



BOOKMARKS

ALKEK LIBRARY NEWS

Texas State University-San Marcos

Transforming the Alkek Library for the 21st Century

The Albert B. Alkek Library first opened its doors in May 1990. Over the past two decades both the library and the university have grown significantly, with a 71 percent increase in the library's collection of print volumes and a 48 percent increase in the enrollment of Texas State.

The World Wide Web and digital publishing have changed the very nature of academic libraries dramatically. At the core of this transformation are shifts in the library collection and services driven by the explosion of modern information technologies. All library services now have electronic or virtual counterparts, and the ever increasing array of electronic journals, reference databases and e-Books have become the mainstay of collections. During the past 18 years the Alkek Library has replaced more than 1,500 print serial titles with more than 57,000 electronic titles.

With such an overwhelming volume of resources available digitally, libraries are making the transition from storehouses of information to places where information seekers go for assistance and guidance in discerning which of the abundance of information available to them is relevant to their needs. The 21st century library is not only a technology-rich gateway to knowledge. It is a place where people meet to brainstorm and plan, hone presentations and learn in groups.

The Alkek Library has already begun to synergize the convergence of the "historic" library and the printed page with modern day technologies. With this transformation, the library will remain the central campus location where new and emerging information technologies can be combined with traditional knowledge resources

in a user-focused, service-rich environment that supports today's social and educational patterns of teaching, learning and research.

To that end, a library pillar has been added to the university's capital campaign. Major funding initiatives include a collection repository facility, renovation of existing library space and a digital platform. Construction of a repository facility near the Texas State campus will provide storage space to accommodate a significant portion of the library's general collection, as well as special collections and archives. This provides the opportunity to repurpose existing library space into a more technology-intensive facility that will accommodate collaborative learning and research activities while continuing to provide traditional space for solitary research and quiet study.

Support for a digital platform, including software, equipment, and staff expertise is also being pursued to preserve and provide access to electronic resources. The Alkek Library has initiated [eCommons](#), a digital collection of scholarly work produced by Texas State faculty and students. Digitizing portions of the library's special collections will enable worldwide access to important cultural assets, and acquiring additional reference databases, electronic journals and other data files will expand the breadth and depth of literature and research materials critical if the Alkek Library is to effectively support the growing array of undergraduate and graduate programs at the university.

~ Joan Heath, Assistant Vice President, University Library

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Photo by Lisa Ancelet



Changes in the Library 1990-2009

	1990	2009	% Change
University Enrollment	20,778	30,816	48.31
Library Door Count	543,546	846,235	55.69
Public Seating	2,985	3,180	6.53
Employees	69	99.5	44.20
Printed Volumes	902,978	1,543,564	71
Print Serial Subscriptions	5,804	4,268	(29.4)
E-books	0	*369,342	
Electronic Serials	0	*57,287	
Special Collections Accessions	311	3,989	1,187
Special Collections Storage	2,976	10,516	253.36
University Archives	NA	500 linear ft .	
<i>* 2009 figures not yet compiled for electronic items.</i>			

Library Research Grants Awarded for Spring 2009

Fourteen faculty members were awarded Library Research Grants last spring. The grants are used to purchase library materials to support their research projects. Grant applications are submitted each fall and reviewed by members of the Library Committee, the library's faculty advisory group. The applications for next year's awards have been received and will be announced in spring, 2010. For more information about the grant application process, visit the [Acquisitions Department](#) webpage. Congratulations to the following 2009 recipients:

