

LSU | Libraries

IMPACT REPORT

FY 2021 – 2022



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Message from the Dean

Recently, a reporter for the Reveille called who was working on a story about the LSU Libraries' budget problems. Among her questions was, "What will it take to make the LSU Libraries an excellent library?" My emphatic answer: it already is.

This impact report is the evidence for that claim, reflecting a year's worth of brilliant work on the part of an unusually strong group of people. Money is important, but the LSU Libraries will never allow financial constraints to prevent it from providing students and faculty with the best library possible. The best library, and yes, an excellent one.

The accomplishments in this year's report occurred in the midst of two epochal institutional changes: the return to normalcy following the pandemic and the arrival of LSU's dynamic new president, William Tate. In retrospect, it's hard to disentangle the two. Both portend new energy and focus in ways that will position the university for unprecedented leadership and service. President Tate's Scholarship First Agenda couldn't possibly be a better fit for the Libraries. So much of our time, effort, and resources are already focused on serving that vision, and many of the elements in this report can be seen as indicators of our planning for the future of scholarship at LSU.

A research library can't operate effectively in isolation, and this year has seen tremendous growth in the Libraries' engagement with campus partners. Libraries faculty and staff have worked with ITS in securing and distributing student computer equipment as well as planning for a university-wide data repository. They have led conversa-



tions with faculty in STEM disciplines concerning open access, open data, and open science. They helped produce a Faculty Senate resolution in support of library funding that passed unanimously. And, they have made many substantive contributions to the university's diversity efforts. It is intensely gratifying for me to hear, as I often do, unsolicited praise for one or another of our staff for the contributions they make to all manner of campus conversations, committees, and initiatives.

The most exciting event of our year, however, was undoubtedly the recent passing of Louisiana's state budget, which includes \$2 million to begin planning for a new main library building. Here again, the Libraries benefits from the vision of President Tate and his administration, and in particular their success in working with state government. Given the range of urgent facility needs at LSU, the planning money is an unambiguous vote of confidence in the present and future LSU Libraries. On the day the new library opens, it will instantly become the most impactful, transformational facility in LSU's history. Our job is to ensure that library programs, services, collections, and staff are a match for the breathtaking building they will inhabit. I know we'll get there: excellence is soul of the LSU Libraries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stanley Wilder".

Stanley J. Wilder
Dean
LSU Libraries

By the Numbers



Planning Funds

\$2 million
in funds

LSU has received \$2 million in planning funds from the Louisiana legislature for a new main library building!



Web Views

700,000
views

From July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, the Libraries' website was visited nearly 700,000 times.



E-Textbooks

More than
\$4.1 million
in student savings

The LSU Libraries' e-textbooks initiative provides access to e-textbooks at no cost to LSU students and their families. In FY22, this program saved students more than \$4.1 million. Since the program's inception in 2014, it has saved more than \$11.6 million.



Digital Commons

More than
2.3 million
items downloaded

The LSU Digital Commons is an open-access repository that collects, preserves, and publishes research and scholarship contributed by LSU faculty, staff, students, and units. As of July 11, 2022, it held 47,550 works. In FY22, items were downloaded from Digital Commons more than 2,300,000 times. Since the repository went live in August 2016, items in the repository have been downloaded more than 8,700,000 times.



Research and Instruction

402
consultations
conducted

In FY22, 17 subject liaison librarians conducted 402 consultations for an average of 24 consultations per librarian. Participants constituted the following: 42% undergraduates, 39% graduate students, 14% faculty, 3% members of the public, 1% staff, and 1% "other."



Events & Programming

73
events
held

In FY22, the LSU Libraries held 73 events and programs making a total of 15,107 contacts with patrons and visitors.



Research Guides

LibGuides
viewed
386,784
times

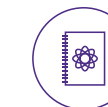
LSU Libraries' digital research guides, also known as "LibGuides," reflect information curated by faculty and staff about a specific subject or course. Many of these are created at the request of a faculty member to assist students with course-specific research and learning and are available to the public. In FY22, the LSU Libraries' 235 LibGuides were viewed 386,784 times.



Interlibrary Loan

In FY22 the Libraries filled the following requests for Interlibrary Loan.
20,990 Borrowing Requests, LSU Library patrons requested physical and digital items that Interlibrary loan requested from other libraries.
7,339 Lending Requests, LSU Libraries loaned physical and digital items to patrons at other libraries.
4,922 Document Delivery Requests, Local patrons requested 4,561 physical items from the LSU Libraries' collection. These items were delivered to offices across campus or were sent by email.
5,292 Items Scanned from Print, Items scanned from print include only items we scan locally from our print collection and are a subset of lending and document delivery requests.

20,990
Borrowing
Requests



Special Collections Instruction Program

The Special Collections instruction program has grown significantly during the post-pandemic transition. In FY22, nearly 90 different classes visited Hill Memorial Library, comprising more than 1,000 students who represented departments across the university.

