

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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A Day in the Life at Alkek



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Director's Message



One Day—October 28, 2014

WITH MORE THAN a million visitors a year, the Alkek Library is a busy place. Recently library staff in San Marcos and Round Rock participated in Texas Library Snapshot Day. This “Day in the Life of the Library” provides an impressive quick look at the range and volume of on-site and virtual activities that comprise library services. Here’s a sampling from October 28, 2014:

Statistics:

Number of on-site visitors	7,539
Circulation	1,057
Library web page hits	8,330
Database & e-resource searches	648,813
Full-text downloads	6,493
People using computers	4,335
User instruction or technology assistance	4,269
Public program attendance	191
Instruction classes	4

Questions:

- How do I log-in from home?
- I’m looking for information about oil spills and OSHA.
- Is there a database for interviews?
- Where can I find the newspaper files of EL NUEVO DIA (Puerto Rico)?
- How do I scan this document?
- How do I find peer-reviewed articles?
- How many items can I check out at a time?

Comments from library users added another dimension to our Day in the Life:

- Alkek is my home.
- I love my library. I have a favorite table to do work.
- Awesome! The research and information center helps me out every time.
- This is exactly what I needed help with.

Library Snapshot Day is one means of looking at library use. Assessment of services is ongoing. Next semester library staff will conduct our primary customer satisfaction survey (LibQUAL), to formally gather data on user perceptions of library services.

Joan L. Heath

Associate Vice President and University Librarian



Bobcat Bobbies, Reservable Study Rooms, and More Tips for Finals

IT FEELS LIKE it was just Halloween, but suddenly finals are upon us again. We here at Alkek are preparing for our busiest time of the semester, and we have some tips for you whether this is your first or last finals week.

Alkek will be open 24 hours for finals: from 7 a.m. on December 3 to midnight on December 5, then from 10 a.m. on December 7 to 5 p.m. on December 12. It will be dark out no matter when you leave, so don't forget to call **Bobcat Bobbies** for a little extra security in getting home.

Library study space will be at a premium,

but the **new reservable study rooms** give you the option to plan ahead. Block out a few hours now in the fourth floor Collaboration Center or the group study rooms on the fifth floor—you'll be glad you did when your group project gets closer. The fifth and sixth floors are always quiet floors (and we will enforce that), but if you need a little extra silence, go to one of the service desks and pick up a pair of earplugs.

Even if this is your first finals at Texas State, you've probably heard rumors about the therapy dogs. If you miss your pets at home or just want to take a study break, come and

meet our furry visitors. Studies show that petting a dog can **lower your blood pressure** and **reduce stress**, so really, this is a win-win. This semester the dogs will be joining us on Monday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 9—see the box below for details about the exact times and locations, and look out for more information coming soon about which dogs will be visiting so you can plan your study schedule.

*by Jessica McClean
Undergraduate Instruction
& Outreach Librarian*



**Golf anyone? Take a putting break in the Alkek Instant Theater
December 10, 1 to 3 p.m. and December 11, 10 a.m. to noon
Electronic putting machine provided by Campus Recreation**



Therapy Dogs to the Rescue: De-Stress with Divine Canines at Alkek

DID YOU KNOW petting dogs for only 15 minutes lowers stress hormones like cortisol while increasing endorphins, dopamine, and oxytocin levels, all associated with pleasant feelings? That's a pretty good reason to come to Alkek during finals week and pet therapy dogs. Or maybe you just like hanging out with dogs!

