

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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Even Boko Finds What He Needs at Alkek



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TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas



*Joan L. Heath
Associate Vice President
and University Librarian*

Renovation+Innovation=Inspiration

As visitors have begun to see and experience, the library is changing. Driven in large part by advancements in information technology, the University Library is in a period of dramatic transformation. This includes a move from owning physical collections to providing online access to information resources; embedded support for courses as well as outreach and engagement with faculty and students in their academic disciplines; and library spaces dedicated to discovery, creating, and learning instead of housing materials.

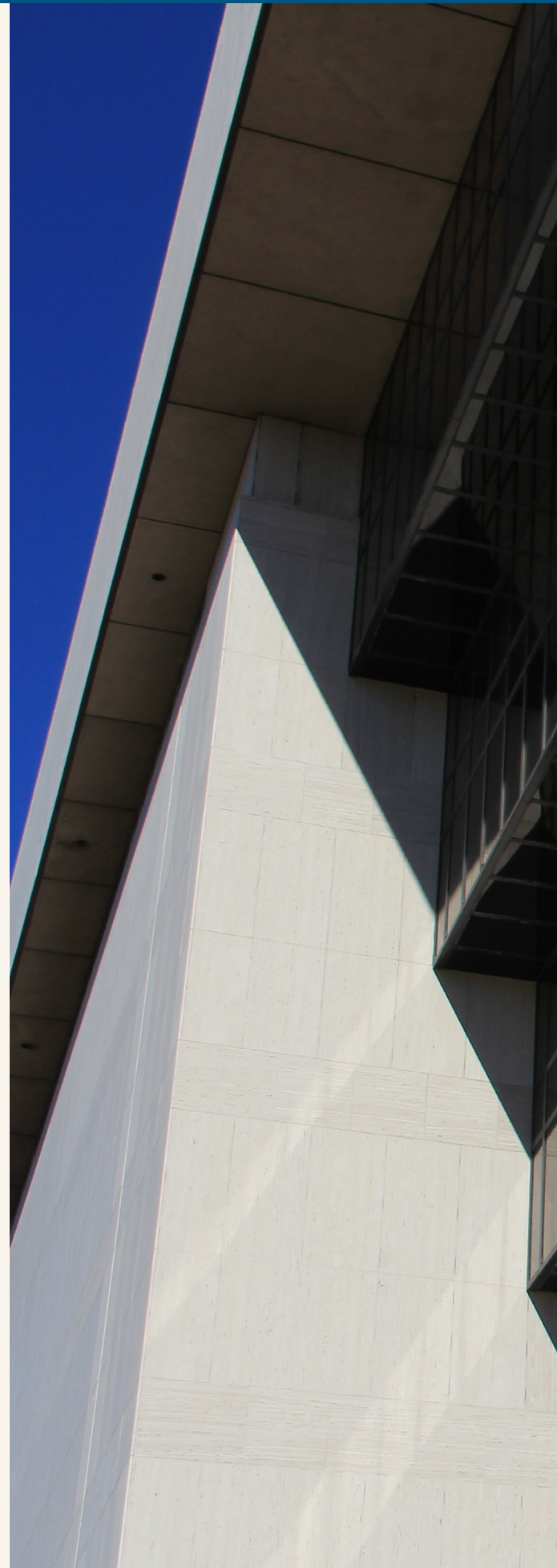
Learning Commons: We are transforming space within the Alkek Library into a Learning Commons, a state-of-the-art facility offering a functional and flexible place for study, research, and collaboration. It will merge technology with comfortable, adaptable furnishings and equipment, extensive information resources, and knowledgeable specialists supporting a wide range of educational and research pursuits. Beginning this year with a building infrastructure upgrade, the Learning Commons will evolve in three phases over the next decade based on a feasibility study developed with Perry Dean Rogers Architects.

Collections Repository: To create more room for studying, collaborative work, and development of the Learning Commons, we will move significant portions of the library's general collection, the Wittliff Collections, and the University Archives off-site. Programming for a 13,000 square-foot, high density storage facility has begun with Harrison Kornberg Architects.

