Social Media Recognition for Alkek

As we approach the end of the 2013 spring semester, it’s time for recognition, congratulations, and celebration. To that end, the Alkek Library staff was pleasantly surprised to learn recently that we are among the 100 most social media friendly college and university libraries for 2013.

Scoring 78.9 out of a highest possible rating of 100, the Alkek ranked 34 among 442 college and university libraries, based on their level of activity on various platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Google Plus, and Flickr. BRAVO!

LibraryScienceList.com searched the most popular social media platforms for libraries that are actively using their accounts to promote library events, notify students of new materials, or interact with patrons in new ways. Texas State’s library received particular notice for its use of Facebook (ranked 14th with a score of 30 out of a possible 32 points) and YouTube (ranked 20th with over 77,000 views, 40 subscribers and 47 videos).

Last year, as part of the strategic planning process, library staff created a list of organizational values that reflect the hopes and intentions of the University library staff. Included on that list was “Service”:

We believe each library staff member is responsible for providing a responsive library experience that meets the unique and evolving needs and exceeds expectations of students, faculty, and staff by providing convenient, efficient access to authoritative, quality information.

Using social media is another avenue for providing high quality services to the Texas State community. So, thanks LibraryScienceList.com for the recognition, and thanks to the library staff who made it possible.

Joan L. Heath
Associate Vice President and University Librarian

Congratulations to Karina Herrera, Applied Sociology major and USB winner for eNews survey participation!

Editorial team
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Anthony Guardado
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Jessica McClean
Michele Miller
Liane Taylor
Tara Spies Smith, photographer
Another semester is over, and the beach—or maybe an internship—is calling.

Before you take off for the summer, be sure you’ve returned all your checked-out library materials. If your items are not renewed or returned promptly, you might be billed for replacement costs. Even worse, library holds can prevent you from registering for classes or obtaining your transcript. Read the Lending Policies for more details on due dates and billing, and sign in to your account to double-check what needs to be returned.

To those of you who are graduating this semester, congratulations! If you plan to keep using the library after graduation, here are a few details you’ll need to know. As alumni, you’ll be able to use library materials inside the building, but materials can only be checked out with an Alumni Association or TexShare card. TexShare cards allow you to check out materials from many participating libraries around the state—current students, faculty, and staff can get one, too. You can request a TexShare card online or get one at the Circulation Desk or at a participating public library.

Recent graduates are able to access electronic library resources for 90 days after their graduation date, so log in to the databases with your NetID and password if you’re off campus. Find more information about all of these borrowing privileges at the Alumni Services page.

And if you’re looking for that first post-graduation job, take advantage of Alkek’s Career Guides collection. You’ll find information about different types of careers as well as useful guides about writing cover letters, updating your resume, and acing interviews.

The reference librarians will be working this summer even if you aren’t, so feel free to keep sending your questions to Ask a Librarian. Have a great summer!

The library can help researchers learn more about creating a personal research environment and networking using the social Web, and if you have not yet heard about “Altmetrics” you’ll definitely want to continue reading. We’ve developed a number of research guides and also offer workshops throughout the semester to give you a hands-on opportunity to develop an online persona in the academic social Web community. The Altmetrics and Academic Social Media guide offers information about the different social media used in the academic community in addition to alternative publishing opportunities and information on the subject of Altmetrics.

Altmetrics is a term coined by a group of researchers who are leading an effort to identify ways to measure the impact of today’s researcher. They define Altmetrics as, “the creation and study of new metrics based on the Social Web for analyzing and informing scholarship.” Altmetrics combine the traditional measures of impact: peer-review, citation counting, and journal impact factor with new metrics. Common social Web behavior among academics such as saving, annotating, sharing, blogging about, and linking in Twitter are examples of the types of data being gathered by alternative metrics tools. Altmetrics tools gather data and information using public APIs, and impact can be seen quickly in a matter of days or weeks where traditional measures often take years to show impact.

Many who support Altmetrics want to make it clear that Altmetrics are more than replacing traditional metrics, or impact factor. They suggest using Altmetrics for assessing the impact of a particular piece of research, not the impact of the total product, the journal. The point is to shift the mindset in academia towards one that is open to using alternative metrics. Since more research, including raw data, digital and audio files, and other scholarly content is being published in open repositories, finding a meaningful measure for the newer and non-traditional types of output along with putting standards in place for reporting the impact is a real challenge for researchers.

To read more about Altmetrics, here are a few places to start:

Altmetrics: A Manifesto
The Scholarly Kitchen Blog: Altmetrics
Public library of Science (PLoS) Altmetrics Collection
Altmetrics Mendeley Group
Movies on Campus: Staying Copyright Compliant

A number of questions arise pertaining to copyright when showing films in class, on campus, or uploading such films to TRACS. As expected the answer is “it depends,” but let’s start with the good news.

