

COVER TO COVER

Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community



Beautiful Level 1 periodicals display @ BWML; photo and work courtesy Taylor Moore.

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Letter from the Director

With many courses taking place online this summer, our spaces in Alpine and Eagle Pass were quiet. But our work was nothing but! It is great to see so many of our online programs growing, and we are strategizing to embrace and enhance Library and Archives service offerings to that primarily online (distance education) population. We know the usage of these offerings also supports our in-person faculty, staff, students, and community, so we consider it a win-win to prioritize projects such as developing and improving online tutorials on [Niche Academy](#), beefing up our [FAQ and Self-Help Portal](#), and training folks on how to best utilize all of our tools in support of our mission and vision. Hats off to **Mike Fernandez** for leading the charge in these improvements. And thanks to **Victoria Contreras** for taking the initiative to begin adding a wealth of self-help knowledge about Archives-related research to tutorials and FAQs, too. If you haven't visited the Archives in a few years, it's time to get over here.

You'll learn more about her below, dear reader, but we are thrilled to welcome **Maggie Bootman** to the Library and Archives staff. Maggie joined us on July 1 as the Head of Technical Services and Collection Development Librarian and has already become enmeshed in multiple projects.

Mike and **Gabriela Casarez** closed out summer and kicked off another semester in Eagle Pass by attending the SRSU Fest the Saturday before Fall classes began. When you are in Eagle Pass, be sure to check out the displays Gaby has been building over in the D-129 space.

When you have a chance - perhaps at October's Annual Faculty Awards Reception - take a walk through the Bound Periodicals collection on level two of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine to see all of the work **Taylor Moore** has put into it. She has updated the serials displays on levels one and two *and* their online records to make vital print resources more accessible and attractive. Keep reading for more updates from Summer 2024 and keep an eye out for our FY23-24 Biennial Report coming this fall.

Welcome new librarian, Maggie Bootman

We are excited to welcome **Maggie Bootman** to the SRSU Library and Archives. Maggie joined our staff on July 1, 2024 as the Head of Technical Services and Collection Development Librarian.

Maggie was born in Louisiana and grew up between Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. While living with her family in Iraan, Texas, she visited Alpine frequently. For the past two years, Maggie lived in Alpine and worked in Fort Davis for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Before that, she held various public library positions including library assistant, branch manager, and library director for eight years in Mississippi and Texas.

Maggie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Library Science from Texas Woman's University.

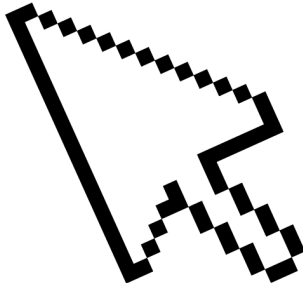
Maggie is involved in a bunch of training and projects. She has already made a big dent in a physical donation backlog with the help of our summer Circulation team, and has started working with faculty on collection recommendations. We are looking forward to what we can accomplish together!



Congratulations to our Summer 2024 graduate, Alissah Valdez!
Alissah will walk in the Fall 2024 Alpine Commencement.

>>> Plan your Fall with the Library and Archives:

- **September 22 - 28**, Banned Books Week
- **September 25 - 27**, Open Texas 2024 jointly organized by THECB and Texas Digital Library (Register at the link)
- **October 1 - 31**, American Archives Month
- **October 7 - 13**, Third Ever Fall Clothing Swap (Alpine)
- **October 14 - November 1**, Display of Faculty Scholarship
 - **October 24**, Faculty Awards Reception (Alpine)
- **October 19**, The Archives takes the show on the road! Border Regional Archives Group's Archives Bazaar in Las Cruces, NM
- **October 20 - 26**, National Friends of Libraries Week
- **October 21 - 27**, International Open Access Week
- **October 30**, *tentative* Archives' Research Roundup
- **November 14**, Nerd Nite
- **November 18**, National High Five a Librarian Day
- **December 3 - 5**, De-Stress Fest before finals



Databases A-Z gets a glow up for Fall 2024

We're excited to announce that **Databases A-Z**, the go-to interface for exploring SRSU Library and Archives' database offerings, got a fresh, new look in August! This update introduced a modern, refreshed design while preserving all the features and functionality you rely on.

New features include a refreshed, mobile-friendly interface, and an **Icon Legend** explaining all the icons used to identify and differentiate our databases. Find access to **Databases A-Z** below **QuickSearch** on the [Library and Archives' homepage](#).

Summer Updates from Eagle Pass Library

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

This summer marks the end of our first year on the Eagle Pass campus in Building D-129. It was just last August when we proudly opened the SRSU Library's first physical location here. Since then, we've been working hard to expand and enhance library services across the SRSU campuses in Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Uvalde.

In May, we welcomed the first books to our physical collection, and we'd love for you to stop by and explore our growing collection.

We're also excited to introduce the [SRSU Library and Archives Essentials](#) series, a new collection of video tutorials designed to help you get the most out of our resources. The first tutorials in this

series will guide you through using **QuickSearch** to kickstart your research and navigate the Library and Archives' website. We are committed to expanding the SRSU Library and Archives Essentials series with even more helpful content in the future.

As Library Assistant **Gabriela Casarez** and I keep growing and improving our services, we appreciate your feedback and ideas. Your input plays a big role in shaping the future of the Eagle Pass Library.



