The recently released 2007 Horizon Report, a joint publication of the New Media Consortium (NMC) and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI), identified information literacy as one of the six key trends most likely to have significant impact in education in the next five years. The report states that “Information literacy increasingly should not be considered a given. Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the information literacy skills of new students are not improving as the post-1993 Internet boomer enters college. At the same time, in a sea of user-created content, collaborative work, and instant access to information of varying quality, the skills of critical thinking, research, and evaluation are increasingly required to make sense of the world.”

Also reacting to an earlier research finding of the Education Testing Services (ETS) ICT ((Information and Communication Technology) Literacy Assessment in November 2006, Susan Metros, a professor of design technology at Ohio State University, in her article says that “reading, writing and arithmetic are simply not enough for today’s students. What is important for learners is information: how to find it, how to focus it, and how to filter out nonsense. But for many students, their main source for information is Google,” which Metros finds troubling.

Information literacy is a fluid concept that encompasses related terms such information skills, information fluency, research skills, etc. Whatever one calls it, we’re all talking about the same thing: teaching students to find, retrieve, use, and analyze information both in print and electronic formats effectively and appropriately.

Academic libraries currently face enormous problems with managing the changing research models for all disciplines they represent. To better prepare Texas State University students in this era of information literacy, over the past three years, Alkek Library has invested a lot of resources and sponsored professional development training for its reference and instruction librarians. As a result, the Library has been actively transforming and expanding its library instruction services into a comprehensive information literacy program to reach an increasing number of students.

Alkek Library currently offers a range of information literacy instructional services that are open to all Texas State University students at any point in their undergraduate and graduate education.
Celebrate Black History Month

The Juvenile Collection at the Alkek Library has many books related to African American history. Take a minute to look over this bibliography of selected titles available for checkout. The Juvenile Collection is available for browsing on the 6th floor of the Library. If you would like to view a more extensive list of titles available for Black History Month, in the Library Catalog do a Keyword search of "African Americans and juvenile collection". To see what titles won the Coretta Scott King award and are available in our collection, do a Keyword search of "Coretta Scott King award". This will find a title list of both award and honor winners.

After his father's tragic death, twelve-year-old Keith James moves from Brooklyn to a small midwestern town where his mixed race heritage is not accepted, but he finds comfort in the music of Jimi Hendrix and the friendship of a white classmate. Coretta Scott King Award. New Talent: Author (2006).

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.

In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew. Coretta Scott King Award winner. Illustrator (2004).

Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers. Coretta Scott King Award. Honor Book: Author (2006).

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. Coretta Scott King Award winner. Author (2004).

An African American grandmother relates family and cultural history to her grandson in their Queens, New York, apartment as she tells of growing up in segregated Birmingham, Alabama. Includes a recipe and the words to Amazing Grace.

Compiled by Arlene Salazar, Reference and Instruction
Alkek Library wants to be the first place students go for their research needs. In the age of Google and the Internet, it is even more important that students are aware of the great resources available to them to help fulfill their research assignments, find a good book to read, or check out a movie to watch.

The library is staffed with helpful and enthusiastic librarians and assistants who are available to help you locate materials for your classes, research assignment, and entertainment. (There is a GREAT collection of videos and DVDs on the 4th floor.)

Beginning last fall, the Ask a Librarian Live service expanded the options for asking a question about library resources, services, and information to include Instant Messaging or IM, which provides convenience and ease for those who already use IM on a daily basis.

By clicking the Ask a Librarian icon on the library home page, then on “IM a Librarian” or by typing this URL: http://www.library.txstate.edu/ref/instantmessaging.htm, you can see the different usernames we use for IM. Just add our IM name to your contacts and ask a question anytime!

The Ask a Librarian link takes you to the introductory page of the service where you will find other chat options, including email, or calling the reference desk. If you do not have an IM account, choose the first chat option. All you have to do is log in to “talk” online with a librarian. This option also includes co-browsing which allows you and the librarian to browse together and enables the librarian to show you how to navigate the library’s resources. You also have an option to save the transcript of the chat session for future reference. Or, if you prefer, you can use your existing account from AIM, Yahoo, or MSN to chat with us.