An entire film (or portions) may be shown in the course of “face-to-face teaching activities” in a classroom or a similar place devoted to instruction if the film is related to the course material and not shown simply for entertainment. You may use films for which the library has purchased public performance rights and/or streaming videos from various databases the library has purchased, depending on the terms of use under the purchase license.

You may also show a film for entertainment purposes in a dorm room so long as it is limited to a small group of friends (e.g. Personal use) and generally not open to a larger group. For example if the film were being shown in a large common area and open to all dorm residents, a public performance license would have to be obtained.

Generally, faculty cannot upload an entire film on TRACS or stream entire videos on TRACS, unless permitted under a license purchased by the library. Portions of films may be uploaded for discussion and comment pursuant to the fair use doctrine; if a film is shown on campus outside of the classroom setting, even if solely for educational purposes, then a public performance license will need to be obtained.

If you do not have funding available to purchase public performance rights for a film, there are other options. You can use an alternative film that is in the public domain or subject to a Creative Commons license that allows for use without payment.

When considering screening films in class or on campus, please feel free to contact the University Copyright Office for assistance. We can locate films for you and obtain permissions and public performance rights or provide alternatives to meet your instruction and entertainment needs. Please visit the Copyright Research Guide for additional information on obtaining permissions to screen films.

Please contact Brad Nichols with any copyright related questions you may have.
The library has awarded the 2013 One-Time Online Resource Grants. This year the library was able to offer a record $173,000 to support the purchase of larger digital collections that can be purchased one time and owned in perpetuity. A review committee consisting of two members of the Library Committee, two previous recipients, and two librarians reviewed the proposals and recommended grants for the following recipients and resources. The library is pleased to provide access to these seven new databases. Access to most of the databases has been activated, and all should be activated by the end of May. The awardees are:

**Black Abolitionist Papers** (Recipient: Angela Murphy—History): A digital primary source collection that is the first to comprehensively detail the extensive work of African Americans to abolish slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War.

**Confidential Print Middle East, 1839-1969** (Recipient: Elizabeth Bishop—History): Contains digitized confidential print documents from the British Foreign and Colonial Offices from 1839 to 1969, covering early events in Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Syria, and more.

**Everyday Life and Women in America** (Recipients: Rebecca Montgomery, Angela Murphy, Nancy Berlage, Lynn Denton—History): Digitized historical material revealing early American home life from the Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, Duke University, and the New York Public Library.

**Serials Set II, A: 1970-79** (Recipients: Margaret Vaverek—library; Patricia Shields—Political Science): Includes digitized reports and documents either produced or ordered by Congress, as well as presidential communications and treaty materials. This collection expands our existing coverage to 1970 through 1979 and also contains Senate and Executive Documents and Reports from 1817 to 1969.

**PAO Foundation Collection** (Recipients: Selene Hinojosa—library; Yasmine Beale-Rosano-Rivaya—Modern Languages): A collection of over 200 digitized academic journals published in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, with coverage extending from the first volume up to around 2000.

**Springer Mathematics Journals Archive** (Recipient: Thomas Keller—Mathematics): Contains over 120 digitized journals from the areas of mathematics and statistics, from the first issue to the mid-1990s. Access coming soon!

**Popular Culture in Britain and America, 1950-1975** (Recipient: Jay Ryu—Family & Consumer Sciences): This collection captures rock and roll, counterculture, peace and protest, fashion, civil rights, Vietnam, student activism, underground publications between 1950 and 1975 with thousands of digitized, color images of manuscripts, photographs, rare printed material, and more.
New Vaquero Statue Celebrates Rich Cowboy Heritage Shared with Mexico

When the state of Texas moved into the cattle business, its cowboys adopted much of the equipment and methodologies that Mexico’s vaqueros had used for centuries to work herds in big country. Over the course of three years in the early 1970s, Austin writer and photographer—and founder, with his wife, Sally, of the Alkek Library’s Wittliff Collections—Bill Wittliff went into the field to capture scenes of some of the last traditional roundups on the vast Rancho Tule in northern Mexico. Wittliff focused his lens on all aspects of this vanishing way of life, fixing the vaquero tradition forever in nearly 5,000 photographs. He printed a fine cross-section of these for exhibition, and the University of Texas Press published them in Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy in 2004.

Inspired by Wittliff’s photographs, Philadelphia sculptor Clete Shields (who also created Austin’s Willie Nelson statue) designed a bronze vaquero, who stands by his saddle, wearing chaps and holding his quirt. Scenes of vaqueros working and living in the chaparral are sculpted in relief on three sides of the pedestal; a conversation between Wittliff and a vaquero is inscribed on the front. Recently the Wittliff Collections proudly unveiled the three-foot maquette of this impressive work, and it is now on view.

The Vaquero statue itself, in bronze and standing over 18 feet high, is being installed in Old Main Plaza this April. Bill and Sally Wittliff are donating this larger monument to Texas State in celebration of the rich and enduring heritage we share with Mexico.

From April 19 through July 7, the Collections are reprising Bill Wittliff’s photography exhibition Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy, which is on tour with Humanities Texas. Everyone is invited to come and see the images and maquette that inspired Texas State’s newest piece of public art.

