

IMPACT REPORT



FROM THE DEAN

This year's *Impact Report* is a tonic for our pandemic-focused brains. You will see here impressive gifts, innovative approaches to collections, new services, grant success, and a long list of faculty research accomplishments. You'll also find stellar new recruits, important additions to our rare book collections, and so much more.

Under normal circumstances, such achievements would suffice to declare the year a success, but of course there was nothing normal about this year. The pandemic presented library staff with challenges that no one was prepared for. Yet in the space of a few weeks, and in some cases just days, our staff designed and implemented services that filled every need that could be met safely. You'll find a timeline of some of the changes we made in the report. I am so proud of the extraordinary commitment, creativity, and courage exhibited by LSU Libraries faculty and staff during this crisis.

No account of this tumultuous year would be complete without reference to the murder of George Floyd, and the profound national reckoning that followed in its wake. The LSU Board of Supervisors, having worked closely with LSU students, voted unanimously to rename the LSU Library building. Speaking for the faculty and staff of the LSU Libraries, we recognize the intensity of feeling and emotion surrounding this decision. We have responded in ways appropriate for a research library: collecting, preserving, and making accessible the historical record for current and future generations. I know that we all share a profound wish that our library be as welcoming and inclusive as it can possibly be.

The LSU Libraries will go further, playing an important role in how LSU comes to terms with its own history of inequality, and it has important contributions to make in helping the university remedy those injustices. Diversity is one six goals in the Libraries' strategic plan, and we build on the work we've done thus far in continuing to examine our hiring practices for evidence of unconscious bias, contributing antiracist reading lists drawn from our collections, and creating an enhanced diversity, equity, and inclusion guide which you'll see highlighted here. Most importantly, the Libraries will deepen our efforts to listen to our various constituencies. Libraries are natural community builders, and we're confident of our potential to help make LSU a better university.

We look forward to a year of healing and bright new promise, one connected either physically or virtually with our community. We in the Libraries thank everyone for the stalwart support we've felt throughout these uncertain times.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stanley Wilder". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Stanley Wilder
Dean of Libraries

CONTENTS

4 University Responds to Student Leaders

In June, Black student leaders at LSU met with Interim President Thomas Galligan and other university leaders to ask for the removal of the name Troy H. Middleton from LSU's main library building. Middleton served as president of LSU from 1951 to 1962 and opposed integration throughout his tenure.

5-8 Innovations and Resources

This year, the Libraries launched a pilot program for providing textbooks, was the first in North America to sign a read and publish agreement with the American Chemical Society, purchased databases with thousands of online resources, implemented a new expedited delivery service for journal articles, and created a mobile digitization lab.

9-13 Special Collections

LSU Libraries Special Collections holds the Libraries' most unique and historical material. A sixteenth-century book of hours and a copy of the Nuremburg Chronicle (p. 20) are two of this year's additions to the world class collections in Hill Memorial Library. Beautiful pieces from the collections appear in exhibits throughout the year and are essential to classroom teaching, coursework, and research.

14-18 COVID-19

The extended closure of the LSU campus had a major impact on the University. Throughout the closures and phased reopening, the Libraries provided resources and services online in new and innovative ways. The University Archives launched a project to document the pandemic experiences of the community.

19-24 Giving

Through the generosity of the Friends of the LSU Libraries, alumni, and Dean's Advisory Council, and funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Libraries has been able to fund positions, purchase rare books, and plan for the creation of a technology-rich active learning classroom.

25-29 Diversity

Diversity is one of the Libraries' six strategic goals, supported this year with exhibits on Louisiana's Latinx heritage and the Harlem Renaissance, stories collected by the T. Harry Williams Oral History Center, a resource guide with key terms and recommended reading, and diversity training for the staff.

30-35 People

The accomplishments in this report are the result of the hard work of the talented faculty and staff who work in the Libraries. Read more about them in the final section.



Main Library at LSU Undergoes Name Change

On June 3, 2020, Black student leaders at LSU met with Interim President Thomas Galligan and other university leaders to ask for the removal of the name Troy H. Middleton from LSU's main library building (see pg. 28 for photo). Middleton served as president of LSU from 1951 to 1962 and opposed integration throughout his tenure. On Friday, June 19, 2020, the LSU Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to remove his name. Interim President Galligan, Provost Stacia Haynie, and Governor John Bel Edwards all strongly supported the Board's vote.

Exquisite Williams, a junior from Douglasville, Georgia, is one of the students who launched the effort by creating an online petition. Williams says she has always been fond of books and words, and that as home to those creations, libraries deserve reverence and respect. "A library is a shelter that provides and nourishes education in everyone, despite race, gender, and nationality. As a sanctuary of words, the words on the building must be equally as sacred," stated Williams, "Once I found out about Middleton, I stopped using the library. It became a terrible, alienating place and I avoided entering it. But now there is hope for a change!"

Williams says that she hopes the name change will be a first step in the University's reckoning with other issues of inequality, such as the ratio of professionals of color across academic areas and funding for minority-focused programs and departments. Black student leaders have met with President Galligan to lay out a platform for addressing those issues.

On Friday, June 19, 2020, the bust of Troy H. Middleton was removed from the library's lobby along with his name on the building. For now, the library will be called LSU Library, which is how the building was known prior to 1979. LSU has established a Building Name Evaluation Committee consisting of 16 faculty, staff, students, and alumni who will review and study building names across campus to determine if they are symbols of or monuments to racism.

Textbook Pilot Program to Reduce Students' Costs

LSU Student Government generously provided over \$2,000 to the Libraries to launch a pilot textbook program, making about 250 print textbooks available in the library during the fall of 2019. The Libraries covered the rest of the costs, which amounted to over \$12,000. When the library closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic, 170 titles were made available online (see pg. 15). Textbook costs are a financial burden for many college students, and university libraries ease the stress through e-textbooks, open access, and initiatives like this one.

LSU Libraries Signs “Read and Publish” Transformative Agreement

In February 2020, LSU Libraries and the Publications Division of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announced a transformative open access agreement. The one-year agreement with ACS will provide financial support for up to 28 LSU-affiliated corresponding authors who publish articles under an open access license in any of ACS's journals. The agreement also provides LSU affiliates access to read ACS journals online. As of June 30, LSU faculty published 16 open access articles under this agreement.

A “transformative agreement” is one that transforms the traditional scholarly publishing model of paying to read journals to one that provides more open access reading by shifting the costs to article processing charges (APCs). The terms of the agreement include the potential to make a significant number of articles from LSU open access in ACS journals, increasing the reach and accessibility of LSU research.

“This new agreement is a game-changer! Open access will now be realistic and could become the default option. This is fantastic as it will increase the reach of the groundbreaking chemistry research done at LSU.”

Noémie Elgrishi
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Supporting Open Access Publishing

LSU Libraries distributed grants to six LSU faculty members to cover author fees for their accepted manuscripts to be published in fully open access journals that meet required scholarly standards. The fund is designed to heighten the visibility and accessibility of LSU scholarship and to support faculty, staff, and graduate students who choose to publish in open access journals.

What is Open Access?

Open access is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model. Some open access journals assess article processing fees, which are paid by the authors or their institutions. One of the most important advantages of open access is that it increases the visibility and reuse of academic research results.



Expanding Our Electronic Resources

LSU Libraries purchased the following electronic resources in spring 2020:

- *The Advocate (Baton Rouge) Historical Archive (1845-2015)*
- American Historical Periodicals from the American Antiquarian Society Series 1-5
- Archives of Sexuality & Gender: Part I and II, LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940
- Archives of Sexuality & Gender: Sixteenth to Twentieth Century
- Archives of Sexuality & Gender: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*
- CQ Press Voting and Elections Collection
- *Economist* Historical Archive 1843-2015
- Emerald Engineering Collection
- JoVE Science Education Video Collection: Chemistry
- JoVE Science Education Video Collection: Core Biology
- PhilPapers: Philosophical Research Online
- Sabin Americana: History of the Americas, 1500-1926
- State Papers Online: Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782 Part III
- Springer e-books collections
- Women's Studies Archive: Issues and Identities
- Women's Studies Archive: Voice and Vision

Expedited Journal Delivery Service Implemented Following Journal Cancellations

Following an April 23, 2019 vote by the LSU Faculty Senate supporting the cancellation of the LSU Libraries' subscription to its bundle of Elsevier journals, numerous individual titles were cancelled with input from a university-wide task force.

Renewing the subscription to the bundle of 1,846 journals, called the "big deal" package, would have come with a price tag of \$2 million, a continuation of the serials price inflation that has been rapidly outpacing budget increases and forcing the Libraries to chip away at allocations for important resources like books and databases. In recent years, dozens of U.S. university libraries and numerous European scholarly societies and universities have also canceled subscriptions to "big deal" journal packages.

