THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE UH LIBRARIES
I am so pleased to join the University of Houston as your new Dean of Libraries and Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair. Excitement is in the air this fall at the University and in the Libraries and together, we’re going to reach new heights.

My roots are solidly Midwestern. I was born in Peoria, Illinois and moved to Arlington Heights, a suburb of Chicago, when I was ten years old. My father and I started going to the public library every Saturday and that was where I learned that libraries, and librarians, transform lives.

After a solid liberal arts education at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, I married my husband and started a family. When my middle daughter started kindergarten, I started graduate school, studying library and information science while working at the UIUC Library. After graduating two years later, I began my career as a librarian in Ohio. My administrative responsibilities expanded when I returned to Illinois to become the Head of Acquisitions at the UIUC Library and ten years later, to Penn State University Libraries as the Assistant, then Associate Dean.

When the opportunity to lead the University of Houston Libraries arose, I was pleased to be invited into the UH family. The Libraries has flourished as the campus hub for creativity and knowledge, and I intend to take us even further.

The University of Houston Libraries is one of the top 115 research libraries in North America. As such, we have a focused research mission and will be developing new services to support digital scholarship at UH. We will create new technology-rich learning spaces that enable students to be competitive in today’s society, and we will grow our collections in new ways, maximizing discovery and accessibility.

Our librarians and staff are well poised to accomplish even more. As we embark on a strategic planning initiative this fall, the needs of UH students and faculty will be at the forefront.

The Libraries’ culture of diversity and inclusivity was evident the moment I arrived, and I will continue to nurture those values of excellence.

I would like to thank all of you who support the Libraries, and I look forward to meeting you as I begin developing relationships here at the University, within the city, and among colleagues across the great state of Texas. The University of Houston Libraries will continue to move onward, forward, and upward together and I am very honored to serve as your Dean.

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

Fritz Leiber Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention Flyers and Programs

This digital collection provides a glimpse into the world of science fiction and fantasy conventions during the 1970s and 1980s, featuring programs, pamphlets, newsletters, flyers, and other documents collected by writer Fritz Leiber as he attended science fiction and fantasy conventions across the US and internationally. Leiber often actively participated in these conventions, as a planner, speaker, or presenter. The collection contains over 200 items.

Original materials are available in UH Libraries Special Collections in the Fritz Leiber Papers.

Duke-Peacock Records Publicity Photos and ACA Master Books

This digital collection provides insight into Houston’s music history, particularly the genres of blues, rhythm and blues, gospel, and soul. Publicity photographs from the Duke and Peacock record labels depict artists, musical groups, and performances, while master books from Houston’s Audio Company of America document recordings that took place at ACA Studios. The collection contains 90 photographs and 4 master books.

Original materials are available in UH Libraries Special Collections in the Texas Music Collection.

Duke-Peacock Records Publicity Photos and ACA Master Books

Digital Humanities and Data Storytelling

At the University of Houston Libraries, digital humanities and data storytelling projects are gaining momentum. Jesse Sharp, English and linguistics librarian, stated that digital humanities involves “using digital tools to perform humanities research. This would include digitizing old books and manuscripts, and making them available online or using word counts in old texts to see how words have changed overtime.”

“One of the most popular digital projects to date has been data storytelling, taking data sets and creating visualizations either for exploratory analysis or using visualization to tell a particular story,” said Josh Been, social science data librarian.

UH librarians have collaborated with UH faculty and researchers on several digital projects, including mobile data collecting and 3D analysis of Paris and Rome; analysis of the Latino population in Houston; and visualization of the national circulation of Bilalian News, an African American weekly.

To watch video interviews on digital humanities and data storytelling projects with Sharp and Been, visit our the UH Libraries YouTube channel at youtube.com/uhlibraries.

UH Libraries to Host National African American Read-In

The University of Houston Libraries will host an African American Read-In on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm in the MD Anderson Library Rockwell Pavilion. UH faculty, staff, and students are invited to read their favorite poems, passages of fiction or nonfiction, lyrics, play scripts, or speeches written by African Americans. Guests are also welcome to attend and listen to the readings.

UH Libraries joins schools, churches, bookstores, and community and professional organizations across the country in hosting the event as part of a 26-year national celebration. It is through the participation and support of the Libraries, University, and Houston community that this event is possible and destined to become a tradition on campus.

Encounters and Discoveries in Literature: Celebrating Arte Público Press and Twentieth Century Latina/o Literature

A new exhibit will open at UH Libraries in January 2016. Encounters and Discoveries is a retrospective look at Arte Público Press and its place in the larger context of Latina/o literature throughout the 20th century. Founded in 1979, Arte Público Press and its subsidiaries paved the way for numerous celebrated authors, such as Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Sandra Cisneros, Rolando Hinojosa, Graciela Limon, Américo Paredes, and Tomás Rivera, while also recovering early unpublished works by Latinos and leading the way for inclusive children’s literature.

