Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community

CONTENTS
QR Codes, p.2
Congrats, Grads!, p. 2
Syllabi Statements, p. 2
Staff Highlights, p. 3
Eagle Pass Updates, p. 3
Conference Presentations, p. 4
QuickSearch UI, p. 5
Collection Development Info, p. 5

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
This note comes to you, dear reader, from Dead Day of Spring 2024. We love this time of year! Study rooms are booked; students are buzzing in and out. And we have much to share from another semester in the Library and Archives.

We alluded to onboarding our new Library Assistant in ILL and Serials last fall, and I am happy to report that Taylor Moore joined the Library and Archives staff in January. She has made many positive impacts on our interlibrary services and serials already. After having visited Del Rio and Uvalde over the years, I finally made it to our Eagle Pass campus this Spring. Mike Fernandez and Gaby Casarez are doing great things in Building D! We look forward to continuing to grow services and collections there.

In a cool twist for us, the Library and Archives are the hosts of the Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions grant entitled “Digital Transformation and Modernization in Far West Texas.” Michelle Lacey has taken over as Project Director for this grant and has hit the ground running with deliverables. It has been fun to have her on board on the Wildenthal Library’s second floor.

This semester I enjoyed the chance to sit down and talk about research processes and library content with faculty and students. Mike, Victoria [Contreras], and I had some great conversations with Department Chairs, and we’ve given ourselves a good amount of homework for the summer. We are leaning into strategic goals to future-proof the Library and Archives, including:

• having clear collections strategies to drive our decision-making about format, delivery, and access;
• having a well-developed strategy to meet changing user needs and research habits; and
• having a clear plan for the use of our space footprint in Alpine, in the Archives, and in Eagle Pass.

Working with these long-term goals in mind amplifies our vision to be recognized as dynamic, vibrant, and regionally important within and beyond the Texas State University System. Keep reading to find out what else we’ve been up to this spring, and a hearty, happy summer to all who celebrate.
Connecting to our Communities with QR Codes

The utility of QR codes is one pleasant souvenir from the pandemic. We've been using QR codes increasingly in our physical locations to increase awareness of complementary digital resources and services. Pictured at right is new signage in the Periodicals area of Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library promoting BrowZine, an app that enables users to browse and read eJournal content. In Eagle Pass, users can request selected titles to be delivered via Direct Mail with one tap using QR codes. Stay tuned for more crossover between our physical and digital realms.

Congratulations to our Spring 2024 graduates, Morgan Gottlieb and Vannesa Torres! Thanks for all the work, Alissah Valdez!

Get us on your syllabus!

One easy thing instructors can do to make librarians smile is to incorporate information about the SRSU Library and Archives into their syllabi. Even if a course does not require an explicit research component, the Library and Archives offer many opportunities for students to expand their learning. Simply by sharing information with your students about the Library and Archives, you'll encourage them to consider these opportunities. Feel free to craft your own statement, or share ours:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/texshare or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan, ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Coming this fall: ‘Syllabus Day’ Tours

If you use the first class day to cover the syllabus instead of diving right into lecture, feel free to direct your students to the Library this fall (Alpine’s BWML, Eagle Pass D-129, or even our virtual tour) after class. We’ll pilot hosting regular on-call tours on the first day of classes, and we’re happy to keep a list for you to offer extra credit to participants. Pending interest, we will offer behind-the-scenes tours later in the semester. Credit for this idea goes to our Student Assistant Kelsey Pavelick who was brainstorming ways for students to get the most out of that first day of classes.
Among other things, some noteworthy items from Library and Archives staff:

- Head of Archives Victoria Contreras graduated from Leadership Big Bend and became certified in an Electronic Records Management Training & Certification Program from the Society of American Archivists.
- Library Assistant in Cataloging Adam Watson was recognized for 10 years of service to the University - and we promised not to make a big deal of it.
- Library Assistant in Serials and ILL Taylor Moore was certified in Mental Health First Aid.
- Senior Operations Supervisor Cindy Slocumb organized celebrations for our Student Assistants throughout the semester, culminating in a Pizza Party for National Library Workers’ Day in April.
- Library Assistant in Digital Imaging and Night Manager Al Gomez trained in new techniques, including color film slide scanning.
- Library Assistant in Eagle Pass Gabriela Casarez represented us at outreach events in Eagle Pass including the Career & Military Expo in February and two Registration Rallies in January and May.

Springtime Updates from Eagle Pass  
-via Mike Fernandez, Head of Library Services in Eagle Pass-

As the spring semester draws to a close, I'd like to highlight some exciting developments at the SRSU Library in Eagle Pass. If you haven’t yet visited, I encourage you to come and see how we’ve reorganized our space to better meet your needs. This rearrangement has opened more areas for study and collaboration.