Collection Development: While the library still acquires some print materials, the majority of collection acquisitions are now electronic. In FY14, 80% of the library's acquisitions budget was expended on eBooks, eJournals, databases, streaming audio, or streaming video resources. We have adopted new purchasing models, such as patron-driven acquisitions and are piloting hybrid (content + application), research tools such as dataZoa, Curriculum Builder, and BrowZine. Library staff is digitizing selected materials from the University Archives and the Wittliff Collections, providing online access and digital preservation for these special collections through the library's **Digital Collections site** (DSpace).

Research, Instruction and Outreach: In response to changing behaviors, our research librarians are bringing their skills more directly to users, embedding in the learning management system (TRACS), bringing their professional expertise as information specialists to faculty and researchers in their classrooms, academic departments, and research teams. The library's traditional reference desk is now supported by Learning Commons staff who field basic reference questions while research librarians provide in-depth consultations by appointment.

We hope the Texas State community is as excited about these changes as we are. They will ensure the library's place as intellectual center of the campus for years to come.

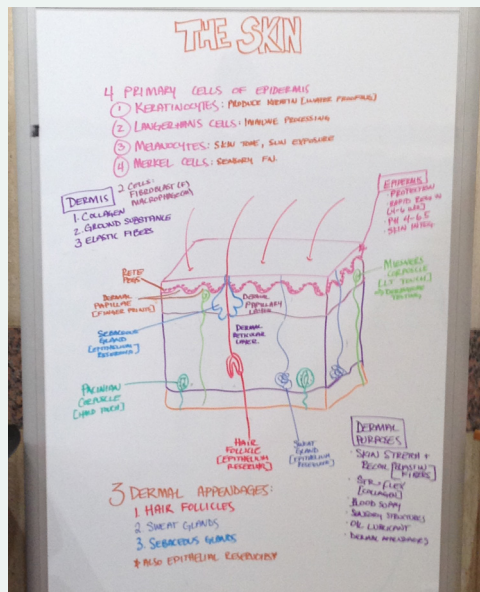


Library Resources for Every Learning Style

LEARNING IS NOT one-size-fits-all, and study methods that work for one student won't necessarily work for another. Educational theory usually divides learners into three different styles: **visual, auditory, and kinesthetic**. Take some time to think about your **personal learning style** and see how the library's resources can help you study smarter.

Visual learners benefit from a variety of written and pictorial resources. Be sure to check out **streaming videos** for documentaries or plays, or use the **Mango Languages database** to watch subtitled movies while learning a new language. When you study for tests, grab a whiteboard and copy out your notes—the repetition will keep the information fresh and help you commit it to memory.

Auditory learners might prefer listening to an audiobook instead of reading a text. **Take a look at all the audiobooks in the library's collection**, or browse the shelves on the third floor. If you don't find the title you



Find whiteboards to use on every floor of Alkek

want, **submit a request through Interlibrary Loan** (but be sure to leave at least two weeks for processing time). Some auditory learners

enjoy listening to music while they study—the library's **streaming audio databases** contain lots of options for musical styles without lyrics.

Kinesthetic learners benefit most from hands-on work, so the kits and models on the third floor are a great option. Items like the **Inflatable lungs demonstration kit** provide a more physical representation of the information you're learning. It's also important for kinesthetic learners to take breaks and stay physically active—you might **reserve a group study room** (kinesthetic learners work well in groups) to give yourself room to move without disturbing others.

For other study tips and tricks, check out the **Brilliant Bobcats College Success Series** or visit SLAC—their **website** contains handouts and information you can use right away.

by Jessica McClean
Undergraduate Instruction &
Outreach Librarian

Step Up Your Research

As if You Were There: Finding Primary Sources for Your Research

RESEARCH SUPPORT IS at the heart of any university library's reason to exist. Whatever changes may take place around us, library collections serve as the core of the student and faculty scholarly research experience.

