The University of Houston Libraries Newsletter
FALL 2017

EMPOWERING OTHERS
TRANSFORMING LIVES

+ OTHERS

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In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we at the University of Houston Libraries, like so many of our students, faculty, staff, and fellow Houstonians, are in recovery mode. In the months ahead, as we all continue to rebuild and transition, the Libraries is here to help in any way that we can, with flexibility, support, and compassion for all of those affected by the storm.

One of the four major goals in our Strategic Plan is to position UH Libraries as a campus leader in student success initiatives. Academic success starts with access to materials, yet the high cost of textbooks remains a significant concern for many college students. Fortunately, this is an area in which libraries, and you, can help.

This summer, Mimi Lee, professor in the College of Education, and I traveled to the University of Minnesota to attend the Open Textbook Network (OTN) Summer Institute where we had the opportunity to see how other universities are approaching the high costs of commercial textbooks. We know many students cannot afford the textbooks that are assigned in their classes. The average textbook bill for students is $1,300 a year, on top of tuition, room and board, and fees.

One of the ways in which academic institutions can help mitigate those costs is by shifting to open educational resources (OER), freely accessible and openly licensed teaching, research, and learning tools, including textbooks. For instance, faculty can choose to bundle assigned readings, which students may purchase at an affordable cost. Another option is to provide textbooks using an open license and made accessible online. These e-textbooks are written by faculty, are peer-reviewed, and are freely available to students to use in their courses. Last spring, Provost Paula Myrick Short enrolled the University in the OTN, and we’re proud to collaborate with colleagues from across the country to move toward a more open learning environment.

Yet another way that we can help is by placing textbooks on reserve for students. UH Libraries has nearly 1,000 textbooks on reserve across many disciplines, most of which have been donated by faculty, so that students can access them for short periods of time. Simply put, a fund for textbooks would allow the Libraries to buy textbooks for course reserves to benefit even more students.

I’ve been working with a committee of librarians and faculty this year to implement a pilot program that will incentivize faculty to adapt, adopt, or create open textbooks. In partnership with the Office of the Provost, I am pledging to supplement these incentives that will ultimately benefit our students. An endowment to support this initiative would make an incredible difference in the lives of so many.

We simply want to level the playing field for our students. If they cannot afford course materials, they’re placed at a disadvantage on the first day of class. We can help students gain access to the materials they need. With your support, we can empower our students to achieve success here at the University, and beyond.

On behalf of the University of Houston Libraries, thank you for your partnership.

Lisa A. German
Dean of Libraries and
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair

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ABOVE: The forthcoming Digital Research Commons will offer access to specialized digital scholarship tools and support.
Edrick Rougeau is a senior Economics major. He is a member of the University of Houston Student Government Association (SGA) Library Advisory Committee, and is also on the Bookstore Advisory Committee, the Hearing Board, Appellate Board, and the Admissions Board, as well as a Traffic Court officer.

What inspires you to get involved?
I am a great admirer here at the University, William Alexander, who was my Microeconomics teacher. He’s a cheerleader for the students. He’s a great guy. He has someone like that support you and say “You can do it, Edrick, just go for it,” that is very encouraging.

What are your plans upon graduation?
I hope to get a job! I think the best thing for me is professional school, a law degree or medical degree. Law seems like a better fit because I do mock trials for the University.

What is your formula for success?
I try my best to make everything I go to better than it was before. I like to help people and teach them how to help themselves. When it comes to the students of the University of Houston, I work side by side with great people. If a student comes to me and asks about regression analysis, they’ll get a few hours’ worth of tutoring in one hour! Life is not about having the answer, it’s about finding the answer. It’s important to me to have an education, which is the greatest equalizer we have.

How is the UH Libraries essential for student success?
What I love about UH Libraries is the fact that students are able to use the resources that are there for them when they need them, like printing and wifi. When I arrived at the University, the first place I came to was the library, and I stayed until almost ten o’clock that night. The best thing for students would be to extend the library’s hours because it’s important for students to have those resources. When I go home, I don’t have a printer, I don’t have internet. It might sound archaic but when it’s a normal life, I can survive without those things but it’s necessary for my success at the University. I assume it’s necessary for other students as well! When you have over 2 million visitors walk into the building every year, that tells you a lot. There’s almost a symbiosis between students and the library.

