



BOOKMARKS

ALKEK LIBRARY NEWS

Texas State University-San Marcos

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eCommons @ Texas State University

To support research and intellectual activities, and to facilitate scholarly communication, many higher education institutions have recently established Institutional Repository (IR) services. IR's are frequently hosted by the campus library. Through an IR the scholarly work of the university becomes available to the campus community and beyond in digital form. Preprints, post prints, data sets, working papers, conference papers, dissertations and theses are examples of content shared through an IR. The repository's open access facilitates timely dissemination of research to others while also providing archival storage of scholarly works.

[eCommons@Texas State University](#) is a new IR initiated by the Alkek Library. Faculty, staff, and students are now able to share scholarship such as research papers, journal articles, dissertations and theses through this digital repository. The goal of the eCommons site is to bring all of the University's research to one location, to provide easy and timely access to content, and to preserve such works for future generations.

Many scholarly works may not currently exist in digital form and are not accessible via the Internet. Library staff will assist converting such works into digital form as part of the eCommons service to the university community and will assist with copyright clearance. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to participate by contributing to eCommons. Library staff members are contacting researchers and university departments for content but authors are also encouraged to contact the library directly. To contribute to Texas State's digital repository call the Alkek Library (245-2133) or email Dr. [Sam Khosh-khui](#).

*Dr. Sam A. Khosh-khui
Serials Cataloging Librarian/Webmaster*

Library Support For Blackboard/TRACS Courses

Librarians can partner with faculty teaching web-based courses in numerous ways. There are few examples:

Links. Put links within your site to specific library pages such as the library home page, e-reserve, databases, or Ask-A-Librarian Chat/E-mail service.

Virtual office hour. Schedule a librarian to be available for a regular online office hour for your students.

Tutorials. Work with a librarian to develop web-based tutorials or information literacy modules to be used within your class.

Chat. Request a librarian to join a group discussion.

E-reserve. Let the library put copies of reserve readings online in our e-reserve service.

Assignment development. Work with a librarian to re-invent, or create, research assignments.

Subject Librarians. Provide information and links to your librarian liaison.

Please contact Jan Tidwell or Clara Ogbaa if you're interested in any of these Blackboard-Librarian collaborations.

Newly Added Electronic Journals

Alkek Library is pleased to announce the recent addition of site-wide subscriptions to *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. All library journals can be accessed via the Alkek [Library's Periodical Titles List](#) Web page.

[Science](#) is one of the world's leading outlets for scientific news, commentary, and research. Our subscription includes full-text content from 1996 to the present, as well as daily news from *ScienceNOW*. Users may sign up for various alerts such as summaries of research content, *Science Express* notification (articles published in advance of print), and *Science News This Week*.

[Nature](#) is the world's most frequently cited science journal known for its prompt publication of significant advances in any branch of science. Our subscription includes full-text access from 1997 to the present as well as access to *Advance Online Publication* (papers published up to two months ahead of print). Users may register for table of contents e-mails. The latest table of contents is also available as RSS feeds.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), bills itself as "the No. 1 source of news, information, and jobs for college and university faculty members and administrators." The Chronicle's home page is updated daily with the latest news from academe. Current issues are posted online on the Monday following release of the print edition. Archives go back to 1989.

Also available soon for campus wide access: *JAMA*.

For more information, contact Serials Acquisitions Librarian [Paivi Rentz](#) at pr11@txstate.edu or (512) 245-2643.

Carl Guerrero Retires



After 28 years with the library, Carl Guerrero, Head Reserve Assistant, retired this January. He holds the distinction of being the library's youngest retiree ever!

Carl started work in the library in 1978 as a Clerk/Typist, became Library Assistant in 1979 and promoted to Head Reserve Assistant in 1980. Following many years of successfully managing hard-copy reserves, in 2002 his department introduced electronic reserve which has become an enormously valued service.

Over the years Carl has provided a foundation of quality training to hundreds of student workers, and exemplary service to the university community.

Best wishes, Carl!

New Faces at Reserves

Two very familiar faces in the library will now be seen at the Reserve desk. Debbie Monosmith, after over 20 years, at the circulation desk, is now Head Reserve Assistant. John Brunson, also from Circulation has been promoted to Reserve Assistant.