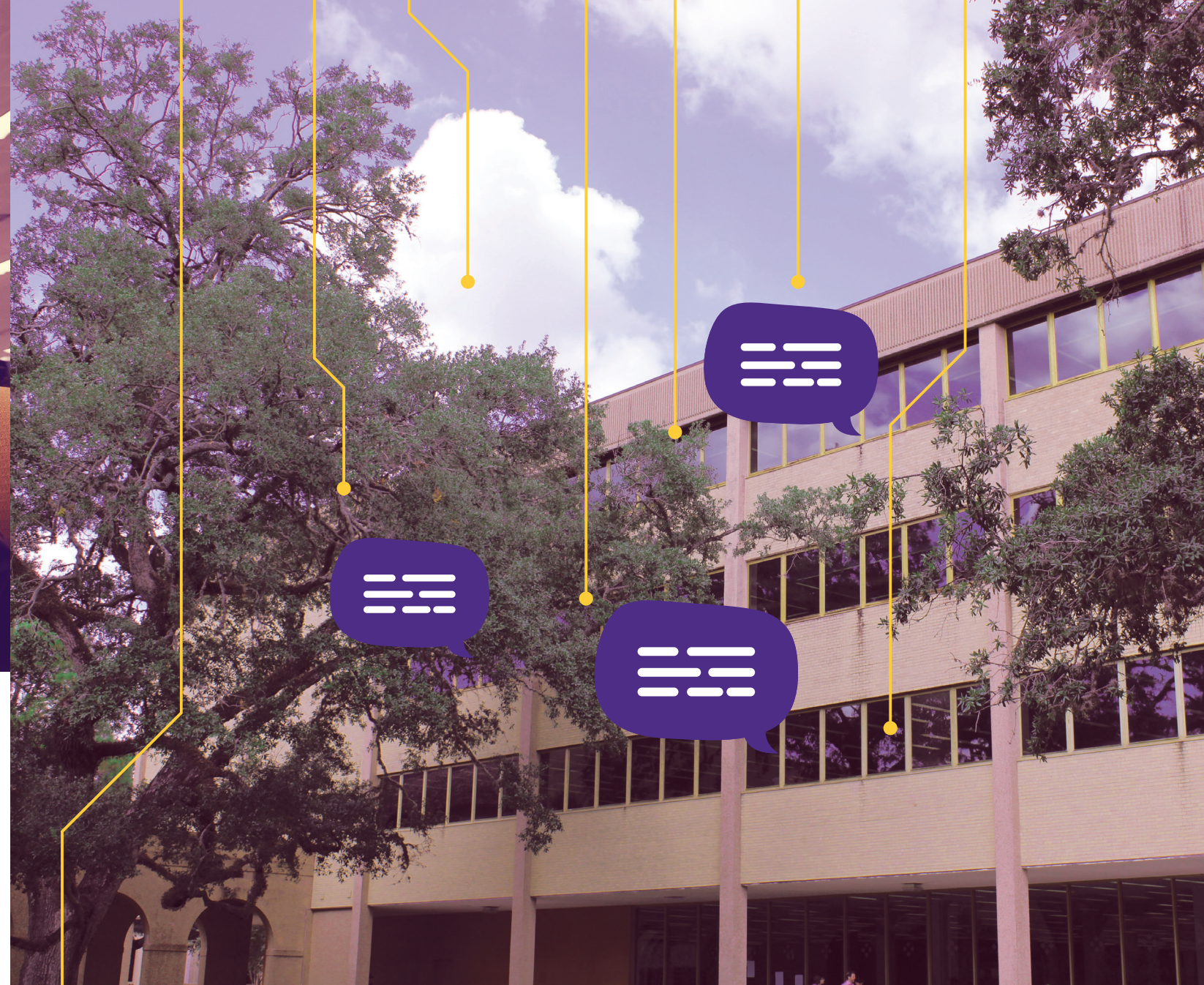
More than
1,000
students visited
Hill Memorial
Library



Giving

\$633,415
raised

In 2022, the LSU Libraries raised \$633,415 in cash and in-kind gifts.



Innovations & Resources

LSU Libraries Going Higher Tech with New Student Tech Fee Award

This fall, LSU Libraries will be adding new technology and upgrade technology-enabled spaces in the main library thanks to a \$85,612 LSU Student Tech Fee award. These funds will directly benefit students and provide technology to a wide variety of campus users.

The Libraries were one of 16 campus units that received funding from the nearly \$1 million in total allocated by the Student Technology Fee Oversight Committee. According to Michael Stewart, Assistant Director of Libraries Technology, the purpose of the project is “to enhance existing student areas in the main library with technology and equipment in order to increase collaboration capabilities and also offer better walk-up digitization services to the Libraries’ users.”

The award will be used to purchase two additional self-service scanners, a new self-checkout machine, large wall-mounted monitors for collaboration, additional whiteboards, and new technology for all 10 group study rooms located on the third and fourth floors. Two of the rooms will be equipped with presentation practice equipment, and students can expect to see new furniture, whiteboard paint on the walls, new whiteboards, and technology in all the study rooms.

According to Gina Costello, LSU Libraries’ Associate Dean of Technology & Special Collections, “In an increasingly tech-dependent and collaborative world, it is imperative that the Libraries continue to provide LSU students with cutting edge resources that meet their educational and research needs. This award advances our mission to be an indispensable intellectual resource not only for our students but for the state of Louisiana and beyond.”

LSU Libraries Improves Virtual Help Desk

In October 2021, LSU Libraries revamped its chat service*, which aims to increase engagement with patrons seeking library materials and services online. Now, the proactive virtual assistant is available on the bottom, right-hand side of every Libraries webpage whenever a user has a question. As a result of this change, usage has increased by 61 percent, and it has been utilized by patrons 1,595 times since the start of 2022.

***The chat is available during the main library’s hours and is staffed by Libraries employees from a range of departments.**

Louisiana and Mississippi Residents Have Better Access to Government Information

This year, three Louisiana and Mississippi libraries in the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO)* Federal Depository Library Program entered a new, shared regional agreement to offer citizens widespread and enhanced access to government information. This included LSU Libraries, Louisiana Tech University Library, and the University of Mississippi Libraries, which now share regional depository responsibilities across Louisiana and Mississippi.

This change means Louisiana and Mississippi communities now have permanent public access to triple the amount of government materials that they did previously. With three participating libraries, the librarians have intimate knowledge of the collections of all three institutions, making it easier for citizens to access the information they need.