In order to counterbalance the loss of some Elsevier journal titles, LSU Libraries implemented an expedited delivery service to deliver articles from canceled titles. Since January 2020, faculty and graduate students have been able to receive all journal articles from the canceled subscriptions in about two hours, with 75 articles delivered by the expedited service between January 1 and June 30.

Information Literacy Workshops

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, LSU Libraries' faculty librarians offered more than 20 workshops for students, staff, and professors. These workshops included lessons and discussions on topics such as teaching news literacy skills, archival research, copyright, evaluating sources, and conducting research remotely. After the campus closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, workshops continued online to support the research needs of the LSU community.



DEEFAKE, GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK, AND DETECTING FAKE NEWS IN SOCIAL MEDIA

SEUNGWON YANG
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE &
CENTER FOR COMPUTATION AND TECHNOLOGY
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 22, 2019

Media Literacy Seminar

Librarians Rebecca Kelley and Brittany O'Neill organized a campus seminar on "deepfakes," held on October 22, 2019.

Deepfakes use artificial intelligence to create fake audio and video content. In the past few years, the technology has gained popularity through humorous apps that make users appear older or younger, allow for "face-swapping," and other manipulations. Deepfakes, however, have also been created for more nefarious purposes. The program featured a cross-disciplinary panel of LSU faculty members discussing how deepfakes work, the challenges they present, and how to detect them.

Kelley and O'Neill, who discussed the media literacy skills needed to detect deepfakes, were joined by Len Aparcar, Manship School of Mass Communication; John Fletcher,

School of Theatre; and Seungwon Yang, School of Library and Information Science and the Center for Computation and Technology.

The seminar was well attended, with students receiving credit towards their history, political science, mass communication, and English courses. The audience included undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff from across the university. It served as an interdisciplinary dialogue between faculty who research in this area.

Teaching students critical analytical skills to evaluate information is central to the Libraries' mission. Kelley and O'Neill also created a research guide, which can be accessed via URL guides.lib.lsu.edu/medialiteracy/deepfakes, for students to learn more about the issue.

The Libraries hosts many fun and informative events and programs for all students within the campus community. Librarians also participate in outreach events across campus. This past academic year such activities ranged from hosting a house party for incoming first years to presenting on library research and services at the Black Male Leadership Initiative (BMLI) Fellows Program. The students on the right are enjoying kolaches and donuts as part of a breakfast in November 2019 coordinated by the LSU Libraries Programming Committee.





LSU Libraries Launches Mobile Digitization Lab

Gabe Harrell (far left) and Leah Powell (far right) of LSU Libraries worked with three volunteers from the Jeanerette Bicentennial Park and Museum to digitize nine journals detailing the history of Jeanerette, as well as records from historic local businesses and local publications.

In November 2019, LSU Libraries launched the Mobile Digitization Lab, an initiative that shares digitization equipment and expertise with small, community-oriented libraries, archives, and museums across Louisiana. For the pilot project, faculty and staff from LSU Libraries visited the Jeanerette Museum with scanners and cameras and spent one week digitizing the museum's unique historical material. Jeanerette is a small town in Iberia Parish with a population of less than 6000.

Content created during this initiative has been added to the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL), an online resource that opens the cultural heritage of Louisiana to everyone around the world. Funds for the Mobile Digitization Lab were generously supplied by the LSU Center for Computation and Technology and the LSU Office of Research and Economic Development.

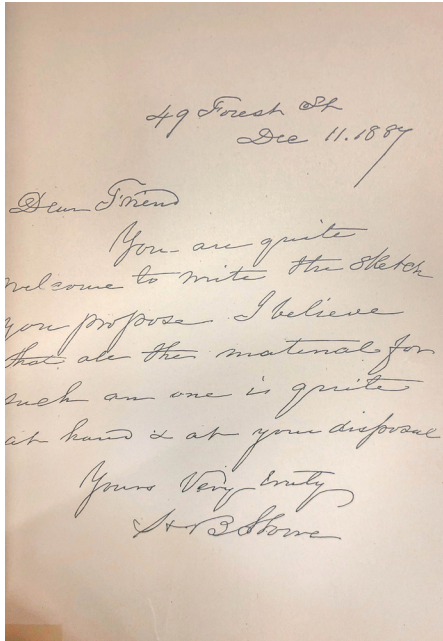
The Mobile Digitization Lab represents an important step in efforts to protect and preserve the history of Louisiana. While the LDL provides a platform for the digital material, limited technology and staffing at many of the state's libraries, museums, and archives presents a barrier to participation. The Mobile Digitization Lab will remove that barrier, expanding access to the historical materials held at these places.

The Louisiana Digital Library as a Community-Focused Data Project

In January 2020, LSU Libraries was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Collections as Data: Part to Whole, an effort made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to encourage the computational use of digital collections. The grant will allow librarians, archivists, and curators from across Louisiana to gather as a community and explore policies and practices around creating digital content for the Louisiana Digital Library (LDL).

Among other initiatives, this grant allows the LDL to host an online speaker series. The series gathers nationally known scholars and practitioners around the topics of anti-racist library description, responsible community involvement, and data ethics. The grant will run for sixteen months.

National Book Traces Project



Inscribed copy of *Florine Thayer McCray's The Life-work of the Author of Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1889).

On February 17, 2020, University of Virginia (UVA) Associate Professor of English Andrew Stauffer delivered the lecture “Book Traces: Nineteenth-Century Books, the Marks of Reading, and the Future of Library Collections” at Hill Memorial Library as part of the Andrew W. Mellon grant supporting the National Book Traces project.

LSU’s involvement in the project was a collaboration between faculty librarians John Miles and Brittany O’Neill and Associate Professor of English Lauren Coats. While several other universities nationwide participated in Book Traces as a part of the Mellon Grant, LSU was unique by integrating the project into the classroom. Students in Coats’ English course, “The American Bestseller,” as well as the Libraries’ student assistants and staff, pulled from a 2000-book sample to identify and capture illustrations, dried flowers, commentary, and other markings in the pages of LSU Libraries’ collections.

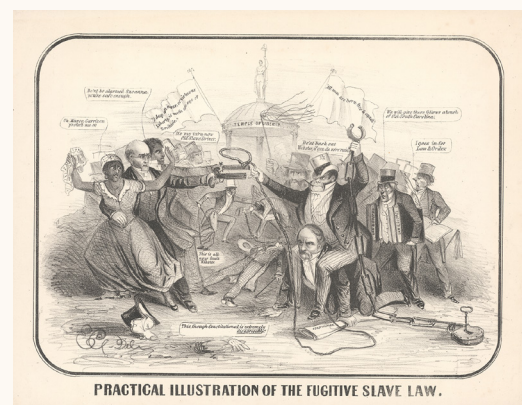
Kristin Jensen, Project Manager at UVA Library, visited LSU to train participants to identify notable markings made by the books’ original owners and upload findings to an app. Photos and data from their findings will be included in the Book Traces database (booktraces.org). At the end of the semester, students completed research papers that explored the use and value of books through history and in the present, historical reading behavior, and the hidden connections between collections in the main library and Hill Memorial Library.

Enslaved People in the Southeast

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Special Collections Interest Group curated its first-ever collaborative online exhibition, *Enslaved People in the Southeast*, featuring over 100 items and the collections of 33 partner institutions and three libraries from the Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) Library Alliance. This exhibition recognized the 400th anniversary of enslaved people landing on the shores of Virginia, thus beginning the transatlantic slave trade in North America.

Melissa Smith, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts for LSU Libraries Special Collections, served as a member of the curatorial group that requested and vetted the materials that included images, poetry, journal entries, correspondence, bills of sale, plantation records, advertisements, emancipation documents, and maps, and wrote corresponding captions. Thus far, the LSU Libraries has contributed items from the Joseph Watson Correspondence collection. Watson’s correspondence (1826-1828) focuses on the location and recovery of five children, all free people of color, who were kidnapped in Philadelphia and sold as slaves in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The exhibition recognized the early years of enslavement, including the horrors of kidnappings, plantation life, and auctions, and it also brought into focus the legacy of slavery and included twentieth century Jim Crow events such as sharecropping, convict leasing, and desegregation.



A satirical cartoon regarding the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Image courtesy of University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections. Access exhibition: aserlsharedenslavedpeople.omeka.net/



Louisiana's Natural Treasure: Margaret Stones, Botanical Artist

In February and March, more than 160 visitors to Hill Memorial Library viewed *Louisiana's Natural Treasure: Margaret Stones, Botanical Artist*, an exhibition of water color drawings from the Native Flora of Louisiana Project and associated archival materials presented by LSU Libraries Special Collections in honor of the centennial of the artist's birth. The exhibition closed due to the pandemic but will re-open on October 1, 2020 and will run through December 4th.