**IM Accounts for Alkek:**

- AIM/AOL: Ask Alkek
- Yahoo: askalibrarian_alkek
- MSN: askalibrarian_alkek@hotmail.com

**Just IM, login, email, or call us today!**

Lisa A. Ancelet  
Virtual Reference Services  
Albert B. Alkek Library  
lisancelet@txstate.edu  
lisancelet@yahoo.com  
librarian_l@myspace.com

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**University Archives & Records Management Update**

After four months of initial planning and in-depth research, the Texas State Records Retention Schedule (RRS) is evolving into a more relevant, user-friendly document. While still in draft form, the schedule now includes a narrative description of each record series and eliminates most codes. The draft also includes functions that are not present in the current State-approved schedule, such as records related to university administration, child care facility management, curriculum and instruction, intercollegiate athletics, student health center administration, risk management, and student administration.

For the Record, an introductory records management workshop, was held January 4 and 5, 2007. Approximately 100 members of the Texas State community attended. To their credit, all attendees stayed awake during the presentation—and a number of records inventories were scheduled following the workshop. Additional inventories will take place throughout the spring semester with a goal of submitting the new and improved RRS to the State this summer for certification.

To access the certified RRS for Texas State, and to receive the most current information about the records management program, please refer to the records management webpage at: [http://www.library.txstate.edu/rec-reten/index.htm](http://www.library.txstate.edu/rec-reten/index.htm).

The University Archives are temporarily taking a back seat to the RRS for now. The advantage of managing both records and archives is that a thorough RRS creates well-rounded archives. University records that are identified as historically valuable are designated in the RRS as “archival” and are scheduled for regular transfer to the University Archives.

For more information, or to schedule a records management presentation or records inventory, please contact Kris Toma, University Archivist & Records Manager at kt17@txstate.edu or (512) 245-6724.
The Southwestern Writers Collection (SWWC), part of the Special Collections Department at the Alkek Library, is pleased to announce the publication of the newest volume in its book series, *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature*, a historic benchmark that establishes the canon of Mexican American literature in Texas.

The Lone Star State’s literature has long attracted local, regional, and national audiences and critics; however, the state’s Mexican American voices have yet to receive the attention they deserve. In recognition of this, SWWC Curator Connie Todd and Assistant Curator Steve Davis invited award-winning author Dagoberto Gilb to edit the first-ever anthology of works by Mexican American writers from Texas. Gilb is currently on the faculty of the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Texas State.

With close to one hundred selections, *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature* begins with the sixteenth-century exploration narrative of Texas's first Spanish-speaking writer, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. More histories and stories are told by a timeline of prose writers, including Jovita González, Américo Paredes, Rolando Hinojosa, Tomás Rivera, and Sandra Cisneros. Among the poets are Tino Villanueva, Carmen Tafolla, raúlrsalinas, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, and Ricardo Sánchez. Corridos from the turn of the twentieth century and verses sung by music legends such as Lydia Mendoza, Freddy Fender, and Selena offer a sampling of songwriters’ voices.

In addition to established names, *Hecho en Tejas* introduces younger writers such as Christine Granados, Macarena del Rocio Hernández, Tony Díaz, and Sheryl Luna, the famous Tejano authors of tomorrow. Twenty full-color images representing the work of leading Texas Mexican artists provide additional insight into the culture highlighted by the literature, and dozens of vintage photos from the 1930s, taken by photographer Gregorio Barrios, Sr., offer intimate portraits of the Texas Mexican community during a pivotal period of its history. In assembling this canonic reader, Gilb has created more than an anthology.

Read cover to cover, *Hecho en Tejas* is not simply a literary showcase, but a mosaic portrait of a community. “What I have tried to do,” Gilb says in the introduction, “is make *Hecho en Tejas* a strong, good read. Not simply as an anthology, a collection of different writers and styles, but as a book with chapters, so that all the voices might form one story, from one family’s history...as the book puzzles forward, each piece connecting land to history, sorrow to joy, to what is Mexican, to what is American, what is assimilated, what cannot be.”