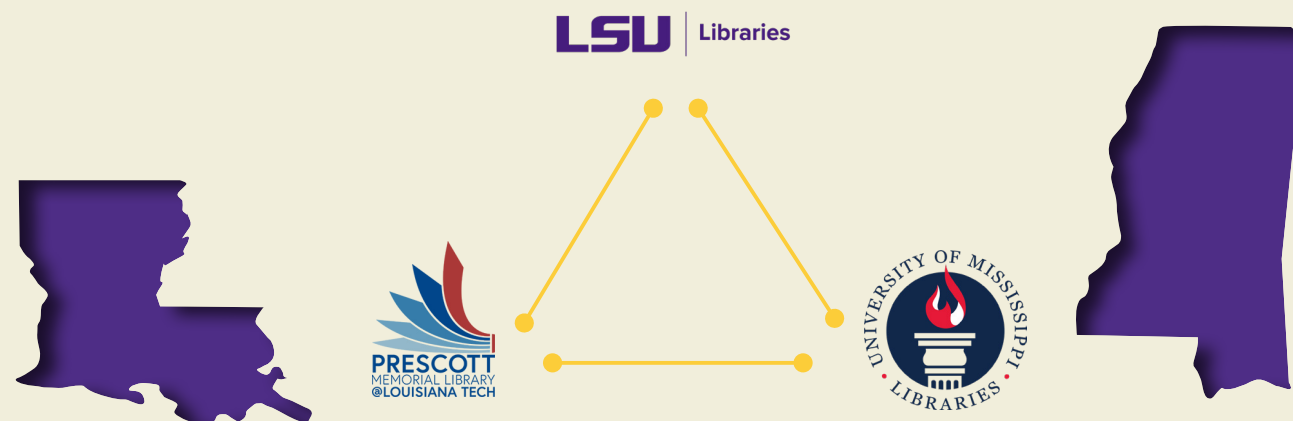
“This agreement puts LSU and Louisiana at the forefront of reimagining what a government information collection and collaboration can and will be in an effort to better serve our communities — both academic and public,” said Hayley Johnson, LSU Libraries’ Head of Government Documents, who was instrumental in bringing this partnership to fruition. “This partnership is an example of how libraries can fulfill their mission of information stewardship through innovative joint efforts.”

This collaboration across state boundaries is only possible with senatorial approval and designation of shared regionals for the Federal Depository Library Program, in accordance with section 1912 of title 44, United States Code. GPO received signed, shared

regional designations from Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS).

“The partnership will help GPO increase accessibility to a larger audience, a major step forward in ‘Keeping America Informed,’” said GPO Director Hugh Nathaniel Halpern. “The designation is also beneficial to the libraries. Sharing print and digital resources is cost-effective and enables libraries to reallocate space. Librarians at Louisiana State University Library, Louisiana Tech University Library, and the University of Mississippi Libraries have open lines of communication and a synergistic network to tap into when assisting members of the public.”

***GPO is the Federal Government’s official, digital, secure resource for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the U.S. Government.**



Scholarship First: Libraries forms Scholarly Publications and Analytics Department

LSU Libraries launched the new Scholarly Publications and Analytics Department to respond to evolving methods of scholarly communication that are integral to a university library’s work. It is currently comprised of four librarians and a team of students.

One considerable resource that is organized under the new department is LSU Digital Commons, an open-access repository that collects, preserves, and publishes research and scholarship contributed by LSU researchers. Trent Dunkin, the university’s first Institutional Repository Librarian, has taken the lead on its development.

“Increasing the focus on the repository will advance the Libraries’ long-standing goals to amplify the reach and impact of LSU scholarship,” Dunkin said.

The department also advises and collaborates with units across campus on work related to scholarly publications. For example, as a member of Crossref—a non-profit, cooperative effort among publishers to enable persistent cross-publisher citation linking in online academic journals—LSU Libraries assigns Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to articles in journals hosted on the journal publishing platform. DOIs make citations more reliable, which is one way they enhance discovery. They are also a prerequisite for inclusion in DOAJ.org, the Directory of Open Access Journals, a resource used by libraries worldwide to provide access to e-journals through their online catalogs.

In addition, the new department has begun an ambitious project to increase the adoption of ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor IDs) across campus—DOIs identify articles whereas ORCID identifies researchers. By adopting these unique identifiers, LSU’s scholars will enhance the reach and impact of their scholarship across the globe.

New ORCID Membership Enhances the Profile of LSU Research

LSU has joined 38 other organizations as a member of ORCID, the non-profit organization that contributes to the classification of scholarly research by assigning unique identifiers to researchers throughout the globe. These unique identifiers are known as Open Researcher and Contributor IDs (ORCID).



The institutional membership will allow the Libraries to enhance researcher profiles for LSU scholars while easing the administrative burden on them to document their work after publication. For example, a connection between ORCID and Elements, the new faculty evaluation system, means that scholarly records for faculty members with ORCID will be ingested into the new LSU evaluation system, reducing the time researchers will have to spend documenting their publications.

By joining ORCID, the Libraries is ensuring trustworthy and accurate connections between researchers, their contributions, and their affiliations on a global scale. This, in turn, will ensure that LSU and its researchers receive recognition for the scholarly works produced at LSU and will increase the reach and impact of LSU’s scholarship.

We Are Global

More than four million researchers at 3,100+ institutions now have greater access to LSU scholarship, thanks to our new partnership with ProQuest, allowing LSU's electronic theses and dissertations to be included in its international ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global database! Greater access to this scholarship increases LSU's impact across the globe.

A World of Knowledge at Your Fingertips

In an increasingly online world, LSU Libraries' patrons have come to expect having access to critical information at their fingertips—exactly when they need it. In order for our faculty and students to produce excellent scholarship, it is imperative that we provide a broad variety of trustworthy digital resources that meet patrons' educational and research needs. In keeping with that goal, LSU Libraries added the following electronic resources to our collections in 2022:

- Digital Theatre+ digital streaming video collection
- Gale Allied Propaganda in World War II and the British Political Warfare Executive
- Gale Psychological Warfare and Propaganda in World War II
- Gale Witchcraft in Europe and America
- *Hispanic American Newspapers (1808-1980)*
- Human Kinetics Library Core Collection
- JSTOR Business IV Collection
- JSTOR Lives of Literature Collection
- JSTOR Sustainability Collection
- *Library Diversity and Residency Studies*
- *Los Angeles Times (1881-2013)*
- Occasional Papers of the Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University
- Springer's 2020 e-book package (includes 7,800 titles)



Music in Motion

LSU Libraries operates two buildings that feature dynamic spaces that not only serve LSU's research and educational needs but as activity centers where patrons can engage with art and culture. One such example is the Carter Music Resources Center, which organizes pop-up School of Music performances in the lobby of the main library. These events provide the performer with a connection to a willing audience and a positive study break for library patrons.





