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Texas State University History
Taylor-Murphy’s Musical Past

Editorial team
Sarah Naper, chair
Kay Hetherly, editor
Anthony Guardado
Misty Hopper
Jessica McClean
Tara Spies Smith, photographer
What’s Next at Alkek? Part 2

INFRARED UPGRADE/RAISED ACCESS FLOOR

This semester we are completing an infrastructure upgrade in the Alkek Library that largely focuses on increasing electrical and data capacity for better access to digital information and other learning resources. One of the most visible parts of the upgrade was the installation of raised access flooring on our main floor. The floor has been quickly embraced as a favorite destination for students and offers these features:

- Flexible furniture that can be easily configured by students provides a more comfortable study environment. Small, movable towers provide power for personal devices.
- Students can use existing computers or bring-your-own-device stations and work in individual or group study areas.
- The Learning Commons provides printing services, research and technical support staff, and high speed wireless access.
- A convertible classroom can be used for group work or casual education and training events.
- The new design will allow the space to be reconfigured based on demand and usage.

ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTER—ARC

An integral part of upgrading the Alkek Library is construction of the ARC—the Archives & Research Center, now under construction at STAR Park.

Once the ARC opens next summer, the library will begin moving selected materials from its collections to this high density shelving facility designed for long term preservation of materials. The library’s online catalog records will be updated to indicate materials located in the ARC. Library users will have the option of requesting materials be delivered to the main campus, or they may use materials on site in a Reading Room at the ARC.

LEARNING COMMONS—PHASE 1

The ARC will free space in the Alkek Library to support the Learning Commons and the university’s growing enrollment. We are completing a programming document for floors one through four of the building. Features expected in the next phase of renovation include a café, additional individual and collaborative learning spaces, and new technologies supporting discovery and creative work, such as the One Button Studio, a simple walk-in video recording space.

An example of new technologies already in place in the Alkek Library include several 3D printers and 3D scanners for students to bring their electronic designs to life.

Joan Heath
Associate Vice President and University Librarian
Relax with therapy dogs @ Alkek and ace your finals!
Pick up a sticker of your favorite pup, while they last.

More fun December 12-16

coloring pages
(Main floor and Gov Info—fourth floor)

free candy & pencils
(Research & Info desk)

bubble wrap (main floor)

Monday, December 12:
1-3 pm  Alkek Open Theater
(main floor) & SLAC (fourth floor)

Tuesday, December 13:
1-3 pm  Alkek Open Theater

December 2016

ALBERT B. ALKEK LIBRARY
Copyright Corner

Take Advantage of the Copyright Permission Service

Welcome to Copyright Corner! I am Stephanie Towery, your Copyright Officer. I’m here to help with your copyright questions. When you post scholarly articles and multiple book chapters to TRACS, you usually need a license from the copyright owner. The Copyright Office has a Copyright Permission Service to handle all aspects of securing those licenses.

What do I have to do?
Send me the following information:
• Citation information for the material: title, author, publication name if it’s an article; edition you want to use, which chapters, and page numbers if it’s a book
• Title of the course (with course number if possible)
• Semester you want to use the material
• Number of students in the course (maximum enrollment number)

Who will pay the licensing fees?
The Copyright Office covers the costs of the licensing fees.

Will I be set to use the materials again next year or next semester?
No, but I will contact you to see if you are still using the material and interested in licensing it again. You have to pay each semester to use the material.

What if I don’t think I need to get a license?
I can help you assess your Fair Use argument for using all materials in TRACS.

Need help locating materials, requesting permissions, or purchasing licenses? Please contact me: copyrightoffice@txstate.edu.

by Stephanie Towery, Copyright Officer

Please contact Stephanie Towery with any copyright related questions you may have.
Meet Our Staff

Hithia Davis: The library “isn’t just a place to study, but a place to learn something new and feed your mind.”

This edition’s staff feature brings you Hithia Davis, Library Assistant in Collections Merchandising & Expanded Services.

This unit is known for its unique collections, and Hithia named better than a dozen. Those include the greatest hits, like the Juvenile and DVD collections, but also some lesser known gems like the Game, Kit, Model, and Secured collections. The latter contains impressive, large-bound, comic-book specimens and rare art books, among other materials. Hithia and other staff can help you locate, access, and utilize materials in these collections.

And that’s just on the third floor. If you find yourself on the fourth floor in need of some Government Information or GIS services, keep an eye out for Hithia—she knows her way around there too. Included in the unit’s expanded services, Hithia mentioned “map printing, laminating, calculator and headphone check out, and a die-cut machine.”

Hithia and her team make it a point to keep patrons aware of what their collections have to offer. “The library is a place to find help, new ideas, and even something fun for everyone,” she says. “It isn’t just a place to study, but a place to learn something new and feed your mind.”

Speaking of fun, Hithia is also on the Therapy Dog team. “First of all, I love, love, love dogs,” she says, “so I thought it would be a great fit for me to join the team. Therapy dogs offer a release for students during finals.” You don’t want to miss this event at Alkek, so keep some time open December 12 and 13 from 1-3 pm. And be sure to pick up a sticker with your favorite dog’s picture on it (see page 3), designed and created by Hithia, who often puts her artistic talents to use at Alkek.