You won't find better dogs to hang out with than our friends from **Divine Canines**, a non-profit therapy dog group in Austin. Their people are pretty awesome too, as anyone who has previously attended this popular

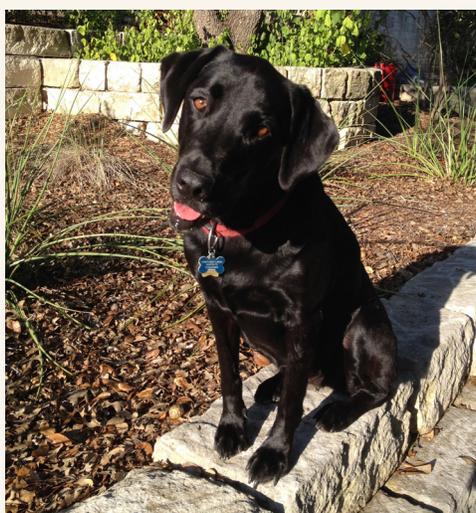
event knows. Come and be entertained by the lovable Lab pair, Amstel and Shiner, or get lost in Great Pyrenees Sadie's clouds of white fur. For little dog lovers, the famous KXAN TV's Kaxan will be returning and probably wearing his signature glasses at some point to encourage studiousness—and laughs. We have other old and new friends coming as well, like Ranger the yellow Lab mix and Maggie the Goldendoodle.

A lot of students tell us this event reminds them what's important in life and helps them get finals in perspective. We've had staff

members say this is the highlight of their year and faculty thank us for helping their students. We love this event, and welcome any and all of the Texas State family to come and be part of it.

*by Kay Hetherly
Learning Commons Assistant*

**Pet a therapy dog at Alkek!
December 8, 1 to 3 p.m.
December 9, 10 a.m. to noon
Alkek Library, two locations:
Instant Theater, main floor
SLAC, fourth floor**



Divine Canines Amstel, Shiner, Sadie, and others await you at Alkek!

Finding Social Science Survey Instruments: A Daunting Task

FOR NOVICE AND expert social science researchers alike, locating a copy of a survey instrument can be a daunting task.

First of all, there are two types of surveys and testing instruments: published and unpublished. Published instruments must be purchased from publishers and sometimes may only be administered by a licensed professional. The Alkek Library has several published testing instruments on the third floor in the Kits section as well as in Secured Collections at the Periodicals & Media Desk. Tests shelved in the Kits section may be checked out, while

those in the Secured Collection are intended only for students enrolled in a particular class that uses the test as part of their curriculum.

Next to the Kit shelves is the **Testing Collection**, which houses books that provide access to unpublished tests and survey instruments. The Testing Collection material includes both print books as well as eBooks.

Alkek's **Tests & Measurements databases** page lists several online resources that may be used to browse for reviews of tests as well as the full text of many unpublished instruments related to the social sciences. A good resource

to help with locating testing instruments is the **Tests & Measurements research guide** that lists many helpful resources and provides definitions for published and unpublished tests as well as a table listing database resources and what purpose each serves.

Contact a librarian for assistance locating tests & measurements. The research guide and **Ask a Librarian** page provide contacts for online and face-to-face research help.

by Arlene Salazar

Research, Instruction, & Outreach Librarian

Faculty Focus

New Tools for Building and Managing Visual Research Collections

WITH THE CURRENT explosion of visually-oriented technologies, the new millennium has seen a profusion of information centered on the image. Our culture is deeply visual—focused on reading images as text, data, proof, and information.

This focus impacts academic research across a spectrum of disciplines, from scientific slides and star maps to the photographic record of ethnographic cultures, public history, and visual art. To align with visually-oriented research possibilities, the University Library has licensed **Artstor Shared Shelf**, an interdisciplinary image-hosting management platform and part of the university's **Artstor collection database**. **Shared Shelf** allows faculty to share, annotate, centralize, and publish image collections both locally and globally.

Shared Shelf may be used as a teaching or research tool across academic disciplines to gather and share collections, knowledge, and new insights. Do you have visual research collections that would benefit from database aggregation, metadata application, and/or online publication? Any discipline or faculty that has need of a robust image hosting

SHARED SHELF



platform may use Artstor Shared Shelf.

In 2015, the library will be piloting a project to work with research faculty interested in increasing visibility of their image collections as teaching or research tools. Image collections may range from ecosystem biodiversity to historical maps to photography of ethnographic cultures to other visually focused scholarly research areas. If you have image collections, we are interested in hearing from you.