Special Collections

Special Collections Acquires Important Private Collection of African American Poetry

LSU Libraries' Special Collections has obtained one of the country's largest collections of African American poetry. Among the more than 800 items previously owned by book collector and dealer Wyatt Houston Day is a book once owned by Frederick Douglass's daughter-in-law and a number of manuscript materials from poets such as Gwendolyn Brooks and Langston Hughes. and feature important titles created during the Harlem Renaissance.

In an interview with the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, Louisiana's current poet laureate (and former LSU student and professor) Mona Lisa Saloy said of the collection, "A lot of Black poets have gone by the wayside because of time or death or moving to another part of the country or even out of the country. So, having a huge collection of a variety of Black poets is outstanding and there are a lot of poetry books that are out of print, so that'll be invaluable for anyone who loves poetry, especially Black poetry."

"The Wyatt Houston Day Collection complements existing literary holdings at LSU, but it also means an enormous boost to the representation of works by writers who have been historically marginalized. The acquisition of this collection is a significant contribution to LSU's efforts as they relate to diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Stanley Wilder, dean of LSU Libraries.

The Day Collection was appraised in September 2021 by book dealer Henry Wessells of the James Cummins Bookseller in New York City, at almost \$613,000, but because of Day's desire to have the works placed at a public university, part of the collection was gifted to be used and appreciated in perpetuity.

"This collection allows for a dynamic understanding of canonical African American poets and offers numerous avenues for new research and appreciation of the poetic voice of African Americans throughout American history," said John Miles, Curator of Books at LSU Libraries' Special Collections. "The acquisition of these books makes LSU an important research site for anyone interested in American literature and African American culture, as well as affording students the chance to materially confront this genre's grand sweep, political importance, and remarkable intellectual contribution to the nation and the world."

"More remarkable might be the many smaller, almost ephemeral, but nonetheless important chap books and other unheralded publications by minor and otherwise unknown authors. These rare materials add context to the more recognizable names and present a fuller sense of the scope and vibrancy of African American poetic accomplishment over 200 years. Beyond simply its literary value, this collection captures the lives and culture of a people as told in verse," Miles said.

Some of the main works in this collection include:

- The 1784 second London edition of Phillis Wheatley's book of poetry, *Poems of Comic, Serious, and Moral Subjects*.
- A collection of books inscribed by poet Amiri Baraka to the dealer Wyatt Day.
- Two editions of James Weldon Johnson's rare first poem *Fifty Years* (1913 and 1917), one inscribed to the collector and activist Arthur A. Schomburg and the other to anthropologist and feminist Elise Clews Parson.

This acquisition represents a commitment and an opportunity for an evolving, diverse and inclusive LSU, that strides fiercely into the future.



50 Years of the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection, 1971–2021

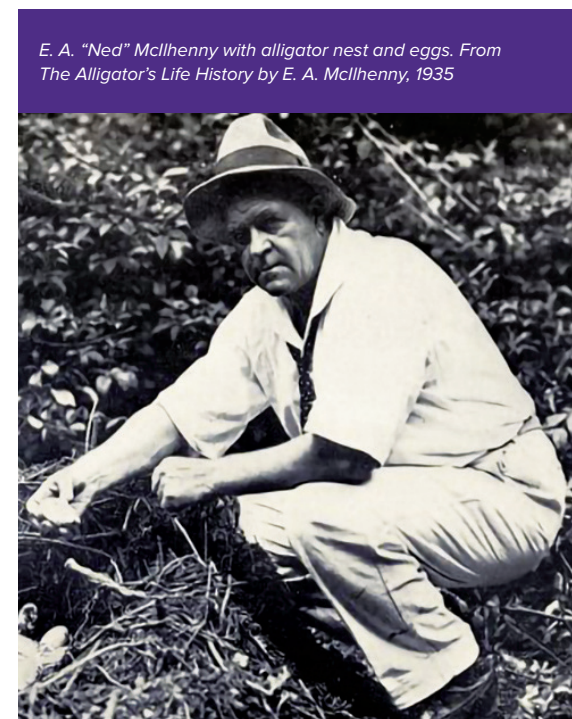
Beginning at the close of 2021, LSU Libraries celebrated the 50th anniversary of its acquisition of the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection with the exhibition, “Flora & Fauna at 50: The E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection 1971-2021.” Acquired in 1971 from John Stauffer “Jack” McIlhenny, the heart of the collection is made up of the personal library of his uncle, E. A. “Ned” McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana.

Ned McIlhenny, son of Tabasco brand pepper sauce inventor Edmund McIlhenny, was a Louisiana businessman, explorer, naturalist, and conservationist. He participated in Arctic expeditions as a young man before assuming control of the McIlhenny Company, overseeing Tabasco sauce production as president of the organization until his death. During his tenure, Ned expanded, modernized, and standardized sauce production, as well as experimented with new ways of promoting the world-famous product, such as advertising on radio.

Selected items on display from the collection included:

- Compilations of ancient Greek and Roman natural histories
- Works inspired by correspondence and specimens sent to Europe from naturalists, soldiers, and missionaries from across the globe
- Travel narratives that provide rich details about landscapes, creatures, and flora that were collected and described often in collaboration with native and Creole naturalists
- Modern titles in the collection that reflect the growing awareness of the role of human activity on the environment and the need for ecologically sound conservation efforts

For the remainder of his life (1909-1997), Jack McIlhenny added to the collection and provided an endowment to ensure its continued growth. Generous donors such as Dr. James M. Bishop and Tom Taylor have given significant works to this and other collections within LSU Libraries Special Collections, to continuing the McIlhenny legacy.



