Director’s Message
Time to Celebrate!

Student Voices
Chasing the Dream to Become a Registered Nurse

Step Up Your Research
New Staffing Models for Research Help

Collections Spotlight
Then and Now: Collections at Alkek
Digitization Initiatives Growing at the Library

Discovering Government Resources
From Gov Docs to .Gov: Changes to Gov Info

Copyright Corner
Video Performance in the Classroom & on TRACS

Staff Feature
Jerry Weathers, Head Access Services Librarian

News from the North
Celebrating Years of Library Support

At the Wittliff Collections
Three New Exhibitions Open Now!

Texas State University History
Alkek Library Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

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September 2015 Vol. 4, No. 1
Time To Celebrate!

This fall we celebrate 25 years since the opening of the Albert B. Alkek Library. A host of events are planned, including a reenactment of the legendary book pass scheduled for September 23, an Open House during Homecoming Weekend, Game Like It’s 1990 (November 4), Long Night (November 17), GIS Day (November 18) and 25 Hours at Alkek (December 8). It’s sure to be a memorable and fun-filled semester.

Getting off to a quick and exhilarating start, we experienced the all-time highest number of people using the library in one day, on Monday, August 24: 11,980. Amazing!!

While celebrating the past we are focused on the future with multiple construction projects coming to fruition. We begin in September, with the start of an 18-month project to upgrade the building infrastructure to support a more technologically advanced and information-rich environment. Design work is also underway to build a high-density storage building at STAR Park. Moving low-use materials off-site, but nearby, will free up much needed space in Alkek for more and varied spaces for the university’s growing enrollment and research programs, accommodating both lively, collaborative areas and quiet, contemplative ones. During the year, a Graduate Commons will be constructed providing a unique place for these students to study and work together. A 3D printing service will be launched by year’s end, and, in summer 2016, a raised floor will be installed on the main floor of Alkek allowing much greater flexibility in locating and moving furnishings and equipment than ever possible in the first 25 years of the Alkek Library.

We’ll be doing our very best to minimize disruptions as we celebrate our past while making improvements for the future. Join us this fall as we begin the next 25 Years @ Alkek, providing opportunities for Texas State students, faculty, and staff to learn, create, and discover.

Joan Heath
AVP and University Librarian

Upcoming Fall Semester Library Events—Please Join Us!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>10-11 a.m.</td>
<td>Old Main to Alkek</td>
<td>Book Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>10 a.m.-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Alkek Instant Theater</td>
<td>Read Out for Banned Books Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Alkek first floor</td>
<td>Game Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>6:30-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Alkek Teaching Theater</td>
<td>Who Is Dayani Cristal? film showing; Snacks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Alkek Instant Theater</td>
<td>&quot;Game Like It’s 1990&quot; Game Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>10-noon</td>
<td>Alkek Library</td>
<td>Open House: highlights library collections/services. Refreshments!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>2-5 p.m.</td>
<td>Wittliff Collections</td>
<td>Rodrigo Moya: Photography &amp; Conscience Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>8 p.m.-2 a.m.</td>
<td>Alkek Library</td>
<td>Long Night @ Alkek: study support with staff from Alkek, SLAC, and Brilliant Bobcats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alkek Library</td>
<td>GIS Day: Demonstrations on using GIS to find local history and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7, 8</td>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>Alkek Instant Theater and SLAC</td>
<td>Therapy Dogs! Pet pups for finals stress relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alkek Library</td>
<td>25 Hours at Alkek: 24 hour study hall with lots of fun, stress-relieving events</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chasing the Dream to Become a Registered Nurse

I have been a student at Texas State University for just about two years, and in my time here I am proud to have accomplished many of my academic goals. Among these, the biggest achievement has been my acceptance into Texas State’s competitive nursing program at St. David’s School of Nursing.

My friends and family members would probably credit this acceptance to my “intelligence” or claim that I’m an intellectually bright individual; I would simply credit all the hard work, time, and effort I put into my studies as well as using the resources available to me.

I have probably spent more of my time at Alkek Library these past two years than I have spent outside it. It’s the place where I find the most comfort for my studies away from distractions, allowing me the opportunity to absorb and become familiar with as much valuable information as possible. The mobile whiteboards have served as notepads to write and rewrite medical terms in order to memorize them. Online databases helped me explore through thousands of resources in order to complete my research project on *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. The stacks upstairs, piled in abundance with precious books, have fueled my passion to become a nurse by providing me with many autobiographies of honorable health professionals from the past, such as Florence Nightingale. The human body 3-D models on the third floor were invaluable study tools when lab practicals came around the corner.

