Building the Library’s Collection

Core to the library’s mission is providing comprehensive and diverse collections. The Smithsonian Ethnology Series located in the library’s Specialized Collections Unit, the Joe R. Lansdale papers in the Wittliff Collections, and the historical postcard collection in the University Archives, all described in this eNews issue, exemplify the range of University Library holdings.

I recently received an update on the ongoing change in information formats purchased by the library. In the fiscal year ending August 2013, the library spent 80% of the collections budget on electronic resources. In today’s world that includes ejournals, ebooks, databases, and digital archives.

“Patron driven acquisitions,” a new model for collection-building, is becoming a standard piece of the library’s purchasing plan. Records for ebooks in this collection are added to the online catalog but aren’t actually purchased until after three “short-term loans.” There were 1,395 online, short-term loans for these titles last year.

Nearly 15,000 print titles were added to the collection in FY2013. And while this made up only 17% of the collections budget, the cost for these materials totaled over one million dollars. Non-print items (software, CDs, microforms, DVDs, and other AV items) made up the remaining 3% of new purchases.

But not all collection acquisitions are purchased. As a government depository, we receive selected publications at no cost in exchange for making them available to the public. The Government Information collection added 13,770 titles last year.

Archives are another fast growing component of the library’s collections. Materials related to the university’s history located in the University Archives make up 1,475 linear feet, and the Wittliff Collections, the library’s premier special collection, include 6,534 linear feet of manuscript and other archival collections.

In total, the library collection currently consists of more than 2.4 million titles (including all formats: print, electronic, and audio-visual), and over 8,000 linear feet of archives. This diverse collection continues to be developed through various means involving librarians, archivists, and faculty.

All library users have an opportunity to suggest items for the collection. To submit a request, go to the library website under the tab for Renew & Request, and click on Recommend a Purchase.

Joan L. Heath
Associate Vice President and University Librarian
Get Smart Using Alkek’s Social Media

Reading this newsletter every month puts you on the forefront of Alkek Library news, events, research tips, and history. But are you also keeping up with the library on other platforms?

Valuable information about library hours, policies, events, and other updates are sent out at least once a month via mass email. Those emails come from the Vice President of Information Technology’s office—the sender of the email will read “VPIT.”

To go a little more in-depth, try one of the library’s blogs. Go to Alkek Library News & Research Tips for—you guessed it—library news and research tips. Or for subject-specific postings, try Art & Design Informa, Bag of Tricks Business Librarian, or Copyright Roundup. Share your comments to let us know what other topics you’d like to see covered in the blogs.

Did you know that Alkek Library was named #34 in the top 100 Most Social Media Friendly College & University Libraries for 2013? The library’s Facebook page was specifically singled out as a great resource—“like” the page for timely updates and reminders, as well as interesting links, featured catalog items, and research tips. For more links and updates, follow Alkek Library on Twitter.

But don’t stop there! Subscribe to the library’s YouTube channel to keep up with new videos created by librarians on topics such as using the Reference collection and navigating different databases. Look at Flickr for photographs taken on Library Snapshot Day and at other library events. And last but not least, visit the Alkek Library Pinterest page to find useful web resources curated by the librarians, as well as updates on new books added to the Leisure Reading, Graphic Novel, and other collections.

As always, please give us your feedback on how well we are communicating with you—we want to start a conversation!

Tools for Finding Articles from a Citation

Sometimes when conducting research or reading an article, you come across a reference to another article or study worth investigating. You may ask yourself, “How can I find this article, study, or other data?”

Well, if the author has cited the source properly, usually it’s easy to figure out if the library provides access to it. First, you need to determine the type of resource by looking at the citation. If it was published in an academic journal, you’ll see something like this:


The library subscribes to thousands of journals, and the easiest way to determine if we have access to a particular journal is by using the Periodical List. You can find a link to the Periodical List under Quick Links on the library homepage or by using the Periodicals tab on the main search box. To find the article listed in the citation above, you need to enter the journal title (not the article title), Advances in Nursing Science, into the search.