Materials in the exhibit will include books, archival documents, photographs, and works of art produced or recovered by Arte Público Press and its subdivisions, Piñata Books and the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Project. Beyond a mere presentation of objects and literary works, the contents of the exhibit explore the Latina/o experience and the societal conditions documented in Arte Público’s publications.

Save the date for the exhibit opening reception on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at the MD Anderson Library Rockwell Pavilion. For more information, contact Lisa Cruces at ecruces@uh.edu or 713.743.9903.

Access more UH Libraries news and events online at info.lib.uh.edu/p/news-events.
THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER of the UH Libraries

Lisa A. German began her appointment as dean of the University of Houston Libraries in August 2015. Since then, she has met with librarians, faculty and staff, administrators, colleagues and other key stakeholders to learn the culture of the Libraries and its impact on the campus and community.

What she has discovered thus far is a campus institution that is exciting, collaborative, and transformational in terms of student success and research initiatives.

"Libraries have the potential to transform student lives, and they also have the potential to transform research," German said. "We know that students do better when they have a librarian with whom they can work on research and academics." 

Serendipitous discovery is one of the central themes at UH Libraries. A common scenario involves a student in the library opening an esoteric volume, and finding a new path of knowledge. "All of a sudden you have an 'a-ha' moment, and that leads you to something else, which in turn leads you to something else," German said. "The process of uncovering knowledge and new ways to think happens online too, as the Libraries provides access to a wealth of online resources, including journals, e-books and streaming media. Finding links in the digital space, German said, is analogous to the connections made through libraries and librarians.

Librarians are connectors of campus research and academics, cultivating collaborative relationships with faculty members and researchers in a number of ways that transform scholarship, teaching and learning. "Research libraries play a unique role in scholarly communications because we collect materials that no one else does," German noted. "Research libraries have the expertise and the ability to search for and preserve knowledge not only for the campus and local community, but for the world." 

While the Libraries supports curricular and research needs of the University, librarians and staff are also studying ways to serve national and international constituents. Research libraries face a number of challenges, not the least of which is digital preservation. Many have taken responsive action through collaboration. For example, the University is a member of HathiTrust, a partnership of more than 100 academic and research institutions offering a collection of millions of titles from libraries around the world, digitized by Google, the Internet Archive, or locally at a member institution. This partnership increases access to over 3 million full text, public domain volumes that have been digitized, with the ability for researchers to create collections within the HathiTrust digital library.

Within UH Libraries, librarians and staff are also addressing the challenges of digital scholarship. "We’re working on digital strategies that will help us preserve some of our unique electronic materials, such as UH theses and dissertations, to ensure that the content of our own scholars is preserved for years to come," German said.

People often opine about the future of libraries in the age of Google. German thinks that, among the rise of digital citizenship, there has never been a better time for libraries. With widely available data, librarians help students think critically, identify credible information, and seek out reliable sources in the vast information landscape. "This is the heyday of librarianship," German said. "It’s all about ensuring access to library resources in the formats that students and faculty need. Not only that, but our librarians also serve as resources themselves, conducting in-person consultations with students, working with graduate students on research, and assisting faculty in preparing classroom assignments that lead to information literacy." Librarians are powerful factors in student success.

One of the major differentiators of the Libraries is the department of Special Collections, preserving rare scholarly collections, many of which illustrate the singular history and culture of Houston and the region. More and more items in Special Collections are becoming digitized, reaching scholars on a broad scale.

Another unique aspect of the Libraries is its variety and scope of space, offering places that foster learning and creativity. "We have a large building, and it’s full," German exclaimed. "Students are here reading, working on papers and assignments all the time, when I come in at eight in the morning, and they’re here as I’m leaving for the day. This library is a destination." 

Germn stressed the need for even more transformative work spaces within the Libraries. Eventually, she would like to extend the MD Anderson Library first floor Learning Commons; add a space dedicated to research among students, faculty and librarians; add more group study rooms to support collaborative modes of learning for students of all majors and programs; and modernize the upper levels. "The wonderful thing about the Libraries is that we’re that shared, trusted place where everyone can gather regardless of major or program. We’re inherently interdisciplinary," she said.

While libraries in general have incorporated new roles, tools and methods, German says that the mission of libraries remains the same since the time of the ancient Egyptian Library of Alexandria.