*Hecho en Tejas* can be purchased through the University Bookstore, major booksellers, or the publisher, the University of New Mexico Press, at www.unmpress.com. The Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series Editor is Connie Todd; the Volume Editor is Steve Davis. Additional funding for the anthology and book launch provided by the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center, Texas State's Office of Equity and Access, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and private donors.
E-Commons@TxState

Statistically Speaking....

Much has been written in these pages about eCommons, Texas State’s institutional repository designed to showcase the scholarly and creative work of our faculty, students, and staff. The repository has been “up and running” for about a year now. Wondering how we are doing? Who uses this stuff? Here are a few statistics covering the calendar year 2006:

Total number of Full-Text Downloads from eCommons: 14,533
Total number of Searches from eCommons: 14,695

eCommons contains dissertations, theses, Applied Research projects, terminal reports from the research enhancement grants, and pre-print or post-print articles written by Texas State faculty, students or staff.

97 foreign countries downloaded eCommons material a total of 2,505 times.

Which countries “visited” us the most? Top 12 countries were:

1. United Kingdom 377
2. Canada 329
3. India 240
4. Australia 181
5. Germany 99
6. Philippines 74
7. Thailand 71
8. Turkey 70
9. South Africa 70
10. Maldives 53
11. France 44
12. Indonesia 41

How did most of our users in 2006 find out about us? No surprise, most used Google. However, notice below that Google in Turkey made the list of the top ten sites utilized to find eCommons material!

1. www.google.com 3386
2. scholar.google.com 284
3. www.google.co.uk 128
4. search.txstate.edu 123
5. www.google.ca 118
6. www.google.co.in 103
7. www.google.com.au 64
8. search.yahoo.com 55
9. www.google.de 47
10. www.google.com.tr 43

What did people download from eCommons in 2006?

Here are the top ten full-text downloads within the various series on eCommons:

1. Applied Research Projects (Master's Public Administration) 10,857
2. Research Enhancement Program Final Reports 1,336
3. Mitte Honors Program (Honors Theses added in May) 617
4. Faculty Publications-Political Science 562
5. Theses and dissertations for Texas State University 542
6. Staff Publications-Library 145
7. Faculty Publications-College of Applied Arts 78
9. Faculty Publications-Clinical Laboratory Science Program 59
10. Public Administration Program Publications 53

As you can see, eCommons is growing and so is the number of people throughout the world who now have access to materials that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Our Faculty members have a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this exciting initiative. Please consider your scholarly and creative works for eCommons in 2007. For further information please contact Margaret Vaverek, Reference/Faculty Outreach Librarian at 5-2352.

Government Documents

We are a Federal Depository Library

The Government Documents department on the east side of the fourth floor of Alkek Library provides a useful point of contact for university students, researchers and public patrons outside the university. We also provide assistance in searching for online documents, and we have a collection of the state of Texas documents and reference books for search aids. The latest federal and state of Texas documents are kept in our office on reserve.

Many of the most controversial issues of today, such as abortion rights, internet privacy, and governmental support for religious organizations, youth gangs, and funding for the Iraq war, are topics addressed in federal documents. Recent acquisitions include the U.S. Patriot Act, the Iraq Study Group Report, and the 911 Commission Report.

The Textbook and Curriculum Materials Center (TCMC) within our area houses state-adopted textbooks and curriculum materials for public schools. Students and teachers of education at Texas State often meet here in groups for classes. The Scholastic Guided Reading collection is also available for teachers-in-training to use in guided reading. Government Documents staff can assist students with the selection of materials.

Most of these materials are available for check out at the Documents service counter on the fourth floor, and may be returned there or to the second floor Alkek Circulation desk.

In addition, we have a map collection which is mainly used by students of geography. Our digital collection of Texas topographical maps is extensive, and many can be printed for patrons on our large inkjet plotter.

Eight new, enhanced computer workstations with printing capabilities are available. Staff can assist patrons with signing on to our exclusive STATUSA or ESRI online databases to research target markets in the United States. Marketing students and others can also view hard copies or CDs of the 2000 census, along with historical census data.

Government Documents staff are available until 10:00 p.m. every night except Saturdays when the library closes at 6 p.m. Visit us any time for a quick walk-through of the department. Call (512) 245-3686 to schedule introductory sessions for classes.

Guy Dore
Government Documents Assistant
Do People Still Read Just For Fun?

