

# COVER TO COVER

## Library and Archives News for the SRSU Community



*Pecos River Float Trip ca. 1900. 24 via [Archives of the Big Bend Digital Collections](#)*

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### Letter from the Director

As is typical, summer 2025 kept the Library and Archives folks busy between all-hands projects and annual reporting, peppered with flexible work schedules due to annual leave, professional development and conference attendance. For example, **Mike** attended the EBSCO User Group Conference where he learned about new and upcoming features from one of our main content and service providers; **Victoria** attended a workshop at UTEP about Data Mining and then hopped over to the Society of American Archivists Conference; and **Michelle** was chosen to be part of the third cohort of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program. In late May, I met with the Library and Archives leaders across the Texas State University System at Texas State University in San Marcos, where we shared about current work and opportunities for collaboration.

Throughout the summer, **Cindy, Mike, Adam, and Taylor** were involved in a search for a new Technical Services Librarian when we realized that the answer to our needs was right under our nose. With some reorganization and support from the Provost's Office, we promoted her to the position of Coordinator of Technical Services and Outreach (effective September 1, 2025). And we made incremental progress to continue to improve services and spaces for our users: **Al** worked with the Office of Information Technology to audit all tech in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library so that our existing and new computers and printers will be ready for fall, and in Eagle Pass, **Gaby** continued to make improvements to the D-129 space with customized displays.

Even with our packed summer schedules, we always get excited to welcome students back to campus as July winds down. Keep reading for more summer updates as we prep for Fall 2025!

## Archives of the Big Bend updates: Collections returning and reaching new audiences

-via Victoria Contreras, Head of Archives-

Summer 2025 was an action-packed time for the Archives of the Big Bend, as large projects came to fruition and items from our collections took center stage.

You'll recall from the [Fall 2023 issue of Cover to Cover](#) that the Archives announced its acquisition of an incredible new collection consisting of the photographs, research, and library of Don Burgess. Thanks to the commendable work done by our temporary summer intern, **Isabella Briseño**, the entire Don Burgess Collection has been safely rehoused and is now available to researchers. In addition to rehousing and assessing the condition of the collection, Briseño created a detailed finding aid for the collection. Once published, this finding aid will make the collection easier to navigate and use for both researchers and Library & Archives staff. The Don Burgess Collection includes over a century's worth of photographs (created by Burgess and other artists), artwork, maps, oral histories, research files, manuscripts, and a massive tri-lingual monograph collection written by or about the Rarámuri (Tarahumara) people. We cannot wait to see how our community and researchers are inspired by Burgess's legacy and work.

Another collection that is now safely back on its shelves is our Harry Warren Papers. Over fourteen thousand (14,390) pages of fragile correspondence, journals, notes, financial records, books, and even hand-drawn maps were digitized and are now set to be more accessible than ever. This not only helps researchers access the collection faster and easier, but it also helps the collection stay safe after over a century of use. The Harry Warren Digitization Project was made possible by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) TexTreasures Grant program, funded by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Grant # LS-256843-OLS-24).

Finally, dozens of materials from our holdings were displayed this summer, including several in the Museum of the Big Bend's "Snapshots in Time: Life in Brewster County" temporary exhibit. As part of the SRSU Library and Archives screening of *FREE FOR ALL: The Public Library* on June 5, the Archives held a pop-up exhibit at The Granada with materials from public libraries across our region (pictured).



photo by Victoria Contreras

## Plan your Fall with the Library and Archives:



- NEW! Workshops, workshops, workshops
- All Thursdays in Alpine and Eagle Pass on Sept 11, Oct 16, Nov 13
- Border Regional Archives Bazaar on Sat, Oct 18
- Clothing Swap in Eagle Pass and Alpine from Mon, Oct 6 through Sun, Oct 13



## Updates from Eagle Pass Library

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

This August marks the second year of the Eagle Pass Library in Building D-129, and we are excited to continue growing alongside our community and SRSU International. This summer has brought a few welcome changes. Our new book drop, funded by the Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Digital Transformation and Modernization grant, was installed at the entrance to the SRSU-International building on Amy Street, giving our users a convenient way to return Library materials at any time. Our physical collection is also expanding, with thirty-four new titles on the way to the shelves.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch new services, including a Library of Things collection so students, staff, and faculty can borrow useful items such as calculators, chargers, and other tools in addition to books from our space in D-129.



photos by Mike Fernandez



## A Library of Things for SRSU

We're excited to share that the SRSU Library and Archives is launching a Library of Things (LoT) in Eagle Pass and in Alpine. The Library of Things is designed to support academic work and everyday tasks. Because libraries aren't just for books, this new collection features practical items available for checkout that you might want to try or don't want to buy – including tech accessories, chargers, and calculators to start.