A native of Australia, Stones (1920-2018) achieved an acclaimed international career that spanned three continents. Of the three major multiyear endeavors undertaken by Stones during her long professional career, the final one—the Native Flora of Louisiana—resulted in one of the most remarkable collections of botanical art created for a U.S. state. Commissioned by LSU and funded by private donations, more than two hundred watercolor drawings of Louisiana plants produced by Stones during the 1970s and 1980s are among the most treasured holdings of LSU Libraries Special Collections.

The Native Flora of Louisiana project was grounded in a long historical tradition of botanical illustration. Stones only worked from live specimens, requiring the collection of each plant through all of its stages and seasons to include flower, fruit, and seed. The completed body of work serves as a catalog of over 200 native and endemic species of Louisiana flora that is of great interest to botanists specifically and scientists generally, especially in light of efforts to restore our coastal wetlands and protect endangered plants.

The Louisiana Project forged a special relationship between Margaret Stones and LSU, and with many Louisiana residents who supported her work. All of the works can also be viewed in the Louisiana Digital Library.



Watercolor Drawings by Margaret Stones, E. A. McIlhenny
Natural History Collection, Hill Memorial Library.



In November 2019, LSU Libraries Special Collections acquired a printed book of hours, produced in Paris circa 1500 to meet the demands of an increasingly literate population by exploiting the printing press's ability to outstrip painstakingly created manuscript books. Books of hours are Christian devotional books that were popular in Europe from the middle ages and into the early modern period. They are the most common type of medieval illuminated manuscript to survive to the present.

Like all such works, this volume is organized around a series of prayers called the Hours of the Virgin, meant to be observed by laypeople at regular intervals throughout the day. The text is in both French and Latin and includes a religious calendar designed around a Roman model. Most interesting with regard to this particular specimen is that it is printed on vellum (or parchment), not paper, further blurring the lines between manuscript and printed books. Vellum, made from animal skins, was the preferred material for manuscript books during the middle ages, but as book production increased in the age of the printing press, paper quickly supplanted vellum everywhere, save for official documents and books of the highest quality.

Every page is bordered with a series of intricate illustrations mixing religious scenes with depictions of everyday life, as well as 22 full-page illustrations. Each one is worthy of close study. The printer and woodcutter Philippe Pigouchet produced roughly 90 such books of hours over his thirty-year career, many with publisher Simon Vostre, in editions aimed at markets in Paris, Cambrai, and Besançon in France, and Sarum

(Salisbury) in England, to name a few. Vostre and Pigouchet worked to make their printed books rivals to luxurious manuscript editions by reproducing the work of some of the most famous book illuminators of the day in their publications' borders, initials, and miniatures.

This work adds to the Libraries' collection of similar works, including high quality facsimiles like *The Hours of Henry VIII* (another recent acquisition) and a most treasured original manuscript book of hours dating from the mid-fifteenth century, which was donated by John S. McIlhenny in 1991 to mark the library's two millionth volume.





Richard W. Leche Papers

In fall 2019, LSU Libraries Special Collections displayed a selection of materials from the recently processed Richard W. Leche Papers in the reading room of Hill Memorial Library. Richard W. Leche was the 44th Governor of Louisiana, from May 12, 1936 until his resignation on June 26, 1939. Before his gubernatorial run and term, he worked as a lawyer, a judge, Huey P. Long’s senatorial campaign manager, and Governor Oscar K. Allen’s secretary.

After his resignation, cited to be because of poor health, Leche was convicted for a defrauding scheme involving the Louisiana Highway Commission in 1940. He served a portion of his federal prison sentence before being paroled in 1945. He was pardoned by President Harry S. Truman on January 16, 1953, which preceded a Louisiana State Bar Association pardon. He died in New Orleans on February 22, 1965.

The collection chiefly contains Leche’s gubernatorial papers. These papers consist of office files of correspondence, reports, audits, minutes, and a variety of printed materials documenting Leche and his administration’s communications, relationships, and dealings with Louisiana state and parish entities and federal entities. Major topics and issues documented include public welfare, labor, agriculture, flood control, and state and federal legislation. In addition to the gubernatorial papers, there are almost 1,700 photographic prints depicting Leche’s life before, during, and after his gubernatorial term; scrapbooks; songbooks; and artifacts. The collection also contains the papers of Elton Reynolds Leche, Leche’s wife, and Richard W. Leche, Jr.

L’École des Beaux Arts



LSU Libraries Special Collections and the College of Art & Design collaborated on an exhibition and lecture in fall 2019 related to the École des Beaux-Arts, the School of Fine Arts in Paris, France. “The Hidden Treasures and Historical Importance of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris” showcased a small selection of items from Special Collections, originally from the renowned Parisian school, and from some of its most famous students, including Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863), Gustave Moreau (1826-1898), and Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907).

Darius A. Spieth, LSU’s San Diego Alumni Association Chapter Alumni Professor of Art History Area Coordinator, wrote the introduction for the exhibition. Six hundred students in his art history courses viewed items on display during the fall semester.

On October 9, Emmanuel Schwartz delivered a lecture entitled “Rebellion and Disobedience at the École des Beaux-Arts.” Schwartz is a scholar and longtime curator of the school’s collections in Paris whose studies of art have led to a better understanding of the global impact of the École des Beaux-Arts.

Book Arts in Special Collections

The exhibit *Exploding the Codex: Book Arts in Special Collections* was on display August 19 through January 10, 2020 in Hill Memorial Library. Visitors viewed selections from the eclectic book arts collection and explored questions related to what constitutes a book.

Works by artists Alisa Banks, Julie Chen, Amos Kennedy, Ron King, Claire van Vliet, and a host of others were featured, representing a variety of printing techniques, structures, and binding types. Presented in a kaleidoscope of color and shape, these “bookworks” explored subjects from playful celebrations of nature to political calls to action.

Collected in the exhibition were a number of books whose book-shapes are variously familiar and exotic, skirting the limits of what might be traditionally considered a book, even as they draw inspiration from that history. “The books on exhibit are drawn from throughout our collections, touching



on many different subjects, but united by their self-conscious investigation of the artistic potential of the book form. Bibliophiles of all types will find pieces to inspire, delight, and surprise them,” said Dr. John David Miles, Curator of Books, when the exhibit opened.

On October 24th, LSU Libraries Special Collections hosted 40 visitors for “Afternoon in the Archives: Book Arts” in conjunction with the exhibition. The works of three LSU Art & Design faculty members—Leslie Koptcho, Paul Dean, and Kelli Scott Kelley—were featured among the many works on display from the Rare Book Collection.

Later that evening, the LSU School of Art sponsored a talk by artist Julie Chen, who is “one of the most celebrated and innovative book artists working today,” according to Professor Koptcho. Chen’s talk was part of a two-day visit to LSU that also included a student workshop with the artist.

SPECIAL SECTION

COVID-19

PHASE 1

March 17 LSU Closes

On March 16, 2020, both LSU Library and Hill Memorial Library closed their doors, with the rest of the LSU campus, to keep students and staff safe from the threat of COVID-19. Both libraries were already providing numerous resources and services beyond the buildings, so they were well-equipped to continue supporting the research needs of the LSU community with thousands of online books and journal articles, research assistance, workshops, and a robust interlibrary loan service for online journal articles and book chapters. Special Collections staff immediately began assisting library patrons with reference inquiries while working from home.

Across the Libraries, due dates were extended, overdue fines were cancelled, and events, including the beloved annual Audubon Day and Friends of the LSU Libraries Book Bazaar, were called off.

As the weeks turned to months, staff implemented new and innovative ways to support the needs of the LSU community.

March 24 Wellness Committee



The LSU Libraries Wellness Committee formed in November 2019 with the charge to enhance the personal and professional productivity of LSU Libraries' employees by promoting healthy lifestyle choices. Once COVID-19 closed campus in mid-March, the Committee shifted focus to newly remote working conditions amid a pandemic. They compiled and distributed surveys on wellness interests and returning-to-work concerns; created an online wellness guide to host supportive resources such as a 30-day Wellness Challenge that focused on mindfulness, sleep, exercise, and healthy eating; hosted webinars, including "Home Ergonomic Tips and Posture," presented by Phillip Bellan, LSU Emergency Operations Center Manager, and "Balancing Working and Living at Home," led by Dr. Stephanie Eberts, LSU School of Education.



In response to university closures, some publishers made their ebooks freely-available for the 2020 spring semester. More than 170 titles that were on reserve at LSU Library were made available through the library website.

