



## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

### Creating the Learning Commons

**THIS ISSUE OF** *eNews* includes Sarah Naper's article on new spaces and equipment in the Alkek Library and an interview with Lorin Flores, recently appointed Learning Commons Librarian. So, what exactly is a learning commons?

The learning commons concept evolved from a combination of library and computer lab. Physically, the commons is a meeting space, where students can rearrange furniture to accommodate impromptu planning sessions or secure a quiet place to work near a window. In response to changes in course assignments calling for creative and/or collaborative components, the learning commons provides areas for group meetings, tools to support creative work, and staff specialists to provide help.

But a successful learning commons is more than new furnishings and tools. Its strength lies in the relationships it supports between students and other students, faculty, staff, equipment, or information. An effective learning commons promotes active, engaged learning.

The learning commons reflects the shift in our conception of the library from a provider of information to a facilitator of learning: meshing traditional reference and research services while supporting new technologies in an integrated environment.

To work efficiently and successfully in the future, students need to become critical consumers of information, effective problem solvers, capable decision makers, and innovative communicators. A learning commons becomes the physical and virtual catalyst where inquiry, imagination, discovery, and creativity are fostered, enabling life-long knowledge-seeking attitudes and behaviors.

As we move into the learning commons model at Alkek, feedback from our library users becomes even more important. Please let us know what you think about the changes you see or those you would like to see. Write a comment on our whiteboard near the library entrance or tweet comments to [@alkeklibrary](https://twitter.com/alkeklibrary), slip a note in the suggestion mailbox (coming soon), use the "How Are We Doing?" form on our library homepage, or talk with our staff. As always, we look forward to hearing from you. See you at the library!

Joan L. Heath  
Associate Vice President and University Librarian

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# RESEARCH AND LEARNING SERVICES

by Sarah Naper

## New Spaces & Equipment in Alkek

**THE ALKEK LIBRARY** has made several recent changes to accommodate student needs. We invite and encourage you to check these out and let us hear your feedback!

**Whiteboard space**—Behind the Research & Information desk on Alkek's main floor, new comfortable chairs, mini-tables, and whiteboards are available for students to rearrange and reconfigure to meet small group collaborative needs. Don't be bashful about moving things around; we really want you to shift this new furniture to accommodate your needs.

**Instant Theater**—Behind the grand staircase, a 90-inch monitor is available for various training sessions. Initially, the training will showcase Library or IT workshops, but our hope is to also feature other campus services. Visit our [Workshops page](#) to keep up with the latest offerings. Additionally, we're hoping to host some fun events in the area, like our popular dog therapy sessions during finals, and other cool things as well.

**Movable tables & chairs**—Next to the Instant Theater screen and by the windows behind the grand staircase, more than 40 chairs and 20 small triangular tables are available. The small tables are perfect for an individual user; however, groups can push the tables together to make half circles or full circles for group work.

**Collaboration zone**—Bring your laptops to one of the three large tables with monitors and share your screen on the monitor with other group members. These tables have power-charging capability. Priority is for group use.

**Curvy couches**—Pull up a table or just sit back and relax. These new seats are a great place to soak up the Alkek ambience.

And here's our newest space...**Alkek C<sup>2</sup> (Collaboration Center)**—On the fourth floor, to the right of the grand staircase, are two enclosed collaborative technologies rooms. Each room has rich technology, including a camera, podiums (similar to what instructors use in many campus classrooms), and large-screen monitors. One room (480A) even has the capability for videoconferencing. You can [reserve these rooms online](#) for a two hour block. Alkek C<sup>2</sup> also includes three digital production bays available through the same

online reservation form. These editing stations are equipped with software for digital editing projects, including Adobe Creative Suite (with Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Fireworks, Illustrator, and others). Six charging stations (regular electrical and USB ports) are available on the counter outside of the rooms.

Additionally, computers and printers on the main floor of the library have been updated. On a pilot basis, you don't even have to log in to a library computer to print something. The [Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\)](#) printing program allows you to either upload documents to the Web or email documents to be printed (see complete [directions](#) online).