Fax Service Now Available at Alkek

Fax service is now available at the Circulation counter on the main floor of the library. It is proving to be very popular with students. Twenty-seven faxes were sent in the first two weeks. The cost is $1.00 per page, and long distance costs are included in the per page price.

If you need to send something via fax, just stop by the Circulation counter. You will need to show your valid Texas State ID or other government issued ID. Simply fill out a cover sheet with all the pertinent information, pay the necessary fee, wait for your document to be returned to you, and you’re on your way.

Please keep in mind that this is a send only service. No incoming documents will be accepted.

If you have questions about the new library fax service, please call Circulation at 245-3681.
Library Resources Way Beyond the Book

Discover the wide variety of resources in Specialized Collections, a newly formed unit in the library consisting of Government Information and Periodicals/Media. We offer diverse materials that go way beyond the book.

Located on the 4th floor, Government Information has a wide range of materials to help you with your research. As a regional depository library, Alkek provides access to federal documents. Gov Info also includes Texas Documents, the Textbook Curriculum Materials Center (TCMC) collection, atlases, maps, ArcGIS software, and treaties.

Government publications can be the perfect primary source for your research paper and a go-to source for statistics. While many government documents are housed in our compact shelving, the majority of government information is available online. Gov Info staff will help you find the right resource, whether it is a pamphlet, dataset, or website.

Map printing and laminating services are also offered in Gov Info, and a die cut machine and light boxes are available for use.

Find Periodicals/Media on the 3rd floor of the library. You may know of our DVD Collection and our current newspapers, magazines, and journals, but that’s not all. The collection includes unique educational, intellectual, and just plain weird material.

In Periodicals/Media, you can chill with the latest Alan Moore graphic novel, learn Mandarin with help from the Rosetta Stone in our Language Learning Collection, pick out a Louise Erdrich audiobook for your daily commute, watch our most circulated video—John Cleese on How to Irritate People (it beats out Fellini’s 8 ½ and Tarentino’s Kill Bill)—and then…maybe consider studying.

Some of Periodicals/Media’s most popular items are the bones and skeletons. Lucy, one of our skeletons, is a popular guest at many a study table. Education majors find our kits and models helpful, but non-education majors may also appreciate sunglasses that give one the compound eye vision of a hornet, or they might like to play a game of Glasnost.

Whether you’re gathering supporting evidence for a research paper, studying for an anatomy exam, critiquing a film for class, or just expanding your own intellectual world, Specialized Collections has the resources.

Attention Dog lovers! Alkek is trying something new this semester. We will have therapy dogs in the library to help students relax during the often stressful week of finals.

First, a little about the special dogs coming to visit. These dogs are not simply the dog next door. Each dog and its handler are registered “Pet Partners” and have been through extensive training to prepare for all kinds of situations. Pet Partners are able to visit places like nursing homes, hospitals, elementary schools, and libraries to spread comfort and healing.

For this program, Alkek is partnering with a local therapy dog group called Pawsitive Energy: Pet Partners of San Marcos. Several of the handlers are Texas State faculty, including founders Julie and Kevin Romig of the Geography Department. Visit Pawsitive Energy’s website to learn about this organization and see photos of some of the dogs coming to Alkek.

While this is a new experience for Texas State, therapy dog programs have become popular in libraries and on college campuses across the U.S. as research increasingly shows the health benefits of animal therapy. In fact, the University of Texas at Austin launched their therapy dog program in the Perry–Castañeda library during their fall 2012 finals, and other universities with successful programs include Yale Law School, Harvard Medical School, Kent State, Emory University, University of Michigan, Rice University, and UT Arlington.

At Alkek, our upcoming therapy dog program is a pilot, which means if it’s successful, we’ll be able to offer it again. Please help make it successful by coming to pet our visiting dogs. All are welcome!
When you hear the word “history,” do you think of something rather vague and intangible? That may be about to change now that students from an Introduction to Public History class have quite literally put Texas State history on the map.

Dr. Lynn Denton, Director of the Public History Program, approached the University Archives with an idea for a class project: her students in the fall 2012 HIS 3368A class would research and identify historical photos from the Archives, write text to accompany each image, and the Archives would post the results on Historypin—a website that allows users to overlay photographs, videos, and audio recordings on Google maps.

Approximately 160 images of the campus and the City of San Marcos were selected by the Archives, along with historical resources that would facilitate student research. The student groups selected five to seven images, conducted research to determine historical significance, and wrote a short label describing each image. The goal of the project was to provide an opportunity for students to connect the past to their present, to place the buildings and monuments they see daily within a historical context, and to see themselves as a part of the greater legacy of the University.

Visit the University Archives Historypin page to see more images and learn a little bit of campus history. The Historypin project is an ongoing collaboration between the University Archives and the Public History Program and will continue in the fall of 2013.

To inquire about historical materials or to request a research appointment, please contact UnivArchives@txstate.edu.