The new items, now known as Things, will be available for checkout at the Front Desks of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine and SRSU International Library Services in Eagle Pass (D-129) starting this Fall. Borrowing from the LoT is open to current SRSU students, faculty, and staff. Learn more about the Library of Things on our website, [library.sulross.edu/LoT](http://library.sulross.edu/LoT). From there, find the Library of Things Guide, with a full list of all available Things, their user manuals, and links to their records in QuickSearch.

We'll plan to grow the Library of Things as we are able. Do you have a recommendation for something we should add? [Let us know!](#)

## Clippings

The Archives of the Big Bend and Head of Archives **Victoria Contreras** were featured on CBS Sunday Morning, August 17, 2025.

[Click here to view the full video](#), which includes several familiar faces from the SRSU and Alpine community. *Screenshots at right are from the video.*

A former "desk" is on display in the lobby of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library. To view the archived notebooks, schedule an appointment with the Archives of the Big Bend by emailing [srsuarchives@sulross.edu](mailto:srsuarchives@sulross.edu) or calling 432-837-8127.



## Moore Promoted to Coordinator

Please join us in congratulating **Taylor Moore** on her promotion from Library Assistant in InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Serials to Coordinator of Technical Services and Outreach, effective September 1, 2025.

Since joining the Library and Archives, Moore has demonstrated a keen ability to improve processes in Technical Services and Outreach, resulting in increased and improved services and access for students, faculty, and staff. Moore displays professionalism and commitment to her work at SRSU and we are excited to see her grow in this new position.



photo by Taylor Moore



## Digital Transformation and Modernization Updates

-via Michelle Lacey, Project Director-

This summer, Title V DHSI DTM's inaugural Growth Mindset Professional Development Series, developed with **Dr. Jennifer Haan** and **Kayla Waggoner**, concluded with its fourth session. We were thrilled by the lively discussion generated in our workshops. Reflecting on anonymous student data and discussing the challenges posed by ingrained assumptions helped reframe our mindset around the definition of student success, we were inspired by the enthusiastic staff and faculty attendees who strive to incorporate a student-centric approach into their daily work.

Title V DHSI DTM funds were responsible for upgrading a variety of equipment over the summer months. For example, the Visual and Performing Arts Department sound and lighting technology was replaced with new wireless microphones and a state-of-the-art light board just in time for the Theatre of the Big Bend performance of *Cinderella* at the Kokernot Lodge. The equipment enables the program to keep pace with professional standards and grants students the hands-on experience with industry-standard technology that is desired when they transition to graduate programs or the job market.

As well, the SR@MC Program received an entirely new suite of tools for the Distance Education classroom at Midland College. The classroom has been outfitted with new televisions, speakers, and cameras. All new furniture, designed for active learning, comfort, and versatility, has also been purchased and will be installed in the Fox Science Building at the start of October.

Last but certainly not least, grant funds were utilized to upgrade technology for student use and advance the creation of a Digital Learning Commons in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library. All nine study rooms have been equipped with upgraded computers, monitors, cameras, and headphones. A secondary monitor with touch display and stylus will also be added to each study room. Two digital whiteboards will be installed in our most highly utilized study rooms, with the intent to facilitate student collaboration. A mobile digital whiteboard has also been purchased for shared use in Library information literacy instruction and Archives research and workshops. Additionally, Library and Archives staff have recently moved into the second phase of working with a library planner/architect to develop a refreshed space utilization plan and move forward with the purchase of customizable and adaptable furniture suited for collaborative work as well as solo study.



### Helesic is CC Certified

This summer, Director **Betsy Helesic** graduated from the Creative Commons Certificate Program for Academic Librarians. Creative Commons (CC) Certificate training develops people's expertise in CC licenses in order to openly share and engage in our digital commons. The 10-week, online course is designed by CC licensing experts and legal advisers, open advocates and practitioners, and leaders in the field. Graduates of CC Certificate courses receive microcredentials documenting their open licensing expertise. Look for related workshops this Fall. Funding for this certification was provided by the Title V DHSI DTM grant.

### Lacey selected for HACU Leadership Program

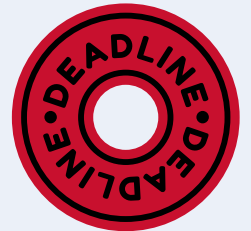
Project Director **Michelle Lacey** was chosen to join the third cohort of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program. The cohort was selected from a nationwide pool of applicants and includes 45 higher education professionals from all corners of the country. The six-month leadership development program for mid-level college and university professionals is designed to increase the number, variety, and quality of Latino/a talent in leadership positions at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) and in higher education. Selectees will participate in programming covering academic and student affairs management, regional institutional accreditation, and higher education advocacy issues. Sessions are delivered through a series of online and in-person meetings that will take place in November at HACU's Annual Conference in Colorado and at the National Capitol Forum in Washington, D.C., in April 2026.



### Annual SRSU Library and Archives Collection Development and Maintenance: Deadlines and Information

#### 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 Things for the Library of Things)** 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). 🍷