

# COVER TO COVER

## Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community



*Our talented crew of Fall 2024 student assistants: (l to r) Gigi, Destiny, Renata, Tre'Sean, Emily, Alondra, Kelsey, and Salisa. Photo by Al Gomez.*

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### Letter from the Director

Happy Commencement season, Lobos! It was another fun and fabulous Fall term. In the Library and Archives, we've kept up with daily operations while also taking time to reflect and plan bigger-picture projects for our collections, our spaces, and our services. This Fall marks the first time in a long time that we formally requested feedback from our community as part of our updated administrative assessment reporting for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. We hope you 'took five minutes' for your Library and Archives and submitted feedback. We'll be incorporating it into reporting next Spring and will use the information gathered to positively impact our work. If you missed the survey, know that we plan to roll it out again next Fall. Plus, we're always eager to hear what you want and need! Just email us at [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

We're attaching our FY23-24 Biennial Report to the end of this issue of *Cover to Cover*. The Biennial Report provides an overview of major accomplishments and updates between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2024. All of our news and reports live on the Library and Archives website at [News Posts](#), [Newsletters](#), & [Annual Reports](#).

Read on to see what we've been up to this Fall and make plans to be even more involved with what we've got going on in Spring 2025. We're looking forward to connecting with new and old faces - across all of our campuses in-person and online - in support of our Library and Archives missions and our shared vision to connect the students, faculty, staff, and broader communities of SRSU with information and services to facilitate creative exploration, intellectual growth, and scholarly pursuits.

If we don't see you - Happy new year!

## Plan your Spring with the Library and Archives:



- **January 15 (Wed)**, Welcome Back Donuts (Alpine and Eagle Pass)
- **January 22 (Wed)**, National Library Shelfie Day
- **February is Black History Month**
- **February 5 (Wed)**, World Read Aloud Day and SRSU Read Aloud Celebration (Alpine)
- **February 14 (Fri)**, Love Your Library party (Alpine and Eagle Pass)
- **February 27 (Thurs)**, Digital Learning Day
- **March is Women's History Month**
- **March 2-8 (Sun-Sat)**, Read an eBook Week
- **April is National Poetry Month**
- **April 6-12 (Sun-Sat)**, National Library Week
- **April 14-20 (Mon-Sun)**, Annual Earth Day Clothing Swap (Alpine)
- **April 27-May 3**, Preservation Week
- **April 29-May 1 (Tues-Thurs)**, DeStress Fest (Alpine and Eagle Pass)
- **April 30 (Wed)**, Last Day of Classes Donuts (Alpine and Eagle Pass)
- **May is Preservation Month**

### HSI Staff Academy

We're happy to report that three Library and Archives staff are taking time out of their year to be involved in the HSI Staff Academy coordinated by Project Director for the TSUS/HSI Grant Julie Vega: Head of Archives **Victoria Contreras**, Technical Services and Collection Development Librarian **Maggie Bootman**, and Project Director for the Title V HSI DTM Grant **Michelle Lacey**.

The purpose of the HSI Staff Academy is crafted to build a community of knowledge focused on SRSU's HSI designation. With representation from the Library's Technical Services area, the Archives of the Big Bend, and the broader Title V grant, Contreras, Bootman, and Lacey are poised to inspire the Library and Archives to enhance support for our first-generation, low-income, and underserved students.



## Updates from Eagle Pass Library

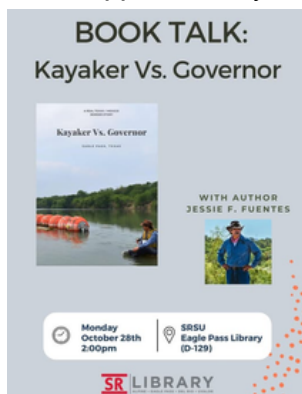
-via Mike Fernandez, Head of RGC Library Services-

This fall, we've focused on finding more ways to engage with our community across all three campuses. In terms of putting down roots, we're excited to give readers of *Cover to Cover* an exclusive first look at a mockup of the book drop we will be installing at the new building on the Eagle Pass campus, funded by the Title V HSI DTM grant and designed by our friends in University Communications. A book drop is an important and functional aspect of physical book circulation, and this book drop will also serve as a great advertisement for our existence and offerings here in Eagle Pass.

In October, we launched our seasonal QR code recommendation lists. Each month, we'll share themed reading lists, including seasonal picks and staff recommendations from our Eagle Pass and Alpine collections. With Direct Mail, students, staff, and faculty based outside of Alpine can have titles shipped directly to their homes!



Mockup of our new book drop!



Event poster

In November, we had the pleasure of hosting local author Jesse F. Fuentes, who gave a compelling presentation on his book *Kayaker vs. Governor*. We hope to organize more events like this in the future, so please reach out with ideas. A copy of the book will be available in our collection soon.

Speaking of our collection: It continues to grow! This semester alone, we've added 28 new titles, with more on the way. We invite you to stop by and check out some books! If we don't have what you're looking for yet, we're excited to work with you (first) to help you get immediate access through other means such as interlibrary loan, and (second) to grow our local collection in a way that is meaningful to you.

If you've visited recently, you may have noticed the incredible book-folding art created by our Library Assistant, **Gaby Casarez**. Her seasonal creations have added a fun and festive touch throughout the fall semester in addition to the great work she does every day to improve resources and services. Be sure to stop by and see them next time you find yourself near Building D.