April 7
**Reserved Textbooks
Go Online**

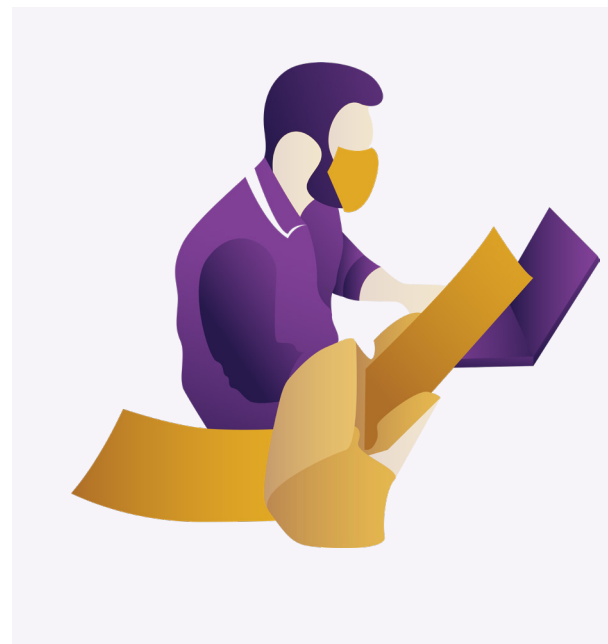
May 4
**Document
Delivery Begins**



The document delivery service launched on Monday, May 4th. A limited number of staff members were allowed access to the main library to scan journal articles and book chapters from the print collection for delivery by email. LSU faculty members, staff, and students were able to place requests online and receive the material by email in one to two business days.

Appropriate measures such as personal protective equipment, physical distancing, and sanitizing the workstations were part of the procedures.

May 18
**Special Collections
Resources and
Services Available
Online**



Beginning the week of May 18, a small number of Special Collections staff members were allowed back into buildings to respond to in-depth reference questions that required access to the collections. Staff also digitized and delivered Special Collections materials electronically. By mid-July, they had delivered several thousand scanned pages and assisted more than 100 people interested in using LSU Libraries' most unique library collections.

PHASE 2

June 10

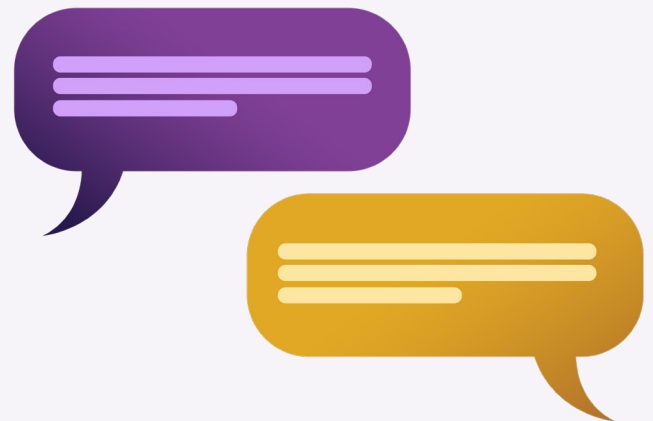
Books Are Available to Pick Up



As part of LSU's Phase 2 plan to reopen the campus, LSU Libraries launched a service to make circulating print books available for pick-up in the LSU Library. Faculty, staff, and graduate students could request books through the online catalog and receive an email notification when books were ready to be picked up at the main library. Library staff worked with LSU's Emergency Operations Center to install safety measures such as sneeze guards and signage. Masks were required when visiting the library, and the 6-foot social distancing rule was enforced for waiting in line.

June 15

Librarians Connect with Community with Online Chat



LSU librarians resumed answering questions through the Libraries' online chat reference service on June 15. The chat feature allows users to ask questions and receive responses from library staff in real time during business hours.

"The level of service from a library that is de facto closed is nothing short of extraordinary. I have routinely used a variety of services, whether interlibrary loan or online databases or automatic book renewals or general searching, without any appreciable difficulty. Indeed, I barely notice the difference from service during normal operations. I'm also impressed with the flow of information from the library. Your updates, bulletins, and newsletters are extremely helpful when it comes to making use of resources under these unusual circumstances. Keep up the great work!"

Kevin L. Cope

Robert and Rita Wetta Adams

Professor of English Literature

June 24

Library Open to Students and Faculty by Appointment



On June 24, LSU Library began to allow faculty members and students to schedule appointments to browse for books in the main library for one-hour blocks of time. A maximum of ten people were allowed in the library at a time, and visitors were required to wear facemasks. Books were checked out using the self-checkout station located in the lobby.

The pandemic had a significant impact on the provision of library services and resources in the 2020 fiscal year. The following figures quickly highlight LSU Libraries' enduring value to the campus, state, and beyond in spite of the COVID-19 closure:

71
Outreach Events

369
Instruction Sessions

508
Research Consultations

806
Exhibit Visitors
(July 2019-March 2020)

814
In-person Research Visits

3,957
Reference Transactions

6,650
Documents Delivered to Patrons

8,577
Items Loaned to Other Libraries

9,175
Students Received Instruction

9,359
Information Literacy Tutorial Completions

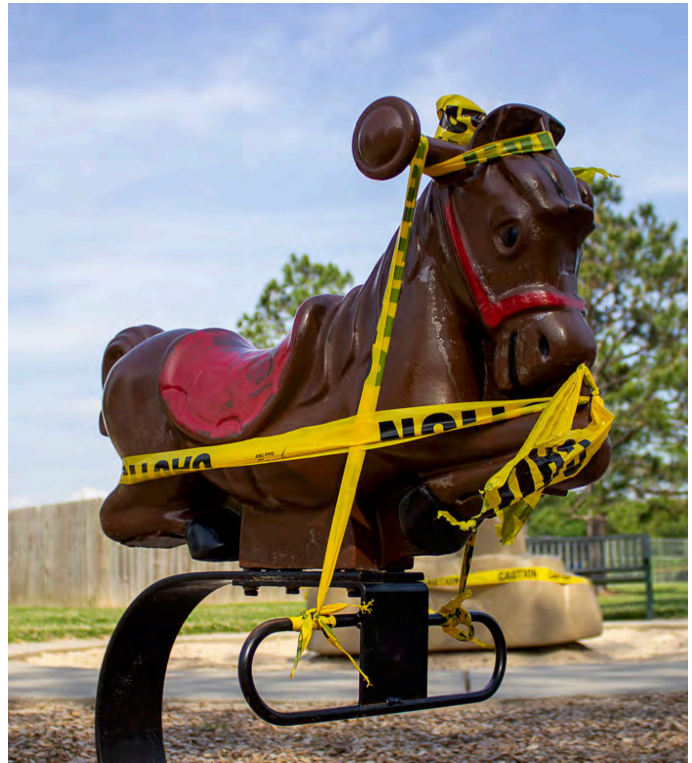
13,982
Contacts From Outreach Events

250,195
Research Guide Views

University Archives Launches Initiative to Document COVID-19 in the LSU Community

As the outbreak of COVID-19 thrust the LSU community into the unprecedented challenges of safely living, working, teaching and learning during a pandemic, LSU Libraries Special Collections launched a campus-wide initiative to record the personal experiences of LSU students, staff, and faculty during the outbreak and contribute them to the University Archives.

The LSU community was encouraged to share stories, photos, videos, audio recordings, visual and textual creative works, and other documentation about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Materials will be reviewed by Special Collections staff, and selected files will be preserved as a permanent part of the University Archives.



Brynn Finney, LSU class of 2020, Graphic Design and Photography, uploaded her photography portfolio for the University Archives project.



T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Receives LEH Culture Care Fund Award

Oralee Brown recalls life in Hammond, LA, for graduate student, Anne Wheeler, in a 2016 oral history interview. Photo by Kyle Tanglao.

As a part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) awarded the Libraries' T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History \$10,000 in emergency relief to help fund a graduate assistantship for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The competitive LEH Culture Care Fund grant opportunity placed special funding emphasis on programs that serve underrepresented populations in Louisiana. The Williams Center for Oral History has a long tradition of public outreach and preserving stories of marginalized communities, with collections related to the state's military history, civil rights era, women's history, grassroots politics, and African American history, as well as life in environmentally vulnerable communities like Bayou Lafourche and Mossville.

"Not only does this funding help with the Center's mission to document people and cultures who are not typically included in mainstream historical records, it will also help provide development for a student to grow as a professional in the field of qualitative research, library science, and oral history," said Jennifer Cramer, Director of the Williams Center.

The Williams Center for Oral History is the largest and most comprehensive oral history repository in the state and one

of the largest in the South. With a goal of democratizing archival materials, the Center uses oral history to create primary sources to fill in the gaps in history, by including people who are not typically included in mainstream historical documentation: women, LGBTQ+, African Americans, Latinx, Cajuns, Native Americans, and more.

