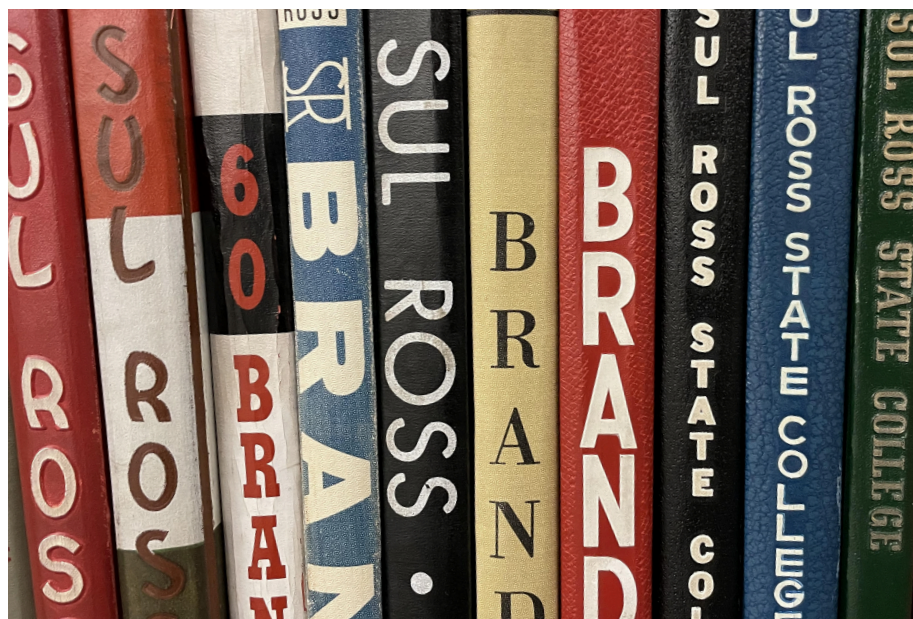


# COVER TO COVER

## Library and Archives News for the Sul Ross Community



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*The SR Brand in all its glory. Did you know that SRSU yearbooks are on our [Digital Collections](#)?*

### Letter from the Director

Library and Archives staff found many ways to get involved around campus in support of our mission and vision this spring. We had a library-love-filled February with a “Love Your Library” quiz celebration and International Love Data Week. In March, we celebrated Read an eBook Week for the first time with virtual presentations, and Eagle Pass hosted a Book Talk. We rounded out the semester by participating in Accepted Students Day (thanks, **Michelle!**), with the 9th Annual Clothing Swap and an Eclipse Anniversary Celebration in Eagle Pass. Props to **Cindy** to recommending we measure our clothing swap impact: This year we swapped 162.5 pounds on the Alpine campus.

If that all sounds like just plain fun, we also logged 437 interactions with students, staff, faculty, and community; contributed to valuable reporting for the Department of Education’s IPEDS, Association of College and Research Libraries, and the institutional strategic plan; attended trainings and conferences, submitted research proposals, and made progress on grant-funded projects.

Notably, **Victoria** and **Michelle** graduated from HSI Academy; **Adam** attended a Book Repair Workshop funded by the Jeff Davis County Library; **Taylor** was grant-funded to attend two conferences (ER&L and APSA); **Mike** got IRB approval on our satisfaction survey; **Al** attended training that will inform future digitization projects; and **Gaby** spearheaded outreach for the Eagle Pass Library.

Heading into summer, we’ll reassess to stay on track with the strategic goals for our spaces, our services, and our collections. A few exciting grant projects are helping us consider our spaces more strategically! Read on to learn about them and much more.



*Graphic by Taylor Moore.*

## Updates from Archives of the Big Bend

-via Victoria Contreras, Head of Archives-

This spring was truly a time for growth for the Archives. Through the great generosity of Mike Cox and Noel McNulty, we have new West Texas titles in our holdings, including *Boots, Badges, and Bullets: Texas Ranger Lore* and *Domincia Mining Company: Cuatro Palmas & Aguachile Fluorspar Mines & La Linda Mill: A Short History*. They join a couple of manuscript donations and a fresh deposit of notebooks from The Desk as our latest accessions.

Speaking of The Desk, keep an eye out for an upcoming *CBS News Sunday Morning* segment all about our beloved local landmark, the notebooks that document its legacy, and the amazing people who have made it all happen over the last 44 years! CBS talent and crew members traveled from across the country to spend a day here to review the ever-growing notebook collection, interview community members integral to The Desk's history and prevalence, and to visit the famous furnished site for themselves.

In other news, our Harry Warren Collection Digitization Project funded by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) TextTreasures Grant program is well underway. The Harry Warren papers have temporarily left the Big Bend region for the first time in at least 99 years. Once they are fully digitized, they will return to the Archives of the Big Bend for researchers to continue to use, now with added accessibility. This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Grant # LS-256843-OLS-24).