One very common request we get is for primary sources on various historical topics. Primary resources are most often defined as eye-witness accounts of events/historical periods. They are usually works written or created at the time, not with 20/20 hindsight.

You have access to materials both online and in print that provide fascinating details on bygone times and places through the eyes of people who witnessed events as they unfolded.

Many primary sources from great collections around the world are now available online! From moving images of the Victorian period to American advertising over the years, there is a wealth of material available through our databases.

Visit our website for a list of **online databases containing primary source materials**.

Print and microfilm sources are also available in the library. You will need to search the **online catalog** to find these materials.

To search the library catalog for materials on a particular topic, learn to use subject headings. Here are some tips for determining appropriate subject headings for your topics:

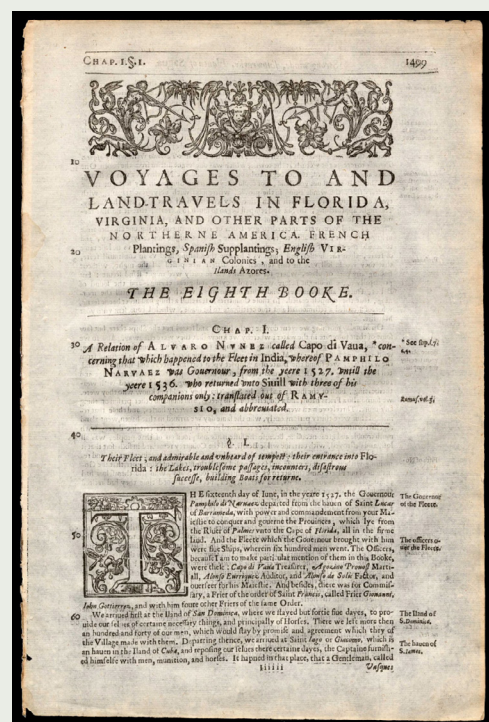
Search the library catalog by keyword and display the long form of the record for an appropriate item, and then do a subject search using the subject headings that are listed.

You may also combine words with additional subject terms that identify materials as primary sources. Some of these terms are:

- correspondence
- diaries
- personal narratives
- sources

These terms will not retrieve all possible primary sources, but they are a good way to start.

Find more information in our **guide to primary resources** or **Ask a Librarian** for help with your search.



by Margaret Vaverek
Research, Instruction, & Outreach Librarian

Multimedia and Mobile Possibilities for Research and Teaching

DID YOU KNOW Alkek Library collects a spectrum of online media formats enabled for mobile devices? This ranges from online streaming digital video to a vast array of electronic journal articles and eBooks. In our fast-paced digital world, these options mean expanded access possibilities online from listening to academic articles to streaming research documentaries. For students' and professors' busy lives, this opens new time for research and learning while commuting, working out, or walking around campus.

Let's take a disciplinary example: researching the Roman Stoic philosopher, Marcus Aurelius. Download [articles](#) or [eBooks](#) directly to your mobile device from the library's search page. From the [Ebsco Databases](#), you can translate [HTML articles](#) to later listen to as MP3s on an Android, iPhone, or tablet. The [text-to-speech reader](#) offers British, American, or Australian accents, and articles may be heard at slow, medium, or high speed-reading paces.

Similarly, searching the library's catalog for streaming media yields a variety of [videos](#) viewable through a mobile device, from Stoic ethics to first century Roman Empire history. Many streaming videos feature accompanying annotations, enabling researchers to pinpoint relevant sections in long documentaries or mini-series. The library also subscribes to a wealth of

interdisciplinary visual image databases. In the [Artstor database](#), "Marcus Aurelius" yields 874 annotated images from commemorative columns and military maps to coins and architectural monuments. The opportunity is there for on-the-move students and busy scholars to avail themselves of a range of different media and research options.

Multimedia and mobile searches may be

replicated for the Social Sciences, Sciences, and associated STEM disciplines with a wide circumference of possibility. Please visit our Research and Information desk or [e-mail a subject librarian](#) for help or further details.

by Ray Uzwyshyn

Director, Collections and Digital Services



Gone Mobile: BrowZine Scholarly Journals on Your Device

THE LIBRARY NOW sponsors BrowZine, a new application that allows you to browse, read, and monitor many of the library's scholarly journals from your Android and iOS mobile devices—all in a format optimized for your tablet and smartphone!