Wen Cui, Dept. of Computer Info. Systems & Quantitative Methods

Francis Méndez, Dept. of Computer Info. Systems & Quantitative Methods

Nathaniel Dean, Dept. of Mathematics

Kathleen Peirce, Dept. of English

Joshua Gonzales, Dept. of Respiratory Care

Rachel Robillard, Dept. of EAPS

Michelle Hays, School of Art & Design

Christopher Russian, Dept. of Respiratory Care

Jason Kwak, School of Music

Jitendra Tate, Ingram School of Engineering

Kerrie Lewis, Dept. of Anthropology

Garland Upchurch, Dept. of Biology

Vatsaia Maitin, Dept. of Family & Consumer Science

*- Joan Heath, Assistant Vice President,
University Library*

Elizabeth Makowski, Dept. of History

Alkek Library 2.0

Web 2.0 sites are familiar to millions of internet users, but using them to access library information may be something you haven't thought of. Alkek Library is using popular internet applications such as blogging, FaceBook, YouTube and delicious to improve patrons' knowledge of the library and access of its resources. The university community can benefit from the increased access to information, expanded research guides, and accessibility off campus or when the library is closed.

Traditional library instruction sessions are sometimes general in nature and due to time restraints often do not allow in-depth subject-specific instruction. Print research guides do not allow for interactive use and are not necessarily intended to address those wonderful subject specific FAQs that librarians love and patrons need. Library 2.0 has many ways to improve library instruction: graphics, pictures, video tutorials, links, and the ability to discuss specific questions in detail are just some of the possibilities.

Each 2.0 site allows different teaching approaches. YouTube contains screenshot tutorials for using the library website and databases. The Alkek delicious site shares bookmarks of sites across the entire web that Alkek librarians have found on business, health, news, government and much more. Our blogs include an information literacy blog, the Alkek News blog, an Art & Design blog, and a Business blog. The entries use text, video and links to help keep the university community informed about resources and services in the library.

Web 2.0 is making it possible to share information in easier, more accessible and more thorough ways. The reference and instruction librarians who create and maintain these sites are very excited that users will get more out of the library and the world of information. You can access our web 2.0 teaching tools through the Alkek Library home page by resting your cursor on the "[Community](#)" link.

~ Charles Allan, Reference/Instruction Librarian

Photo by Tara Spies



A New Frontier: Librarians and Libraries in Virtual Worlds

Think there's nothing new to discover? This is not necessarily the case. In the past few years Virtual worlds have been developing for educational, business and entertainment applications. Various sites such as Second Life, There.com, Google Lively, and Kaneva are becoming more popular with people in all walks of life, but especially in educational communities. And where there are educational enterprises such as universities, libraries and librarians will follow.

Although there are various school, public, and academic libraries scattered throughout Second Life, the Alliance Library System (a consortium of Illinois libraries) has spearheaded efforts to establish a Second Life library. In addition to the main library buildings and reference desk located at Info International, there are various subject libraries and branches spread out across the surrounding islands and other remote locations. Several librarians from the Alkek Library staff a "virtual" reference desk in Second Life.

~ Lorin Fisher, Coordinator, Information Literacy Program

Did you know Texas State has a Second Life campus? Visit the Second Life versions of The Wittliff Collections and Alkek Library! You can go to BobcatVillage (130, 62, 26) or search for Texas State.



Alkek librarians in the Alliance Library System in Second Life

Sharing History and Tradition: The University Archives



Soon, the University Archives will complete its move into a new home on the 5th floor of the Alkek Library and officially open its doors to visitors and researchers who want to learn more about the history of our beautiful campus.

This August, the University Archives had an opportunity to show off some of its treasures to incoming freshman. Select artifacts were on display for a few hours at Cat Camp, an event designed to introduce new bobcats to Texas State history and tradition. Examples of the items students were able to view include an SWT band uniform, Oscar Strahan's letter sweater and a 1918 class ring. These items were recently donated and on public display for the first time.



Although still in the early stages of creation, the archives are becoming known as a resource around campus and the number of research requests is gradually increasing, as are opportunities to partner with campus events and programs.

This November, during the Aquarena Springs Resort Reunion, the University Archives will work with the Public History program to document the 50-year history of the Aquarena Springs Resort. Students in the Public History program will initiate a "share your memories" project to gather oral histories from individuals who worked at the resort, and Archives staff will be on hand to receive donations of memorabilia. Throughout the semester, graduate students from the Public History program will work with the University Archivist to inventory, describe, preserve and exhibit a collection of these artifacts. When the oral history project concludes, the University Archives will receive the recordings and transcripts for long-term preservation and access.