The Desk notebooks and the Harry Warren Papers aren't the only collections making an impact across our region. Currently we have photographs from several collections in exhibit across West Texas, including the University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, the First Methodist Church of Alpine, and the Museum of the Big Bend as part of its newest temporary exhibit, *Snapshots in Time: Life in Brewster County*. (Be sure to check it out through June 15!)

Can you believe it? 2026 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Archives of the Big Bend. This summer we'll start planning to celebrate it with all our patrons, old and new.

## Plan your Summer with the Library and Archives:



- Join us Thursday, June 5 at the Granada in Alpine for a screening of *Free For All: The Public Library*. Details on p. 7.
- Summer hours at Alpine and Eagle Pass are Mon-Fri, 8 AM-5 PM
  - all hours and holidays are at [library.sulross.edu/hours](http://library.sulross.edu/hours)
- Keep an eye out for our Fall Workshop Series announcement in the Summer issue of *Cover to Cover*



**We're looking for  
great Alpine-based  
students for Fall  
2025 student  
assistant  
openings!**  
*Send them our way!*

## Updates from Eagle Pass Library

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

This semester, we've continued to focus on ways to connect with our campus and community through events, outreach, and extended services.

In March, we were excited to host local author Suzy Ayarza, who joined us for an engaging conversation about her book *Read That Again* and her experiences as a counselor and mental health advocate. The following month, we marked the first anniversary of the 2024 total solar eclipse with a special event called *Eclipsing Limits*. Held in person and online, the program featured many speakers, including SRSU faculty member Dr. Jennifer Miller, who shared her work studying the eclipse and about the creative outreach efforts they undertook to involve and excite folks in Eagle Pass and around the country. As part of that celebration, we are working with **Victoria Contreras**, Head

of Archives, to receive and organize a small collection of materials related to the eclipse. This collection will be housed here at the Eagle Pass Library to help preserve the event's impact on our growing campus and community, and to support continued outreach and education around it.

Throughout the Spring 2025 semester, we piloted extended hours on Thursdays, keeping D-129 open until 7 PM to better support our students' schedules. We'll continue looking at how we can keep offering this service in future semesters based on student needs and feedback.

Our collection continues to grow. We've added 31 new titles this semester, with more on the way this summer. Whether you're looking for something specific or just want to browse, we invite you to stop by and see what's new. And as always, continue to use InterLibrary Services and Direct Mail to gain access to physical content in Alpine and beyond.

Beyond our walls, we've also been out and about on campus. This spring, we took part in several events, including the SRSU soccer matches here in Eagle Pass, where Library Assistant Gaby Casarez represented the Library and Archives, sharing information about our services. It's been great to keep showing up for our students and community in new ways, both on campus and around town.

And for those waiting on the new outdoor book drop, stay tuned. The unit arrived earlier this semester in January, and we're looking forward to having it installed and ready for use later this summer. Once in place, it will offer a convenient way to return books outside of our regular hours, making it even easier to use library services on your schedule.



Part of the Eclipse collection on display in Eagle Pass. Photo by Mike Fernandez.

**Congratulations to our Spring 2025 graduates  
Student Assistant Kelsey Pavelick and Library Assistant Taylor Moore!**



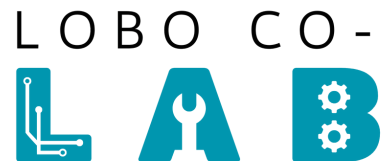
## Digital Transformation and Modernization in the Library and Archives

Project Director for the Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Digital Transformation and Modernization in Far West Texas grant, **Michelle Lacey**, has been hard at work since she arrived at the Library and Archives in February 2024. Her work this Spring has led to some exciting opportunities. In February, Lacey developed and held feedback sessions for our Library and Archives student staff, as well as many student groups represented on the Alpine campus. The goal of these sessions was to open a dialogue to begin to find out how students are currently using and how they want to use the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library's study spaces and common areas. Preliminary qualitative data was shared with Library Planner Denelle Wrightson, who is working with us to develop strategic space planning for the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library as a project of the Title V DHSI DTM grant. We will be excited to share more information about space updates as they become available, and we look forward to continuing feedback along the way.

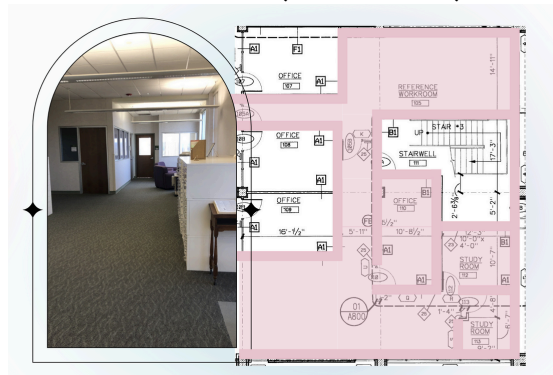
Among other work across the University taking place this spring--notably coordinating a remodeling project in Graves-Pierce Student Recreation Center with Facilities and Student Life, and the development of a Growth Mindset Professional Development Series with Kayla Waggoner and Dr. Jennifer Haan--Lacey has worked with multiple academic departments to purchase much-needed modernized equipment. With this grant's funding, the Archives of the Big Bend has now updated its large-format printer. Stay tuned to find out more from Title V DHSI DTM! Lacey is working with other grant directors across the university to develop additional outlets for keeping the campus informed about grant activities.