If you'd like to learn more about Shared Shelf, please see the library's **Artstor page**, the **Shared Shelf overview**, or watch a **video**

playlist to see the range of academic disciplines where Shared Shelf is currently being used. The library will be conducting workshops for faculty to learn about Shared Shelf in early 2015. To attend, please **register here**.

If you'd also like to discuss a potential project or find out more about Shared Shelf, please feel free to contact **Ray Uzwyshyn**, Director of Collections and Digital Services, (512)245-5687.

by Ray Uzwyshyn

Director, Collections and Digital Services

What's Our Newest Streaming Video Collection? Kanopy!

DISCOVER OUR EXTENSIVE video and audio collections by searching **streaming media** in the library catalog.

The newest of these is **Kanopy Streaming**, a multidisciplinary collection providing access to popular films, television programs, and documentaries. Kanopy's video collection covers anthropology, art, business, economics, gender/race/class studies, history, media communications, multicultural studies, nursing, psychology, sustainability, and many other subjects. It also includes 319 films from **The Criterion Collection**, with classics like *A Hard Day's Night* and *Seven Samurai*.



Through Kanopy, you can access films from **California Newsreel**, one of the oldest non-profit social issue documentary film centers in the country. **Documentary Educational Resources** films, dedicated to learning about the people and cultures of the world, are also available. **The Checkerboard Collection** documents living artists who have made important contributions to American arts. Kanopy also provides access to films and television programs from PBS, DEFA East German Film Collection, Green Planet Collection, CryENGINE 3, ArtMattan Films, and other distributors.

Log in and see **The Return of Navajo Boy**, a documentary on a reunited Navajo family that triggered a federal investigation into uranium contamination. Or **Posh Corps**, a documentary focusing on the lives of Peace Corps Volunteers in South Africa who now serve as the intersection of modern influence and traditional values. Or perhaps **Eine**



Seven Samurai

Berliner Romanze, a 1956 German film with English subtitles, about a cross border romance between a girl from East Berlin and a boy from West Berlin. This film shows one of the most accurate portrayals of Cold War Berlin youth before the building of the Berlin Wall.

Kanopy covers many subject areas and features films that have been showcased at film festivals around the world. There are many treasures to find, and we hope you enjoy watching!

*by Misty Hopper
Head Cataloging Librarian*

What Staff Can Do For You

Gaye Wood, Specialized Collections Assistant:

“We try to be as helpful as possible during finals—and every day!”

IN RESPONSE TO rumors that Alkek Library is dabbling in genetic cloning, let me assure you that we did not clone Gaye Wood. She splits her time between the Periodicals and Media desk on the third floor and the Government Information Desk on the fourth. Gaye supervises student staff at both locations, utilizing her expertise in attending to patron needs.

When asked about special services provided by Gov Info during finals, Gaye replied, “We try to be as helpful as possible during finals—and every day!” She included a tip about computers in their area: “We have eight computers loaded with standard software as well as ArcGIS in support of our geography students,” so if the lines are long on the second floor, you might check Gov Info for a free one.

Gaye brings the same spirit of service to the desk on the third floor. She ensures staff is there “any hours the library is open—24



hours during finals. All materials are available to students to aid in their studying: skeletons (full and disarticulated), models, kits, juvenile

literature—even movies or educational games for a good study break!”

Gaye is also on the Therapy Dog team, which brings dogs to Alkek every semester. She is the creative force behind the cute promotional posters and flyers we hope you see around campus. “We distribute flyers, put up digital signs, and create posters. This semester we will be hosting a two-day event during finals,” she says. Keep a look out for this stress relieving service. It’s a hit! You can’t top a fuzzy doggy ear to take the edge off finals.

Gaye and library staff are looking out for you year round, and especially during finals. Stop by and see. All that said, I won’t rule out teleportation allowing Gaye to seemingly be in two places at once.