Congratulations & Best wishes to Debbie & John!

Faculty Focus

Students Need Libraries More Than Ever

I've always thought of libraries as the ultimate knowledge storehouse and the center of the university. Now that the Internet has come along, it's tempting to think that it is no longer really the center of the university. Students do research from their home or dorm room. We get much, if not all, of the secondary resources that we need for our research sitting in our offices. We are still accessing the library's materials, but the library doesn't seem as present in our pedagogy and research as it once did. And that thought is exactly why I use the library's resources to the fullest and constantly refer my students to the library. Not because I want to keep the library in business, but because my students need it more than ever.

We need libraries more than ever because we do have access to so much information—much of it unreliable. To access information, reliable or otherwise, our students need better and more sophisticated skills than in the past. The plethora of information has improved research standards. It's no longer acceptable for students to turn in papers with a minimum number of sources. These realities make the library and the services it offers critical to our pedagogy. When I'm tempted to slight the research methods section of my courses by cutting bibliographic instruction, under the pretext that class time is "my time" for "my subject," I remember that bibliographic instruction is my subject because the library includes all subjects.

Consequently, every semester in which I teach research methods, I trot my class over to the library to receive bibliographic instruction from the librarians. My students learn to use the databases, locate sources, and distinguish reliable from unreliable information. I remind my students that between our online resources, our print resources, and our inter-library loan system they can usually obtain at least 90% of the articles they find citations for. They also have access to many of the higher education/public libraries in the state with the TexShare card that they can get through the library. (The TexShare card is really useful for my students at the Round Rock Higher Education Center.). Occasionally, I also use the library's reserve desk to make additional materials available to my students. Finally, I mention in my syllabus some of the other services available in the library for students, like the SLAC tutoring lab, the computer lab with its array of software, and laptops to use in the library. For my students, the library still is the center of the university.

*Kendall Kelly, Instructor
English Department*

IM, a New Trend in Virtual Reference Delivery IM is where it's at!

Have you heard of IM? Instant Messaging is a daily part of communication for an estimated 80 million Americans. If you are under 30 you probably use it every day. Although long seen as an extremely informal means of communication, and often actively discouraged by those who consider it "a waste of time," IM is beginning to gain acceptance as a communication and collaboration tool in business and academic settings. It also has gained supporters in the library world who have been using IM as a new method for delivering virtual reference service to library users. Virtual Reference does not seek to replace traditional reference service. Instead, it represents an extension of reference service in a new environment to engage library users on their own turf, in a familiar communications medium.

*Lorin Fisher
Reference/Instruction Librarian*

Award Winning Documentaries You May Have Missed



American Movie: The Making of Northwestern

Chris Smith PN1995.9.D6 A44 2000 VHS
 Filmmaker Mark Borchardt is one of the most entertaining would-be directors we will ever meet. Trapped in a dead end job, with an overwhelming passion for moviemaking, just enough film to hang himself, some twisted friends, generally obliging relatives, and a nearby campus editing room, he fights a daily battle to finish his autobiographical expose on hard-drinking times in the great white north. Borchardt and his crew are unforgettable; you'll be repeating various lines for weeks if not forever.

Brother's Keeper

Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky HV6533.N5 B76 1993 VHS
 A family of Lake Wobegone-like bachelor farmer brothers now in their 60s, living in absolute squalor in rural New York, becomes the center of a murder investigation when one of them dies mysteriously. The ensuing trail and resultant media invasion into their monastic lives is vividly detailed by veteran film makers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. The directors prove that everyday life can be much stranger than any fiction, especially when it includes impossibly shy brothers who still sleep in the same boyhood bed and whose primary contact with the outside world comes during infrequent trips to town on their tractor.

