

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

INSIDE:
*\$75K Gift to Support Open
Educational Resources*

NEWSLETTER
FALL 2021

DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES AND

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RESEARCH SERVICES

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JOHN LEHNER

UH LIBRARIES FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

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1

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

2-3

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

\$75K Gift to Support Open Educational Resources

John Lehner Retirement

Library Excellence Awards

4

GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT

Tejada Gifts Artist's Book to UH Special Collections

5

ROOKS EARLY CAREER LIBRARIAN FELLOWSHIP

Reid Boehm

Emily Vinson

6-7

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Marvin Zindler Papers

Collaborative LGBTQIA+

History Exhibit

8-9

PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY SPOTLIGHT

Publications, presentations, service

Promotions in rank

New hires

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The last time I checked in with you, I was wrapping up my first 100 days and enjoying the onboarding of this incredible journey I have begun with UH Libraries. Now, nearly eight months into my role, I am happy to report that my impression of the talented team we have, as well as the critical resources and services, and physical and online spaces we offer our academic and community visitors every day, remains entirely intact. This is a terrific place to work! We've had great successes in funding our services, as well as continual enhancement to our collections.

As you will find in this newsletter, we also offered a bittersweet goodbye to associate dean John Lehner, and as many have said to me, the place will not be the same without him.

As we have been looking at our Libraries with respect to the bold and inspiring University strategic plan, I am happy to share some news about what changes have taken place here. Foremost, we underwent a substantive restructuring of our Libraries toward a goal of advancing research and learning through a focus on maintaining our strong educational impact. We endeavor to do this work while enhancing our role in accelerating the research mission of UH. Our teams have been calibrated toward this vision in responsive ways to our University's trajectory, and I am indebted to all of my colleagues' insight, suggestions, and willingness to move forward with our new collective approaches.

While many of our departments have seen direct changes, all of them have evolved in the ways we interact with our constituents for the best outcomes. Through the generosity of Provost Short, I will soon be launching a national search for an associate dean for Research and Student Engagement. This role is part of a four associate dean structure comprising associate deans for: Special Libraries and Preservation; Collections Strategies and Discovery; and Organizational Development, Learning, and Talent. Christina Gola has assumed the latter position, Marilyn Myers will be helming the Special Libraries and Preservation portfolio, and the Collections Strategies and Discovery position will be filled in the next one to 2 years and is currently being interim led by Kerry Creelman. I can imagine visualizing all of this change may be a bit cumbersome, so I would encourage you to visit our website at libraries.uh.edu/about/org-charts/ to review our new organizational charts.

Why am I including this administrative update in our newsletter to you? I want to emphasize that what we present in terms of our accomplishments, or how to invest in and partner with us, or how we tell the story of our impact rests solely on the ways we encourage our teams to connect and identify with this grand University vision that will undoubtedly reap beneficial results in the future. I am excited for what's to come for all of my colleagues in the Libraries. And, I look forward to sharing with you in future newsletters the ways in which all of these updates directly reflect what is critical to our students and inspirational to our biggest champions – you.

Athena



Athena N. Jackson
Dean of Libraries
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair

\$75K

GIFT TO SUPPORT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

UH Libraries has received a generous gift of \$75,000 from the John P. McGovern Foundation, designated for open educational resources (OER).

OER are teaching and learning tools, either in the public domain or released with an open license, that anyone can freely use and re-purpose. OER at UH began in 2017 in response to advocacy from the Student Government Association regarding textbook affordability concerns. Commercial textbook costs have risen dramatically over the past few decades, with both financial and academic impact on many UH students. While expensive textbooks prevent students from accessing course materials, OER provide free and immediate access to course materials, allowing students to be prepared on the first day of class, earn better grades, and stay enrolled in the course.