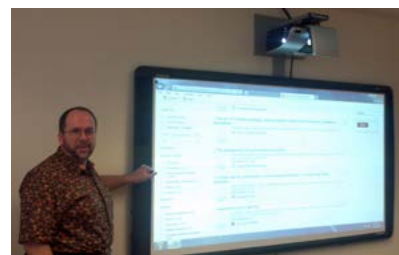


## Mini Research Sessions in Alkek New Instant Theater Space

**Sign up or just join in. Find us behind the central staircase on Alkek's main floor. Here are a few upcoming sessions:**

- \*Our Texas State World: Celebrating the History of Texas State**
- \*Using the Texas State Mobile App**
- \*Searching PsychINFO Database**

**Check for more sessions, dates, and times on our [Workshops page](#).**



Terrence Edwards, Instruction Librarian



# HEY UNDERGRADS!

by Jessica McClean

## Quick Guide to Alkek's Service Desks

**IF YOU COME** to the library with an urgent question, it can be tricky to decide which of the many staff members to ask. To help you choose the right place for your problem, here's a quick guide to what each service desk does.

The **Research & Information desk** is the place to go for research assistance or general questions about the library building or collections. That's the big desk in the center of the main floor as you enter the library. No matter what kind of help you need, this desk is a good place to start.

This semester, the Research & Information desk will be extending its hours with the addition of specially trained student workers. On nights and weekends, they will be able to help with simple research and directional questions and will refer more complicated queries to the appropriate research librarian. Don't forget you

can get help from the Research & Information desk in person, by email or phone, or via chat.

For questions about the computers or printing on the main floor, visit the **Printer Help desk** beside the Research & Information desk; if you're on the fourth floor, ask at the Computer Lab.

At the **Circulation/Reserve desk**, located just to the left of the front doors as you enter the library, you can check out items, pay for fines or color printing, and find materials your instructors put on Reserve for your class. This desk is also where you'll go to remove holds on your record and pick up Interlibrary Loan (ILL) items or other materials on hold.

To check out DVDs or CDs on the third floor, take the item's case to the **Periodicals/Media desk**—discs are behind the desk for safekeeping. You can also get help navigating



Research & Information Desk Staff

the interesting collections on that floor.

Last but not least, the **Government Information desk** on the fourth floor is a fantastic resource for questions related to government, history, political science, or geography—especially if you are in need of statistics or primary source material. Gov Info staff can also help you navigate the SuDoc call number system and assist with map printing requests.

Providing good service is important to us here at Alkek. We hope you'll be able to find exactly what you need at one of our many service desks.



# STEP UP YOUR RESEARCH

by Lisa Ancelet

## Research Support for Faculty & Graduate Students

**ALONG WITH CHANGES** in the library regarding learning spaces and expanded staffing at our Research & Information desk, we are working hard to address the research needs of faculty and graduate students as the university moves forward as an Emerging Research Institution.

Exploration of new programming and services to support faculty and graduate students is the primary charge of what has traditionally been the Reference Department at Alkek. Now called the Research, Instruction & Outreach Department, we are pursuing more focused outreach for upper division and graduate students, along with faculty.

Beginning this year, Research, Instruction & Outreach librarians will identify new ways to expand partnerships and engagement within

their assigned subject disciplines. One of the first steps is an environmental scan of academic liaison departments. The methodology will be a multi-pronged approach, including a thorough review of assigned academic departments focusing on the research and teaching needs of faculty. Tasks will include updating current collection development guides with attention to new programs and courses offered, online or in person interviews with stakeholders, literature reviews, and other tasks librarians identify as they work through the process of conducting the scan. Once scans are completed in early summer, librarians will take what they've learned to modify existing services or develop new ones.

Parallel to the work liaison librarians will

be doing this year is the work of a new team charged with identifying and developing programming to inform the Texas State community on topics related to scholarship. Some of the topics being developed to serve the needs of researchers include authors' rights (maintaining copyright), management of researcher data, avoiding predatory publishers, and understanding impact factor.

Last fall, the library participated in Open Access Week by hosting a number of events for a new series called Trends in Scholarly Communications. Expanding the series to bring notable speakers recognized in the field of scholarly communications to Texas State and other similar events is another goal the team will be addressing this year.





# Meet Our Staff

by Kay Hetherly

## Lorin Flores, Learning Commons Librarian: “Librarians are here to help.”

**EXCITING CHANGE IS** brewing at Alkek, and Lorin Flores is right in the thick of it. Formerly Alkek’s Information Literacy Coordinator, Lorin is now Learning Commons Librarian, overseeing our new Learning Commons unit.

**Lorin:** “I am so excited and happy to be in this new position. As Learning Commons Librarian, my focus will be on transitioning to a learning commons environment in Alkek and developing new services and spaces in the library. Learning commons are something like an updated evolution of libraries and library services in response to changes in technology and how people do their research and learn nowadays. The emphasis is on not just serving as a storehouse of information—it is about integrating technology and providing spaces for learning, study, and collaboration.”