Funding for Louisiana Culture Care Fund grants was provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and administered by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan. Additional funding was provided by the Josef Sternberg Memorial Fund.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Special Collections Acquires Copy of Nuremberg Chronicle

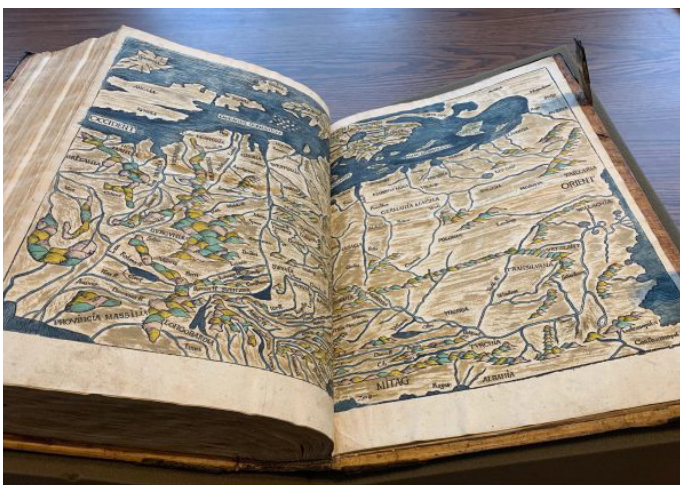
A substantial grant from the B. H. Breslauer Foundation, supplemented by several generous donations from the Friends of the LSU Libraries, along with the Libraries' Hauer Rare Book Endowment, made it possible for Special Collections to acquire a copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle in December 2019.

Published in 1493 in the German city that gives it its common name, the volume is arguably second in importance only to the Gutenberg Bible in the pantheon of early European printing. It incorporates more than 1800 woodblock illustrations of people, biblical scenes, maps, and cityscapes and represents the height of fifteenth-century book illustration and design.

These books printed in Europe before 1501 are known as “incunables” or “incunabula” (from the Latin meaning “swaddling clothes” or “cradle,” as in, “printed books in their infancy”) because of the visual similarities they have with manuscripts. They are studied for how they materialize this transition from handwritten to printed books, such as the incorporation of woodblock illustrations with handset type.



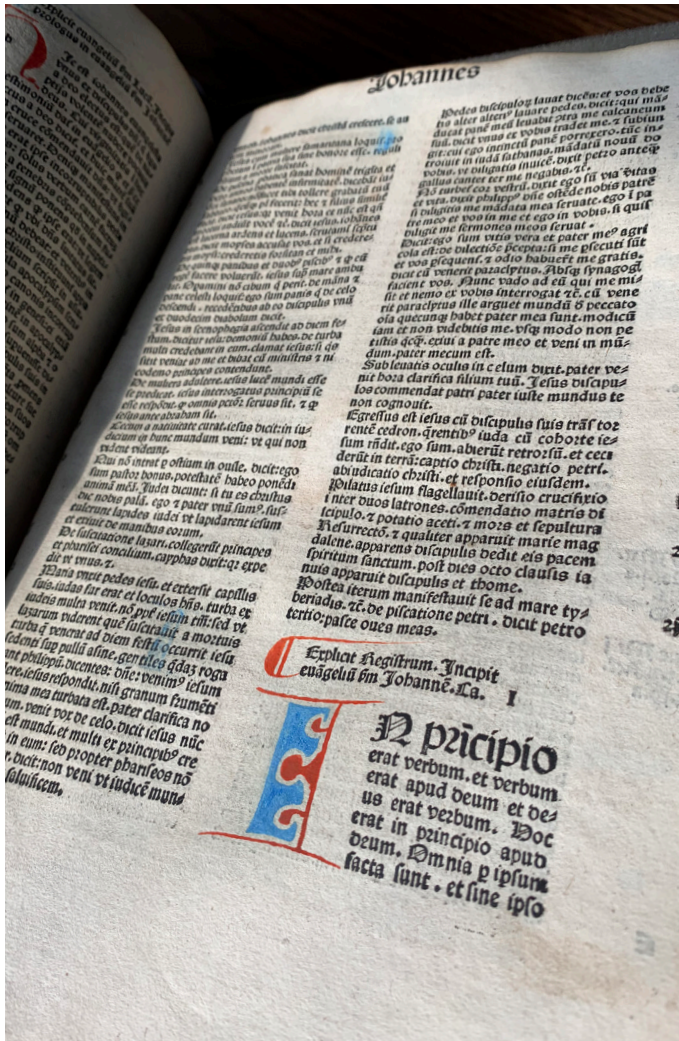
Conservation Coordinator Caroline Ziegler carefully unwraps the Nuremberg Chronicle shortly after its delivery in January 2020. Read more about this item at URL: news.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2020/01/21/this-just-in-nuremberg-chronicle.



LSU's copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle is in enviable condition, and although it does not have the truly exquisite hand-coloring found in some copies, it is complete—no small feat for a book that often has its illustrations cut out and sold individually—and it boasts a remarkable contemporary binding. Although there are marks of use throughout the volume, and a number of fine repairs are evident, the book is in spectacular usable form, ready for new generations of readers and scholars.

Fifteenth Century Bible Gifted to Special Collections

In early 2020, rare book dealer, author, and long-time supporter of the Libraries Tom Taylor made another generous donation of books to LSU Libraries Special Collections. This box of treasures included a sixteenth-century edition of the ancient Greek historian Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, as well as a number of important bibliographic resources.



The first book in the donation made its debut in religious studies professor Bradley Storin's class on the New Testament shortly before campus closed in March. The book is a copy of the Bible in Latin printed in Lyon, France in 1482, less than 30 years after the printing of the Gutenberg Bible. This edition was printed by the partnership of Marcus Reinhart and Nicolaus Philippi and is only the third Bible printed in France. The first such Bible was issued in Paris in 1477, followed by a publication in Lyon in 1479. Remarkably, only three other complete copies of this edition are known to survive; two held in libraries in the United States and one in England.

Prior to Taylor's donation, Special Collections' oldest Bible was a copy of the Douai-Rheims Bible, published by English Catholics in France in 1582 (the New Testament) and 1609-1610 (the Old Testament). This new addition extends LSU Libraries holdings of Bibles back 100 years and into the early days of printing, known today as the incunabula period.

Taylor has donated generously in the past to both LSU Libraries and the LSU Museum of Natural Science. In a recent interview with *Cornerstone*, the LSU Foundation's philanthropy-focused magazine, he stated, "I have supported the LSU Libraries because of the collections and, more importantly, the people. Everyone in Special Collections always treated me as if I were special, long before I donated anything."

Bishop Adds Two Rare Books to His Legacy of Giving to Special Collections

Dr. James "Jim" Bishop, distinguished alumnus, LSU Department of Biological Sciences, donated two rare books to the LSU Libraries Special Collections this year, adding to his celebrated and growing legacy of more than 100 books donated.

The two books joining his contributions to the E. A. Mcllhenny are Eduard Rüppell's *Neue Wirbelthiere zu der Fauna von Abyssinien gehörig* (1835-1840) and Constantine Rafinesque's *Ichthyologia Ohiensis, or Natural History of the Fishes Inhabiting the River Ohio*, published in 1820. Now among the most rare natural history books published in the United States, the latter book is also notable for its mention of John James Audubon, whom Rafinesque met in Kentucky in 1818.

Bishop is also a generous supporter of the LSU Museum of Natural Science and was inducted into the LSU College of Science Hall of Distinction in 2019.

Special Collections Awarded Grant from the Coypu Foundation

In the fall of 2019, Special Collections was awarded a \$85,000 grant from the Coypu Foundation to fund two noteworthy additions to its collections. The Coypu Foundation was formed out of John S. McIlhenny's estate, and these acquisitions will be in accordance with Mr. McIlhenny's long support of our collections, particularly the E. A. McIlhenny Natural History Collection. The acquisitions will be a part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the McIlhenny Collection in 2021.

LSU Alumni Fund Munn Family Active Learning Classroom

As a part of the LSU Library revitalization effort, Brandon and Ashley Munn have generously sponsored the transformation of room 109 on the first floor of LSU Library from a general study space to the Munn Family Active Learning Classroom. The \$50,000 gift will provide technology and new furniture that will allow the classroom to be configured in a variety of ways to meet the dynamic needs of teaching and learning that are unique to a research library.

The gift will complement a Student Technology Fee grant for which LSU Libraries' Undergraduate & Student Success Librarian Sarah Simms applied, with the assistance of the former Head of Research and Instruction Services. This grant, along with the Munn's gift, will equip the room with a robust technology upgrade, enabling subject-expert librarians to shift seamlessly between technology-rich presentations and instruction and group work facilitation.

The Munns are both LSU alumni and LSU parents. Their gift to Libraries is a portion of a larger gift to LSU that includes a scholarship for students with a documented learning, physical, psychological, or other disability.

Ribbon Cutting for LSU Library Lobby

Top LSU officials, members of LSU Libraries' Dean's Advisory Council, and representatives from Steelcase, Frost-Barber, the Libraries, and the student body gathered on September 5, 2019 to celebrate the grand opening of the transformation of LSU Library's first floor lobby. The revitalization, which took place during the summer of 2019, replaced outdated furniture and inadequate power with private desks, couches, booths, tables, seating, nearly 100 power outlets, and dry erase boards.