Dr. Paula Myrick Short, UH senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, introduced the UH Alternative Textbook Incentive Program (ATIP). In partnership with the Office of the Provost, UH Libraries implemented ATIP, which awards instructors who adopt OER in their courses, replacing commercial textbooks with OER and/or the use of freely available or library-owned resources. Since 2018, ATIP has provided three rounds of funding for faculty who have adopted alternative textbooks, benefitting a total of 10,171 students and saving an estimated \$1,183,564 in student textbook fees.

Additionally, instructors are afforded flexibility and customization through OER to produce course content that is appropriate, updated and diverse. Faculty have reported improvements in student preparation, engagement, and learning outcomes in connection with increased access to materials.

“I was thrilled to learn about this gift to the Libraries to support OER, an initiative I have known to be crucial for access to course materials for many of our students,” Short said. “The McGovern Foundation’s support emphasizes the ongoing achievements of this program and provides essential funding for its enduring success.”

With the McGovern gift, UH Libraries is empowered to better support faculty who take on the workload of preparing their own course materials. Ariana Santiago, open educational resources coordinator at UH Libraries, facilitates outreach and education for faculty on OER-related topics and coordinates a growing community of practice on OER. “The generous donation from the McGovern Foundation will allow UH Libraries to increase incentives for faculty who adopt OER,” Santiago said. “Providing free and immediate access to course materials makes higher education more affordable and improves the academic experience for our students.”

“This gift from the McGovern Foundation allows us to strengthen the great progress of this critical program,” said Dean Jackson. “UH Libraries remains dedicated to Provost Short’s student success initiatives which enable us to scale our efforts and ensure the broadest level of partnerships across campus.”

A Salute to Associate Dean Lehner

John Lehner, associate dean for resource management at UH Libraries, announced his retirement effective October 1. Lehner joined UH Libraries in 1998 as the human resources director, overseeing searches for librarian positions and streamlining the search process. In 2006, Lehner stepped into his current role, administering the budget, facilities, and business operations of the Libraries, as well as directing library technology services, metadata and digitization services, library human resources, and assessment and statistics. He was promoted to the rank of librarian in 2013, and two years later, was appointed to the Ambassador Kenneth R. Franzheim Endowed Professorship.

“John has served the Libraries laudably,” said Dean Jackson. “He exemplifies unwavering dedication to the University and the profession, and is a model of collegiality and advocacy that extends well beyond the Libraries. I’d like to thank John for his service and wish him the best on his well-earned retirement.”



2021 Library Excellence Awards

UH Libraries honored its top performers at the annual awards ceremony, held online in summer 2021. Dean Jackson commended the dedication of those who persevered during the challenges of the past year, prioritizing each other’s safety and wellbeing, and showing empathy, creativity, and agility in sustaining Libraries services.

Student Achievement

Jordan Kulzer
Gabrielle McCullough

McGovern Outstanding Student

De’Jah Hopkins

McGovern Staff Rookie of the Year

Brooks Whitaker

McGovern Librarian Rookie of the Year

Carolina Hernandez

Outstanding Group

Information and Access Services

Trailblazer Award for Leading Organization Change

Marilyn Myers

Dean Dana C. Rooks and Dr. Charles W. Rooks

Diversity Award

Veronica Arellano Douglas

Staff Achievement

Salima Bowaniya
Susan Ryan

McGovern Outstanding Staff

Michael Caldwell

Librarian Achievement

Ian Knabe
Emily Vinson

McGovern Outstanding Librarian

Lee Hilyer

The 2021 Library Excellence Awards committee members are Tim McGittigan, Ian Knabe, Annie Wu, Rachel Helbing, Melinda Colmenero, Mea Warren, Christina Gola (ex officio), and Mark Cooper (ex officio).

GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT



Tejada Gifts Artist's Book to UH Special Collections

Roberto Tejada, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professor of English and Art History at UH and 2021 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow in Poetry, donated a limited edition copy of a bookwork to UH Special Collections.