When I came here, I was determined to learn and learn well while taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the academy to do so and build up my leadership skills. Receiving an award that selects students with an outstanding academic performance that have demonstrated their leadership potential is not only an honor but also an incentive to continue working with greater intensity and strength. With this great honor also comes great responsibility. I am now a role model to other leaders in the making. In consequence, I have the duty of representing the McGovern Foundation by maintaining a high academic performance, displaying my leadership and team working skills, and giving back to the community.

Christina Hamilton, Honors College senior majoring in Math and Economics, is a recipient of the John P. McGovern Library Scholars Endowment Award.

The majority of my college career has been spent working alongside the wonderful Music Library staff. I was honored to learn that I would be awarded the McGovern Library Scholarship for my senior year. To me, the award is an opportunity that allows me to finish my undergraduate degree strong. It’s a huge testament to the generosity of the McGovern Foundation, and I’ll never forget the quality education and work experience I had at the University of Houston.

Ngoc Onwuama is pursuing a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Learning, Design and Technology and is a recipient of the John P. McGovern Library Scholars Endowment Award.

This scholarship represented hope. It came when I seemed to be facing roadblocks at every turn. It gave me the strength to keep pressing on no matter how out of reach a goal might seem to be. Thank you, McGovern Foundation!

Vy Pho is a 4th-year Mechanical Engineering student and is a recipient of the Belle Griggs Johnson Scholarship Award.

Working as a technical support assistant at the MD Anderson Library has not only allowed me to develop my leadership, interpersonal and technical skills, but also provided me the opportunity to make friends with people from many different disciplines. I am extremely honored to be selected as the recipient of the Belle Griggs Johnson Scholarship. This award not only boosts my confidence but also motivates me to continue to achieve greater heights in my future career to eventually give back to our community and other students like myself.

When you invest in scholarships, you enable opportunities for student success.

Contact Olivia Thompson, Education and Student Programs, at 713.743.8026.
Members of the Dean’s Campaign Committee and Cabinet offered their perspectives on leading philanthropic initiatives in support of the Libraries’ Strategic Plan.

Performing & Visual Arts Research Collection
Deborah M. Colton

Houston today is a dynamic international city that thrives on its rich diversity and has the potential to become a leading national and international destination city of the arts. Respecting and understanding our past in terms of how we became who we are today gives us a strong foundation to continue to build upon.

Transformational Spaces
Dana Rooks

The Library is critical to student success and to lifelong learning. Its spaces provide areas for quiet reflection and contemplation, collaborative learning and team building skills, social interaction and relaxation, and expanding the horizons of human curiosity and understanding. It provides these opportunities to the students, faculty, and staff of the University, the visiting scholar and researcher, and, importantly, the community of which we are a part.

Shuart Women’s Research Collection
Carey Stuart

Serving on the Dean’s Cabinet as the representative for the Shuart Women’s Archive is an honor that allows me to both recognize women’s contributions and share the importance of preserving their history. As a Houston native, I witnessed firsthand the many ways that women have contributed to the excellence and expertise in every sector of our city and state. The Shuart Women’s Archive is a means of commemorating this important aspect of our history by preserving and promoting women’s notable achievements in our region. Future research and scholarship is dependent on our current initiative to grow and share the collection.

Rare Books Collections
Leigh Owen

The range of the remarkable books and significant artifacts housed in the University of Houston’s Rare Books Collections are examples of the true treasures of our human history. It is my honor to be a member of the Dean’s Campaign Committee and Cabinet and my mission to inform the Houston community about access to UH Special Collections. I’m proud to know the fine professionals responsible for stewardship and protection of our rare books for future generations as well as making them available now for students, researchers, and the general public.
"When I was a graduate student in 1999, I did not have a computer. MD Anderson Library had computers. I worked fulltime and went to school at night. After classes, I would head to MD Anderson to work on papers and to study. Most nights, I would be there until 11:45pm or midnight. I would get home, get something to eat and make it back to work in the AM. I was back on campus in the evening. I was not only in the library during the week. I would make it on Saturdays. It was almost a game to get there early enough to see if we could get a close up parking space next to that Technology building. As for those papers I typed up, I always did them in 10pt. Because I was always running a short balance on my cash card and copying added up. It drove my professors nuts but well allowing for dimly lit pockets where one could retreat to creating white noise and yet those same lights did not illuminate the computer labs to make use of certain software, and would very often run into friends who happened to be studying as well. There is no specific story that I can remember at the moment, but all I can say is that I am thankful to have had such a wonderful resource at my disposal throughout five years of undergraduate study."