"It used to be that books were only available to the select few, and there was nothing egalitarian about that, but in the libraries of today, people from all walks of life have equal access to information in the library," German said. "At our core, libraries and librarians value diversity and inclusion. We will evolve, but our mission of ensuring that everyone has access to information, and supporting this great democracy of ours, won’t change.”
Lois Ann O’Connor (’78), together with her son, Patrick “Pat” C. O’Connor (’81, Harvard MBA ’83), began an Acorn endowment in August 2015. Lois attended the University of Houston as a non-traditional student at the same time that Patrick was enrolled. Patrick is the owner and president of O’Connor & Associates, the largest independent real estate research and support firm in the southwest. They share their perspectives on why they chose to give to the UH Libraries.

Lois O’Connor

My husband and I are both UH grads, and Pat is too. When I found out about the Acorn Endowment, I felt like it would be a good thing to do together in the name of our family. I graduated from the Honors College, and it was a great experience, small classes at a huge university with wonderful teachers. I stayed in touch with the University in my own way. When I retired, I audited The Human Situation. When I was a student, there wasn’t any such thing. I think all UH graduates should become lifetime members of the Alumni Association.

Patrick O’Connor

The industrial engineering education I received at the University of Houston is the cornerstone of my analytical and critical thinking capabilities. Those skills have helped me to develop a property tax consulting business that does ten times more property tax appeals than any other firm on the globe. They have also been instrumental in the work being done by a team of 400 in India, supported by US executives, to develop a national database for commercial and residential real estate.

A key component of the database is providing real estate appraisers the first web-based appraisal writing tools connected to an online database. The combination of the web interface and database are expected to reduce the time to write a commercial or residential appraisal by 30 to 60%. The Fortran programming learned over 30 years ago provided a basic understanding of coding and database structures. That knowledge, along with work flow process design learned in industrial engineering, are the cornerstones of the property tax and database businesses.

The study habits learned at UH helped in preparation for the GMAT. A good score on the GMAT and good grade point average were important in gaining admission to Harvard Business School, which supplemented the engineering skills with business tools.

The Acorn endowment is a nice way to give back to University of Houston.

Gifts to the Acorn Endowment allow UH Libraries to acquire the latest resources and technology in support of research and learning. For information on how you can contribute to UH student success, contact Todd Marrs, director of development, at dtmarrs@uh.edu.
Rebecca Arizmendi

Kelsey Brett is a recipient of the Electronic Resources and Libraries (ER&L) Cross-Pollinator Travel Award to attend the 2015 Digital Library Federation (DLF) Forum.

Brett is a member of the Texas Library Association (TLA) 2016 Programming Committee and the TLA PR and Marketing Committee.


Jackie Bronnicki, Irenee Ke, Cherie Turner and Shawn Vaillancourt authored “Gop Analysis by Subject Area of the University of Houston Main Campus Library Collection,” appeared in the Social Librarian: From the Printed Page to the Digital Age as a reprint of a conference paper.

Melody Condon will teach “Personal Digital Archiving for Librarians” as a 4-week with course for the Library Information Technology Association (LITA).

Condon will present a poster, “How to Archive Your Social Media Identity (and Why You Might Want To)” at LITA Forum.

Condon serves as chair of the LITA Membership Development Committee through June 2016, and serves as a representative of the LITA Membership Management Committee for the 2016 TLA Annual Conference.

Kerry Creelman was selected for the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) Management Academic Library of the Biodiversity.


Dethloff was elected as secretary of Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) University Libraries Section, is chair of the ALA Reference and User Services Association’s Moving and Shifting Access to Resources Section (MARS) Nominating Committee; and is secretary of the TLA Copyright and Access Interest Group.

Catherine Essinger is a member of the History Collections Committee at Houston University, American Institute of Architects.

Essinger, Suzanne Fermin, Stephanie Levin-Latine, Michelle Malizia and Viorica Vaughn co-authored the “Artists’ Health and Wellness Colloquium and Resource Fair.”

Suzanne Fermin was awarded senior level membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) by the Medical Library Association (MLA).

Fermin will co-teach “How to Find Evidence Based References and Resources” at the American Academy of Optometry 2016.

Weini Gan became chair of ALA Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) Collection Evaluation and Assessment Interest Group for 2015-2016.

Gan presented a poster, “Mapping the Undergraduate Curriculum for Information Literacy Outreach and Instruction in the University of Houston Libraries,” at the ALA Education and Behavioral Sciences Section Research Forum; and co-presented “Beyond the Classroom: New Opportunities for Outreach in the Social Sciences” with Loreetta Wallace and Josh Been at TLA District 8 Fall Conference.