Why the Assembly Disbanded is an artist's book co-crafted by Tejada and book designer Cristina Paoli of Periferia in Mexico City. "I've been fortunate to work with artists and designers on several collaborative projects at different inflection points in my life," Tejada said, "so I turned to Cristina to work on an object that would reflect the themes of [the forthcoming poetry

collection] *Why the Assembly Disbanded*—primarily, how to think of possible futures from the relentless social madness of the past in the present—with the help of photographs by Connie Samaras and Rubén Ortiz Torres, whose images activate some of the fears and fantasies I confront in the book."

Why the Assembly Disbanded is available for viewing in the Special Collections Reading Room, located on the second floor of the MD Anderson Library, by appointment.

Rooks Early Career Librarian Fellowship

The Rooks Early Career Librarian Fellowship (ECLF) was established by former UH Libraries dean Dana Rooks and spouse Charles W. (Mickey) Rooks, PhD to support professional development, such as memberships, conference fees, travel costs, research assistance, specialized equipment, and technology, for UH librarians early in their careers.

Reid Boehm, PhD, research data management librarian at UH Libraries, is the 2021 recipient of the Rooks ECLF.



“Receiving this fellowship is an honor and a wonderful opportunity to expand my research interests with resources and a three-year plan of action while also working to strengthen research data management (RDM) services and better advocate for researchers at UH,” Boehm said. “My hope is to expand this to the greater RDM community in scholarship, leading to some gradual shifts in service practices.”

Boehm’s research addresses gaps between funder data management requirements for research grant projects and the resources available to academic researchers. Often funders and RDM practitioners approach requirements from the scholarly defined ideals presented in the data science and library and information science disciplines. While this is the ultimate aim, Boehm’s focus is on what researchers are experiencing in reality. The goal is to learn more about these gaps pertaining to how the University and other public Research 1 academic institutions work with researchers. With attention to context in service and training,

by learning from research partners instead of simply presenting best practices, there is greater potential to increase advocacy and communicate more clearly to funders about these realities.

Emily Vinson, audiovisual archivist and curator of the KUHT and KUHF Collections at UH Libraries, received the Rooks ECLF in 2018.



“The ECLF provided me with time and space to develop and execute a research study,” Vinson said. “While this was valuable in its own right, it also had a very positive unanticipated outcome – I was able to draw on what I had learned from the study and tap into the Fellowship funding to launch a project to retain student employees in a remote work project during the COVID-19 campus closure. Along with colleagues in Metadata and Digitization Services, we were able to engage over 25 student employees from across the UH Libraries in the creation of hundreds of hours of high-quality video captions.”

Vinson’s research involved the comparison of transcription method accuracy, specifically, how to make audiovisual (AV) archival collections more accessible to deaf and hard of hearing users through closed captions. Positing that online machine-generated transcripts would be the path forward for making collections accessible, Vinson developed a small research study to compare four methods of transcription, including professional transcriptionist services, artificial intelligence machine-generated services, free “hacks,” and untrained study participants drawn from library student and staff employees. In order to create a study that reflected the types of materials that would be encountered in an archival AV collection, Vinson selected video samples from the UH collection with a diverse range of recording issues that could affect transcription quality.



Marvin Zindler

PAPERS

UH Libraries Special Collections is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Marvin Zindler Papers.

The collection celebrates the legacy of the distinguished KTRK-TV investigative reporter through preserved photos, correspondence, news clippings, publicity and press release materials, personal notes, sketches, awards, complaint letters, story scripts, reporter notebooks, research files, AV materials, two eye-opening biographies, artifacts (including his baton), and ephemera.

Marvin Harold Zindler (August 10, 1921 – July 29, 2007), the famously colorful Houston TV personality, was both admired and criticized for his grandiose style. A larger-than-life figure who consistently reinvented himself through the years, Zindler has also been a prizefighter, a deputy sheriff, in his family's clothing business, in politics, and on the radio. His news stories captured the attention of Houstonians for decades, and he was known for investigating a wide range of problems on the behalf of the public. Viewers would write to Zindler with various,

sometimes odd, concerns, such as the toddler's talking toy that shocked one Houston mom with profanity. It was his penchant for covering controversial, unusual topics that made him a household name, like the infamous Chicken Ranch saga which garnered national attention; and later, the weekly, offbeat Rat and Roach Report.