Shelby McKenzie Retires as Friends of the LSU Libraries President

In 2019, longtime LSU Libraries supporter Shelby McKenzie retired from his role of Friends of LSU Libraries president. McKenzie, a retired Baton Rouge attorney, has been acquainted with the Friends of the LSU Libraries since his mother, Rosalind Beene McKenzie, was involved in the group's leadership from its start in 1962. He has been instrumental in the group's success and in raising money for the Libraries through the years.

His numerous contributions to LSU and to his profession have been recognized by his being named an LSU Law School Distinguished Alumnus in 2005, as the 2011 Distinguished Louisiana Attorney by the Louisiana Bar Foundation and by an induction into the LSU Alumni Association Hall of Distinction in 2017.

Until the Friends' next president is elected, Paul Sandau is serving as Interim Board President. Sandau is an active member of the Friends and has been a keen supporter of the annual Book Bazaar, managing the rare and collectible books.



In Memoriam

The Friends of the LSU Libraries lost a beloved member when Cheryl H. Crowder passed away at her home in Baton Rouge on February 1, 2020. Crowder was born April 17, 1944 in Wilmington, Delaware, and was a retired histotechnologist at the LSU Veterinary School, and an active member of the National Society of Histotechnology. Crowder was involved with the Friends of LSU Libraries for many years, contributing to the organization of the annual Book Bazaar.

Memorial donations can be made in her honor to the Friends of LSU Libraries at the LSU Libraries giving page: lib.lsu.edu/about/giving. Checks can be made out to LSU Foundation with "Friends of the LSU Libraries" listed on the memo line.

2019-2020 Dean's Advisory Council

Sixteen Baton Rouge community leaders voluntarily serve on the LSU Libraries Dean's Advisory Council, which advises on, assists with, and supports the dean's efforts to promote the recognition, welfare, and progress of the Libraries. We are grateful to each member of the 2019-2020 Council:

Reid Bateman	Melanie Hebert	Adam Knapp	Christy Reeves
Dan Borné	Ty Hingle, Chair	Natalie Laborde	Susan Rolfs
Cathy Dardenne	Leo Honeycutt	Layne McDaniel	Justin Vincent
Brian Haymon	Doug Jehle	Dianna Payton	Zehra Zamin



Friends of the LSU Libraries Membership Program

In 2019, the Friends relaunched their annual membership program. Donors who give a gift of \$25 or more to any fund at LSU Libraries become honorary members of the Friends of LSU Libraries and are invited to the annual meeting where special programming, voting and board elections take place. Friends members also receive an invitation to the annual patron celebration before Audubon Day at Hill Memorial Library, and discounts at the annual Book Bazaar.

2020 Book Bazaar Postponed

The 2020 Friends of the LSU Libraries Book Bazaar was postponed due to the campus closures in the spring. The group plans to bring back the beloved annual event when it is safe to do so. The Friends of the LSU Libraries Book Bazaar Steering Committee includes Paul Sandau, Pat Hoth, Anita Adams, Georgene Jones, and Gus Loechelt.

The annual Book Bazaar brings tens of thousands of bibliophiles to campus each year, raising money for important resources for LSU Libraries.



Retracing Louisiana's Roots: Exploring the State's Hispanic/ Latinx Heritage

From September 16 through October 18, 2019, LSU Libraries' Megan Lounsberry and Chad Metz co-led a collaboration between the LSU Libraries Diversity Committee and LSU Latinx faculty to present a display that celebrated Hispanic and Latinx influences in Louisiana by revisiting the state's colonial past and exploring its cultural legacy. The display, featured on the second floor of the main library, provided an account of how Louisiana's Hispanic history has connections, parallels and similarities, confluences, and affinities with Latin America.

Nineteen panels featured topics such as "Los Isleños of Southern Louisiana," "Los Adaes: Spanish Capital of East Texas, 1729-1773," and "New Orleans: 'Latin America of the North'." Over 160 print and electronic resources supplemented the display to assist those wanting to learn more about this historical heritage through the Libraries' collections and about organizations serving the Latinx and Hispanic community in Louisiana through informational flyers.

The display coincided with a three part speaker series put on by the LSU Latinx Faculty and Staff Caucus. The speaker series featured eight faculty and graduate student panelists from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Manship School of Mass Communications who spoke on the resurgence of the Spanish language in the state of Louisiana, Spanish/English bilingualism in the U.S., and the governor's scandal in Puerto Rico related to Hurricane Maria.



*Images of New Orleans, La. and Havana, Cuba were featured on the "New Orleans: 'Latin America of the North'" panel. Selected from Sexton, Richard, Jay Dearborn Edwards, and John H. Lawrence. 2014. **Creole World : Photographs of New Orleans and the Latin Caribbean Sphere**. First edition. New Orleans, Louisiana: The Historic New Orleans Collection.*

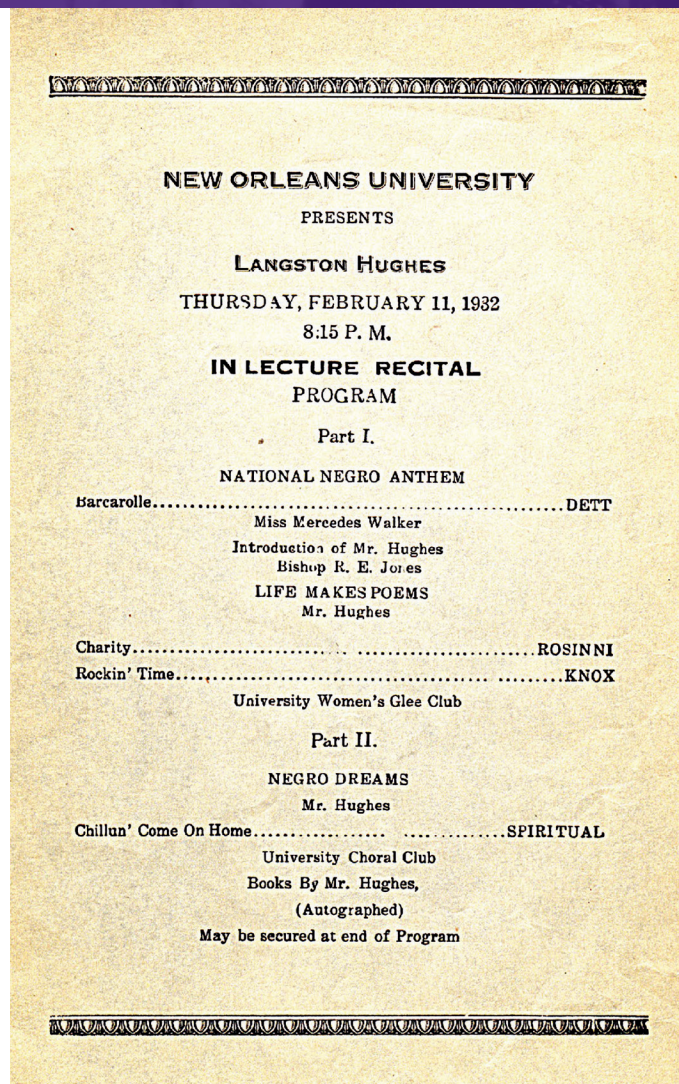


Celebrating the Harlem Renaissance Centennial: New York, Louisiana, and Beyond (c. 1919-1940)

In honor of Black History Month, LSU Libraries hosted a programming series to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance for the entirety of February 2020. Led by Art & Design Librarian Marty Miller with the support of the LSU Libraries Diversity Committee, the series, entitled *Celebrating the Harlem Renaissance Centennial: New York, Louisiana, and Beyond (c. 1919-1940)*, included an exhibition, a film screening with panel discussion, and an in-house performance by student artists.

Featured on the first floor of the main library was a digital exhibition through which visitors could compare and contrast life in Harlem and Louisiana through an exploration of *An Archive for Virtual Harlem*, a virtual representation of Harlem, New York as it existed during the Harlem Renaissance/Jazz Age, and the Louisiana Digital Library. There was also a display of quotes and clippings from notable people and publications of the period to highlight the similarities between socioeconomic struggles of that time and the present day.

On the second floor, 17 panels captured the people, places, and events that shaped both 1920 Harlem and Louisiana in words and images. The introductory panel provided a brief overview of the socio-political context in which the music, literature, and other art of the era flourished. Additional panels highlighted not only notable faces who rose to fame in Harlem and Louisiana but also showcased the comparative livelihoods of everyday people in both areas. An 18th panel was reserved for visitors to leave their thoughts and comments about the exhibition.



Facsimile of 1932 Langston Hughes program in New Orleans from LSU Libraries Special Collections.



“Louis Armstrong Band” (1931), top of pg. 27, and “A night-club map of Harlem” (1933), above, were selected from exhibit panels “Harlem Night Life” and “Louisiana Night Life,” provided by the Library of Congress (LOC) and Tulane University Digital Library respectively.