About being an artist and library assistant, Hithia says, “I need to express my artistic and creative side at work to find a nice balance. I like to volunteer for committees that require design input and artistic creation. Being able to use my ability in everyday work makes for a better work experience.” And it makes for a more visually pleasing library, too.

by Robert Gutierrez, Head Cataloging Assistant

News From the North

The RRC Library is proud to announce the expansion of the onsite juvenile collection. Yes, it is a fairy tale come true (to some perhaps). Explore worlds of robots, talking bears, a gorilla who pairs up with a baby elephant, notable historical figures, a mouse who wants a cookie, and so much more.

Why do we have this collection? It is a wonderful resource for students studying children’s literature, such as those in education and English. The materials can be used to prepare a lesson plan, write a critical review, or take into the classroom for student teaching. Of course these books can also be used by any member of the Texas State community. Do you have children who could benefit from a good book or two or three? What a wonderful gift it is to read a book to a child or as pleasure reading for yourself. As far as staff are concerned, we consider this one of the benefits you can take advantage of as an employee of Texas State University.

One of our main goals with this collection is to acquire award winning titles. We have all Caldecott Medal and Newbery Medal winning books from 1970 to the present. Starting about five years ago we have been actively collecting all winning books from the following awards: Texas Bluebonnet Award, Tomás Rivera Book Award, Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, Stonewall Book Awards, American Indian Youth Services Literature Award, Asian/Pacific American Awards for Literature (children and young adult), and more. We have classic titles as well as newer series, such as a complete set of Harry Potter books. There are books for beginning readers to full chapter books.

We hope you take advantage of this wonderful growing collection at the RRC Library.

by Anthony Guardado, Head RRC Librarian

RRC Library. Come in and find out more.
Welcome to the Alkek Library! The Stacks Unit, now part of Collections Merchandising and Expanded Services, is here to help you succeed at Texas State University and make your time in the book stacks a pleasant and rewarding experience.

Located on floors five through seven, the library collection is organized by the Library of Congress classification system. This system organizes books by subject, such as American Literature, Photography, or Botany. Go to the Library of Congress classification chart for a complete breakdown of subject categories. At Alkek, floor maps, call numbers located on the spine of each book, and range cards indicating the range of book call numbers in each area are in place to help you find the books you need.

If you should need help navigating the floors, please be sure to ask any of the student staff wearing blue T-shirts with the “ask Alkek” logo on them. They are available to teach you how to read floor maps, call numbers, and range cards and help you locate the items you need. In addition, Hema and Frank (Room 650) are also here to help make your Alkek experience a positive one.

We are building a new Archives & Research Center (ARC) Repository at STAR Park. The repository will store material from the Wittliff Collections, University Archives, periodicals collection, and other Alkek collections in a climate controlled, high pile storage area. The ARC will both protect our materials and make room for Alkek Learning Commons renovations.

Materials located in the ARC cannot be browsed on the shelves as we do in our stacks. Therefore, we need to make the library catalog a more dynamic and accurate browsing tool to replace shelf browsing. How are we doing that?

The staff in Cataloging are reviewing every single record for items designated for storage in the ARC. Our goal is to make sure ALL content in an item is fully described in the catalog.

For example, the eleven volumes of the Lone Star Edition of the World’s Best Orations was originally cataloged on a single record, which only listed the title and a few subject headings. If you were looking for a speech by John Adams, the only way to find it in this set was to pull the book off the shelf, open it, and see what was inside. In preparing this World’s Best Orations series for the repository, all volumes were re-cataloged as individual records with a full table of contents and a link added for each orator. This way, if you are looking for John Adams speeches, the catalog will lead you to it with a keyword search or by clicking the John Adams link. This review and re-cataloging project will cover the Wittliff Collections, University Archives, and general collection materials being relocated to the ARC.

What is being sent to the ARC? For the Alkek collections, we are identifying older, low use materials which have rich content but have not been checked out in decades. Our special collection books, artifacts, and archives will also be stored there to preserve them in an ideal climate controlled environment. Once relocated, ARC materials can be found in the catalog and requested as needed.

Learn more about our new storage facility in the article, “Alkek Library Gets an ARC.”

by Misty Hopper, Head of Cataloging & Metadata Services
Have you noticed anything peculiar about Taylor-Murphy Hall? For example, have you ever wondered why one of the classrooms includes a sizable stage?

You may be surprised to learn that Taylor-Murphy Hall was not always home to the History Department. In fact, the building first housed the university’s Fine Arts Department. Built in 1951, it was one of many structures included in Dr. Flowers’ ambitious College Building Program, which greatly expanded the campus and its facilities. The Spanish Eclectic-style building was designed to match other campus structures and allude to the region’s history of Spanish settlement.

The Fine Arts building hosted musical performances, organizations, and classes until 1982, when the department moved to its current location (the former Strahan Gymnasium). The History Department soon took up residence, and on October 29, 1983, the building was dedicated in honor of James Taylor and Retta Murphy, two beloved history professors who embodied the university’s values of scholarship, teaching, and service.

Taylor began teaching at the university in 1946 and served as the department’s head until his death in 1962. He actively worked to create knowledgeable historians throughout Texas, and his efforts were acknowledged by the student body in the 1960 Pedagog’s dedication. Murphy, the first woman on campus to earn her Ph.D., taught courses in U.S. and Latin American history from 1919 until her retirement in 1956. She was fondly remembered for her challenging classes, wit, and “wonderful memory.” Next time you are in Taylor-Murphy Hall’s tiled courtyard, stop, look, and listen. You may just hear the echoes of the building’s musical past.

by Lindsey D. Waldenberg, Public History grad student, University Archives grad assistant

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