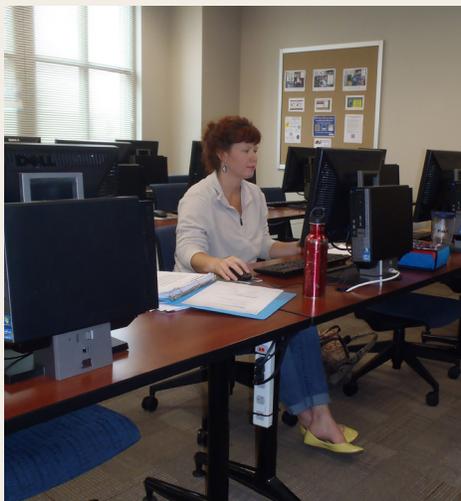
*by Robert Gutierrez
Head Cataloging Assistant*

Stressed Out at Semester's End?

WE ALL UNDERSTAND how stressful the end of a semester can be. Let the Round Rock Campus Library help!

Come in and use our quiet room for a peaceful place to study. Play a game of chess on our chessboard. Have a conversation with a classmate or three—our front room is set up with comfy chairs, and food and drink are welcome.

We have a color printer for any last minute printing needs and a scanner that allows you to scan to your e-mail for free. You can check out headphones and calculators for the day, and we also have a paper cutter, a three-hole punch, bindery machine, and staplers—both regular



and heavy duty.

Our Learning Lab in the back of the library offers over 20 computers loaded with the Microsoft Office suite and Adobe Acrobat. Do you have a paper due at the end of the semester? Feel free to stop by and get research assistance from one of our librarians.

And don't forget to check out our Leisure Reading Collection to help your brain relax once you've finished your semester tasks.

Good luck finishing the semester!

*by Angela Swift
Evening Reference & Instruction Librarian
Round Rock Campus*

RRC Library. Come in and find out more.

At the Wittliff Collections

Bill Wittliff and the Twisting Tale of the Devil's Backbone

THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE, first of a trilogy by the Wittliff Collections founder and master storyteller **BILL WITTLIFF**, is an imaginatively layered narrative told by "Papa" recounting the spirited tale of himself as a runaway boy searching for his Momma—who has fled their homestead to escape his vicious Daddy, Old Karl.

Momma's flight sets Papa on a mission to find her that thrusts him and his scrappy dog, Fritz, into adventures across the wild hardscrabble of the 1880s Texas Hill Country, down to Mexico, and beyond, into the rumored realm of the ghostly "Shimmery People." Papa's twisting trail draws him ever nearer to a mysterious cave that haunts his dreams—an actual place he discovers at last in the canyons of the snaking ridge of the Devil's Backbone—but will he

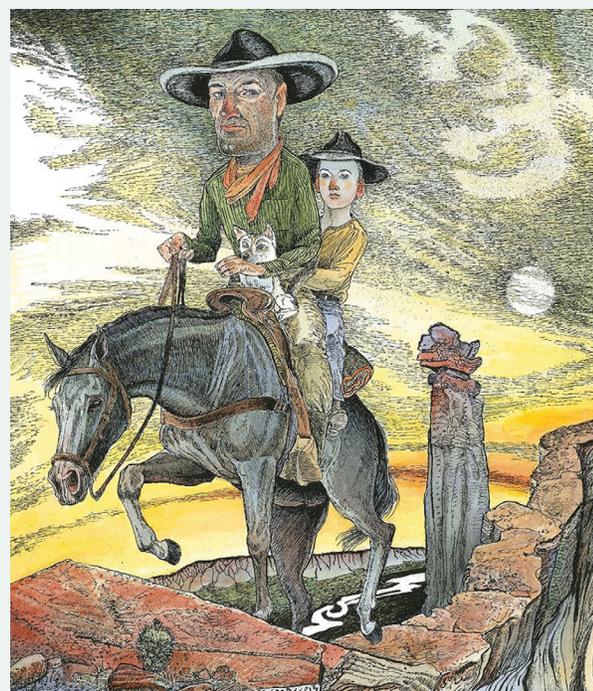
find his Momma before Old Karl finds him?

Bill Wittliff grew up listening to stories and memories like these told by his own family, and in this woolly yarn colored with a cast of lively characters, sly humor, folk wit and wisdom, regional myth, and rock-hard truths, he weaves a story on the level of mythic quest. Add **JACK UNRUH**'s equally wondrous illustrations, and the magical mix transports the reader to a time and place where the lyrically surreal wavers in and out of the chillingly real.