When you visit Alkek, you’ll notice many of the changes Lorin mentions. Those include new comfortable furniture on the main floor that is movable, as well as whiteboards, collaboration tables, and an instant theater space



where you can join any of our workshops taught by librarians and IT staff.

Not everything is changing at Alkek though. Lorin still teaches library instruction classes, provides individual research assistance, and runs the library segment of PAWS Preview freshman orientation. And library staff is still committed to providing quality service and access to great resources. Here’s what Lorin

wants you to know about our services:

**Lorin:** “Librarians are here to help. We enjoy helping people find things and helping with research projects. I think sometimes people may not realize it at first, and spend a lot of time searching fruitlessly and then become very frustrated. Oftentimes when I have had consultations with students, they’ve mentioned that they wish they had come by sooner because it made things go so much faster.

Another major thing people don’t know about libraries in general is the vast amount of information available. Libraries have excellent resources that not everyone has access to. People tend to do a Google search and think that those results are all there is, but in reality there’s tons of much better, focused information that is hidden behind paywalls because it is only available in subscription databases. That’s one of the perks of having access to the library here at Texas State—we are able to provide access and subscribe to these fabulous resources, and not just text resources, either.”



## NEWS FROM THE NORTH

by Anthony Guardado

## Meet Our Newest Librarian, Angela Swift

**WE ARE MOST** proud to introduce Angela Swift, our new Evening and Instruction Librarian at the Round Rock Campus. She is ready to assist with your library needs Monday through Thursday from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Angela will be leading many of the library instruction classes at the Round Rock Campus, so faculty can [contact her directly](#) about arranging for sessions. She provides reference assistance, along with other general library

duties, all with a smile. Any Texas State student, faculty, or staff member may contact her for individual appointments.

Angela has a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin, another school in Texas you may have heard about, and is currently taking additional post-graduate classes there in digital archives. Her past employment in libraries includes positions at Austin Public Library



and Austin Community College. She also worked as a technical writer for the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

RRC Library Services welcomes Angela as a great addition to the team, and we know she will help us become even better in providing the best library services possible. When you have a moment, stop by and introduce yourself, or better yet, ask her a reference question or two. You will be glad you did.

**RRC Library Services. Come in and find out more.**

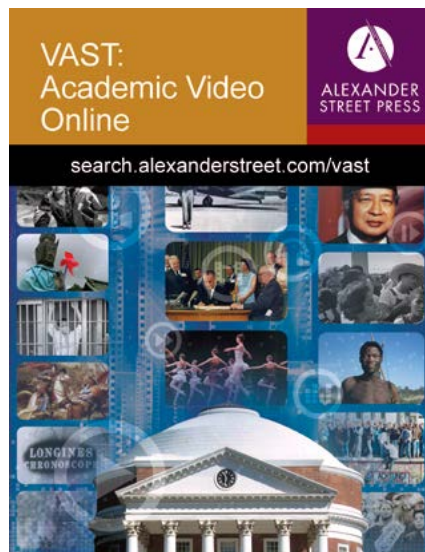
# COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

by Liane Taylor

## Expanded Access to Thousands of Online Streaming Videos

**WE ARE EXCITED** to announce expanded access to two large collections of online streaming films. The library now subscribes to the [Films on Demand Master Academic Collection](#), which contains over 16,500 streaming films across all disciplines, from major producers like Films for the Humanities & Sciences, BBC, A&E, History Channel, PBS, National Geographic, and many more. Previously, we only had access to 2,000 videos on this platform, so this is a major expansion of access.

In addition, the library now subscribes to Alexander Street's [Academic Video Online Premium](#). This upgrade to the Premium collection gives us access to around 7,000 more videos across all disciplines, bringing our total



access to about 30,000 streaming films. This collection includes award-winning films, such as Academy® and Emmy® winners, as well as films from producers like Filmmakers Library, First Run Features, Kino International, and Landmark Media.

Within the next few months, you will be able to search our catalog for these films. While we're working on that, you can search each platform using the links above to find films of interest. These collections can also be found on the [Research Databases](#) page, under *Streaming*.



## SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS

by Guy Dore

## Find a Movie or TV Show on DVD at Alkek

**YOU PROBABLY KNOW** Alkek has movies, but you may not realize how vast our collection is. We have documentaries on subjects you may be studying or teaching as well as recent blockbusters, foreign films, anime, and children's movies. What else do we have? Plenty!