It seems these days that libraries are full of electronic resources, digital collections, e-books, and the equipment required to read them. This is all wonderful, but as some of us are dragged into the digital future with our easy chair, reading glasses, and fuzzy slippers still attached, I wonder if the joy of reading for pleasure is just a memory. No, I do not believe that, so I asked my colleagues in the library to send me the title of a significant book in their life and a few sentences describing it. I wasn’t interested in comparing the literary prowess of the library staff, but just for fun, I wanted to know the kinds of books that interested them. I was highly encouraged by the results. I hope you will be, too. – Jan Tidwell, Reference/Instruction Librarian

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey Call # PS3615.E667 O533 1975
I’ve always loved Kesey’s acidified vision of society as an insane asylum run by control freaks; especially the part where the inmates are voluntary. The book is filled with unforgettable characters and fantastic imagery and contains more truths than any ten novels you can name. The lynchpin of ‘60s literature, this is the book that sent a generation of us down Kerouac’s Road in search of Hunter Thompson’s Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas and Ed Abbey’s Desert Solitaire. Read it at the risk of dropping out and remember, “It’s all true, even if it didn’t happen.” – Laurence Gieschen, Reference and Periodicals Librarian

The Once and Future King by T.H. White Call # PR6045.H2 O5 1958
This book is everything a good read should be – funny and tragic, humorous and poignant, thought-provoking and hopeful. Following the entirety of King Arthur’s life, from his youth as a squire through his adulthood struggle to do the right thing and finally to his wise reflections on his own flaws, this epic tale never fails to entertain me no matter how many times I read it. I laugh out loud at the escapades of King Pellinore and his Questing Beast, and I keep a box of tissues handy as Arthur in his later years watches his life crumbling around him. The brilliance of the novel is how it imparts a sense of hope for the future – in spite of all the terrible events that occur. – Kris Toma, University Archivist & Records Manager

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand Call # PZ3.R152 A
I’ve been a Tolkien geek since grade school but I’m sure those will get mentioned a lot. Here’s one for you: Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand. My favorite thing about the book is the character Dagny Taggert, an intelligent and powerful female character like none I’d encountered before in literature. It’s also a great story if you can get past all of Rand's spouting off about the objectivism philosophy and how great capitalism is. Perhaps not a book for everyone, but it struck a nerve at the time and is one of a handful of my novels that will never get recycled at Half-Price-Books. – Sheila Torres-Blank, Music Cataloging Librarian

Forever Amber by Kathleen Winsor Call # PS3545.I7575 F6
My friends and I read this at a slumber party in 1963, pretty racy for small-town 13 year-old girls. We stole it from an older sister. A rip-roaring historical novel of Charles II era England, the book is filled with adventure, romance, suspense, tragedy and enough melodrama to satisfy 8 giggly girls. I finally matured to more serious literature, but this is one of the first books that made me realize I could get totally lost in a book. The characters were as real to me as my friends; I visualized and internalized every scene; I lived and breathed Amber for weeks. Later that summer, we passed around Valley of the Dolls. – Jan Tidwell, Reference/Instruction Librarian

Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood, by Rebecca Wells Call # PS3573.E4937 D58 1997
You asked about a significant book in our lives. Divine secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood comes to mind for me. It’s the only time I can recall laughing out loud while reading a book and it was at a time in my life when I needed a good laugh. – Joan Heath, Asst. VP, University Library
Welcome New Employees

Devin Zimmerman joins the Alkek Library as Information Literacy Coordinator, coming from UT-San Antonio, where he was a reference/instruction librarian. Devin earned his M.L.I.S. from UT-Austin and has worked in public and academic libraries as a librarian and paraprofessional off and on for the last fifteen years. He has also studied anthropology, engineering, and education, and when time permits, dabbles in poetry and music. Along with a new job, Devin experienced another big change recently: he got married January 13th.

Devin Zimmermann
Information Literacy Coordinator

Ashley Carr is the new Bindery LA for the Periodicals Department. She is responsible for determining which journals are sent to the bindery and reporting missing issues. In addition, Ashley assists with patron service at the Reference and Periodical Desks.