Much more than simply a consumer advocate, Zindler was influential in improving the lives of the elderly and those in urgent financial need, and was honored for his charitable work both domestic and internationally.

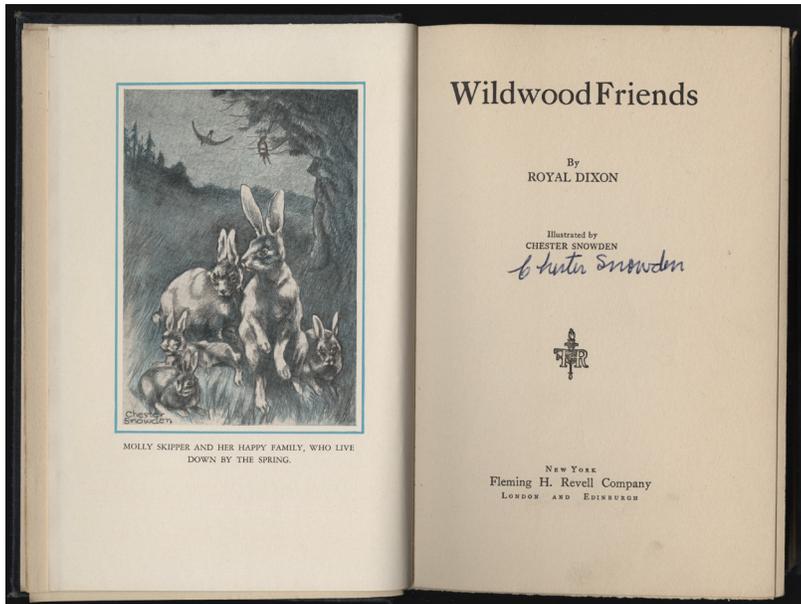
Zindler's son Dan Zindler and partner Lori Freese were inspired by Lori Reingold, Zindler's long-time producer, to bring the reporter's archives to UH Special Collections. Visitors to the Marvin Zindler Papers will find an abundance of primary sources that reveal a deep, storied view of his personal and professional life.

The collection is currently being processed.

Collaborative LGBTQIA+ History Exhibit

UH Libraries Special Collections, in collaboration with institutional partners, has co-curated an exhibit featuring materials from regional LGBTQIA+ history collections.

Coming Out Together to Share our History: LGBTQIA+ Collections in College Station, Houston, and Beyond will be hosted at Texas A&M Cushing Library through December 16, 2021.



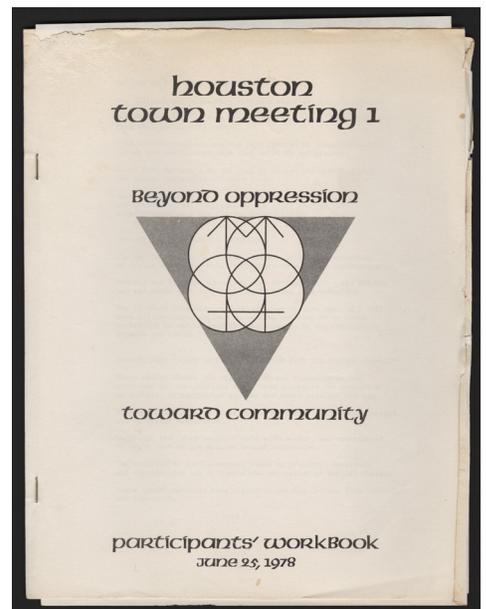
*Title page of *Wildwood Friends* by Royal Dixon, illustrated by Chester Snowden (1931). Author and naturalist Royal Dixon and artist Chester Snowden often collaborated on Dixon's published works. UH Libraries Special Collections.*

Among the posters, photos, books, magazines, and newsletters that are on display, notable materials from partner collections include selections from The Banner Project, a bar top and a decorated chair commemorating the community and history of Mary's... Naturally in Houston, and memorabilia from the 1993 March on Washington. UH Special Collections, in addition to contributing materials from the LGBT History Research Collection, facilitated oral histories with exhibit partners. The recorded interviews are shown on a monitor in the second-floor exhibition gallery of the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives.