"The Library was LIT! First couple of years I was in the learning commons 24/7. Great place to study with lots of open rooms and computers. Met too many new people there, was a great atmosphere. Later years I would mostly use the main computers downstairs and the more quiet rooms on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors. Those rooms came in clutch too when you needed a quiet place to group study. Those little study cubes on the 5th floor towards the back were great too for isolated study. AND THE PANCAKE NIGHTS during finals were off the hook! Unlimited pancakes with all variety of flavors and toppings! Ahh they were sooo good! I have very fond memories of being at the MD Anderson Library. It was a great place to be!"

"It was timed just right, in that I attended the university during the years that MD Anderson Library was going through its renovation and had its grand opening. I remember when the rows of computers were put in and also remember students hovering around waiting in anticipation for a computer to open up so that they could take a test, while others just wasted their time on a fairly new invention called Facebook. As you entered the foyer of the library you could smell the hot ink as students were sending print jobs to the shared printers. As you traveled further into the foyer you could look up and see students above going on with their business either studying alone or as part of a group. MD Anderson Library provided for a quiet place away from the crowds where course work could be focused on while having numerous resources within reach. This quiet place though also created a safe haven and a wonderful place to catch up on a nap for the overworked and overly tired student. Some of the best naps were obtained on the higher levels of the library as books here were not often [sought]. Specifically, the 5th floor provided a nest where fluorescent lights hummed creating white noise and yet those same lights did not illuminate well allowing for dainty lit pockets where one could retreat to for a power-nap between the afternoon and evening session of classes. Thank you MD Anderson Library for being there for the hard times when rigorous studying occurred and for the unexpected times when naps jumped up in priority."

"The study carrels felt like a second home. They were great for commuting students like myself."

"The 4th floor, brown section. I love the collection and getting lost in all the books that you have on -business and leadership and economics. The library is by far the best in town. As everything is going digital, I sure hope that UH can keep up so that they could take a test, while others just wasted their time on a fairly new invention called Facebook."

"I met my future wife in the library. Along with friends, we wound up studying for together for our classes on the second floor. One afternoon, she and I went down into the basement break room. As she was waiting for the soda vending to dispense a coke, I stole a kiss. That was in 1981. We’ve been married for 30 years now."
Kelsey Brett, Richard Guajardo, and Frederick Young presented “Discovery Systems and Organizational Impact: Preliminary Survey Results” at Ex Libris Users of North America (ELUNA).

M. Catalano (previous), Catherine Essinger, Suzanne Ferrerine, Stephanie Lewin-Lane, and P. Vaughn (previous) called “The Basics of Personal Digital File Management” in Collaborative Librarianship.

Melody Condron was appointed chair of the 2018 Library and Information Technology (LITA) Forum Planning Committee; chair of the Personal Digital Archiving 2018 conference planning committee; and presented “No One Reads What She was Thinking: Nine Years’ Role in the Creation of the Alley Theatre in Houston” in Houston History Magazine.

Christina Gola began a new appointment to Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section Awards Committee.

Gola presented “Essential Leadership Lessons for New Managers” and co-presented “Co-learning, co-emerging, co-adapting: Transforming from High School to College” with J. Klemm, J.L. Rike, and J.D. Stimpson at Texas Library Association (TLA) Annual Conference.

Richard Guajardo, Kelsey Brett, and Frederick Young presented “The Impact of Discovery Systems on Libraries’ Organizational Structure and Staffing” at Electronic Resources and Libraries Conference.

Guajardo presented “Chapter Website Redesign: HALIL Membership Services Move to the Cloud” at Southwestern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting.

Guajardo was appointed as chair of the LITA Early-Career Librarian Committee and a member of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Program Committee.

Rachel Helbing and N. Huyah presented a Tech Trends talk. “Please follow us: Tools and tips for getting the most out of social media as a resource guide for academic Library Association (MLA) Annual Meeting.

Helbing is a member, MLA Career Development Grant Jury, Medical Informatics Section; member, MLA British Hispanic Heritage Grant Jury; and member, Nominating Committee, South Central Chapter of the MLA.

Irene Ke, Wendi Gao, and Jackie Bronicki noted “Does title-by-title selection make a difference?” A usage analysis on print monograph purchasing, which appeared in Collection Management.