LSU Libraries Hosts Community Conversations on Coastal Impacts

In the spring of 2022, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, through the Coastal Impacts initiative, chose LSU Libraries’ Special Collections as a host site for a four-part reading and discussion series, “Witness to Change: Community Conversations on Coastal Impacts.” Taking place over multiple days, the program centered literary works by people from a variety of ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds who have called Louisiana’s coastal region home and who take pride in the wild beauty and rich resources it has to offer.

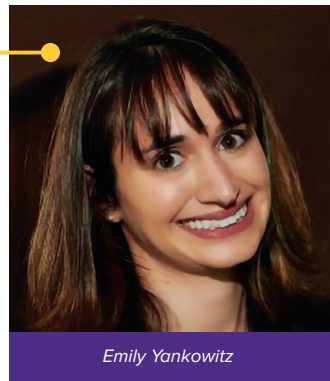
Funded by BHP, formerly Broken Hill Proprietary Company, this grant program encourages dialogue and critical thinking about the most important topic that affects Louisianans today.

“LSU is an international leader in coastal sciences, and LSU President William Tate has recently established this field as a major focal point for research and scholarship,” said Amanda Hawk, Head of Public and Research Services. “As the repository for historical, cultural, governmental, and scientific materials related to the coast dating back several centuries, LSU Libraries’ Special Collections is a natural fit for the ‘Witness to Change’ program.”

Scholars facilitated four discussions using works of both fiction and non-fiction to prompt conversation among participants. Readers engaged with four works: *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* by Elizabeth Rush, *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi, *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, and *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast* by Mike Tidwell. The books illustrate how hurricanes, flooding, and land loss reverberate within communities with deep cultural connections to this special, fragile place.

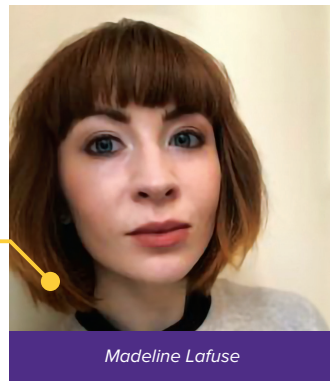
Special Collections Serves Scholars Nationwide

LSU Libraries boasts one of the most prestigious Special Collections operations in the country and serves as a destination archive for researchers across the globe. In keeping with its mission to serve as an indispensable intellectual resource for the State of Louisiana and for communities worldwide, each year it selects three scholars to receive travel grants supporting the use of LSU Libraries' Special Collections in their projects. Below are this year's recipients.



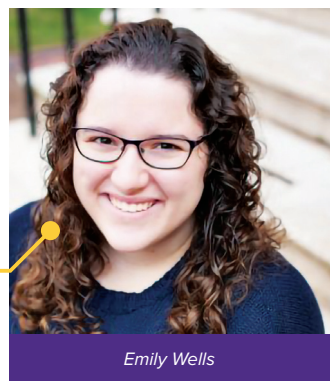
Emily Yankowitz

Emily Yankowitz, PhD candidate in Yale University's Department of History, conducted research for her dissertation exploring how Americans understood the concept of citizenship between the 1780s and 1840s, a period when the term's meanings were highly contested. She used records in LSU Libraries' Special Collections to inform her chapters on perceptions of citizenship in U.S. territories, the boundaries of Black citizenship, and popular debates about extending citizenship to French-speaking Catholics in Louisiana.



Madeline Lafuse

Madeline Lafuse, PhD candidate in history at the City University New York Graduate Center, consulted sources crucial to her dissertation, "Poison in Marie Laveau's New Orleans: A Cultural History of Slavery and Violence, 1769-1900." Lafuse seeks to understand the relationships between the opportunity for poisoning that enslaved people's culinary labor afforded and the constant threat of poisoning that enslavers faced.



Emily Wells

Emily Wells, PhD student in history at William & Mary, conducted research for her dissertation which examines the relationship between place and identity among elite, white girls who lived in the American South during the early national and antebellum periods. As they aged, they moved from the places that had defined their girlhoods to new places that would define their adult lives. By reading their letters and diaries, Wells seeks to understand how they used place-making to make sense of and describe their transition into adulthood.

Audubon Day 2022

The spring of 2022 marked the return of LSU Special Collections' Audubon Day which was suspended in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020. Audubon Day is an annual event in which patrons view the famed double elephant folio edition of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* (London, 1827-1838). This year's event included live birds from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's resident raptors program to accompany the historic bird illustrations. Attendees were also treated to behind-the-scenes tours of the LSU Museum of Natural Science's bird collection.





Books for sale on a table at the Book Bazaar. Credit: Francis Dinh, LSU Reveille

“Everyone was very eager to get back to the sale they love,” said lead volunteer and retired literature teacher Anita Young. “Along with the desire to get their hands on tons of books, I think the idea of being back to some semblance of normalcy didn’t hurt. We had customers lined up as early as 7 a.m. for a 9 o’clock opening. The excitement was palpable. It was pretty awesome.”

The response of the Baton Rouge community was astounding. Thousands of eager book buyers flocked to the four-day sale, many expressing joy and relief at the return of this venerable Baton Rouge institution. According to Young, the event impacts local voracious readers in different ways.

“Some of our customers have very specific interests and can find older, out-of-print books that they might not find through a bookstore or book seller,” Young said.

The Book Bazaar typically offers around 65,000 volumes. Over the years, proceeds from the event have raised millions of dollars.

“The proceeds from the book sale enable the Libraries to buy books that we couldn’t have purchased otherwise,” said Stanley Wilder, Dean of the LSU Libraries. “We are thrilled to be up and running again. LSU faculty and students desperately need current books to support their research and classwork.”