As the results show in the image below, this journal is available online from two different databases: CINAHL Complete from 1999 - 2005 and LWW Nursing and Health Professions Premier Collection from 1995 to the present. Both of these sources will have the full-text of the article online because the dates listed in the results include the 1999 volume. By clicking on either of the links, you will be taken to the database. Once there, you can “search within publication” for the article title.

Sometimes the study is part of a government funded project by the Federal Government or another entity and may not be published in an academic journal. If it is part of a government funded project, it may be available to everyone free of charge. Usually, you can find these by using Google Scholar.

Tracking down a citation can be a challenge, but if ever you have difficulty locating the source, you can always use Ask a Librarian. The librarians are here to help.
The more things change, the more we try to improve our services.

One of the newest pieces of technology we have acquired is a large interactive display screen that will help us with library instruction sessions. Students who come to our location for an information literacy session will have the opportunity to experience our Sharp Aquos 80-inch TV, which acts as a very large monitor that responds to touch. It will allow librarians and students and even an occasional member of the faculty to interact with the board, all while learning research techniques and procedures. What a wonderful way to learn.

Another change is that our evening librarian, Julie Chapa, has moved on to Round Rock Public Library as Adult Services Librarian. Julie was with us at the Round Rock Campus for over three years, helping members of the Texas State community at Round Rock with research and other library-related needs. Prior to her time at the Round Rock Campus, Julie was employed at Alkek Library where she served as the Evening Reference Assistant going back to 2008. We wish her all the best and congratulate her on her bright future. She will be missed.

We are in the process of hiring a new evening librarian. Hopefully, we will have someone in place by the beginning of the spring 2014 semester as we continue in our attempts to bring you quality assistance.

Public Domain refers to the body of works that are not subject to copyright or other intellectual property protection or those with expired protection. The public domain is a rich resource to draw on for inspiration and as a basis for creating new works, both visual and textual.

With the passage of time, the public domain has grown as more works enter once their copyright protection has expired, especially up until 1976. In that year, U.S. Copyright law was changed to extend copyright protection by a number of years and again in 1998 when another extension was granted. With these extensions, we won’t see any new works enter the public domain until 2019.

A website called Open Culture lists the works that would have entered the public domain this year but for the extensions granted by Congress. An article from The Atlantic Magazine noted this summer how over-extended copyright terms have robbed our culture of mid-twentieth century works, resulting in a “hole in our collective memories.” This useful chart from Cornell University and this slider from the American Library Association provide summaries of when the copyright will expire on various types of works.

Public Domain Day recognizes the fact that no new materials are currently entering the public domain. It also questions whether current lengthy copyright terms serve the best interest of the public and copyright holders. Public Domain Day is the first of January every year. In January 2014, the library will honor this day by hosting a discussion of public domain issues. Watch the library website for more news of the event.

If you have questions about public domain materials or resources, please contact the University Copyright Office at 245-2288.

Please contact Brad Nichols with any copyright related questions you may have.

Take a look at the Fall 2013 Copyright Digest from the University Copyright Office. The Digest provides links to a number of the most important copyright and technology developments that have occurred over the past few months.
Apply for Faculty Online Resource Grants, December to February

The library is pleased to offer faculty Online Resource Grants for the fourth consecutive year. This academic year, we will have at least $160,000 available.

Grant proposals will be accepted following the opening announcement in December and will run through mid-February. This grant enables the purchase of larger one-time online resources no one department can easily afford with its library allocation. Last year, the grant funded the purchase of seven resources, spanning across many disciplines. The grant review committee consists of two members of the Library Committee, two previous recipients, and two librarians.

One-time purchases typically include but are not limited to primary source databases, journal backfile collections, ebook collections, and audio or streaming media collections. Many possibilities are listed on our resource page. Contact Paivi Rentz, Head Acquisitions librarian, for pricing of any products outside this list. Acquisitions will verify eligibility and pricing, and can set up trials as needed.