The exhibit was created through collaboration between Texas A&M University Libraries Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, UH Libraries LGBT History Research Collection, Charles Law Community Archive at The African American Library at the Gregory School/Houston Public Library, The Banner Project, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender History, Inc. (GCAM), Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin, The JD Doyle Archives, Rice University Fondren Library Woodson Research Center, and The Botts Collection of LGBT History.



Women's Gay and Straight Rap Group Party flier. Botts Collection of LGBT History (1974).



Town Meeting I. Participant workbook for Houston's first weeklong celebration of Pride, one of the first LGBT grass roots political events in the US (1978). Botts Collection of LGBT History.

PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Davis-Van Atta was chosen as the 2021 recipient of the Texas Digital Library (TDL) Scholarly Communication Award; and was elected to UH Faculty Senate as the Libraries at-large senator.

Veronica Arellano Douglas is chair of Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section.

Douglas presented the closing keynote for the Workshop for Instruction in Library Use (WILU) conference; “Relational cultural theory & reference work” for the New York University Libraries; “Towards a critical, decolonized pedagogy” (panel) for the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate School’s Transformative Learning in the Humanities Lecture Series; and “Inclusive pedagogy online: making learning more accessible” with **Emily Deal** and **Carolina Hernandez** at Texas Library Association (TLA) Annual Conference online.

Douglas is on the editorial board for *The Journal of Information Literacy*.

Orolando Duffus, **Mea Warren**, and **Lisa Martin** co-wrote “Staying connected: Best practices for online marketing and outreach” which appeared in *Marketing Libraries Journal*.

Duffus co-wrote “Mapping the residency program landscape” with L. Velez, N. Blas, J. Alston, G. Holmes, D. Eads, and A. Bradshaw which appeared in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*.

Wenli Gao co-wrote “Strategic planning for the Chinese American Librarians Association: From process to implementation” with R. Pun and L. Ruan which appeared in *International Journal of Librarianship*.

Gao, **Veronica Arellano Douglas**, **Emma Fontenot**, and **Andrea Malone** co-wrote a book chapter titled “Beyond the numbers: Building a data information literacy program for undergraduate instruction,” which appeared in *Teaching Critical Thinking with Numbers: Data Literacy and the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, edited by J. Bauder.

Gao co-presented “Celebrating and showing support for Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander colleagues in librarianship and in our communities” (invited) with J. Clarke, J. Solomon, and A. Vedantham at ACRL Science and Technology Section webinar.

Gao and **Reid Boehm** co-presented “Tips for managing and sharing collections data from data librarians” at CORE Interest

Group Week Collection Evaluation and Assessment Interest Group Meeting online.

Gao and J. Xiao co-presented a poster, “Free tools for data wrangling, analysis, and visualization,” at American Library Association (ALA) virtual conference Chinese American Librarian Association (CALA) poster session.

Gao, M. Huang, R. Pun, L. Ruan, H. Yao, and F. Zhuo co-presented “Empowering our global and local communities: Activities by the members of CALA” at TLA Annual Conference.

Gao began a term as president for CALA.

Christina Gola was named a Department of Information Science Outstanding Alumni from University of North Texas.

Gola presided over the TLA 2021 Annual Conference which received the following press: *Publishers Weekly* interview, “After a year of historic challenges, the Texas Library Association looks to the future.”