Ashley is a recent graduate of the University of North Texas, where she received her Masters Degree in Library Science. She enjoys reading, biking and art-house films and is excited to begin her library career in an academic setting.

Ashley Carr
Periodicals and Microforms Assistant

Amy Cockreham received her Bachelor's of International Studies, Business focus, with a double minor in Anthropology and the Russian language from Texas State University in 2001. After some time off, she returned to Texas State to pursue her Master's in History, with an emphasis on Public History. While in the program, she pursued her career interest in archives by taking the Archives Management class and completing an internship in the Southwestern Writers Collection. Amy’s experience and interests made her a strong candidate for the Administrative Assistant position in Special Collections, and she joined the staff in Fall of 2006.

Amy Cockreham
Administrative Assistant: Special Collections

Guy joined the staff of Government Documents just last fall. Most of his day is spent working with maps and providing various services to students at our counter on the fourth floor next to SLAC. In the year 2000 he completed a master's degree in English here at Texas State. At that time he repaired computers on campus and worked as a research assistant in Southwestern Studies.

Some of his past experiences included teaching and surfing in America Samoa, working in New Orleans French Quarter, and bicycling across Texas.

Guy Dore
Government Documents Assistant
Focus on Students

My name is Joseph Standley. I am an International Studies senior and have been a student worker for the reference department for almost three years. Finally, this semester I am going to graduate!

As good as that is, on the flip side, sadly, I will no longer be a student worker at Alkek. It has been a very rewarding experience working at the library. I have allowed myself to learn much about the resources I can use for my classes, such as knowing how to find a relevant reference work or journal.

I have been exposed to more culture than otherwise. Checking out what is in the Wittliff Gallery or Southwestern Writers Collection has always been enjoyable whenever I get the chance. Without having worked here, I doubt I would have patronized the gallery on the seventh floor like I have.

Working with the people of Alkek has always been a pleasure, and will be a part of the job I will definitely miss. I would like to say thank you and goodbye to the many people I have worked with. I will remember with fondness the time I spent at Alkek Library.

Library Research Grants Recipients

The Alkek Library is pleased to announce the 2006-2007 Library Research Grant recipients. These grants are provided to faculty to acquire non-curricular materials to support their research projects. $20,000 was made available this year. Members of the Library Committee, the library’s faculty advisory committee, reviewed 24 grant proposals. In January, the following award recipients were announced:

Dr. Alyssa Adomaitis, Assistant Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences
Dr. Yasmine Beale-Rosano-Rivaya, Assistant Prof., Modern Languages
Dr. David Butler, Professor, Geography
Dr. Christina Conlee, Assistant Prof., Anthropology
Dr. Ian Davidson, Associate Professor, Music
Dr. Erina Duganne, Assistant Professor, Art & Design
Dr. Asha Hegde-Niezgoda, Assistant Prof., Family and Consumer Sciences
Dr. Charles Hurt, Professor, Music
Dr. Matthew Juge, Assistant Prof., Modern Languages
Dr. Matthew Kutz, Assistant Prof., Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Dr. Elizabeth Makowski, Professor, History
Ms. Monica Michell, Lecturer, Theatre and Dance
Dr. Christopher Russian, Assistant Prof., Resp. Care
Dr. Keri Stephens, Assistant Prof., Comm. Studies
Dr. Yixin Zhang, Assistant Prof., Biology

Regular Library Hours

Monday – Wednesday
7:30 am – 1:00 am
Thursday
7:30 am – Midnight
Friday
7:30 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sunday
1:00 pm – 1:00 am

Special Collections hours, including the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, are:

Exhibits:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Archives including Wittliff Gallery:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Wed, Thurs: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Other times by appointment
(512) 245-2313

For additional information on library hours, please visit our website at http://www.library.txstate.edu/scripts/perl/lib-hours.pl

We’re on the web at http://www.library.txstate.edu

Editorial Committee

Dr. Clara Ogbaa, chair
Lisa Ancelet
Leslie Fatout
Selene Hinojosa
Dr. Sam Khosh-Khui
Michele Miller
Katie Salzmann
Jan Tidwell
Margaret Vaverek

Hours For Spring Semester 2007

For information on library hours, please visit our website at http://www.library.txstate.edu/scripts/perl/lib-hours.pl

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