We’ve been focusing on improving access to the resources of the SRSU Library and Archives across Eagle Pass, Uvalde, and Del Rio, and everywhere in between. A notable initiative is our introduction of QR code book displays featuring seasonal picks and staff recommendations from the physical collections in Alpine. Simply scan a code with your phone, request the book, and we’ll ship it directly to you - making accessing our resources as simple as a tap. Our Direct Mail service continues to evolve and improve, thanks in part to Library Assistant Taylor Moore, who designed our new intuitive packaging and instructions that simplify the return of your materials.

Looking ahead to the summer, we eagerly anticipate the first books to our physical collection here in D-129. As we continue to expand and enhance our services, we greatly value your feedback, suggestions, and ideas. Your input is crucial in shaping the future of Library Services in Eagle Pass.
Librarians to Present Work in May and September

Coming up in May, Victoria Contreras and Betsy Helesic will present at the 2024 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in an Idea Lab session titled *Theses as the academic legacy of student researchers at SRSU Library and Archives: Unraveling ETD administration, modernization, and accessibility*. Mike Fernandez and Michelle Lacey will also attend TCDL with travel funded by the Title V DHSI Digital Transformation and Modernization in Far West Texas grant project.

- **Abstract:** University libraries provide access to materials needed by their campus community, but just as importantly, they preserve, promote, and provide access to materials created by their campus community. Theses and dissertations serve primarily as the intellectual output of Masters and Doctoral programs, but also as invaluable resources for researchers and as a seemingly permanent academic legacy for the graduates. Sul Ross State University currently offers 15 fully remote graduate degrees and is planning to launch its first doctoral program in 2024, with more to follow. In this presentation, we will discuss some of the challenges that we face in preserving and providing access to Masters theses, particularly for isolated rural communities, including: cost to students, physical copy redundancy, undesignated ownership and responsibility of ETD administration, institution-wide short-staffing and limited resources, long-term preservation, varied levels of access, and a lack of digital access. Our quandary boils down to one question: how do we best preserve, promote, and provide access to the academic legacy of student researchers, particularly those historically underrepresented in academia? While the need for a long-term plan is imminent, we are in an information-gathering phase and are actively considering potential solutions, including transitioning to digital-only publication and storage of dissertations and theses. We welcome attendees to share their challenges and ideas as we work toward developing a more equitable and sustainable answer.

Later this fall, Mike Fernandez will present at the 2024 #NWILL, the Northwest Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Conference. The title of his talk is: *Delivering Knowledge: Implementing Mail-Based Interlibrary Loan Services*.

- **Abstract:** This session explores the implementation of a pilot program of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas, designed to facilitate mailing interlibrary loan materials to our distance learning community and to the students, staff, and faculty located at our remote campuses in the Texas border communities of Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Uvalde. Our goal is to broaden access to our resources and services, addressing the need for academic materials among individuals who do not have physical access to our library facilities. This effort acknowledges the reality that patrons in these areas often face significant barriers to accessing resources outside of our physical and electronic collections. The presentation will cover the program’s journey from inception and development to execution, detailing the logistical challenges in mailing books and materials. We will explore the creation of policies, operational hurdles, and request management. The impact of this service will be assessed, featuring user feedback and initial outcomes on engagement and resource utilization.
New QuickSearch user interface coming August 2024

We’ll offer faculty workshops throughout the month of August. Mark your calendars!

In addition to workshops, a quick-start Research Guide covering the transition will be made available this summer. The new interface brings many new features, including a personalized dashboard to save and organize research, new ways to refine, navigate, and share search results, and the Concept Map, an interactive and visual search tool. We are excited to make this transition!

Resource Spotlight:
The Portal to Texas History is a gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas, run by the University of North Texas.

Annual SRSU Library Collection Development and Maintenance: Deadlines and Info

New Acquisitions and Annual Content Reviews and Renewals

- **Physical books** are typically acquired on fixed ordering dates, budget-permitting
  - Regular order dates are October 1, December 1, March 1, May 1, July 1
- Regarding library-funded course readings (**textbooks**), order deadlines are as follows:
  - October 1 for Spring Term
  - March 1 for Summer Terms
  - May 1 for Fall Term (**Note! May 20 for FY24**)  
- Rush orders are considered; processing times vary. Our aim is to get material on the shelves as fast as possible.
- We are now accepting collections recommendations for the Eagle Pass location (D-129).

- **Electronic content** (**eBooks, databases, etc.**) is reviewed annually, typically acquired on a rolling basis, budget-permitting.
- **Physical and Electronic Journal content** is reviewed annually, typically acquired on a calendar-year basis (January to December) with a September renewal period, budget-permitting.
- **Other formats and special-circulation items** (**such as calculators**) are considered and acquired on a rolling basis, budget-permitting.

Donations

Donations are accepted at all times, but are reviewed for addition to the collections on a monthly basis by librarians. Processing times of donations varies based on a variety of factors. More information about giving to the library is online at: library.sulross.edu/giving