I am glad to say that I’m not alone in having taken advantage of all Alkek has to offer. Many of my peers, including those who will be starting the program with me this fall, have also spent day-in and day-out utilizing the library resources. Alkek Library has been a place where we have nourished our education—whether with books, study rooms, SLAC tutors, or models—and with confidence I can say it will continue to be a safe haven to us for the next two years as we chase after our dreams of becoming registered nurses.

Karina Cavazos, honored at reception with Dean Ruth B. Welborn, College of Health Professions

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Step Up Your Research

With the beginning of the fall semester, you may have noticed a big change in Alkek Library: the Research and Information (R&I) desk is no longer the focal point on the main floor. Some in the library have referred to it fondly over the years as the Starship Enterprise due to its size and central location on the floor. Library staff who worked the desk over the 25 years it was in place posed recently for a photo prior to its removal. The removal of the desk does not mean face-to-face research assistance is no longer available. Research help is still available in person at the newly relocated service desk, online via chat and email, or by appointment.

Research librarians no longer staff the R&I desk but are still available to help students, faculty, and staff with their research needs. Staff at the R&I desk refer more complex research questions to the librarian on call, or you can make an appointment with your subject librarian. Every college and department has an assigned subject librarian. Librarians also staff the Ask a Librarian service 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. On weekends and after 5 p.m., Learning Commons Assistants staff the service.

The library feels these changes will enable librarians to serve our community better by allowing more time for the following:

- provide in-depth, specialized research assistance to library patrons;
- engage with academic departments by informing faculty of new resources;
- attend campus events or activities;
- seek opportunities for collaboration with faculty or other activities;
- conduct and/or attend workshops in their subject areas on specific databases or technological innovations that can be used in teaching or research;
- focus more on collection management which results in an improved collection to meet research and curricular needs.

So while you may not see the librarians at the Research and Information desk, know that we are still available to help you. We are also in the process of hiring additional librarians to meet the needs of our campus. Find your subject librarian.

by Lisa Ancelet, Head Research, Instruction & Outreach Librarian
Then and Now: Collections at Alkek

Twenty-five years ago the University Library moved its collections from JCK to Alkek Library. What did our collection look like then as compared to now?

Overall our collection has nearly doubled. In 1990 it was a little over two million items. In 2015 it’s over four million. Both the size of the collection and type of materials we currently have show how the library has changed with the times in the past 25 years.

While book and print material collections have grown significantly, the major change is the advent of e-resources. In 1990 there was no thriving Internet and, therefore, no access to e-books, electronic journals, streaming-audios and videos, digital collections, and digital maps. We currently provide access to approximately 900,000 electronic resources.

Audio/visual and other materials have changed significantly. Some of our largest collections in 1990 included filmstrips, slides, motion pictures, audio and video cassettes, and software on digital cartridges, digital cassettes and tapes, and floppy disks. The formats for media materials at that time were a lot bigger, heavier, and held much less data. Our audio collection consisted of audio cassettes, LP records, reel-to-reel tapes, and only 125 compact discs since the technology was fairly new. The video collection included about 3,000 motion picture reels, videotapes, motion picture loops (small portable film reels), and the latest technology—12 inch laser discs. While laser discs look like giant DVDs, they could only hold 60 video minutes per side.

Nowadays our audio/visual and graphic collections look very different. The older technology materials such as audiocassettes, filmstrips, floppy discs, video cassettes, and motion pictures have slowly been replaced by compact discs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and of course, streaming media. While our media collections take up less floor space now (208,716 items in 1990 versus 143,212 items in 2015), the collection has grown by about 90,000 titles.

What will the next 25 years bring?

Digitization Initiatives Growing at the Library

In 2013, the Alkek Library created a new department to help increase digitization efforts at Texas State. The new Digital & Web Services department also brought together other library staff involved in managing digital information such as the manager of the Institutional Repository, the E-resources Librarian, and the Library System Coordinator. We created spaces specifically for digitization and a Digital Media Specialist position.

This new digitization department has been equipped with high-resolution digital cameras and scanners specifically designed to capture and preserve cultural heritage materials. The Audio and Visual Digitization area also contains vintage analog equipment to convert obsolete formats to digital files. Magnetic tape based media is in danger of deteriorating and forever losing the content unless converted to digital copies soon.

Our new unit has been working with the University Archives and the Wittliff Collections on digitizing materials from their collections. Services are also available to faculty for the digitization of scholarly research material and placement in the Digital Collections online repository. Applications for faculty digitization can be made through the library website.

One of the first complete projects with the Wittliff Collections is digitization of the Santiago Tafolla notebooks. It is the hand-written personal memoir of Santiago Tafolla, recounting the first 39 years of his life. It is a fascinating document that includes first-hand observations during the U.S.-Mexico war and the Texas Indian Wars, and recounts his experiences as a Mexican-American Confederate soldier during the U.S. Civil War. The manuscript consists of two legal-sized pads which have become brittle with age. More information about the Tafolla Collection is available on the Wittliff Collections website.