Research appointments are encouraged; please e-mail the University Archivist at UnivArchives@txstate.edu to schedule an appointment.

- Kris Toma, University Archivist

Oscar Strahan's SWT letter sweater

Photo by Kris Toma

New Reading Room for the University Archives

Photo by Tara Spies



The Wittliff Collections Reopen With Even More To Experience

Over 500 guests celebrated the [Wittliff Collections](#) Grand Reopening on Saturday, October 17. After founders Bill and Sally Wittliff, Curator Connie Todd, and Texas State President Denise Trauth cut the silver ribbon to open the new spaces, the crowd enjoyed remarks by Todd and President Trauth, a special video prepared for the occasion, and a brief talk by photographer Keith Carter who took the opportunity to chat with people while signing copies of his books. Surprise attendees included Sam Shepard and Jerry Jeff Walker, both of whom have archives at the Wittliff.

And now the new gates are swung wide, welcoming visitors, classes, tours, and researchers to the greatly expanded public spaces. Over a year in construction, the new photography galleries, enlarged reading room, and renovated work areas are at last complete.

The grand foyer features a colorful jackrabbit-and-cactus mahogany panel carved and painted by sculptor David Everett. Beneath this, the entrance to a short exhibit hall opens onto a new main gallery and two smaller ones nested within. Exhibition space is nearly tripled—now with the two previously existing galleries as many as 150 prints can be on view.

First to be featured in the new exhibition spaces is work by Keith Carter from his two recent monographs with the University of Texas Press: *A Certain Alchemy*, published last October in the Wittliff's photography book series, and *Fireflies*, Carter's images of children, published this October. In the original galleries adjacent to the new ones, *Nueva Luz / New Light* showcases photographs never before hung on Wittliff walls.

Receptions, readings, panel discussions, and other special events are now being held in the main gallery. Designed to complement the southwestern feeling of the original rooms, the new space is enhanced by richly stained wood; carpet and a coffer-and-slat ceiling contribute to the fine acoustical quality of a built-in audio / visual system. A moveable wall opens to accommodate events with larger audiences.

The *Lonesome Dove* Room also received a new wall, to display a grouping of Bill Wittliff's photographs taken during the filming of the miniseries. The permanent exhibition of props, costumes, script drafts, set designs, and other making-of materials from our major *Lonesome Dove* production archive continues to delight fans from far and wide.

The Reading Room is now nearly twice as large, to accommodate additional researchers interested in the Cormac McCarthy Archive. It features stained-wood cabinetry, equipment to provide access to audio/visual materials, and tables handmade from longleaf pine.



Necklace, 2003, by Keith Carter



The newly painted Southwestern Writers Room reopened with the Common Experience exhibition, *The Lightning Field: Mapping the Creative Process*. This inspiring space will continue to be the location for more intimate readings and events.

Relocation of office and creation of new work and storage areas complete the expansion and provide much needed space for continued growth and support of our mission to instruct, illuminate, and inspire.

~ Amy Cochran, Events Assistant

~ Michele Miller, Media Relations & Publications Specialist

Photo by Austin Photography

Reserves, Periodicals and Media Desk: Redesign of Alkek's Third Floor

In order to make the Reserve Desk and our media collection more accessible, Reserves and the media stacks have moved from the fourth floor to the third floor of Alkek Library to combine services with the Periodicals/Microforms Desk. The new Reserves, Periodicals and Media Desk offers reference services for periodicals, provides access to the Reserve collection, and monitors the circulation and maintenance of our extensive media collection. A relaxing lounge area has been created which is perfect for reading our popular magazines and newspapers. We also offer a viewing area where microforms, DVDs and VHSs (including PAL and all region formats) may be viewed.