The panels were accompanied by a display of facsimiles of 33 items from LSU Libraries Special Collections relating to artists and writers such as Arna Bontemps, Alice Dunbar, and Louis Armstrong in addition to books that were available to check out. These resources encouraged viewers to expand their knowledge of this time period in American history.

“The Harlem Renaissance in Film,” a public film screening and discussion led by Dr. Angeletta Gourdine and Dr. Susan Weinstein of the Department of English, was held in the lecture hall of Hill Memorial Library on February 11. This event featured excerpts from *Against the Odds: Artists of the Harlem Renaissance* (1994), *Harlem Renaissance & Beyond* (1988), and *Within Our Gates* (1920), which was a silent film directed and produced by Oscar Micheaux, the first African American to make feature length films.

On February 17, as part of the library’s monthly music showcase led by Music Resources Supervisor Mikel Ledee, student musicians performed original pieces along with modern interpretations of the Harlem Renaissance era music. These pieces were accompanied by readings of the poetry of Langston Hughes and a spoken word performance by student poet Calvin Morris.

NOT MERELY A COMMON MOVING PICTURE
A SCREEN MASTERPIECE

“Within Our Gates”

ONE DAY ONLY FEATURING, EVELYN PREER SPECIAL MUSIC


SUPPORTED BY AN ALL STAR COLORED CAST

“THE LYNCHING EVIL”

MANAGEMENT, J. HOMER GOINS

8000 FEET OF SENSATIONAL REALISM 8000

THE PLAY OF THE HOUR
ALL RECORDS BROKEN
DONT MISS IT




UNION HALL, KENT & AURORA AVES-
WHO KILLED PHILIP GIRDESTONE?

There was a roar, a blinding flash—and it was done! The planter lay dead at his feet, while his quivering hand held a smoking revolver! And yet he had fired no shot! It was all so sudden, so vague—but who killed the man? He raised his eyes after a time and chanced to look toward the window—and therein stood “Eph,” “the fattler,” whom the blacks called a “white folks nigger,” eyes wide, lips accusing. “You did that,” said he—and the next Landry, had killed the planter! And this being Mississippi, he knew there would be no trial—only the rope, the torch, the flames of Hell—and death!

Two hours later Jasper Landry and his family were hid away in the swamp while bloodhounds and a thousand men were scouring the neighborhood, crying out in diabolical tones for their blood. Two weeks passed—and starvation compelled one to venture out in quest of food—then the capture, and—

Can you imagine the fate of the Landrys? And after you have visioned the very worst fate you can think of, you have not imagined the half that you will see in, “WITHIN OUR GATES.”



Monday Evening

SPECIAL NOTICE! Owing to the peculiar nature of this picture no theatre could be secured that would exhibit it, therefore we were forced to do the next best thing and use our own building.

July 12, 8:30 p. m.

ADMISSION 50 CENTS

Advertisement of *Within Our Gates* (1920) from *The Appeal* (July 10, 1920) newspaper from the Library of Congress.



LSU students, staff, administrators, and members of the Board of Supervisors came to an agreement to recommend a name-change of the main campus library. See pg. 4 for full story.

Preserving Underrepresented Voices through Oral History

Dedicated to telling the stories of groups who are traditionally absent or underrepresented in the written historical record of Louisiana, the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History's interview projects focus on diverse primary sources. To do this, the Williams Center relies heavily on collaborations with researchers, like-minded organizations, and community groups.

The Williams Center spent the 2019-2020 academic year continuing its ongoing partnerships, such as those with the LGBTQ+ Archives in New Orleans, Louisiana; Erin Segura of the LSU Department of French Studies (as part of a Cajun French Studies project); and the Tangipahoa Parish Public Library focusing on Sicilian immigrants.

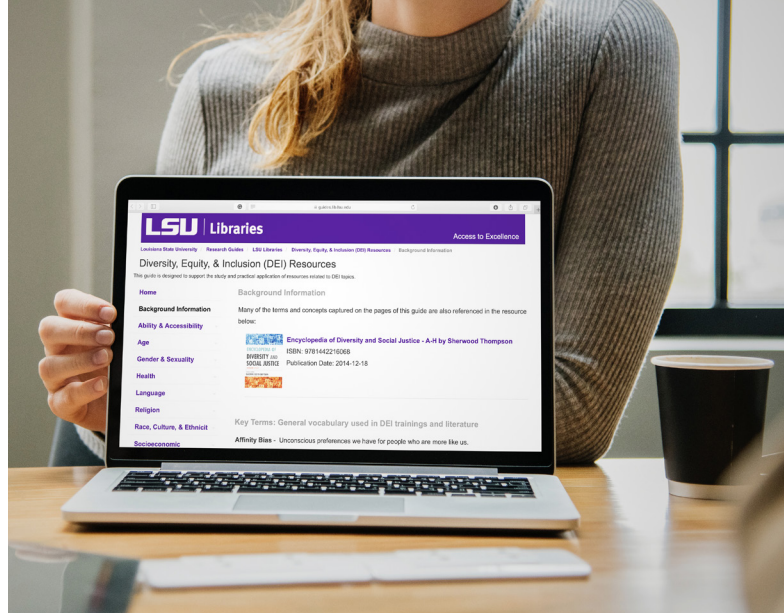
It also forged new partnerships with, to name a few, the Louisiana Trans Oral History Project; the LSU Manship School of Mass Communications Reilly Center for the Women in the Louisiana Legislature collection; and LSU professors Carolyn Ware and Mike Pasquier on their environmental project as part of a \$305,045 grant from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Also, Williams Center staff engaged in their own project to document the Lebanese population in Louisiana.

As for use of its collections, Williams Center staff assisted with a gallery exhibit presented by the Louisiana Environmental Action Network that featured interviews of Peggy Frankland on women's grassroots activism in Louisiana. The Center's collections also continue supporting the study of civil rights. Materials from oral histories on the Baton Rouge Bus Boycott were included on the latest LEAP 2025 Social Studies Assessment by the Louisiana State Department of Education.

The Williams Center's collections, partners, staff and students were also featured in *America at the Crossroads: How Oral History At Georgetown University Brings Into Focus A Sharply Divided America*, a documentary from Michael Carson Productions on the Georgetown University 272 Slaves Project. The project captured the voices of descendants from the 272 slaves sold to Louisiana plantations in 1838 by Jesuit priests who ran what is now known as Georgetown University.

LSU Libraries Offers DEI Guide for Self-Education

In response to the proliferation of #BlackLivesMatter protests across the United States and abroad in June 2020, LSU Libraries joined the growing list of American libraries that began offering curated antiracist reading lists to the public. LSU Libraries' Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Resources electronic guide covers a wide range of DEI topics to help the public become more familiar with eight areas of difference: Ability & Accessibility; Age; Gender & Sexuality; Health; Language; Religion; Race, Culture, & Ethnicity; and Socioeconomic.



Ebony McDonald, LSU Libraries' African and African American Studies Diversity Librarian, structured this guide to provide key terms, examples of bias-free language, and related campus resources for each topic. There are 24 subtopic pages, and each has a reading list of ten books that outline the theories, issues, personal narratives, and general background information related to that subtopic. The guide can be accessed at this URL: guides.lib.lsu.edu/DEIresources.

Faculty and Staff Attend Diversity Trainings

Forty four LSU Libraries' faculty and staff attended Safe Space and Diversity 101 Workshop trainings. Although traditionally offered to interdepartmental groups on campus, the Libraries hosted these two solely for library employees in the fall and spring semesters.

Sigrid Kelsey, Director of Communications and Publications and former Chair of the LSU Libraries Diversity Committee, organized the Safe Space training in October 2019. LSU's Safe Space Campaign seeks to support members of the LGBTQ+ community by equipping faculty and staff with the language, knowledge, and tools to compassionately serve students whose sexual orientation and gender identity and expression falls under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. Attendees were guided through their very own reference handbook that detailed various aspects of LGBTQ+ culture and terminology.

In February 2020, Antonia Aultman, Circulation Student Supervisor and current co-chair of the LSU Libraries Diversity Committee, invited Dr. Dereck Rovaris, LSU's Vice Provost for Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer, to host the Diversity 101 Workshop. This training addressed the ways in which all people are diverse and encouraged attendees to explore and challenge their own "preconceived paradigms" as they relate to encountering difference. Rovaris achieved this purpose through cognition activities and encouraging dialogue between

attendees. Attendees discussed their childhood memories, which demonstrated the generational variance among them, as well as between them and the current student body that the Libraries serves.

LSU Libraries is committed to continuing to host similar trainings for its employees as part of the pursuit of achieving the goals outlined in its 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

"The workshop was held to encourage people working in the library to think of diversity as more than just race. The idea that everyone is diverse opens the door to collaboration between the committee and library employees."