The Department is very excited to have digitized the complete run of the Pedagog, the student yearbook, in conjunction with the University Archives. Published annually most years from 1904 until 1999, Texas State’s student yearbook features portraits, images of campus and student life, extracurricular activities, and notable events during the academic year.

Find information about additional digitization projects on the Digital Collections News blog.
At the Alkek Library, we are not only celebrating the 25th anniversary of the building’s construction but also the 60th anniversary of our designation as a selective depository library in the Federal Depository Library Program. Texas State University’s library obtained depository status on March 21, 1955, resulting from a request by alumnum, then Senate Majority Leader, Lyndon B. Johnson.

The dissemination and marketing of Government Information (GI) has changed radically in the past 25 years. Print and microfiche were the main methods of distributing reports, statistics, and other data to the public 25 years ago. In 1990, the Department of Defense decommissioned ARPANET, the precursor to the Internet, and the White House did not even have a website until 1994! Now, there are approximately 2,000 top-level federal .gov domains.

Government agencies are not only providing reports, statistics, videos, images, and datasets through their websites but also through social media sites. One site, NASA’s Facebook page, provides the newest updates from the Kepler Mission, which seeks to study terrestrial planets in the habitable zones of stars.

Many of the federal documents listed in the library catalog are electronic, such as the Dressing for Altitude or Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic e-books.

However, as in 1990, we still have a very large print collection of 1.4 million volumes in GI on the fourth floor of the library. Almost daily, we receive reports, maps, books, and other tangible material from the government, as not everything is available online, and sometimes the print material is more conducive to carrying out research.

Another exciting change has been the explosion of data, including geospatial data, and, thus, the Alkek Library is adding resources and services. As of August 10, the library has a new Geographic Information System (GIS) Services Specialist to help Texas State’s students, faculty, and staff with geospatial research.

Advancing with the technological changes, Government Information staff still assists in finding the resources you need, whether online or in print. Like in 1990, today we provide help in person and over the phone, but now you can also reach us on chat, e-mail, and Facebook.

by Rory Elliott, Specialized Collections Librarian

Copyright Corner

Welcome to Copyright Corner! I am Stephanie Towery, your Copyright Officer, and I’m here to help you with all your copyright questions. Because school is beginning, and some professors are interested in showing films to their classes, I’ve addressed the topic of video performance in the classroom.

If I have a DVD, can I show it to my class?

The Face-to-Face Instruction Exception: in a face-to-face traditional classroom setting, you can show an entire video to your class. The only requirements are that 1) the video was acquired lawfully and 2) you are showing the video in a place normally devoted to instruction.

What about in my online class?

TEACH Act Exception: In an online class, you may show an entire video of a “nondramatic literary or musical work.” But you may only show limited and reasonable portions of any other work. Again, the video must have been acquired lawfully.

What is a “nondramatic literary or musical work”?

This work includes symphonies and poetry readings, and excludes operas, musicals, plays, music videos, documentaries, and movies.

It is always possible that the Fair Use Exception will permit showing an entire video where the TEACH Act and Face-to-Face Instruction Exceptions prohibit it. You must conduct a Fair Use analysis to determine whether your use is fair. I recommend using the Texas State Fair Use Checklist located in the Copyright Research Guide.

And always remember, Alkek Library has purchased streaming rights to a number of films. You can embed these films in TRACS without seeking permission or needing an exception to the copyright laws.

I will try to answer other frequently asked questions in future editions of Copyright Corner. Please contact me with suggestions and questions: copyrightoffice@txstate.edu.

by Stephanie Swenson Towery, Copyright Officer

Please contact Stephanie Swenson Towery with any copyright related questions you may have.
Jerry Weathers, Head Access Services Librarian: In 1990, Alkek “was like another world; modern, new, very pleasing to the eyes.”

IN THE SPIRIT of the Alkek Library celebrating its 25th birthday this year, the Staff Feature column presents Jerry Weathers, Head of Access & Delivery Services, to give us a historical perspective on the event.

In 1990, the library was moved from the J.C. Kellam building to its present location. Jerry recalls the library staff’s role in the move, “Those at JCK made sure material was removed from the shelves in order and placed on very large book trucks.” Staff in the new building performed the job in reverse. “The shelving layout in the new building took some getting used to. If you have ever been on the upper floors, you know what I mean.” It’s hard to imagine keeping all that material, an entire library’s worth, in order, quite the task.

