

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES



**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
SPOTLIGHT**

*100 Years of Progress
digital exhibit*

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NEWSLETTER
Fall 2020

V O T E S F O R W O M E N

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INTERIM DEAN

MARILYN MYERS

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

JOHN LEHNER

UH LIBRARIES FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

EDITOR

ESMERALDA FISHER ('03, MA '13)
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

DESIGN / PHOTOGRAPHY

MAURICIO LAZO ('11)
SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

4333 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77204-2000

PHONE

713.743.1050

WEB

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

I hope you and your loved ones are well. While 2020 has presented challenges to health and wellbeing, University of Houston Libraries has adapted to our collective “new normal.” With the start of the fall semester, and following the practical guidance of the University and our local and state officials, our spaces re-opened, at a limited capacity and with safety protocols in place, to the UH community. Our librarians and staff, many working remotely, continued providing students and faculty with expert help and resources, including research support and access to collections.

We continue to assess our ability to meet academic and research needs while operating safely as we enter the spring 2021 semester. If University guidance, campus conditions, or library use requires restrictions on physical access, the Libraries can return to remote service only.

I began my tenure as interim dean of UH Libraries in February following the departure of Lisa German, former UH Libraries dean and Elizabeth D. Rockwell chair, who began a new role as dean at University of Minnesota Libraries. The University launched a search for a replacement and three candidates have been invited to interview.

Last year, the John P. McGovern Foundation generously offered support for three projects proposed by UH Libraries, including expansion of the 24-hour student study space in MD Anderson Library. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was placed on hold as we reassessed priorities. With the McGovern Foundation’s approval, we’ve redirected these funds toward outfitting all four libraries with the technology, equipment, and protections necessary for safe use of our spaces. Expenditures include a locker system which will allow users to have contactless pick-up for items requested. Users will swipe their ID cards and the appropriate locker slot will open providing them access to their requested materials, including books and equipment. Other enhancements included plexi-glass shields for library service desks and necessary sanitization equipment for circulating print materials and handling of special collections items.

On behalf of the Libraries, thank you for your support which makes so many of our efforts possible. By supporting the Libraries, you are contributing to our mission of advancing student success, knowledge creation and preservation, and globally competitive research.



Marilyn Myers
Interim Dean of Libraries

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

UH Libraries Receives NEH Grant

University of Houston Libraries is pleased to announce that it has received a \$348,751 grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Program to support the *Gulf Coast LGBT Radio and Television Digitization and Access Project*. The grant will allow for the creation of detailed archival finding aids, digitization, transcription, description, online publication, and an online exhibit documenting over thirty years of Houston-area radio and television history created for and by local Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans communities.

Four series — *After Hours*, *Lesbian & Gay Voices*, *Wilde 'n' Stein*, and *TV Montrose* — are included in the project, totaling over 5,000 hours of content not heard or seen publicly since its initial broadcast decades ago. The recordings are currently inaccessible to researchers, and due to fragile audiovisual tape formats, are at significant risk of loss due to deterioration.

The unique audio and video recordings are drawn from UH Libraries Special Collections and through a partnership with the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History, Inc. (GCAM).

[Read more at libraries.uh.edu/about/news/uh-libraries-receives-neh-grant](https://libraries.uh.edu/about/news/uh-libraries-receives-neh-grant)

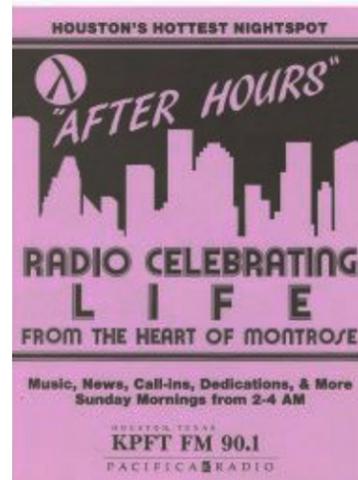
Texas Art Project: Digitized Microfilmed Archives

Thanks to a Texas State Library and Archives Commission TexTreasures grant funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), over 100 reels of microfilmed archives documenting women and underrepresented communities in Texas visual arts will be digitized and made accessible online.