- Popular Hollywood films and TV series
- Sports, workout, and dance DVDs
- Films of concerts and musicians
- Criterion Collection of classics
- Collections of renowned directors
- Lectures on philosophy, religion, and more

**I know which movie I want. Do you have it?**

From the main search box on the [library homepage](#), follow these steps:

Click on the tab for **Books & More**.

Change the drop-down menu to **Title**.

Click the radio button for **Video**.

Enter the title.

**I'd like to browse popular movies. Where are they?**

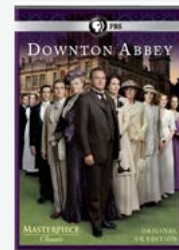
All the DVDs are on the third floor, opposite the juvenile books. The first set of shelves are mostly nonfiction. Most of the popular titles are on the first side of the second shelf.

**You don't have the movie I want.**

You still have two options:

1) [Interlibrary loan](#)—[Create an account](#) and fill out the request form. You'll get an email in one to two weeks, and we'll hold your movie for you at the Circulation desk.

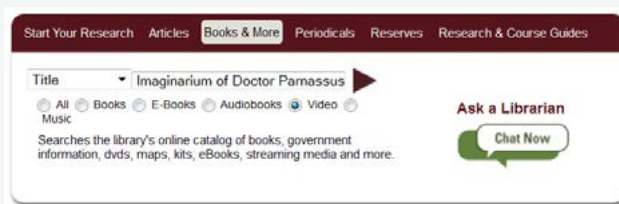
2) Request a purchase—on the [library](#)



[homepage](#), choose “[Recommend a Purchase](#)” from the drop-down menu under “[Renew & Request](#)” at the top of the page.

You can check out DVDs for two weeks, and they're renewable online. But don't forget to renew—fines are \$1.00/day *per item*, up to \$5.00 each. You're allowed to check out a maximum of four at a time.

So take advantage of your “walking Netflix account” and stop by for a free DVD.





# AT THE WITTLIFF

by Michele Miller



## Photographs and Voices Confront Stereotypes of Mental Illness

**THE TEXAS STATE** Common Experience theme this year, [Minds Matter: Exploring Mental Health and Illness](#), has given the Wittliff Collections the opportunity to host a unique and powerful exhibition by the photographer Michael Nye. His traveling show [Fine Line: Mental Health / Mental Illness](#), on display now through March 30, confronts stereotypes and reveals both the courage and the fragility of those living with mental illness. The exhibition is sponsored by the Wittliff, the Common Experience, and [CFAN Company](#).



Nye, a San Antonio photographer and former lawyer, spent four years capturing the images and recording the stories of his subjects. “Mental illness touches the deepest parts of who we are; our identity, self worth.... It can happen for no apparent reason and at any time. Every person is vulnerable to mental illness.” Each portrait is accompanied by an audio recording made of the person telling his or her own story.

Viewers can listen to these recordings, ranging from one to five minutes, with headphones in front of each portrait. The result is an intensely personal and intimate experience. The stories shared involve living with schizophrenia, depression, and obsessive-compulsive, bi-polar, and anxiety disorders. These emotional and intimate pieces draw attention to the tenuous threshold between stability and imbalance. As Nye says, “These stories are about all of us as we live with our uncertainties.” He believes his subjects are the teachers and we are their students, and he asks that “each person coming into the gallery listen carefully. Throw away your old definitions of mental illness and start over. Listen to each story as if it could be you or your child or your friend or some stranger you will meet tomorrow.”

[Other exhibitions](#) presented by the Wittliff Collections this semester include Mary Ellen Mark—Man And Beast: Photographs from Mexico and India; Acting Up and Getting Down: Plays by African American Texans; and Coming to Light: New Photography Acquisitions.

[The Wittliff Events Calendar](#) is packed this spring as well. Among what’s still to come: readings by such esteemed writers as [Cristina García](#), [Jorie Graham](#), and Texas State faculty [René LeBlanc](#), [Tómas Morín](#), and [Don Olson](#); a Q&A with famous author [Sherman Alexie](#); and a discussion, [Writing Beyond Borders](#), with Texas State Distinguished Alumnus [Tino](#)

[Villanueva](#), Houston poet, memoirist, and editor [Sarah Cortez](#), and filmmaker, playwright, and writer [Severo Perez](#), moderated by San Antonio’s first Poet Laureate, [Carmen Tafolla](#). Two symposiums will be presented: one on the role music plays in our everyday lives, the other on the impact of a significant number of Texans who opposed slavery during the Civil War. And watch for the exhibition/book party for [Sandra Mayo](#) and [Elvin Holt’s Acting Up and Getting Down!](#)

Detailed listings of the Wittliff Collections’ [exhibitions and events](#), as well as [visiting hours](#), are online. As always, admission is free and all are welcome.