Technology Check-Ups ongoing!

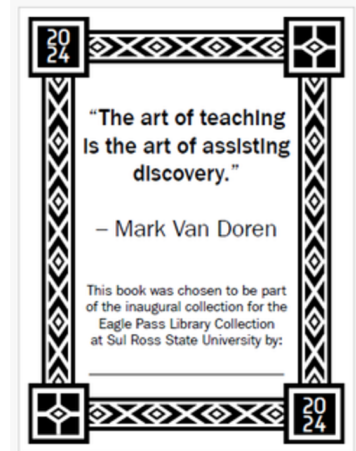
As part of his work managing the Circulation Desk, Library Assistant **Al Gomez** keeps a close eye on the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library building's patron technology. This summer, like all summers, Gomez coordinated with staff in OIT alongside Library Operations Supervisor **Cindy Slocumb** to conduct a check-up on the building's desktop computer stations in preparation for Fall. Gomez worked hard to make sure desktop computers are operating fast and connected to appropriate printers. As the main computer lab on the Alpine campus, this is truly important work!



Bookplates for Eagle Pass Library's growing physical collection

In May, Library Assistant **Adam Watson** cataloged and processed the first set of books ordered for the physical collection at the Eagle Pass Library.

Thanks to a fun idea hatched with Chair of Natural and Behavioral Sciences at Rio Grande College **Dr. Wesley Wynne**, Library Assistant **Taylor Moore** designed a bookplate (at right) to acknowledge the faculty members recommending titles as we grow a library in Eagle Pass over the next few years.



Contreras, Helesic present at Texas Conference on Digital Libraries

In May, funded by the Title V HSI grant, Digitization and Modernization in Far West Texas directed by **Michelle Lacey, Mike Fernandez, Michelle Lacey, Betsy Helesic**, and **Victoria Contreras** attended the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in Austin hosted by Texas Digital Library.

While there, Contreras and Helesic shared about the current state of thesis preservation at SRSU and received feedback from participating colleagues in a "Birds of a Feather" session.



Celebration of Faculty Scholarship Displays in Alpine, Eagle Pass

This October and November, Alpine and Eagle Pass will display the academic, artistic, and creative works of Sul Ross State University faculty from the previous year. We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate faculty work. We'll see you at the Provost's Reception on Thursday, October 24 in Alpine!

Academic, Artistic, and Creative Works
by Sul Ross State University Faculty

CELEBRATION OF FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP



Archives of the Big Bend kicks off Harry Warren Collection digitization project

-via Victoria Contreras, Head of Archives-

The Archives of the Big Bend is thrilled to announce that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) recently awarded funding to the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library under its TexTreasures Grant program. With this grant funding, the Archives of the Big Bend will have the entire Harry Warren Papers (1835-1932) collection digitized beginning Fall 2024 and freely available to the public by Fall 2025.

The Harry Warren Papers consist of journals, correspondence, scrapbooks, biographical and historical materials, financial records, literary manuscripts, and published monographs by Harry Warren (1859-1931). Harry Warren, a historian, author, schoolteacher, farmer, customs official, and attorney, took extensive notes of his travels, documented major events, and collected several first-hand accounts from people in our region who were traditionally silenced or ignored, including Mexicans, Mexican Americans, and Native Americans. His journals (1891 - 1926) include accounts of several Texas borderland raids during the Mexican Revolution, including the Nevill's Ranch and Brite's Ranch raids, as well as the only known contemporary account of the Porvenir Massacre. As such, they are consistently used and cited by researchers and students of Texas history, Mexican-American history, borderland history, and military history throughout the state and region.

"The Harry Warren Collection includes materials key to the understanding of one of the most important chapters in the history of our country during the early 20th century," said Sonia Hernández, Professor at Texas A&M University's Department of History, co-founder of the Refusing to Forget public history project, and award-winning author.

Interest in said journals has significantly increased since the 2022 archaeological excavation of the Porvenir Massacre site, which found U.S. Army ammunition fired from military-issued weapons alongside the Texas Ranger and civilian ammunition. The Warren collection is now one of the Archives' most requested and widely used manuscript collections. While some of these requests have been from Sul Ross students and area researchers, most are from visitors, journalists, and researchers from outside of West Texas, with some requests coming from as far as the United Kingdom.

This project is funded (in part) by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Grant # LS-256843-OLS-24).* (2025)

ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs to improve their lives and communities. TSLAC provides historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research, and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit www.tsl.texas.gov.

New QuickSearch user interface is here!



We hope you've been enjoying it so far. A quick-start [Research Guide](#) covering the transition is now available. The new interface brings features including a dashboard to save and organize research, new ways to refine, navigate, and share search results, and an interactive and visual search tool called Concept Map. Have you tried it out yet? Tell us what you think by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Resource Spotlight:
[SRSU Library and Archives Essentials Series on Niche Academy](#)
for navigating the Library and Archives' website and the new QuickSearch interface

TLA Digital Conversations stops in Alpine

-via Warren Davis (TSLAC)-

The [Texas Library Association's "Digital Conversations"](#) made a stop in Alpine on their 2024 statewide tour on May 31. The conversation covered topics such as digital literacy, telehealth, grant funding, broadband accessibility, and the many ways libraries can bring digital opportunities to their communities.

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
- Rush orders are considered; processing times vary. We aim 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. 