## Announcing the Lobo Co-LAB

The SRSU Library and Archives strives to democratize access by making purchasing decisions that ensure equitable access to information and technology across disciplines. We look forward to sharing more information about a developing space in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library: the Lobo Co-LAB. This updated space on the first floor of the library will include technology upgrades such as a large-format scanner, modernized laminator, VR headsets, book scanner, and more.




*Mockup of Co-LAB branding by Taylor Moore.*



*Mockup of Co-LAB space design by Taylor Moore.*

This project, led by Library Assistants **Taylor Moore** and **Al Gomez**, is made possible by the Title III STEM LoboTrack to Success grant and will include training opportunities for students, staff, and faculty to utilize this technology, no matter their area of study. The Lobo Co-LAB space is being developed in context with the Title V DHSI DTM grant project to create a digital learning commons within Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library over the next few years.





**Victoria Contreras**, Head of Archives, shared the following about her experience participating in the inaugural HSI Staff Academy at SRSU this academic year:

As a Latina and first-generation college graduate, I was excited to attend the HSI Staff Academy and better understand what being HSI means from an institutional standpoint. I have attended and worked at HSIs across Texas and have seen how such a designation manifests itself at different campuses, but never actively thought about it beyond simple demographics.

Understanding the metrics, research, practice, and philosophy behind being an HSI has been invaluable. It has already helped me reframe how and, most importantly, why I serve my campus and community as Sul Ross's archivist. Starting every day and every project with purpose and intentionality allows me to serve our students, researchers, and community with their needs, hopes, and futures at the center of every decision. I look forward to incorporating this dedication to servingness and much of what we learned over the past year into my daily work, research, and long-term goals for the Archives of the Big Bend.

**Contreras** and **Michelle Lacey** are now Certified HSI Staff Members. The HSI Staff Academy was funded by an HSI/TSUS grant in collaboration with the Title V Frontier Student Experience grant.

### Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

*via Taylor Moore, Library Assistant*

The SRSU Library and Archives recently completed a macro microfilming project. With funding provided by the Title V Digital Transformation & Modernization Grant, we were able to convert over 9,000 pages of loose newsprint into archival-quality microfilm. The project included newspapers printed from 2019-2024 by The Alpine *Avalanche*, The Big Bend *Gazette*, The Big Bend *Sentinel*, The/EI International, The Jeff Davis County *Mountain Dispatch*, The Terrell County *Sun*, and the Van Horn *Advocate*. Patrons can now view these titles (and many more!) on our microfilm reader and easily create PDFs or images for printing, emailing, or saving.

Wait a minute, you still use microfilm? We sure do! Archival-quality microfilm takes up less space than physical newspapers, is more physically stable than paper, and has a lifespan of up to 500 years, if properly maintained. Microfilm remains the gold standard for archival storage of many loose-leaf materials, even within the digitization era. Though microfilm reels seem to have been perfected in the 19th century, luckily the technology for viewing microfilm has continued to evolve past the days of the bulky, beige, manual microfilm readers kept in a dark corner.

Come check it out for yourself! You can find the microfilm reader/scanner on the first floor of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine and request reels of microfilm at the circulation desk.

## ● ● ● ● ● ● ● Collections Updates In Brief ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

**COLLECTIONS CHATS:** Increased 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 an 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 best practices of the Library and Information Science field.

**TEXSHARE DATABASE CONTENT:** Due to changes in funding at the federal level, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission announced TexShare Database content changes effective June 1. Information about changes will be updated on the [TexShare Databases Research Guide](#) and communicated as appropriate.

**DIGITIZATION PROJECTS:** **Al Gomez** continues work on digitization of the *Sage* literary magazine.

**ARCHIVES HOLDINGS:** Read above for more information on the latest acquisitions in the Archives: new titles for the monograph collection, and a fresh batch of notebooks from The Desk.

### 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
  - **June 1 for Fall Term**
- Rush orders are considered; processing times vary.
- 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](http://library.sulross.edu/giving). 🐾

SRSU LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES,  
BASIN PBS,  
AND  
THE GRANADA THEATRE  
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**FREE FOR ALL: THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**



*Free for All: The Public Library* tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen.

Join us for a free screening and conversation featuring library folks from our tri-county region.

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