Here's what you can do with BrowZine:

Browse and read journals: Browse journals by subject, easily review the table of contents, and download full articles.

Create your own bookshelf: Add journals to your personal bookshelf and be notified



when new articles are published.

Save and export articles: Save articles for off-line reading or export to services that help keep all your information in one place, such as DropBox, Mendeley, RefWorks, Zotero, Papers, and more.

To learn more and start using BrowZine today, visit their [website](#). Are you already a BrowZine user? Please take [this survey](#) and let us know what you think!

by Lorin Flores

Learning Commons Librarian

Need help?
[AskALibrarian](#)
is mobile, too!



call
512.245.2686



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512. 549.2032



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What Staff Can Do For You

Liz King, Library Experience Librarian:

“It’s the students . . . that make us want to come to work every day.”

HERE’S A GLIMPSE into the world of Liz King, Alkek’s first ever Library Experience Librarian.

What does a Library Experience Librarian do?

My job is to ensure you find the library atmosphere welcoming and inviting. That can be a tall order when you think about the different backgrounds and experiences we all bring to the table. I enjoy the challenge of providing a singular library experience that incorporates the needs of every library user. The answer lies somewhere in the idea that all our experiences are individual and unique, even if we’re having them in the same space. Our library spaces are designed with you in mind. Take something as (seemingly) simple as moveable furniture. Next time you use the library, take time to arrange the furniture in a way that works for you. We all have our own way of collaborating with others, studying, or just relaxing.

Does the library experience really matter when I can access library resources from home, a coffee shop, or even a kayak through the online resources?

If I had a nickel for every time I’ve been asked that (except for the kayak part). . . It’s true that with changes in technologies, mobile devices, and communication methods, you can experience the library from almost



anywhere. The library experience goes beyond the physical experience, and it’s just as important that we meet your needs online. That said, you might not be aware of all the great spaces available in the physical library. The Learning Commons provides unique spaces and current technologies to study, collaborate, brainstorm, meditate, you name it! Through researching current trends, and listening to your feedback, we strive to make the spaces and resources best suited for you.

What are you most looking forward to in this role?

Getting to know the students! There’s a reason faculty and staff are drawn back to universities and colleges after they graduate. Academic pursuits are noble, no doubt. It’s the students though—the life of the university—that make us want to come to work every day. When

each semester starts, and all the fresh faces walk through the library’s doors, there’s that Ah-ha moment—we remember why we’re here and what’s important. I speak for myself, but most folks would agree: when that flash of interest goes off in a student’s eyes, and it’s clear they just figured out how to do research on their own—that moment of understanding and sudden thrill of self-accomplishment evident in their expression—I remember why I wanted to be a librarian in the first place.

John Steinbeck said, “Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen.”

I’ve always been intrigued by the idea that once you learn how to focus your energy and efforts to turn ideas into reality, you can’t stop the next idea from coming. Notice the new, mobile white boards in the library? That’s just one example of how we listen to your ideas and find a way to make them happen. We are excited to hear your input, and see which ideas can be made into reality and help YOU have a better experience. Have an idea? Use the, **“How are we doing?” form** on the Library’s web site to tell us what you want! We welcome all your ideas; it’s our job to turn them into reality!

*interviewed by Robert Gutierrez
Head Cataloging Assistant*

Calling All Faculty: Try Our New Reading List Builder!

Preparing course reading lists for your classes? Do you use TRACS?

If the answer is YES, we need you!



- **Join our pilot program to build reading lists in TRACS**
- **Readings can include articles, books, eBooks, and general websites**
- **Uses library’s main search tool, Ebsco’s Start Your Research**
- **Watch a [short video](#) to see how it works**



To participate in the pilot, contact Lisa Ancelet, lisancelet@txstate.edu.