Antonia Aultman
Circulation Student Supervisor
Access Services

New Faculty & Staff



Christine Cloud

Instruction and
Curatorial Assistant,
Special Collections



Trent Dunkin

Resource
Sharing Specialist



Karen Honora

Circulation Stacks
Supervisor



Steven Jodeir

Computer Analyst 2



Leah Powell

Digital Collections
Librarian*



Melanie Reddell

Business Office
Coordinator



Karl Simmerman

Evening Supervisor



Zach Tompkins

University Archivist*

Faculty & Staff Changes

Three staff members took on new roles.



Germain Bienvenu

Public Services
Librarian*



Jeremy Fontenot

Electronic Access
Specialist



Elisa Naquin

Assistant Librarian*

*faculty positions

Jason Juneau, Stacks Supervisor, retired in September 2019 after 20 years of working for LSU Libraries in the circulation department.



Linda Smith Griffin Retires

Linda Smith Griffin, the first African American librarian to earn tenure under LSU's modern and rigorous standards, retired after 33 years of service at the end of December 2019. In her role as Head of Resource Description & Metadata Services, she was responsible for providing continuous departmental and library-wide cataloging education training. She also supported historically underrepresented students with their research and learning as the liaison to the African and African American Studies program, a role that she created for herself.

Smith Griffin began her career as a Library Associate in 1985 but had previously worked as a Student Assistant while completing her B.S. in Human Ecology ('84) from LSU. Stanley Wilder, Dean of Libraries, while speaking at her December retirement celebration, noted, "I started my first stint at LSU in 1989, and I've got a vivid memory of Linda in those early years because she impressed me from the start as an unusually smart, committed person, eager to learn and with this bone-deep love of higher education, faith really in its power to change lives."

In 1996, she obtained her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from LSU and became an Assistant Librarian, a tenure-track faculty position. She earned tenure in 2001, which resulted in her promotion to Associate Librarian, and then to a department head in 2002. "For those of you who aren't familiar with our work, I can tell you that it's never easy to go from the role that Linda was playing to the bigger role she now found herself in. But Linda just *thrived*, she was born for this," continued Dean Wilder to her colleagues, friends, and family at the celebration.

Smith Griffin quickly established herself as a recognized leader both locally and nationally through her service, publications, and awards throughout her career. At LSU, she was the former two-term President of the Black Faculty & Staff Caucus (BFSC). Additionally, she served on the LSU Admissions, Standards, and Honors (ASH) committee and was a faculty advisor for the MLK Commemorative Committee. Some of the awards and honors that she earned were: the 2019 LSU Distinction in Diversity Award, the 2018 LSU Libraries Carolyn H. Hargrave Senior Leadership Award, and the 2002 LSU Black Faculty and Staff Caucus (BFSC) President's Outstanding Dedicated Service Award.

Nationally, Smith Griffin served in various capacities in the American Library Association (ALA), Association of Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), and North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG). The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) honored her with the 2014 Anthony H. Benoit Mid-Career Award. In 2011, she was named a fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals, contributed a chapter to the *Handbook of Black Librarianship* (2000), and given numerous presentations at state and national conferences and meetings.

Through her service, leadership, and mentorship, Smith Griffin leaves behind an enduring legacy within the Libraries and across the campus community. Her impact can only be partially rendered through the words of those who have worked most closely with her. In the closing of his speech at her celebration, Wilder made an attempt, "[Because of Smith Griffin's retirement], I'm going to have lost the biggest supporter of my professional career... I can only aspire to be as good as she thinks I am."

"I had the benefit of Linda's mentorship when I was a Graduate Assistant (GA). The projects she gave to me were, I thought at the time, challenging beyond my abilities, but her guidance and support led me to succeed early in my career. Linda is an exemplar of professionalism and sincerity. She demonstrated how a leader empowers the people around them, from the GAs and student workers to the veteran staff and faculty. Linda's service to the profession and to the LSU Libraries has set a high bar for the rest of us."

Zach Tompkins
University Archivist

Achievements & Awards



Dave Comeaux



Gina Costello



S.L. Ziegler



Hayley Johnson



Sarah Simms



Ebony McDonald

Dave Comeaux and Jeanne Pavy (of the University of New Orleans) received the Favorite Learning with LOUIS award for their presentation “Learning with LOUIS: Getting E-books into Courses: How Libraries can Partner with Faculty to Ease the Textbook Affordability Crises” at the 2019 LOUIS User’s Conference (LUC).

Gina Costello, Leah Powell (pictured on pg. 30), and **S.L. Ziegler** along with Elizabeth Joan Kelly (of Loyola University) are project team members for the Collections as Data: Part to Whole grant for \$50,000, awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Hayley Johnson received the 2020 Margaret T. Lane Award from the Louisiana Library Association.

Hayley Johnson and **Sarah Simms** have been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Projects for the Public Discovery grant for \$30,000. This grant supports projects that interpret and analyze humanities content in primarily digital platforms and formats.

Ebony McDonald received the LOUIS Outstanding Early Career Librarian Award at the 2019 LOUIS User’s Conference (LUC).

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In Memoriam

On November 22, 2019, Margaret “Sissy” Albertine passed away at the age of 62. She joined LSU Libraries Special Collections in 1986.

During her 33 years in the Libraries, Albertine was widely known for her professionalism, generosity, and friendship. An expert at both traditional and digital photography, her meticulous work in the darkroom and digital studio provided patrons with access to countless unique historical items, both onsite and online.

An artist in her own right, Albertine participated in juried and invitational exhibitions and was often name dropped as a “local favorite.” In spite of this notoriety, she eschewed the spotlight, preferring to work behind the scenes and to leave the public accolades to her colleagues. For decades, she documented most of the outreach events that took place in the libraries.

Beyond her professionalism and artistry, those who worked most closely with her note that Albertine’s most lasting contribution to LSU Libraries will be her generous spirit. She easily developed lifelong friendships with faculty, staff, and students, and always had room in her heart to welcome new colleagues. Her door was open to anyone who needed professional or personal advice, a friendly ear, or to share in her infectious laughter. Albertine set a tone of generosity and friendship that will remain her legacy within the Libraries.

She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



About This Publication: Student Contributors



Camryn Curtis

LSU Manship School of
Mass Communication
Class of 2020

Camryn Curtis is a senior in the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication and a Student Assistant at LSU Libraries in Communications and Publications. Curtis has been with the Libraries since November 2017 and, in spring 2020, transformed her student position into a paid internship that counted for class credit.

Curtis contributed to the past three *Impact Reports* for LSU Libraries. She collected and wrote many of the stories included in this report and others on the LSU Libraries blog throughout the year. This project has provided Curtis with valuable skills, such as experience with Adobe Suite, attention to detail, and copy editing. Curtis credits her courses in the Manship School for helping her master AP style writing, which she believes to be a key asset in her work at the Libraries.

“Working on the LSU Libraries *Impact Report* taught me the importance of meticulous detail in print publications,” Curtis said. “I have no doubt that the process of finalizing this publication equipped me with skills necessary to succeed in my career.”

After graduation in December 2020, Curtis plans to pursue a career in public relations and earn her MBA from an accredited university in Louisiana. She credits her developed writing, editing, graphic, and personable skills to LSU Libraries. Thanks to her work and colleagues at the Libraries, Curtis has new-found confidence in herself as an aspiring public relations professional.



Kimberly Friedman

LSU Manship School of
Mass Communication
Class of 2020

Kimberly Friedman is a master’s student in the Manship School of Mass Communication. Friedman has served as a Graduate Assistant in Communications and Publications department since September of 2019. She credits the Libraries’ with helping her expand her knowledge of graphics, copy editing, and design.

“Working at the Libraries has provided me the opportunity to take my skills learned in class and apply them daily,” said Friedman. “The LSU Libraries *Impact Report* highlighted for me the scope of work that goes into a publication that serves as part of a bigger picture.”

Friedman graduates in December 2020 and plans to pursue a career in government communications in Texas.



Nam Nguyen

College of Art & Design
Class of 2022

Nam Nguyen is an international student from Vietnam studying graphic design at LSU. He joined LSU Libraries in April 2020 as a Student Assistant in Communications and Publications. He has contributed graphics to the Libraries’ social media pages, building signage, and the homepage of the website.

The Impact Report project has been an enormous opportunity for Nguyen to gain more valuable practical experience in graphic design. For this project, he designed the cover illustration, page by page layouts, and created 2D graphics for some of the articles in the report.

“This part-time job at LSU Libraries provides many different kinds of opportunities to apply what I am learning in my field. My visual communication skills have become stronger and more prudent. *The Impact Report* project has been a great start for me on my way to becoming a graphic designer,” Nguyen said.

He will graduate in December 2022 and is planning to pursue his master’s degree in graphic design at LSU.



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*Breona Leonard, LSU class of 2020, earned a BS in physics
and will attend UCLA for a PhD in medical physics.*

Photo by @joedarolla, used with permission.