Alkek Library offers an impressive movie collection with almost 20,000 titles including popular feature films, great documentaries and educational films. Browsing is available for DVDs, videocassettes, audiocassettes, kits, models and various other formats. Compact discs of music, audio books and language learning recordings may be browsed behind the Desk. If you would like to check out a DVD, simply bring the case to the Reserves, Periodicals and Media Desk, and they will retrieve the disc and check the piece out to you.

~ *Misty Hopper, Non-book Cataloger*

The third floor is the place to find periodicals, movies, and audio books. Special materials such as educational kits and models are also available on the third floor. Plus, the third floor is still a great place to study.

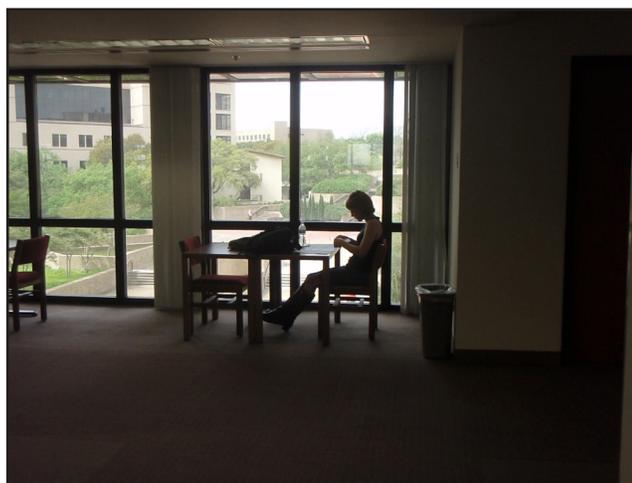


Photo by Tara Spies

Criterion Collection Films Acquired



Jean Luc Godard's *Masculin Féminin*

The Criterion Collection releases a continuing series of the greatest films from around the world and publishes them in editions that offer the highest technical quality and unique original supplements to accompany the films.

The Alkek Library has acquired the complete Criterion Collection of nearly 500 films and will continue to supplement it as more films are published. In order to find this DVD collection you may either search by Keyword and quotes: "Criterion Collection" in the catalog or browse the DVD shelves on the third floor under the call number: PN1997 .A1 C75. The Criterion Collection offers numerous treasures such as the films of Akira Kurosawa, Federico Fellini, Ingmar Bergman, Jean Luc Godard, David Lean, Orson Welles and many others.

Each film is presented uncut, in its original aspect ratio, as its maker intended it to be seen. The supplements offered enable viewers to appreciate the films in context, through audio commentaries by filmmakers and scholars, restored

director's cuts, deleted scenes, documentaries, shooting scripts, early shorts, and storyboards. Be sure to check out this unique and fabulous collection.

~ *Misty Hopper, Non-book Cataloger*

The Library Catalog: Connecting Patrons to Materials in the 21st Century

Before there was a Google search, there was a library catalog search, beginning as detailed cards stacked 500 deep in drawers. The card catalog is still the same detailed information, but now held on the library catalog database. Still, the theory is the same, and the Catalog continues to be the ultimate link between the library patron and the library's materials.

Charles Cutter invented the card catalog so the library patron could find a book when the author, title or subject was already known. His ingenious idea made it easy for people to walk into a library and see the entire collection from a particular author or in a certain subject area. The goals of the catalog, as stated by Cutter over a century ago, still serve as the foundation for the rules and conventions used in our online catalogs today.

The Alkek Library Cataloging & Metadata Services department applies its particular expertise during the cataloging process, resulting in the most accurate records for library patrons to use when searching the library's catalog. While search engines such as Google are beneficial and offer quick results, cataloging is designed to support more advanced searching and in-depth research. Cataloging, allows patrons to easily refine a search to provide the most relevant matches.

Enhancements to online catalogs add value as well as additional information about the materials. For instance, now our catalog records show an image of the bookcover, links to reviews, and a summary of the book for many recent titles. Our records, which provide access to all of our library materials and information resources, are used by Texas State faculty, students and staff on campus and off.