The Round Rock Campus Library—It's Bigger Than You Think!

RRC LIBRARY PATRONS, whether students, faculty, or staff, occasionally express (with mild dismay), "It's only one room! And there aren't any books!" Au contraire! The front room with 9 new PCs, 2 large display computers, and long tables ideal for big projects or collaborative work is barely half of what's available. We have, in fact, nearly 1500 books in our circulating and reference collections, close to 100 DVDs, and plenty of additional computing space.

Where, you may ask, are these treasures?

Allow me to answer by improvising on our (hopefully familiar) catch-phrase, "Come in and find out more."

Have you ever noticed the hallway inside your library, hiding in plain view, so to speak? Down that hallway to your left are rooms 255C and 255D. The first room, 255C, is a designated Quiet Study Room, and there reside our General, Juvenile, and Leisure Reading Collections along with several desks, study carrels, and comfy chairs near outside windows.

The second room, 255D, is our Learning Lab containing 27 computers for library instruction when reserved by faculty, but otherwise open to all Texas State patrons.

So to take advantage of *all* the resources your RRC Library has to offer? COME INSIDE AND TURN THE CORNER! (Hope to see you soon!)

by Alan Matthews

RRC Library Reference Assistant

RRC Library. Come in and find out more.

At the Wittliff Collections

Thousands of Books and Artifacts Bring the Southwest Alive

ALKEK'S WITTLIFF COLLECTIONS are proud to announce the recent arrival of hundreds of boxes of artifacts, historical photographs and documents, and other materials—plus 15,000 books—from the renowned Southwest historian MARC SIMMONS. This is a major expansion of the southwestern literary and cultural treasure trove cared for at Texas State's Wittliff Collections.

"Marc Simmons spent 60 years building one of the great private collections of the Southwest," said Wittliff director, David Coleman. "This profoundly rich acquisition will nourish students and scholars for generations to come."

A dedicated researcher himself and expert on a variety of subjects, Dr. Simmons has written innumerable columns and articles, and he is the celebrated author of nearly 50 books. The recipient of many awards, his most prestigious honor came in 1993, when King Juan Carlos of Spain knighted him for his groundbreaking work on Spanish colonial history.

Estimated at some 15,000 volumes, Simmons' personal library contains the definitive print collections on many vital southwestern topics: everything from indigenous cultures and early Spanish settlers to women pioneers, artists and writers of the 20th century, and the Santa Fe Trail—about which he is recognized as a research authority. Especially important are the many rare volumes, including some 400 Spanish-language books on Texas and the

Southwest originally published in Mexico and Spain during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Additionally, Simmons donated hundreds of boxes of his own manuscripts and research as well as many other significant pieces. For example, his Kit Carson research collection was the largest in private hands. His important accumulation of 19th century photographs includes a rare image of Geronimo and a private tintype album of George Custer complete with locks of the general's reddish-gold hair.

A wealth of information and possible research ideas also lay in wait among the voluminous files and correspondence between Simmons and his many author friends, among them Edward Abbey (*Desert Solitaire*), John Nichols (*The Milagro Beanfield War*), Elmer Kelton (*The Time It Never Rained*),

Jack Schaefer (*Shane*), and Tony Hillerman (award-winning Navajo mystery writer). The Simmons Archive also contains numerous original artworks by prominent southwestern artists such as José Cisneros.

The Wittliff Collections will open the Marc Simmons Library and Archive when cataloging and processing are complete. You can find [an online guide](#) to Simmons' previous archival donations on the Wittliff's website under [Research](#).

For more information, [read the full press release](#), or contact Wittliff Collections literary curator, Steven L. Davis at 512.245.9180 or via e-mail at sdavis@txstate.edu.

submitted by Michele Miller

Publications Specialist, Wittliff Collections



Southwest historian Marc Simmons with his library in New Mexico before Wittliff Collections staff packed the 15,000 volumes for shipping to Alkek. (Photo by Steve Davis)

11,000+ Department of Defense Resources Ready for Checkout!