A visitor thumbs through a book at the 2022 Book Bazaar that took place in the John M. Parker Agricultural Coliseum on LSU’s campus. Credit: Francis Dinh, LSU Reveille

Young has dedicated her time to the Book Bazaar for 13 years. “I want the whole world to read. The idea that we can repurpose books that have been previously owned and loved makes me very happy. We live many lives through books and the books should have many lives as well,” Young said.

Volunteers at the Book Barn prepare for the Book Bazaar year-round and are now accepting donations for next year’s event. All donations must be scheduled by leaving a message at 225-578-5925. The same phone number applies to those who wish to volunteer.

Philanthropy

Book Bazaar Roars Back to Life

This spring, the Friends of the LSU Libraries held their first Book Bazaar since 2019. This annual event, which was placed on hold due to logistical challenges posed by the pandemic, raises funds in support of LSU Libraries’ acquisitions and services through the sale of thousands of used books of every genre—many priced as low as 50 cents. Each year, the Book Bazaar attracts book collectors and book lovers of all ages and from all over. This year, the Friends raised \$47,500.

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Calla Harper Awarded the 2022 General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship



General Syed Ali Zamin

LSU Libraries is more than just a place where students can come to access vital scholarly resources, enhance research and study skills, and engage with the latest technologies that facilitate learning. LSU Libraries employs more students than any academic department on campus, affording them opportunities to work in an environment that understands their needs as students while providing them with the practical workplace experience they need to succeed in their careers. Furthermore, each year the Libraries awards an exceptional undergraduate student worker with the General Syed Ali Zamin Memorial Scholarship.

General Zamin (he/him), for whom the scholarship was named, worked in the LSU Libraries for 14 years following an illustrious career serving in the Pakistan army and as a Pakistani ambassador to four countries. At LSU, he was known for his commitment to serving as custodian of the library's materials and for his extraordinary customer service orientation. In 2014, the Zamin family established a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded annually to an undergraduate student assistant who shares General Zamin's work ethic and love for LSU. This May, the LSU Libraries awarded undergraduate student employee Calla Harper (they/them).

"This scholarship is truly a blessing to receive! I'm incredibly thankful to the Zamin family, the LSU Libraries, and everyone in the Interlibrary Loan department for making the library such a wonderful place to work. I hope to continue to follow in General Zamin's example and work hard to ensure the quality service we provide to academics at LSU and all over the world," Harper said.

"This scholarship is truly a blessing to receive! I'm incredibly thankful to the Zamin family, the LSU Libraries, and everyone in the Interlibrary Loan department for making the library such a wonderful place to work. I hope to continue to follow in General Zamin's example and work hard to ensure the quality service we provide to academics at LSU and all over the world," Harper said.

Harper (sophomore; Baton Rouge, LA) is a returning student to LSU and the Libraries. They worked in Interlibrary Loan while earning a bachelor's in mathematics from LSU. After graduating in 2018, they went on to teach math in Ascension and East Baton Rouge Parish public schools. However, for Harper, one degree from LSU just wasn't enough. In 2021, they returned to LSU to follow their passion and pursue a second bachelor's in music (voice) with a concentration in theatre.

Upon their return, Harper resumed their work in Interlibrary Loan, where they have now worked for a total of nearly five years. Harper has served as a student team leader, training and mentoring other student assistants, in addition to working as a self-employed, private math tutor. According to Harper's supervisor, Larissa Elliott, Harper's return to the Libraries was serendipitous.

"Calla picked up right where they left off after leaving ILL in 2018, as if no time had passed. The knowledge and experience that Calla brings to our current team is truly a blessing and we would be lost without their drive and dedication to the job," Elliot said.



Musical theatre is Harper's passion. As an active member of LSU's Musical Theatre Club, Harper performed in the group's "Miscast Cabaret" in the fall of 2021 and "Singeaux De Mayo" in spring of 2022.



Simms and Johnson view items from the special collections at LSU's Hill Memorial Library.

Diversity

LSU Libraries Awarded Carnegie Whitney Grant to Research the Idealized American West and Its Place Today

This April, LSU Libraries was one of 10 institutions to be awarded the American Library Association's 2022 Carnegie Whitney Grant for the proposal, "Blood and Thunder: The Idealized American West and Its Place Today."

Established in 1876, ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world with more than 60,000 members. This grant, established by Andrew Carnegie in 1902 and enhanced by James Lyman Whitney in 1910, funds the preparation

of popular or scholarly reading lists, a list of online resources, or webliographies, indexes, and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries in the United States.

This is the third time that the lead researchers for the project, LSU librarians Hayley Johnson and Sarah Simms, have been awarded this grant. They received it in 2017 and again in 2018 for a previous project, "Through an Extended Lens: Louisiana, Internment, and the Geography of Chance," which examined the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II in Camp Livingston, a military camp near Alexandria, Louisiana.

"Working at the LSU Libraries gives us so much latitude to explore new ways to think about scholarship. LSU librarians are interdisciplinary by nature. We are connectors of people, of information, and of the different departments on campus. Research like this wouldn't be possible except for in a place like this that values that information and that kind of work,"
Simms said.

"Blood and Thunder: The Idealized American West and Its Place Today" will explore how the idealized myth of the West and westward expansion was used to justify the expulsion and murder of Indigenous peoples, the taking and exploitation of land and resources for economic gains, and the exclusion of minority groups who were perceived as infringing on the rights and resources deemed exclusive to Anglo settlers. The project will use the stories and experiences of those communities that have been historically excluded and oppressed to paint a fuller picture of the dominant historical narrative.

"We are reexamining what you'd typically learn about in your introductory history classes, and the result of this research is that we want to make a very approachable supplemental resource that anyone can pick up and learn from," Johnson said.

Johnson and Simms will develop an interactive online resource guide focused on the counternarratives of the West through the voices of those who experienced it. The guide will include a bibliography of primary and secondary sources such as memoirs, historical accounts, oral histories, guides to newspaper coverage, and other topic-specific resources that they discover in the course of their work.