Buena Vista Social Club

Wim Wenders M1681.C918 B84 1999 VHS
 Veteran guitarist/composer Ry Cooder discovers that a number of legendary Cuban musicians long disappeared from the music scene are not dead, but living in obscurity. He goes to Havana to record an album with them taking along award winning German director Wim Wenders. The result is a touching documentary filled with stunning music and memorable images of present-day Cuba. The remarkable musicians, many of them in their sixties and seventies, recount their lives while displaying the awesome talents that made them stars. This Academy Award nominee is one of the best

Burden of Dreams

Les Blank PN1997.A1 C75 1998 v.287 DVD
 An exceptional, behind-the-scenes look at the trials and tribulations of movie making. Most film devotees consider Warner Herzog a brilliant but demented director and this on-location documentary shows why. Not content with the

usual sound stage and artificial rain, Herzog takes his crew to the heart of the Brazilian rainforest to film his story of one man's obsession with opera. A la Coppola on the set of *Apocalypse Now*, every possible disaster occurs: sickness, bad weather, breakdowns (physical and mental), encounters with Indians of the dangerous kind, logistical nightmares, the rock-star-turned-actor has to go on tour, while the star, notorious wild man Klaus Kinsky is--surprise, surprise--often out of control. Last, but certainly not least, the full-size river boat, which according to Herzog's script must be winched by hand overland from one river to another, fails to cooperate. Yikes! What does it take to be an internationally revered director? *Burden of Dreams* reveals all.

The Cruise

Bennett Miller
 Timothy Levitch may be the most remarkable Manhattan Gray Line bus tour guide in the history of the profession. When "Speed" Levitch is on the mike, what is predictably a boring recitation of worn-out facts and figures is transformed into a transcendent "Cruise." The man has a rap comparable to the best of Lenny Bruce and appears to know everything about the Big Apple. From architecture to the literary scene, his monologues will knock your tourist socks off. The amazing Levitch is living proof that the best teachers are those who care passionately about their subject. Tim Levitch loves New York City and after riding with him, so will you.

Crumb

Terry Zwigoff NC1429.C83 C66 1995 VHS
 R. Crumb's name is synonymous with underground comics. During the '60s his works were widely read for their biting satire and acidified, hipster view of the world. His phrases and characters such as "Keep on Truckin", "Thus verily thus", Fritz the Cat, and Mr. Natural became the mantras and icons of the counter culture. As this engrossing documentary shows, far from some kind of comic book writing Mick Jagger, Crumb is a fairly shy nebbish with coke bottle glasses, a trademark snap brim, and an obsession with string band music from the '20s. Even if you never bought a "Zap" or a "Head Comix," this in-depth look at the life and times of a truly original and talented artist is a fascinating experience.

Award Winning Documentaries You May Have Missed Contd.

Dark Days

Marc Singer HV4506.N6 D37 2001 VHS
A fantastic vision of life underground. To escape the hassles of street life, a variety of homeless people have gone down in the tunnels of the New York City subway system to live-some for five years or more. In the process, they build "houses," raise pets, and scavenge for food, materials, and saleable items. The director (himself a subway dweller with a borrowed camera) shows that even those at the lowest fringes of the American dream have something valuable to tell us about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The crack-pipe monologues are as good as anything William S. Burroughs ever wrote and the soundtrack by DJ Shadow is a monster.

Hands on a Hard Body: The Documentary

S.R. Bindler HF6146.P75 H36 1998 VHS
Every year an East Texas dealership gives away a new truck. To win, all you have to do is be the last man or woman standing with your hand on the vehicle. A humorous look at what it takes to stand in one place for three days while one by one your fellow contestants slip back to their day-to-day lives. There are as many strategies as there are participants, and everyone has a story to tell. This insightful view of small-town life is highly recommended and Texas to the core.

Hitman Hart: Wrestling with Shadows

Paul Jay GV1196.H37 H5 1998 VHS
For over ten years, Bret "Hitman" Hart was one of the dominate heroes of the World Wrestling Federation. As the "Hitman," he personified honesty, integrity, and the triumph of good over

evil. His rabid fans made him one of the most popular superstars on the professional wrestling circuit. With the rise of Ted Turner's World Championship Wrestling coupled with changing fan attitudes, Hart is faced with a dilemma: stay with the WWF and remain the "Hitman", a character he cares deeply about, or jump to the WCW and assume a new identity for considerably more money. This enthralling, behind-the-scenes look at professional wrestling is full of surprises. Bret Hart proves to be not only a superb athlete, but also a very sympathetic, complicated individual far removed from the stereotypic, chest-thumping cretin we expect. If you've ever wondered what is real about professional wrestling, this film provides the unexpected answer.