~ Misty Hopper, *Non-book Cataloger*

Reference Floor Leisure Reading Area: A Nice Place to Relax, Study, or Find a Best-Seller

If you enjoy a more relaxed environment in which to study, read or just sit with friends, visit the Alkek Library's redesigned Leisure Reading area. Located behind the grand staircase to the right as you enter the library, the space features an interesting selection of best sellers and books on popular topics, and it now offers even more comfortable seating. Long study tables have been replaced with sofas and padded chairs from elsewhere in the library to create several group-friendly areas. An exhibition along one wall of black and white photographs from the Wittliff Collection of Southwestern & Mexican Photography further enhances the ambiance.

Additionally, the Leisure Reading book collection is being expanded. The bookshelves for this collection have been moved to create an entryway to the new sitting room. As the collection grows, the newer selections will be shelved by the Library of Congress call number. Look for new books at the end of the alphabetical books until the transition is complete.

Photo by Tara Spies



The Leisure Reading collection contains popular books about current events and interests such as gardening, cooking, biographies, and other non-fiction publications. Best-selling fiction authors of mystery, horror, romance and graphic novels are also included. The collection rotates over time; some titles are returned to the vendor each year, and approximately 300 new titles are added. Some books become part of the library's permanent collection and are then moved to the appropriate floor. The idea is to continually add new selections while keeping the collection small enough to browse.

The check-out period is the same as for other library books, and you can renew them online from the catalog "My Account" option. We hope you enjoy the new space and the Leisure Reading collection.

~ Jan Tidwell, *Reference Librarian*

New Extended Hours

In Fall 2008, the Associated Student Government passed a proposal asking the library to conduct a pilot program to study the feasibility of extending library hours. For six weeks beginning February 1, the library was open continuously from 1:00 p.m. Sunday through midnight Thursday. Library users were counted each hour overnight, and the use of study areas and computers was noted. Comments and other data were collected from a sample of patrons who used the library during the extended hours and from staff who worked those hours. Analysis of the data and comments led to the following changes:

- Open one half hour earlier Monday through Friday mornings (7:00 a.m.)
- Beginning the third full week of the fall and spring semesters, remain open an additional two hours Sunday through Wednesday night (close at 3:00 a.m.).
- During the fall and spring “midterm” weeks, 24-hour study hall hours will be offered, similar to hours during finals.

Please see the complete listing of the new library hours below.

- Leslie Fatout, Library System Coordinator/Circulation Librarian



Editorial Committee

Jan Tidwell, Chair

Lisa Ancelet

Leslie Fatout

Misty Hopper

Michele Miller

Katie Salzman

Photo by Tara Spies



The rising STAR of Texas

A member of The Texas State University System

Alkek Library Hours		
Week days	First three weeks of Fall/Spring	Starting 4th week of Fall/Spring
Monday	7:30am - 1:00am	7:00am - 3:00am
Tuesday	7:30am - 1:00am	7:00am - 3:00am
Wednesday	7:30am - 1:00am	7:00am - 3:00am
Thursday	7:30am - 12:00am	7:00am - 12:00am
Friday	7:30am - 10:00pm	7:00am - 10:00pm
Saturday	9:00am - 6:00pm	9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday	1:00pm - 1:00am	1:00pm - 3:00am

For Mini Session and Summer hours, check the Library homepage at www.library.txstate.edu/about/hours.html

The Wittliff Collections Hours		
M-T-F	8:00am - 5:00pm	(8:30 - 4:30 for archives & research)
W-TH	8:00am - 7:00pm	(8:30 - 4:30 for archives & research) exhibits open all day until 7:00pm
Saturday	10:00am - 5:00pm	exhibits only
Sunday	1:00pm - 6:00pm	exhibits only

For more information about the Wittliff Collections hours, check the webpage at www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu

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