"It is so important for us to be able to assist our students and researchers in deepening their knowledge by uncovering previously unknown sources of information that they can then use to enrich their own scholarly works,"
Johnson said.

Preserving Louisiana's Legacy: LSU Libraries Awards River Road African American Museum

LSU Libraries is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history and diverse culture of communities across Louisiana. In that spirit, this summer the Libraries presented the 2022 Y'ALL Award to the River Road African American Museum (RRAAM). The Y'ALL Award was first established in 2019 and is an acronym for "You Are Louisiana's Legacy." Its purpose is to share digitization equipment and expertise with small, community-oriented libraries, archives, and museums in Louisiana.

"RRAAM was selected for the award because of their strong ties to their community, the richness of their collections, and the important addition their material makes to the Louisiana Digital Library," said Sophie Ziegler, LSU Libraries' Head of Digital Programs and Services.

Now in its 28th year, RRAAM founder Kathe Hambrick says, "The mission of the museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of African Americans in the rural communities of South Louisiana." They work closely with the community in and around Donaldsonville, Louisiana.

Many cultural heritage institutions, like RRAAM, house significant historical materials but lack the technical resources and staffing to digitize their collections. This award provides the technical resources and staff time that enables them to digitize their holdings and hosts the resulting digital collections online through the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL).

LSU Libraries digitized a wide variety of material of great local and regional importance for RRAAM, including:

- Notebooks of a midwife working with Black and White families in and around Donaldsonville between 1914 and 1921



Several items from RRAAM to be digitized

- Commissary and payroll ledgers from Waterloo Plantation from the 1930s and 40s
- Transcriptions of the 1870 and 1890 Ascension Parish censuses
- Records and ephemera from several local Benevolent Associations
- A 1964 report by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) on their activities in Louisiana
- A bill of sale of an enslaved person from 1850
- Records of Butler Farm from the 1930s to the 1950s
- Records of Butler Funeral Home from the 1950s

"LSU Libraries' Y'ALL Award is, in many ways, a race against time. Here in Louisiana, many of our cultural heritage institutions are one storm away from devastation. Digitization is one means of protecting our history and culture for future generations, as well as making it more accessible for the current generation. The River Road African American Museum is exactly the type of institution we hope to work with; their roots in the community are deep, and their collection fills gaps in the state's existing digitized cultural heritage," Ziegler said.

In addition to RRAAM receiving copies of the digital files for use at their institution, these collections will be added to the LDL, where they will be available to the public free of charge.



Gabe Harrell, LSU Libraries' Digitization Lab Manager, presenting the 2022 Y'ALL Award plaque to Kathe Hambrick, founder and former executive director of the River Road African American Museum

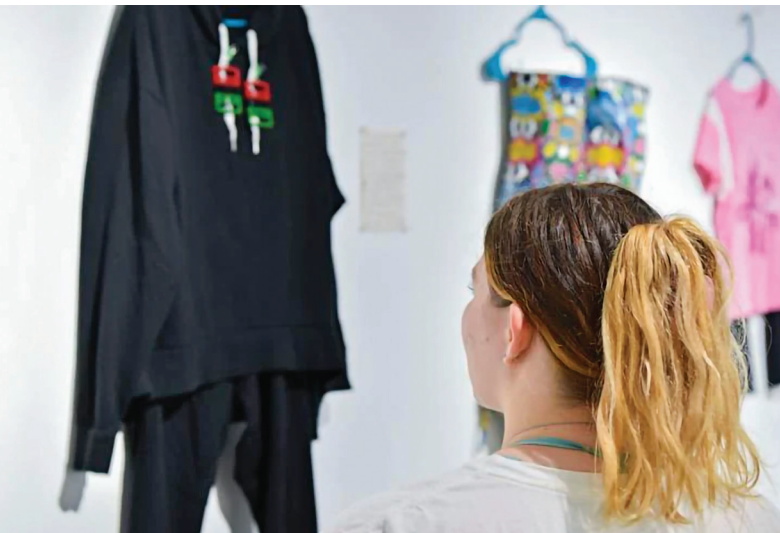
LSU Libraries Diversity Committee Activities

“The 2021-2022 academic year has been exciting and rewarding. All committee members have done splendid jobs at incorporating principles of diversity into the library. The energy of the committee has been robust, and we hope to continue the strong momentum into the 2022-2023 academic year.”

- S. Trent Dunkin, committee chair and Institutional Repository Librarian



LSU Libraries' December Hanukkah display



A visitor views the "What I Wore" exhibit in the art gallery of the LSU Student Union. This traveling exhibition was later displayed on the second floor of LSU's main library. Credit: Dylan Borel, LSU Reveille

October/November

LSU Libraries Diversity Committee Chair Trent Dunkin took to Instagram to educate the public on the diverse origins of Louisiana place names and provided resources from within the Libraries' collections where they could learn more about the topic.

In October, in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Dunkin's Instagram post featured Louisiana place names of Spanish origin and resources.

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month in November, he featured Louisiana place names of Native American origin.

November/December

Each semester, the diversity committee provides Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion training to Libraries' faculty and staff. For the fall semester, they viewed several sessions of the National Conference of African American Librarians. The sessions featured topics on issues such as critical race theory, the library as a public space, and DEI in libraries. Several committee members led guided discussion sessions at the conclusion of the sessions.

December

Committee member Kris Kallies spearheaded a project highlighting various items relating to the celebration of Hanukkah. The exhibit specifically featured books within the Libraries' collections relating to Hanukkah and the Jewish faith, a list of influential individuals who identify as Jewish, and various items relating to the Jewish faith such as a menorah and a dreidel.

February/March

Led by committee member Ebony McDonald and in conjunction with the LSU Department of Psychology and the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana (BIALA), the LSU Libraries hosted the traveling exhibit, "Unmasking Brain Injury," which featured masks created and designed by individuals who sustained and live with brain injuries.