**FEATURED DATABASE:** NBC Learn
14,000 + short clips from historic news reports, current events stories, and primary source documents

Music, Pottery, Dance, and More in Smithsonian Ethnology Series

Having a collection of 1.5 million documents can make materials a little difficult to find, or to realize they exist in the first place! Recently, library staff in Government Information discovered a series by The Smithsonian Institution.

The fascinating Bureau of Ethnology series captures music, history, linguistics, anthropology, and geological finds of North and South American people and lands beginning in the 1880s. Researchers in numerous departments on campus may be interested in the series with titles ranging from *Bibliography of the Eskimo Language* (1887) to *Early Man in South America* (1912) to *Northern Ute Music* (1922), with accompanying hand-drawn maps of excavation sites, illustrations, sketches, and photographs.

Many books are devoted to archeological finds, including conditions of skeletal remains, clay pottery, and textile fabrics. Others are explorers’ journals, such as *Journal of an Expedition to the Mauwaties Terras and the Upper Missouri in 1850* by Thaddeus Culbertson. Speaking of an experience near a river, Culbertson writes, “Fortune favored me at this place, for as we descended the hill, I saw for the first time in my life, the cactus in bloom. It was a most agreeable surprise to find this unsightly plant which is the great annoyance of moccasin voyagers adorned with flowers of a fine straw color” (117-118).

Another ethnologist, Frances Densmore, cataloged and recorded Native American songs and music throughout the United States. In *Northern Ute Music*, Densmore sketched dance patterns of tribe members, along with the musical score of songs and an analysis of melodic structure. In notes, he carefully captures details about the rehearsal of each particular dance, what happens when a dancer is unable to continue dancing, and the dress and accessories worn by participants.

The materials in this series can be found in the Alkek Library catalog, and they are located on the 4th floor in the Government Information Collection. Find more information at the National Anthropological Archives or the Smithsonian Online Catalog.
If after reading a story you are left horrified and brimming with suspense, yet full of laughter, then you may be a fortunate victim of the writings of champion mojo storyteller Joe R. Lansdale, a man who once convinced a fan that “Lonesome” Joe Lansdale “pens his books in blood, ’cause ink is for wimps.”

Master of the short story, and an award-winning writer of horror, science fiction, westerns, and mysteries, Lansdale has conquered multiple genres and formats, authoring over 30 novels and countless short stories. Even though Lansdale’s writing needs no help infusing the reader’s imagination, his work lends itself easily to the world of graphic novels.

Located among Lansdale’s papers housed at the Wittliff Collections are scripts, art, and correspondence related to his graphic novel work. Lansdale has contributed to multiple horror magazines, graphic novels, and comic books, such as Blood and Shadows, Marvel Adventures: Fantastic Four #32, and Conan and the Songs of the Dead. With drawings by artist Timothy Truman and story by Lansdale, together they recreated Jonah Hex in the western-horror genre for a graphic novel series about the gun-slinging bounty hunter, complete with zombie attacks.

Lansdale’s own zombie western, Dead in the West, was readily converted into a graphic novel. Neal Barrett, Jr. adapted the story, Truman created the cover, and writer and illustrator Jack Jackson, who also donated a collection of his work to the Wittliff, designed the story panels.

A star in his genres, Lansdale counts among his many awards eight Bram Stokers, one Edgar, and the Horror Writers Association Award for Lifetime Achievement. In addition to his fiction, Lansdale has contributed to magazines, television, and film, including Christmas with the Dead, and the cult-classic Bubba Ho-Tep, which is based on a story from Sanctified and Chicken Fried published in the Wittliff’s Southwestern Writers series.

In September, Lansdale published his newest novel, The Thicket, and he has recently been on the set of the film adaptation of his novel Cold in July with Michael C. Hall, Don Johnson, Vinessa Shaw, and Sam Shepard, who is portraying Ben Russel. Keep up with Joe on Facebook and at www.joerlansdale.com.