Gola was part of a virtual panel presentation, “Fostering equity and inclusion through an organizational development approach,” at ALA

Promotions in Rank

Associate Librarian



Ariana Santiago
Open educational resources coordinator



Emily Vinson
Audiovisual archivist



Bethany Scott
Coordinator of digital projects



Mea Warren
Natural science and mathematics librarian

Librarian



Christina Gola
Director of human resources and organizational development



Andrea Malone
Coordinator of research services

Annual Conference.

Rachel Helbing was appointed chair-designate of the Medical Library Association (MLA) Credentialing Committee.

Helbing presented a poster, “Managing relationships during a collection transformation: Lessons learned from a consortium withdrawal,” at MLA Annual Meeting online.

Stefanie Lapka was approved for membership in the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) at the Senior member level.

Vince Lee completed service as the outgoing chair for the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Committee on Public Awareness (COPA) for the 2020-2021 term.

Lee presented “Build a bridge to stand: Making the ask even in uncertain times” at SAA.

Andrea Malone received a 2021 Modern Language Association (MLA) field bibliography fellowship.

Malone was appointed to ALA International Relations Roundtable International Librarians’ Orientation/

Mentoring Committee; and appointed to UH Graduate & Professional Studies Committee (GPSC).

Malone presented “Perspectives in impact metrics” at MLA Academic Program Services Leadership Institute.

Mary Manning was part of a panel presentation on COVID-19 collecting at Archivists of the Houston Area.

Manning presented “Houston Roots and the Texas Gulf Coast Sound” at Society of Ethnomusicology, Southern Plains; co-presented “Learn about Tropy: A free tool for research and organizing personal archives” with **Emily Vinson** at TLA Annual Conference; co-presented “Finding aid clean-up during lockdown” with **Joseph Lueck** and “Collaborating to build web archives in Texas” with L. Ko and K. Rojas at Society of Southwest Archivists; and a lightning talk modified from the “Collaborating” presentation at Texas Conference on Digital Libraries (TCDL).

Ariana Santiago was part of a panel presentation, “Being the first: Experiences of OER creators who were the first to create or adapt OER at their institutions,” at the Michigan Open Educational Resources

(OER) Summit.

Mea Warren co-wrote “Introducing reproducibility to citation analysis: A case study in the earth sciences” with S. Teplitzsky, W. Tranfield, and P. White which appeared in *Journal of eScience Librarianship*.

Warren co-presented “A fish out of water: Being and supporting Black librarians in the sciences” at the National Conference of African-American Librarians with C. Leal and T. Watkins.

Warren was nominated to the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Salary Survey Task Force as chair.

Annie Wu and **Anne Washington** co-presented “Inclusive and conscious editing at UH Libraries” at TLA Annual Conference.

Wu, Andrew Weidner, Crystal Cooper, Taylor Davis-Van Atta, Jerrell Jones, Ada Laura Ramirez, Bethany Scott, Santi Thompson, and Anne Washington presented a poster, “Here be dragons: Navigating the unchanged water of legacy thesis and dissertation digitization,” at TC DL.

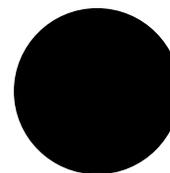
New to UH Libraries



Ana Corral
Medical and health
sciences librarian



Demetria Guinn
Library supervisor



Matthew Mears
Library assistant



Mya Garcia
Senior library
specialist



**Natalia
Kapacinskas**
Instruction librarian



Marian Smith
Digital photo tech

University of Houston Libraries

M.D. Anderson Library
4333 University Drive
Houston, TX 77024-2000

24 Hour Lounge Expansion

UH Libraries, in partnership with UH Facilities/Construction Management, will enhance the services and space of the 24 Hour Lounge located in MD Anderson Library, including the addition of Einstein Bros. Bagels; a mezzanine; new entrances, and more computing and seating. The target completion date is August 2022.

Thanks to a generous gift from the McGovern Foundation, MD Anderson Library now offers self-service lockers for check-out of library materials. Located in the 24 Hour Lounge, users can retrieve requested materials easily with just the swipe of a Cougar Card.