Roger and Me

Michael Moore HC108.F5 R6 1990 VHS
Despite record profits, General Motors is closing its Flint, Michigan plant. Film maker Michael Moore has a simple question for GM Chairman Roger Smith: "Why?" In pursuit of the answer, Moore follows Smith from boardroom to boardroom to gala bash and back as the Chairman fails to return his calls. In the process, Moore interviews the people and city officials of Flint to get their views on the situation; the differences of opinion are striking. While former workers speak of empty pockets and minimum-wage jobs, the solutions offered by soft-pedaling local government officials are often sadly hilarious. In this era of off-shoring and downsizing, the questions posed by this seminal work have only gotten more relevant.

*Larry Gieschen,
Reference/Periodicals Librarian*

RRHEC Library Services: How To Obtain Books, Videos, etc.

Even though the library at RRHEC is primarily an electronic library it is still possible to request materials be sent to RRHEC. After using the TxState or ACC online catalog:

- TxState faculty may use the "Document Delivery to RRHEC" link on the Library Services home page at <http://www.library.txstate.edu/ref/rrhec/delivery.asp>
- ACC faculty may make requests in person at the Library Services room at RRHEC.

Firefox: Flash in the Pan or ...?

Late at night, on September 30, 1997, a group of Microsoft employees placed a ten-foot tall metal Internet Explorer logo on the front lawn of Netscape Communications, in Mountain View, California--which signified the Internet browser war was formally underway.

At the time, Netscape Communicator was the dominant player. The battle turned out to be a brief scrimmage however. By the end of 1998 Netscape was defeated and Internet Explorer had swallowed up 96% of Web browser usage. In desperation Netscape released the source code of Communicator, calling it a new product: Mozilla. Although hailed as a brave move, Mozilla fared no better than Communicator.

In walks Blake Ross, hired as an intern at Netscape at the age of 15, who designs an experimental browser pulled out of the ashes of Communicator, aptly named Phoenix, which eventually becomes Firefox, another open-source product.

On October 19, 2005, less than a year after its release, Firefox had its 100 millionth download. Currently, Firefox 1.0 has captured 10% of the browser market. With the release of Firefox 1.5 on November 29, 2005, and the Spread Firefox campaign (www.spreadfirefox.com), Blake Ross et al. are hoping for wildfire and inflaming more of the market.

Most Americans root for the underdog, which probably explains the success of the Firefox browser. However, it's not the whole story. Even

before its release Firefox won great acclaim from numerous sources, such as the *Wall Street Journal*. One of the main features of Firefox is tabbed browsing, which allows users to open multiple Web pages in the same window. Also, nearly half of all Windows-based business desktops are still using Windows 2000, the operating system that preceded Microsoft XP. Many pundits expect users to migrate to Firefox in droves, because Internet Explorer 7, Microsoft's newest browser, will not be available to users of Windows 2000.

Expectedly, Microsoft is not sitting on it haunches. With the release of IE7 in early 2006, Microsoft expects to spread a fire of its own. Also, while it may be that familiarity breeds contempt, IE is still prominent because most users maintain "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" attitude. Also, users may have less reason to switch to Firefox after the release of IE7, at which point both browsers will have similar features and interfaces.

Of course, Firefox and Explorer are not the only competition in town. Opera and Flocker are two others. However, Microsoft and Firefox are the dominant players and are expected to maintain their current positions in the near future.

And the future of open sourcing?

Opinions vary...which is another way of saying no one has a clue.

*Frank Fox
Reference Librarian*

Carmen Selvera Retires

Carmen Selvera's service to Texas State spans three decades. She was a secretary for the School of Social Work from 1975 to 1976 and returned in 1977 as an Accounting Clerk for Financial Aid. In 1982 she transferred to the Learning Resource Center as an Accounting Clerk I and in 1985 was promoted to Accounting Clerk II for the University Library.