Joe R. Lansdale began donating his archive to the Wittliff in 1992, and he generously continues to add to his eclectic collection. Make a research request to come in to the Wittliff and see some of his original pieces for yourself.
Mini Research Sessions in Alkek’s New Instant Theater Space

Sign up or just join in. The Instant Theater is located behind the central staircase on Alkek’s main floor. Check for upcoming sessions on our Workshops page.

Here are a few popular session topics:

Facebook Privacy Settings
Finding Playscripts & Using Playfinder Indexes
Introduction to Start Your Research
Get Your Woof On 2: Therapy Dogs Return to Alkek for Finals

BY POPULAR DEMAND, therapy dogs are coming back to Alkek to help students de-stress during final exams. We have some exciting changes this time around, including more dogs and two locations in Alkek, not just one.

If you participated last spring, you’ll find us in the same place, behind the central staircase, on Alkek’s main floor. This is our new Instant Theater space, and we’re putting together a playlist of fun dog pictures and videos to play on the new screen during the event. Like last time, there will be two dogs in this area for two hours per day, but this time we will have a changing of the dogs on the hour. In addition, our friends at SLAC have offered to host one dog per hour in their space on Alkek’s 4th floor during the same time. So that makes a total of six different dogs each day! Watch these two spaces for a poster showing participating dogs and times as the date gets closer.

This semester, we will partner with a new therapy dog group, Divine Canines of Austin.

Our partner last spring, Pawsitive Energy Pet Partners, has disbanded since the organizers, Julie and Kevin Romig from the Geography Department, took a job opportunity in another state. We’ll miss them as well as Rufus, Bitsa, and the rest of the Pawsitive pack, but our new partner has its own “divine” gang that we know you’ll love.

Max Woodfin, Executive Director of Divine Canines, and other human members of the group will also be here. If you want to know more about therapy dogs or if you’re interested in what it takes to become a therapy dog team, they will be happy to answer your questions. Please join us at Alkek and welcome them to Texas State.

But before that, visit the Divine Canine website to see some of the dogs coming to help you get your woof on during finals. You can follow our event updates on Twitter and Facebook, too.

WHEN: December 6 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
December 9 (12 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
December 10 (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)
WHERE: Alkek Library
Instant Theater area, 2nd floor and SLAC, 4th floor

FREE Yoga in the Library!

Don’t let the end of semester stress get the best of you! Come and join our certified yoga teacher for a FREE 45 minute yoga class to help calm your nerves and give you that much needed break.

When: Thursday, December 5th @ 7AM
Monday, December 9th @ 12PM
Thursday, December 12th @ 5PM

Location: Alkek 105/106
Contact:
Allison Rissel 512.245.2246
Tara Smith 512.245.1636
totalwellness@txstate.edu
Postcard Collection Offers “Snapshot” of Historical San Marcos

**Historical postcards provide** a “snapshot” of what an area was like at a certain point in time. Did you know the University Archives has a collection of historical postcards, with images of places around San Marcos and the University, some of which no longer exist?

These postcards contain a great deal of information that can be useful to students and researchers, either in the messages written on the back, or the images on the front. Assembled by the University Archives, the Postcard Collection consists of pieces separated from other collections, donated individually or anonymously, or purchased specifically for the collection.

Here at the Archives, we have been hard at work getting collections ready for the University’s Digital Collections repository, and the Postcard Collection is the first collection we have added. For each postcard scanned, staff must describe the image and create metadata—information about the content of each image—so that the postcards can be searched by title, date, etc.

The Digital Collections repository is a service that provides free and open access to the scholarship and creative works produced and owned by Texas State University. It includes faculty publications, theses and dissertations, materials from The Wittliff Collections, the University Archives, and other materials unique to Texas State University.

The Postcard Collection is now available for viewing online, or come by the Archives on the 5th floor of Alkek to see the originals.

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