Gaby's book art. Photos by Mike Fernandez.





### Fernandez presents at #NWILL Conference

On September 18, Head of RGC Library Services **Mike Fernandez** presented a virtual presentation entitled "Delivering Knowledge: Implementing Mail-Based Interlibrary Loan Services" at the Northwest InterLibrary Loan Conference (#NWILL). This session explored the implementation of a pilot program designed to facilitate mailing interlibrary loan materials to our distance learning community. This initiative specifically targets students, staff, and faculty located in the Texas border communities of Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Uvalde, where our institution operates three remote campuses. This effort acknowledges the reality that patrons in these areas often face significant barriers to accessing resources outside of physical and electronic collections.

### Contreras presents at CBBS Conference

Head of Archives **Victoria Contreras** presented a talk entitled "Archives of the Big Bend: Chronicling the True Texan West" at the 30th Annual Center for Big Bend Studies Conference on November 8.

### Lacey attends HACU Conference

In November, Title V Project Director **Michelle Lacey** attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Annual Conference in Aurora, Colorado alongside SRSU faculty and staff Cynthia McAlister, Julie Vega, Dafne Westerlink, and over 2,800 registrants from Hispanic Serving Institutions. The SRSU representatives also attended the pre-conference Women's Leadership Symposium. The group attended workshops pertaining to empowering Latinx students, HSI "Servingness," mitigating silos, higher education legal updates, and preparing the next generation of culturally diverse leaders, among others.



Lacey, Vega, McAlister, and Westerlink at HACU.  
Photo by Michelle Lacey.

### The Archives of the Big Bend Takes American Archives Month by Storm

*-via Victoria Contreras, Head of Archives-*

The Archives of the Big Bend was abuzz with outreach events and researchers this October in celebration of [American Archives Month](#). American Archives Month is a nationwide event celebrated by archival repositories and professional organizations to highlight the importance of records of enduring value to our nation's intellectual heritage. In previous years, our Archives has celebrated by offering undergraduate and graduate workshops as well as class lectures on our collections and general archival research and participating in regional outreach events.

This year, the Archives continued those traditions and added two online events. We celebrated [National Electronic Records Day](#) (#ERecsDay) by creating and sharing an infographic discussing some basic best practice advice for organizing and preserving digital records of long-term value. We also celebrated national [Ask an Archivist Day](#) (#AskAnArchivist), a day every October when archivists from all types of repositories invite their patrons and the general public to ask any questions they've ever had about archives, archivists, or our collections through social media, blogs, and newsletters. We took it

one step further and offered two Online Office Hours sessions where SRSU students, faculty, and staff were welcome to pop in and ask their questions and chat. These events led to some wonderful questions and feedback.

The Research Roundup also returned to the Archives of the Big Bend this year. The Roundup is a campus lecture and relationship-building event where faculty and staff are invited to the Archives to learn about the services and collections available to the SRSU community, especially highlighting their utility in multi-disciplinary research. This year we had brief presentations from staff and current researchers, as well as the opportunity to ask questions and meet individually to brainstorm personalized curriculum collaborations. Some highlights from this year included a fun round of "Guess the Research Request" where audience members tried to guess what research questions were answered using archival photographs, a lively talk by our favorite Texas Master Naturalist, Lindsey Bredemeyer, on his archival research in bat roost conservation, and an inspiring conversation with a group of undergraduate researchers as they prepared for their upcoming Center for Big Bend Studies Conference poster presentation on their archival research on indigenous communities of Fort Leaton.



Finally, Archivist **Victoria Contreras** traveled to Las Cruces, New Mexico for the Border Region Archives Group's 8th annual Archives Bazaar held October 19 at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum. This free all-day event invites members of the general public to visit dozens of regional archives and other cultural heritage repositories as they display rare and unique items from their collections. This year, 24 unique repositories exhibited materials and chatted with the nearly 200 archive enthusiasts of all ages who visited their display tables. Preparations have begun for the 2025 BRAG Archives Bazaar, so keep an eye out for it and other archival events next Fall.

### The Archives' Podcast Debut?

Be sure to add Episode 917 of the [Atlas Obscura Podcast](#) to your queue! In it, podcaster Amanda McGowan interviews Archivist Victoria Contreras about the history of the Sul Ross Desk and its notebooks.



**Collections Chats: Improving Access, Evolving Reserves + Textbook Collections**

We believe increasing faculty voice in decision-making and analysis of physical and electronic resource content increases the return on investment of our limited collections budget. Collections Chats are our invitation for faculty engagement in the evaluation of resources for their area(s) of expertise.

Library and Archives-funded resources are selected according to policy and procedure informed by historic practice, data, and industry standards. SRSU Librarians have recently updated the Collection Development and Maintenance Strategy to align with current best practices of the LIS (Library and Information Science) field. We expect to continue to evolve this document as we (a) fully onboard **Maggie Bootman** as Head of Collection Development and Technical Services (librarian) and (b) collaborate with students, faculty, staff, and administration on the future library space in Eagle Pass.

This round of Chats will solicit feedback about individual journal titles (physical and electronic) as well as the Course Reserves and Textbook Collections as they relate to the Sully Shelf Program.

**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](https://library.sulross.edu/giving). 