Promoted again in 1987 to Procurement Specialist, Carmen became responsible for purchasing equipment and supplies as well as handling maintenance, warranty, and purchase agreements for the library. Known for her work ethics, sense of humor and positive attitude, she was a favorite among her co-workers. Carmen retired on October 31, 2005 with a festive farewell and best wishes for a happy retirement.



Carmen Selvera's Retirement Party with Dr. Van Wyatt, Vice President, Information Technology Division

Welcome New Employees



Joel Minor is the new Processing Archivist of the Special Collections Department. A 2002 graduate of UT-Austin's School of Information, Joel comes to us from South Dakota where he was employed as archivist at Oglala Lakota College. His impressive résumé of archival experience includes digitization, reference, records management, and archival processing. Joel considers himself lucky to have found a career love in archives because "they are the front lines of history." In addition to reading literature and history, Joel enjoys independent arts, philosophy, and creative writing—and spending time with his wife and one-year-old son.

Joel Minor
Processing Archivist, Southwestern Writers Collection

Hithia Davis rejoins the Periodicals Unit as the Newspaper/Microform Library Assistant II. Hithia is a Texas State graduate, a former student worker in Acquisitions and Periodicals, and the recipient of the 2002 Alkek Library Outstanding Student Service Award. Until recently, Hithia was working in Technical Services at the Waco Public Library.



Hithia Davis
Library Assistant II, Periodicals & Microforms



Tiffany Falany is the new Accounting Clerk II. She processes purchase orders and invoices for library acquisitions and maintains files and the tracking systems for library purchases. She is in charge of collecting and distributing mail for administrative services and keeps records of office equipment.

Tiffany plans to stay for a very long time. She plans to pursue her degree in Accounting and/or Business Management in the near future and is excited about working at the Alkek Library.

Tiffany Falany
Accounting Clerk II, Administrative Services

Sam Hernandez is the new Computer Lab Assistant. He provides technical support and supervises lab operations during the evening hours. Sam is a native of Austin where he worked twenty years for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in jobs ranging from warehouse operations to IT networking. His main focus is excellent customer service. He is proud to be a part of Texas State and the Alkek Library family.



Sam Hernandez
Microcomputer Lab Assistant

Bookmarks Editorial Committee Receives Awards



From left:

Jan Tidwell,
Dr. Van Wyatt,
Dr. Clara Ogbaa,
Michele Miller,
Leslie Fatout,
Ed Bergin,
Dr. Sam Khosh-khui,
and
Margaret Vaverek

The *Bookmarks: Alkek Library News* Editorial Team won the *Texas State Quarterly Team Award* and *The Information Technology Spring 2005 Honors Award For Team Collaboration*. In a reception held for this occasion on December 6, 2005 in the Alkek Library, Dr. Carl Van Wyatt, Information Technology Vice President, honored the team members.

Hours For Spring Semester 2006

Regular Library Hours

Monday – Wednesday
7:30 am – 1:00 am

Thursday
7:30 am - Midnight

Friday
7:30 am – 10:00 pm

Saturday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday
1:00 pm – 1:00 am

Special Collections hours, including the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, are:

Exhibits:

Mon, Tues, Fri: 8 am to 5 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8 am to 7 pm
Sat: 9 am to 5 pm
Sun: 2 pm to 6 pm

Archives:

Mon, Tues, Fri: 8 am to 5 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8 am to 7 pm
Other times by appointment
(512) 245-2313

For additional information on library hours, please visit our website at <http://www.library.txstate.edu/scripts/perl/lib-hours.pl>

We're on the web at
www.library.txstate.edu/

**Do you have a question
but don't know *who to ask*?**

Where is E-Reserves? How do I cite a resource in APA? Where is the Copy Center?

How do I find a book in the library? How can I clear a library hold? What is an e-book?

How do I start my research assignment? Where can I find a scholarly journal article?



Ask a Librarian

[HTTP://ASKALIBRARIAN.LIBRARY.TXSTATE.EDU](http://askalibrarian.library.txstate.edu)
or click the link on the library home page!

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