Gao’s article “Information use in communication research: A citation analysis of faculty publication at the University of Houston,” appeared in Behavioral and Social Sciences: Librarians.

Kelli Getz serves as secretary of the NASAST Executive Board.

Getz will be presenting “Are ERM’s making electronic resource management ‘easier’? Learn how librarians are using ERMs in their workflows and ‘Managing databases: Selection, evaluation, renewal, and cancellation’ at the 2016 TLA Annual Conference.

Christina Golon was an invited panelist for “How More Libraries Can Become Leaders” at the 2015 TLA Annual Conference.


Richard Guajardo co-presented “Re-evaluating and Promoting Discovery Services” at the ER&L Conference with Andrew French, and co-presented “From User Studies to User Experience” at the ALA Annual Conference with Min Buzer.

Guajardo co-authored “Converting Your E-Resource Records to RDA,” with Jamie Carlstone, which appeared in the Ariadne Library.

Guajardo was recently appointed to the LITA Publications Committee and the ALA Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) Mentoring Committee.


John Leiner is a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership Fellows Advisory Group.

Michelle Malizia serves as co-chair of the Program Committee for the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association (SC-MLA) Annual Meeting. She is also a member of the TLA Disaster Relief Committee.

Malizia presented “Boost up Your Lifelong Learning Community College and the NN/LM Outreach Initiative” at the MLA Annual Meeting; and “Using Logic Models to Strategically Plan a University Library” at the SCL of MLA Annual Meeting.

Malizia co-chaired two workshops, “”From Common Grant Writing Mistakes from an Insider’s View” and “Locating Easy to Read Health Materials” at the Oklahoma Library Coalition’s Fall Conference.

She also co-chaired the workshop “Libraries and Health Information as Partners in Community Health” at the Oklahoma Department of Health.

Andrew Malone’s review of “Customer-based Collection Development: An Overview” was published in Journal of Academic Librarianship.

Malone is a member of the TLA Program Committee to plan the 2016 annual conference and the ALA Scholarships and Study Grants Committee.

Malone is a recipient of the University of Houston Provost’s Library Faculty Excellence Award.

Mary Manning serves as president of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA).


Martin is a member of ACRL Instruction Section Information Literacy in the Disciplines Committee.

Ariana Santiago serves as chair of the ALA New Members Roundtable Student and Junior Chapter Outreach Committee, and is a member of ACRU Librarianship Section Current Topics Discussion Group.

Rachel Vacrick is a recipient of the University of Houston Provost’s Library Faculty Excellence Award.

Vacrick wrote “President’s Column: Making an Impact in the Time That is Given to Us,” which appeared in Information Technology and Libraries.

Vacrick presented “Impact your Library UX with Contextual Inquiry” at TLA District 8 Fall Conference; and TLA President Program: Interviews with Les Rosental at ALA Annual Conference.

Andy Weidler serves as a LITA representative on the ALCTS/LLAMA Standards Committee and editor of the committee’s blog/magazine.

Weidler also co-presented poster, “Teaching Hydra to the University of Houston Digital Library,” with Sean Watkins at Hydra Connect 2015.

Weidler co-presented “Selection Methods and DAMS Migration Implementation” with Annie Wu at the 2015 DLF Forum.

Weidler will present “API, Authority Control, Leveraging Programmatic Access to Legacy Metadata” at the 2015 LITA Forum.

Annie Wu and Andy Weidler co-presented “Metadata Quality Control for Content Migration: The Metadata Migration Project at the University of Houston Libraries” at DCLM 2015 (article published in proceedings).


An article authored by Wu, Santith旻 Thompson, Drew Krewer, Mary Manning, and Rob Speegle, “Shaping the Fruit of Our Labor: Establishing Digital Archiving and Preservation Programs and Strategies at the University of Houston Libraries,” was accepted for presentation and publication in proceedings of the 2015 International Conference on Digital Preservation.

New to UH Libraries

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The UH Libraries is excited to announce the addition of a new health sciences library to support the University’s rapidly growing academic programs in health sciences. The new library will expand services offered by the Weston A. Pettey Optometry Library, providing research and scholarly support for students enrolled in pharmacy, physical therapy, and nursing programs, as well as students studying the behavioral sciences including mental health counseling, communication disorders and social work.

The new health sciences library will be housed on the second floor of the University’s new 9-story Health and Biomedical Sciences building. In addition to traditional research and study spaces, the new library will feature instructional rooms designed for interactive learning, as well as a digital scholarship and visualization lab.

For additional information or to learn about giving opportunities in the new health sciences library, contact Todd Marrs, director of development, at dtmarrs@uh.edu.