Then, in October, the Archives went on the road to Las Cruces, New Mexico for the Border Regional Archives Group's Archives Bazaar. At this meetup of archival institutions, professionals, novices, and lovers of history gathered to share stories, dissect the past, and view primary documents.

Keep an ear to the ground for more events from the Archives, and be sure to contact Contreras to visit and research:

victoria.contreras@sulross.edu or
SRSUarchives@sulross.edu, 432-837-8127.

Thanks to the SRSU Title III Stem Lobotrack Grant, the SRSU Library has expanded access to content through JSTOR. Check out expanded access using QuickSearch or directly through JSTOR in [Databases A-Z](#).

SRSU Faculty Pubs on Digital Collections

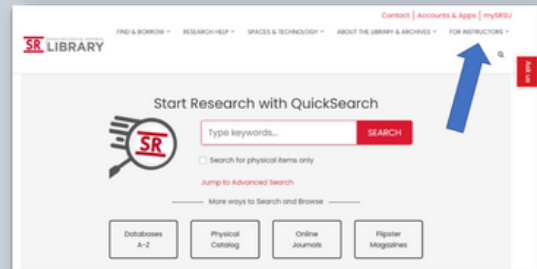
A new collection was published to the Library and Archives' Digital Collections this fall by Head of Systems **Mike Fernandez**. The SRSU Faculty Publications collection was established to celebrate the first annual Outstanding Scholar Award sponsored by the Office of the Provost in 2022. In addition to applying for the honor of Outstanding Scholar, SRSU faculty were invited to display publications or artworks completed between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2022 in the library and online. [Click here to view the collection](#) and keep an eye out for how to contribute in the future.

Thanks to FYS instructors:
Fall 2022 is the first semester to have 100% Library participation by FYS classes!
We love the opportunity to engage with SRSU students.



Helpful info for faculty planning courses

As you look toward the Spring 2023 semester and beyond, we'd like to direct your attention to the FOR INSTRUCTORS area of the Library and Archives' website, <https://library.sulross.edu/instructor-services/>.



This special area of our website includes:

- Library and Archives **Syllabus Statements**;
- A page specifying services and resources available to faculty, staff, and students at RGC, <https://library.sulross.edu/rgc/>; and
- Information about our **Library Instruction Program** and how to collaborate with us.
 - **For example:** The **Library Teaching and Learning Toolkit** outlines our Library Learning Outcomes, links to presentations and handouts for your use, and highlights additional guides of potential interest.

We welcome opportunities for collaboration with the Library and Archives, and we hope to engage with you and your students in the Spring and beyond. Some of our existing research guides require maintenance, and – knowing the development of new content takes time – we are open to all recommendations and requests. For more info about the Library and Archives, check out our **Contact page**. See also **Tips for building relationships with SRSU Librarians**.

Clippings

- Archives of the Big Bend's Archivist **Victoria Contreras** was featured in **Episode 3** of *Texas Monthly's "White Hats"* podcast along with **David Keller** from the Center for Big Bend Studies.

“Primary sources have a way of showing us the truth, whether we want to see it or not. And that can be uncomfortable for a lot of people. And especially for archivists who are trying to be a lot more honest about where we are and what we have, and what’s really happened in our area. That can get a little complicated.”—Victoria Contreras

- An Oral History of Leona Mae Starr Baker from the Archives' holdings was used in *Texas Architect* magazine's story **"No Vacancy,"** along with several photos from the Archives in the print edition of the November/December 2022 issue.



SRSU students present primary research at Center for Big Bend Studies Conference

In November, nine undergraduate students from Dr. **Kendra DeHart**'s History of the American West class (HIST 3310) presented posters at the annual Center for Big Bend Studies Conference. **Arron Luna, Buddy Imboden, Estaban Ramos, Felipe Gonzales, Justin Corbett, Mark Metevier, Matthew Wheeler, Victoria Peebles, and Samuel Valadez** did extensive research using the Archives of the Big Bend during the Fall 2022



Dr. DeHart and her students pose for a picture at the CBBS Conference

semester in preparation for the Conference with training and guidance from Head of Archives **Victoria Contreras**. We couldn't be more proud of their hard work over the course of the semester and their success at their very first academic conference! Student research topics included:

- The "Frontier" University: Discrepancies of Identity and History
- A Frontier "Stained with Blood": A Recollection of the Violence in the Big Bend Region from the Perspective of Harry Warren
- The Frontier Big Bend and "Frontier Families"
- School Segregation on the Frontier in the Early 20th Century

TexShare Resources Update for 2023 from Mike Fernandez

The SRSU Library is a member of the statewide resource-sharing consortium known as TexShare, which is administered by the **Texas State Library and Archives Commission** (TSLAC). TexShare provides member libraries with a number of services, including access to the TexShare Databases Program.

Every five years, TSLAC is required to undergo a solicitation process for new contracts. This process began earlier in the year and recently concluded this August. As a result of the negotiations, TSLAC will not renew the majority of its contracts with the vendor EBSCO. Instead, they have issued larger contracts to the vendors ProQuest and Cengage Learning (Gale).

The majority of electronic resources the SRSU Library subscribes to through EBSCO are provided by TexShare. TSLAC has provided a one-year continuation of current EBSCO resources set to expire on August 31, 2023. We now have access to the new content provided by Cengage Learning (Gale) and ProQuest. You can view these resources through our Databases A-Z list on the library's homepage (library.sulross.edu) or by checking the **TexShare Databases Guide**. The vast majority of these resources are also discoverable when conducting research using QuickSearch. In Spring 2023, we will be reaching out to academic departments with specific recommendations for your areas. 🦊