Head up to Alkek's seventh floor at 2 p.m. on December 7 to enjoy the Wittliff Collections' final **public event** of the semester. Check out our **upcoming spring**

exhibitions—the information is already online!

*by Michele Miller
Publications Specialist, Wittliff Collections*



Fritz, Calley Pearsall, and Papa on top of the Devil's Backbone, © 2014, Jack Unruh

DECEMBER 7, SUNDAY, 2 p.m. FREE ADMISSION

The Devil's Backbone

Book party with author **BILL WITTLIFF** and illustrator **JACK UNRUH**

Program | Book Sale + Signing with Wittliff & Unruh | Reception
Unruh's original drawings will be on view.

RSVP to thewittliffcollections@txstate.edu for further information.

Launching the Atomic Age, Told Through Government Resources

AS THE ANNIVERSARY of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor approaches, I find myself thinking of the tragic acts that ended the war against Japan—namely the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With those thoughts come a curiosity about the men and women involved in the launching of the atomic age and the building of the bombs that destroyed so many lives.

Government Information offers many resources—both hard copy and online—for learning about the Manhattan project (the code name for the bomb project), the Trinity Site (site of the first detonation), Los Alamos, and much, much more.

One document of particular note, Charles

R. Loeber's **Building the Bombs: A History of the Nuclear Weapons Complex**, gives a comprehensive look at the bomb from Einstein's theory of relativity through the development of the bombs: Fat Man and Little Boy, the Cold War, START, and deterrence. Another significant document is **Manhattan: the Army and the Atomic Bomb**, part of the United States Army in World War II series. This volume goes into the Army's task of "organizing and administering what was to become the single largest technological project of its kind undertaken up to that time," as Brigadier General Douglas Kinnard writes in the foreword.

An especially interesting piece among our many online resources is **In the Matter**

of **J. Robert Oppenheimer**. This is the full transcript of previously redacted proceedings revoking Dr. Oppenheimer's (called by some the "father of the atomic bomb") security clearance.

Some of the best resources for primary source material include the **Serial Set** and **Hathi Trust Digital Library**. Government Information has great primary sources for a wide variety of subjects.

Using library resources/government documents can be for more than class assignments—they are great for satisfying curiosity as well!

by *Gaye Wood*
Specialized Collections Assistant

Texas State University History

The "Great War" Remembered

BY THE TIME the United States joined the war effort in April 1917, World War I (also known as the "Great War") had been raging for nearly three years. Although the war never physically reached U.S. shores, Americans across the country felt its effects.

Texas State—then Southwest Texas State Normal School (SWT)—was no exception. Wartime changes included everything from the *Pedagog* yearbook's cheaper printing materials to a decrease in enrollment. Ultimately, 435 SWT students served in the military during the Great War, and six died either by disease or in battle.

War-related news traveled slowly in the early 20th century, especially compared to today. Newspapers were instrumental in spreading information, but a new technology called "stereography" allowed Americans to view war images in three dimensions (3-D), a novelty in the 1910s. Stereoscopic cameras took two simultaneous and nearly identical side-by-side images, creating a stereocard. By placing a card in the stereograph and adjusting the lenses, a sense of depth perception was created. Although the images were detailed and informative, their distribution was delayed until after the Great War because neither the



"Our Answer to the Kaiser," one of ten WWI stereocards in detailed view on The Great War @ 100 LibGuide

Allied nor Central Powers wanted to circulate potentially negative images to the public.

The current University Archives exhibition on the Great War features stereographs and other more recent 3-D technology used to view the war, including a View-Master and 3-D glasses. See it all in Alkek Room 580 on the fifth floor.

by *Virginia A. Pickel*
Public History Graduate Student
Research Assistant, University Archives

Check out The Great War research guide for extensive links, databases, and other WWI resources, including detailed views of stereocards featured in this exhibit:



[The Great War @ 100 LibGuide](#)