*Elizabeth*, © 2002, Michael Nye

**Interested in more stories like this? Follow the [Wittliff Collections on Facebook](#).**





Prof. T. G. Harris,  
San Marcos, Texas.

Dear Sir:

I write to congratulate you upon your decision to exclude from a State Institution young men, and older men, who smoke cigarettes and yet seek at the hands of the State, preparation for teachers in our public schools.

While I have known for a long time your own position personally upon this great evil, I hardly expected you to be bold enough to take the initiative in such an important matter. This action on your part will now force similar action upon other State Institutions of like character.

I have observed with gratification, that you require all applicants to present certificates of character, which means before enrolling in the Normal they must give evidence of their fitness to become moral leaders of Texas youths, and your position on the cigarette evil certainly comes within the bounds of your jurisdiction. The insinuating cigarette is a greater agency for harm in Texas than all the saloons from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande.

When I made my will a few months ago, I instructed my lawyer to execute a provision that my own son should not receive any part of his inheritance if he should be a cigarette user at the age of twenty one; I said nothing about his use of alcoholic liquors. I take considerable pride in asserting that I was the first private school man in Texas who positively refused to accept cigarette smokers, and I am gratified to know that a number of schools have followed suit. It is not a matter of sentiment with me, but purely a matter of business. I do not talk to young men about the evil of the cigarette, which would be useless, but I simply tell them I cannot accept them. I cannot invest my time and money in a proposition that does not promise a walking advertisement for my Institution.

While the cigarette unfits the body for physical endurance, and incapacitates the mind for attention and concentration, it positively renders the soul irresponsible to the appeals of truth, honesty and manhood.

Recommending this forward movement to the educators of Texas, I beg to remain,

Your friend,

*Wesley Peacock*

Letter to Principal Harris from Wesley Peacock, founder of the Peacock Military School, on the evils of cigarette smoking, September 14, 1907  
From the Thomas G. Harris Administrative Records

## Texas State University History

by Wendy Thompson

### First University President T.G. Harris Keeps Strict Eye on Campus

WHEN SOUTHWEST TEXAS State Normal School opened its doors in 1903, Principal Thomas Green Harris was at the helm, overseeing the school's 16 faculty members and 303 students. Before coming to Southwest Texas, Principal Harris served as Austin's Superintendent of Schools. In Austin, he earned a reputation as a "good schoolman" and "a strict disciplinarian."

Throughout his tenure at the Normal, his policies and administrative style continually reflected those attributes. Normal schools trained students for teaching careers in the public schools, and Harris saw obedience as the first principle of education. According to Harris, once students mastered the ability to be obedient, they could proceed to the lessons of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Evidence

of his affinity for student obedience and moral responsibility is present in his papers, especially in his compilation of the "Regulations for the Guidance of Students of Southwest Texas State Normal." Included on the list is a prohibition of courting, because according to Harris, "the existence of the Normal is the preparation of young men and women to teach, not to afford opportunity to marry."

While presiding over the school, Principal Harris' responsibilities included choosing the faculty, planning courses, creating the academic schedule, and writing the catalog. He also oversaw matters concerning maintenance and custodial care, which at the time were not so daunting, as the school operated out of one building—referred to as Main Building (now Old Main). There were no dorms on campus

yet, so students boarded in town with San Marcos families.

Despite their off-campus location, students still lived under the keen eye of Principal Harris. In fact, students could not even leave the area without his permission. Many of the letters in the Harris records are from students requesting permission to leave campus.

Other topics of correspondence include inquiries about student appointments to the Normal, admission requirements, and grades. Principal Harris served as the school's administrator until 1911, when he was succeeded by Cecil Eugene Evans. The Harris records provide a glimpse of life at Texas State in its early years. They are held at the University Archives on Alkek's fifth floor and may be viewed by appointment.

To inquire about historical materials or request a research appointment, please contact [UnivArchives@txstate.edu](mailto:UnivArchives@txstate.edu).