

COVER TO COVER

Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community



A scene from Drop Everything And Read Day, April 12, on the Mall

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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

It was such a busy spring, we're just now getting the news out!

In the Library and Archives, we continue to find our footing with new opportunities thrown our way. We started (and ended!) the semester with hot, fresh donuts for everyone, which means we established two new important traditions. Some additional highlights: We were thrilled to participate in new efforts to onboard faculty and staff and to streamline annual reporting with the launch of the [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#). We held a Conversation Series throughout spring, featuring guided library- and archives-centric conversations led by Head of Systems and Access **Mike Fernandez**, Head of Archives **Victoria Contreras**, and me. And we celebrated Drop Everything and Read Day on April 12 (see photo above) on a delightfully beautiful day on the Alpine campus. We also had fun following Operations Supervisor **Cindy Slocumb**'s lead in going above and beyond recognizing the important work of our student workers during the first-ever Student Worker Appreciation Week held in April.

Back in March, we began gathering information to focus on promoting, enhancing, and evolving library services to students, faculty, staff, and communities of RGC in Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass. To that end, by the time Fall classes begin, Mike Fernandez will have established himself at the Eagle Pass campus as the Head of Library Services for RGC. Congratulations to Mike! We are all looking forward to the opportunity to better serve our students, staff, and faculty.

We continue to search for the right Technical Services-focused librarian to join our team and navigate the future of our collections, physical and electronic. We'll continue to work as a team in the meantime to keep the library and archives running smoothly.

Theses cataloged!

Little is more important at a university than the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. Master's Theses are a great example of the concrete work and knowledge-sharing that starts at SRSU and impacts the whole world.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of Library Assistant in Cataloging **Adam Watson**, all SRSU Master's Theses received through December 2022 have been cataloged and added to the shelves. The Master's Thesis collection is housed in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library Conference Room in Alpine. Theses published after 1984 are also [available online](#). Additional print copies are held by the Archives.

Getting theses to the Library and Archives shelves is made possible by the SRSU [Graduate Student Center](#), which coordinates the publication and printing of theses for the University. In a joint effort with the GSC to save students money, the Library will now receive and catalog just one physical copy of each Master's thesis (in the Archives of the Big Bend). Digital copies will remain available online, accessible through Databases A-Z, and as digital preservation copies.



Archives of the Big Bend receives grant to assist with preserving digital collection

-via news.sulross.edu-

The Archives of the Big Bend has been awarded the Preservica Starter Plus Grant. Preservica, a leading provider of digital preservation software, aims to safeguard and provide permanent access to long-term digital information. The Preservica grant program supports underfunded archives across all sectors in initiating their Digital Preservation projects.

It offers access to industry-leading technology that mitigates the risk of long-term data loss, ensuring that valuable content remains accessible and trustworthy over decades, regardless of its original file format.

As a grant recipient, the archives will receive a fully funded Starter Plus account, providing 250 GB of storage for a duration of two years. This invaluable opportunity allows the Archives to digitally preserve and offer online access to centuries of West Texas and borderland history, culture and research.



“As a winner of the inaugural Starter Plus Grant Program, we now have the unprecedented opportunity to digitally preserve and provide access to centuries of West Texas and borderland history, culture, and research. We are thrilled to be a part of this program and to be able to promote and protect our rich and diverse collections through Preservica,” said Head of Archives Victoria Contreras.

She further emphasized the significance of implementing a highly interoperable digital asset management system for both digitized and born-digital collections. This development marks a major milestone in enhancing access to the Archives of the Big Bend and ensuring the long-term safety and preservation of its digital holdings.



Conversation Series Re-Cap

This spring we hosted a Conversation Series in an effort to engage the SRSU community in matters related to "capital L, capital A" Libraries and Archives, as well as our specific Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library, Archives of the Big Bend, and the digital worlds each inhabits.

Topics covered included:

- SRSU Library's QuickSearch: What is it and why use it?
- Library resources in Blackboard - LTI and best practices
- Toward a common language: Designing research assignments that translate across disciplines
- What does the future of libraries and archives look like?
- What are institutional repositories and does SRSU have one?



Join us for the next series this fall. More information at library.sulross.edu/convo.

Departmental Research Guides receive facelift from Librarian Mike Fernandez

Among his many other hats at the Library and Archives, Mike Fernandez took time over the course of the Spring semester to give the Library's academic departmental Subject Research Guides some much-needed love and maintenance. With feedback and guidance from Department Chairs and faculty, the new guides include helpful information around the themes of **research topic development**, **finding sources**, and **searching effectively**. We encourage all faculty to review and utilize these guides in their courses, and we appreciate the feedback and collaboration.

Check out the Subject (Department) Guides by [clicking here](#). All guides can be found under RESEARCH HELP at library.sulross.edu, or by bookmarking sulross.libguides.com.

Clippings

- SRSU Library's focus on student success was featured in the February 15, 2023 article [Librarians as promoters of student success early in college](#) from *Inside Higher Ed*.

"We're picking up the pace to meet students online in more accessible ways –such as integrating more of our resources and tools into our [learning management system], Blackboard, and developing relationships with the Blackboard administrators and our new Division of Online Learning and Distance Education seated in the provost's office," Helesic says.

- Director of Library and Archives **Betsy Helesic** was quoted in a write-up of a panel presentation on sustainability in libraries at LibLearnX in January, 2023: [American Libraries, Climate Change Chat: Library staffers discuss grant program to educate patrons on the environment](#).

Media Tower reinvigorated for use by Archives

Library Assistant in Digital Imaging and our Nights and Weekends Circulation Manager **Al Gomez** is a natural problem-solver. He regularly troubleshoots hardware in the building. This spring, he worked with Head of Archives Victoria Contreras to reimagine a media tower that had been collecting dust. He got the tower working over the course of the Spring semester, and now he will work with Contreras on the next steps for potential migration projects.

#SRSUStacks Maintenance

Hats off to Library Assistant in ILL and Serials **Edwin Urias** for keeping the second-floor periodicals section in good working order. Urias undertook a large-scale project during the semester to reconcile and straighten periodicals, the bound journals housed on the second floor. Maintenance of our holdings keeps them accessible and useful.

Resource Spotlight:

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Did you know the SRSU Library maintains a site license subscription to [*The Chronicle of Higher Education* online?](#) Anyone with a sulross.edu email address can access *Chronicle* content, and make an account to receive customized newsletters and content. Ask a Librarian for more details!

Spring Nerd Nite went DEEP! A Recap by Nerd Nite Boss Victoria Contreras

On March 30, Brick Vault Brewery & Barbecue in Marathon hosted our Spring 2023 Nerd Nite.

The four fantastic speakers included Mike Furrey, Cheryl Pratt, Dr. Kendra DeHart, and Sam Stavinoha.

Mike Furrey and Cheryl Pratt took us into the earth's depths with their slide show and talk about their favorite caves in the U.S. and Mexico. Cheryl also told us about the amazing work the Texas Cave Management Association is doing and how folks can get involved.

Dr. Kendra DeHart took us to El Paso/Cd. Juarez at the turn of the last century with her inspiring talk on Herlinda Wong Chew and Chinese resistance in the era of exclusion and revolution.

Sam Stavinoha guided us through a fun game of "guess the fake" and a thought-provoking discussion on the current trends in AI and its likely future use, paths, and repercussions.

We want to thank SRSU and the greater Big Bend community for the fantastic turnout and support. Everyone had an amazing time, enjoyed some fantastic barbeque and brews, and got to nerd out to some of our best speakers yet. Catch us for another Nite this Fall! 🐾