When asked about the new building Jerry recollects that it “was like another world; modern, new, very pleasing to the eyes. There was a light fixture hanging in the grand stairwell when we first moved in. It was about eye level on the fourth floor and had a very high intensity halogen bulb with no cover that got really, really hot. Some patrons found that if a piece of paper was tossed into the fixture, it would almost immediately burst into flames. As I recall, the fixture didn’t hang there very long.” There’s another fine example of the library’s long tradition of taking patron input into consideration.

Even with a historic celebration underway the library remains engaged in serving the needs of students and faculty. Jerry mentioned the reserve material at the Circulation/Reserve desk, including textbooks for classes. This is “where faculty make material available to their classes. The checkout times are more restricted than regular library material providing more equal access for the entire class.” Jerry also hints that, “there are many new and exciting happenings coming to the library that will basically transform Alkek into a more robust and user-centered environment. It is going to be an exciting and, at times, stressful time, but the end result will be worth the ride.”

by Robert Gutierrez, Head Cataloging Assistant

Alkek@25, RRC Library@10: Celebrating Years of Library Support

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, who would have envisioned Alkek Library as becoming such a focal point for research, culture, and intellectual exploration on the main campus of Texas State University? We at the Round Rock Campus Library honor the celebration of providing resources and services through the years and of the many employees who have worked in Alkek Library offering excellent service to countless students, faculty, staff, and members of the San Marcos community and beyond. We’re proud to continue the mission of providing library services and assistance started by Alkek Library all those years ago.

Coincidentally, the Round Rock Campus Library is celebrating its 10th anniversary, having opened its doors for the first time in August of 2005. At that time, we employed one full time librarian, yours truly, and one library assistant, Sylvia Owens. Soon after, we hired two student assistants, one of whom has become the Library Assistant, Alan Matthews. From the beginning we made sure to offer the best in customer service which has and continues to be a sense of pride and a benefit to patrons at the Round Rock Campus. The fact that the library system provides a wealth of electronic research sources has made it possible for us to give students access to many databases from any computer with Internet access.

We at the RRC Library look forward to assisting all students, faculty, and staff of Texas State University along with our colleagues in Alkek Library. With both locations, the library system is providing opportunities to help you support your research needs.

by Anthony Guardado, Head RRC Librarian

Sylvia Owens, Anthony Guardado, Joan Heath
RRC Library opens its doors, 2005

Josh Brynilsdson, Anthony Guardado, Alan Matthews, RRC Library staff, 2015

RRC Library. Come in and find out more.
Texas State University History

From 1969 to 1990

The University’s library was housed in the J.C. Kellam building. Administrative offices occupied the first two floors and the library was located on the top nine. During the 20 years that the library was in JCK, enrollment more than doubled in size from 9,372 students in the fall of 1969 to 20,770 students in the fall of 1989. By mid-1980 it became obvious that the library needed significantly more space to meet the needs of the growing university.

Construction on the Alkek Library began in the summer of 1987, and the building was completed in the spring of 1990. The new building had twice the collection and study space as JCK, providing the community with much-needed room to grow. To mark the beginning of the collection transfer to the new library, a symbolic book move was coordinated to allow the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the San Marcos community to transport the first four books into the new building. The books were passed along a line of people from JCK, through the quad, and up the stairs to the new building.

In this 25th anniversary year, Alkek Library is planning a reenactment of the symbolic book move. The event will begin at Old Main, the site of the first library. The books will move past the Chemistry Building, which was built on the site of Lueders Hall, home of the second library. As the books are passed from one person to another along the line to the Quad, the books will move past Flowers Hall, the location of the third library. The books will then be passed up the stairs to the Alkek breezeway.

Please mark your calendars for 9:30-11:00 a.m. on September 23. Join the community as we celebrate Alkek’s anniversary by being part of the Alkek@25 book move!

by Kristine L. Toma, CA, University Archivist and Records Manager

Campus community helps move first four books into new Alkek Library building, May 1, 1990

Find more info on Wittliff EVENTS and EXHIBITIONS online. As always, ADMISSION IS FREE.

At the Wittliff Collections

So Much to See on the Seventh Floor: Three New Exhibitions Open!

Rodrigo Moya
Photography & Conscience
Fotografía y conciencia
The first U.S. retrospective—90 gelatin silver prints—by this visionary documentarian is also the subject of the new book in our photography series.

Places in the Heart
Texas Cinescapes
Screenplays, props, costumes, set designs, stills, behind-the-scenes photos, and much, much more illuminate the art and inspiration involved in making major motion pictures in Texas.

Animals Among Us
From the poignant to the fantastical, this menagerie of 55 images from our permanent collection shows a variety of photographic and printing techniques by 39 accomplished artists.

by Michele Miller, Publications Specialist

Contact us at UnivArchives@txstate.edu to inquire about materials or request a research appointment.