Stephanie Lewin-Lane wrote a review of Reinventing Dixie: Tin Pan Alley’s Songs and Reinventing Dixie: Tin Pan Alley’s Songs and “The Creation of the Mythic South, by John Bush运河 and Classification Quarterly. “The Creation of the Mythic South” was published in the Western Library Association’s Journal of the Music Library Association.

Lewin-Lane served as the co-coordinator of the Music Library Association Career Advisory Service; and received the UH Libraries Librarian Achievement Award.

John Lehner completed a two-year appointment in May to the Advisory Group for the Association of Research Libraries Leadership Fellows Program and has been reappointed for 2017-18. Lehner also was appointed as chair of the Selection Committee.

Lehner completed a two-year appointment as chair of the ACRL Budget and Finance Committee, and as a member of Board of Directors of ACRL. He has accepted reappointment for an additional year, 2017-18.

Xiping Liu presented “A lone cataloger no more: how better communication can help enhance benefits for students and faculty at user discovery” at ALA Annual Conference.


Malone serves on the MLA Advisory Committee for the MLA Instructional Toolkit, and on the US Scholars Library Science Peer Review Committee (reappointment); EDUCAUSE Developing Digital Humanities Support Committee; and as a reviewer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Grant preliminary proposals.

Lisa Martin serves as chair of the ALA RUSA BRASS, Business Reference Services Discussion Group, and on the ACRL 60th Anniversary Virtual FTEDs at Three Research Universities at Nominating 2018 Committee; and as mentor for a year-long formal mentoring program through ACRL Instruction Section Mentoring Program. Martin was invited to serve on TLA Topaz Nonfiction Reading List Committee.

Martin was selected for the ACRL Immersion program.


Ariana Santiago presented a poster “Teacher efficacy and its implications for instructional librarians at ACRL Conference. She also presented a poster at ALA Annual about an archival digitization project for the GLBRT Roundtable, which was completed as part of the ALA Emerging Leaders program.

Santiago presented “Avoiding Overload: Cognitive load and instructional design for information literacy instruction” at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy.

Santiago won an ACRL 2017 Conference Early-Career Librarian Scholarship. She also co-chaired the Leadership Task Force for Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA).

Alex Simons, with Lisa Cruces, Matt Richardson, and Greg Yerke, curated a display of collections for teachers and students’ use at the Humanities Texas Writing Texas workshop held at UH.

Santi Thompson is a member, Greater Western Library Alliance Data Management Task Force; ACRL 60th Anniversary Virtual Forum Working Group; ex-officio voting member, ALCTS Board of Directors; and chair of ALCTS Organization and Bylaws Committee. He is a reviewer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Grant preliminary proposals.


B. Herbert, Thompson, and K. Park presented Opportunities and Challenges in Implementing a Consortial Research Data Repository” at DLF Forum.


K. Park and Thompson led webinars titled “Learning by Example: Connecting Data Competencies with the Texas Data Repository” and “Launching the Texas Data Repository” for Texas Digital Library (TDL). K. Park, Thompson, and P. Ossom Williamson led “Getting Started with the Texas Data Repository and Data Competencies” for TDL.

Thompson, K. Park, and C. Mumma led a workshop titled “Dataverse and the Texas Data Repository Workshop” at 2017 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries (TCDL).

K. Park, Thompson, R. Strasz, and V. D’Orazio led a workshop titled “Dataverse and the Texas Data Repository” at DLF Conference.


Adam Townes was selected for the Summer 2017 Digital Scholarship Institute.

Cherie Turner is a member, American Chemical Society (ACS) Publications Academic Roundtable and Evidence-Based Practices Discussion Group, ACRL University Libraries Section.

Anne Washington presented “Git a Gripping” Using Gitlab to Manage Your Metadata Application Profile” at ALA Midwinter Conference.


Washington was elected programming co-chair of the ALA ALCTS Metadata Interest Group.

Andy Weidner presented “Bayou City DAMS” at the Summer 2017 Library Round up of the Year Award for UH Libraries.


Weidner served on Samvera Virtual Connect 2017 Program Committee; Samvera Metadata Interest Group; and Samvera CONTENTdm Migration Working Group.

Annie Wu received the UH Libraries Outstanding Group Award: Metadata and Digitization Services; and the Traiblazer Award: DAMS Implementation Team.
Our vision is a community nurtured by curiosity and creativity that drives lifelong learning and scholarship.

To learn more about UH Libraries giving opportunities, visit libraries.uh.edu or call Olivia Thompson, 713.743.8026.