UP IN GOVERNMENT Information on Alkek's fourth floor, there's a flurry of activity, with carts and carts of Department of Defense materials being cataloged and made ready for patrons to check out.

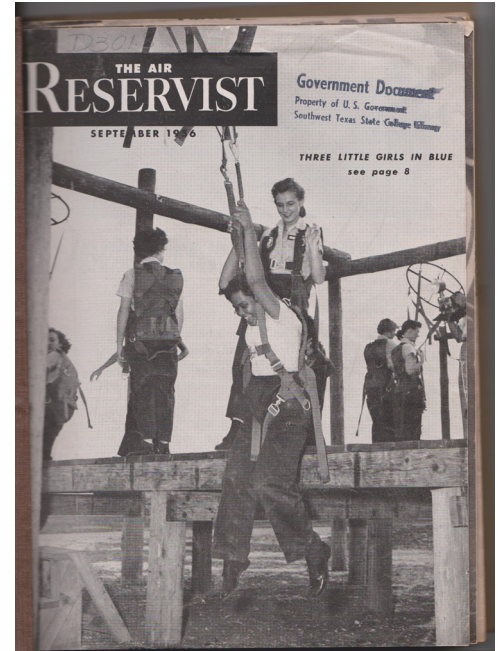
As the new Military Science subject librarian, I'm especially excited, as this particular collection is a fascinating mixture of primary and secondary source materials, with over 11,000 items. These include reports, manuals, posters, and other documents created by the Department of Defense. Many are practical publications, created for military personnel. Others are more scholarly analyses of U.S. military interventions and the armed forces.

In the collection, you'll find handbooks for military equipment and weapons, such as the *Organizational Maintenance Manual: Tank, Combat, Full Tracked*, an in-depth manual for tank maintenance. From the 1960s, other manuals describe how to manage a

nuclear fallout shelter.

Primary sources like these sometimes reveal greater historical nuances than secondary or tertiary sources can. For example, a 1956 article from *The Air Reservist*, "Three Little Girls in Blue," focuses on a Civil Air Patrol summer camp at San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base. After the camp experience, "teenage girls go back to their homes with the excitement of jet rides in their memories, the thrill of the blue yonder on their minds, and the promise of dynamic careers in aviation in their dreams." This racially-integrated camp brought in 93 young women from across the U.S. to encourage future careers in the Air Force.

These primary and secondary sources are relevant not only to military science and aerospace studies, but also to history, sociology, political science, and other areas. We are thrilled to make this collection available to the Texas State University and local community.



by Rory Elliott
Specialized Collections Librarian

Texas State University History

Improving Access: Digitizing the Student Newspaper

HAVE YOU EVER had to look for information using old newspapers? If so, you're probably familiar with the frustrations of scrolling through page after page on microfilm, or of gingerly turning the pages of brittle newspaper. If you don't know the specific date of an event, you may spend hours trying to find what you need. Here in the University Archives, one of our most valuable and most-used information sources is the student newspaper, the *University Star*, both in print and on microfilm. It also happens to be one of the most difficult resources to use.

In an effort to provide easier access to this invaluable resource, the University Archives, in collaboration with the library's newly formed Digital and Web Services department, has begun digitizing the student newspaper. Beginning with the first, smaller-sized issues, the library's Digital Media Specialist, Jeremy Moore, scanned 91 issues dating from



Front page, earliest issue in Archives, April 14, 1911

1911 to 1918. Known as *The Normal Star*, these first issues provide a first-hand glimpse into what life was like on campus in the early 20th century. These issues are available online through the library's **Digital Collections**.

For the next set of newspapers, we received a 2014 Rescuing Texas History grant from the Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas. This \$1,000 grant will fund the digitization of 970 pages of *The College Star*, dating from 1919 to 1925. Once this project is complete, those issues will be available online through the **Portal to Texas History**, as well as our own Digital Collections.

We will continue digitizing newspapers as time and funding allow, and hope to one day very soon have our entire *Star* collection available online.

by Megan North
Assistant Archivist