The exhibit's unveiling ceremony featured talks by Kimberly Hill, executive director of BIALA, and Matthew Calamia, associate professor in the LSU Department of Psychology.

A panel discussion featured Kimberly Hill and Sara Mele, speech language pathologist in the LSU Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders.

April

Each semester, the diversity committee provides DEI training to Libraries faculty and staff. For the spring semester, the diversity committee partnered with LSU's Office of Diversity & Inclusion on "Unconscious and Implicit Biases," a two-hour training focused on raising awareness of unconscious bias and steps individuals can take to prevent biased attitudes and behaviors from interfering with workplace decisions and interactions.

Additionally, LSU Libraries partnered with The LSU Women's Center and The Lighthouse Program on the "What I Wore" exhibit, which allowed sexual assault survivors to tell their stories through clothing. The exhibit displayed articles of clothing that sexual assault survivors were wearing during their assaults alongside personal narratives of survivors' experiences with the goal of challenging myths and misconceptions surrounding sexual assault. This event served to educate the LSU community about consent, illuminate the intersectionality of the issue, and work toward creating a safer LSU.



Examples of masks from the Unmasking Brain Injury Exhibit

May

In an event organized by committee member Mitch Fontenot, LSU Director of International Services Annette Burris spoke to the Libraries' faculty and staff to raise awareness of the services her office provides in support of LSU's international students. This information enables our staff to serve international students who seek Libraries services holistically by fostering a culture of interdepartmental collaboration to meet students' needs.

People

New Hires

Faculty



Jazzlynn Boyd
Liaison Librarian



Danielle Costello
Science Librarian



Nicollette Davis
Kinesiology Social Work, and
Health Sciences Librarian



Trent Dunkin
Institutional Repository Librarian



Cambria Huff
STEM Librarian



Mike Holt
Head of Research and
Instruction Services

Staff



Kendall Caple
Resource Sharing Specialist



Evelyn Davis
Cataloging Associate



Katherine "Kat" Dean
Resource Sharing Specialist



Milad Khanlou
Computer Analyst



Audrey Portier
Microforms and Collections Specialist



Christine Wendling
Director of Communications



Jessie Whitten
Technology Support Analyst

Promotions & Tenure

Resource Sharing Specialist **Trent Dunkin** (pictured above) who was previously a Library Associate 3, was hired as a general librarian in January 2022.

Retired

Mark E. Martin began his career at LSU Libraries Special Collections in 2000 and worked as Assistant Curator of Image Resources, Photographic Processing Archivist, and a Public Services Librarian. Mark was instrumental in the acquisition of important photographic collections including the Andrew D. Lytle Album Photograph Collection and the Thomas H. and Joan W. Gandy Photograph Collection.

Mark's passion for local history, bicycling, natural history, and photography led to numerous opportunities, including serving as curator of the 2018-2019 exhibit "We Built This City: Baton Rouge as a System of Systems," as an instructor for pho-

tography and biology classes visiting Special Collections, and as an advisor to the LSU Bicycling Club. He is the author of the books, *Andrew D. Lytle's Baton Rouge*, *Historic Photos of Baton Rouge*, and *Historic Photos of LSU Football*—the latter of which he co-authored with Barry C. Cowan, LSU Libraries' Assistant Processing Archivist.

Widely known across campus and in the community, Mark is a vocal advocate for LSU Libraries and Special Collections. A founding board member of Bike Baton Rouge, he continues to be an active participant in Baton Rouge's Complete Streets Citizens Advisory Committee. After 21 years of service to LSU, he retired on June 30, 2021.



Mark E. Martin

Remembering John Stowe



John Stowe

LSU Libraries lost a treasured staff member on January 31, 2021, when John A. Stowe passed away at age 50 after a long illness with which he had struggled courageously for more than four years. A native of Mansura in Avoyelles Parish, John earned a degree in English at LSU and worked as an editor for World Book in Chicago prior to joining LSU Libraries. He first worked as a library associate in

the former Collection Development/Acquisitions unit in the main library from 2008 to 2012. He then worked in Special Collections Technical Services from 2013 until his death. While the majority of John's activities in the Libraries took place behind the scenes and may have been known only to those who worked with him directly, his contributions will be remembered in light of the remarkable ethos by which he lived and the spirit in which he undertook every task that came his way.

Appreciated by co-workers for his quiet steadfastness, dedication, and calm temperament, John carried out a varied array of duties during his years at LSU Libraries. Whether dealing with incoming book shipments, assisting with special projects, keeping Louisiana state publications well-organized, or staffing the front desk in Hill Memorial Library on early

morning shifts, John performed these and many other tasks with unfailing patience and good cheer. No matter what circumstances or challenges arose, he was always willing to lend a helping hand whenever and wherever needed. When John's illness began to prevent him from functioning as he was accustomed to, he still tenaciously continued doing what he was able to for the Libraries for as long as possible.

John will be greatly missed by all who worked with him, and we will remember his determination, kindness, and loyalty with admiration and gratitude. He put his friends and colleagues first, even while he was struggling with his illness. John was humble and kind to the end, setting a fine, bright example for all who were privileged to know him.

Publications

2022

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Student Contributors

Behnoush Tavasolinia is an Iranian master's student at the LSU College of Art & Design. She has been a graduate assistant at LSU Libraries' Department of Music Resources since 2019. For this year's impact report, she designed the cover illustration, infographic, and page-by-page layouts. In addition to assisting with the impact report, she has designed an identity system for the Libraries' Music in Motion pop-up concert series, managed concert events, designed posters, and managed photography and videography for those events.

"I love LSU Libraries' flourishing work environment where I feel valued, respected, and welcomed as an international student. Working in the Music Resources Department in the past and now on the communications team provides me with an opportunity to improve my graphic design and communication skills." Tavasolinia said.



Behnoush Tavasolinia



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