The Texas Art Project is an extensive collection of visual arts history preserved at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) library. Between 1978 and 1985, MFAH contacted artists, galleries, and arts organizations across Texas to document unique manuscript papers and research materials on microfilm, as part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art (AAA). The project yielded nearly 700 reels, a subset of which featured materials from women artists, artists of color, and galleries that hosted them. This subset is the focus of the TexTreasures grant which allowed University of Houston Libraries Special Collections and MFAH to collaborate on the digitization of approximately 150,000 images, previously available only in a limited, localized capacity in microfilm at MFAH. Digitized images of materials such as correspondence, exhibition catalogs, reviews, and publications will become openly available online with multiple points of access, thereby facilitating scholarship and research using unique primary sources.

“When these materials were gathered on microfilm at the MFAH as part of the AAA, it was a tremendous gift as far as preservation,” said Marie Wise, managing archivist at MFAH. “We are so fortunate that these rich materials were preserved as they were. In digitizing them and creating searchable metadata, we are now making them accessible to a far broader audience. In this way, scholars and students can uncover this amazing history.”

[Read more at libraries.uh.edu/about/news/texas-art-project](https://libraries.uh.edu/about/news/texas-art-project)



UH Libraries welcomes **Elizabeth Irvin-Stravoski** as the first manager of the Digital Research Commons (DRC).

Please describe your role at UH Libraries and talk about some of your professional goals.

I will be administering the Commons and helping the Digital Research Services department build and expand DRC offerings. I will also be assuming the management of the UH Institutional Repository, including processing electronic theses and dissertations.

Please share a bit about your background and interests. How do these inspire and shape your approach in digital research?

I graduated from UH in '19 (Go Coogs!) with a master's degree in English literature and a certificate in digital humanities. I hold a standard Texas Teacher's certificate for ELAR 7-12 and am also a licensed practical nurse. These life experiences, together with a focus on medieval literature during the pursuit of my degree, have fostered a curiosity in the intersection of the medical advances (or lack thereof) of an era, together with the literature it produces. Digital research provides the methods to consider such an intersection in excitingly thorough and unique ways.

Please summarize a few of your current projects.

My primary focus is to transition from public school teaching to managing the DRC, and all that that entails. However, I am very interested in revisiting/revising a project from my graduate student days, in which the literature of the 14th century is analyzed using digital methods—from a medical practitioner's standpoint—for its relevance and relation to the Black Death.

UH Libraries welcomes **Leo Martin** as the new resource description librarian.

Please describe your role at UH Libraries and talk about some of your professional goals.

I'm very excited to be joining UH Libraries as their new resource description librarian. I primarily create catalog records for music scores, sound recordings, and special collections materials. I am also researching recent trends in popular music, including established and emerging microgenres like chopped and screwed music and vaporwave music.

Please share a bit about your background and interests. How do these inspire and shape your approach as a librarian?

Collaboration underpins all of the work I do, and is foundational in my approach to librarianship. I'm an educator first and foremost, and I try to center my approach to cataloging resources on discovery and accessibility. My first job in a library was actually as a student assistant at the UH Music Library over in the Moores School of Music building! After a stint in the Marines I knocked out my B.S. in Music Education and M.S in Library Science with a focus in music librarianship at the University of North Texas. I've also gigged and taught bassoon and oboe lessons over the years, and was previously the catalog librarian for the New England Conservatory of Music.

What is your first impression of the University?

I had the opportunity to visit campus in mid-February before COVID-19 and thoroughly enjoyed my time interacting with the UH community. It's also a very good sign when students are in the library using resources and interacting regularly with the staff there. To also see how UH has navigated the uncertainty brought by the pandemic and both hire and onboard me is nothing short of impressive.

NEW ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS LGBT HISTORY RESEARCH COLLECTION

University of Houston Libraries is pleased to announce the establishment of a new endowment to support the LGBT History Research Collection.

The Hollyfield Foundation Endowment will provide funding for the acquisition and preservation of primary source materials in the LGBT History Research Collection, one of 13 collecting areas in UH Libraries Special Collections. The collection preserves and promotes the archives of LGBT communities and organizations from Houston and the region. Materials, including personal papers, organization records, and library collections, document the communities' activist, cultural, social, and political activities, and the personal experiences of community members.

Through its support of LGBT and AIDS non-profits, the Hollyfield Foundation has made a substantial positive impact on local LGBT communities since its inception in 1994. The Houston-based organization contributes to charities that work to prevent discrimination, promote equality, and assist in HIV/AIDS education, care and treatment.

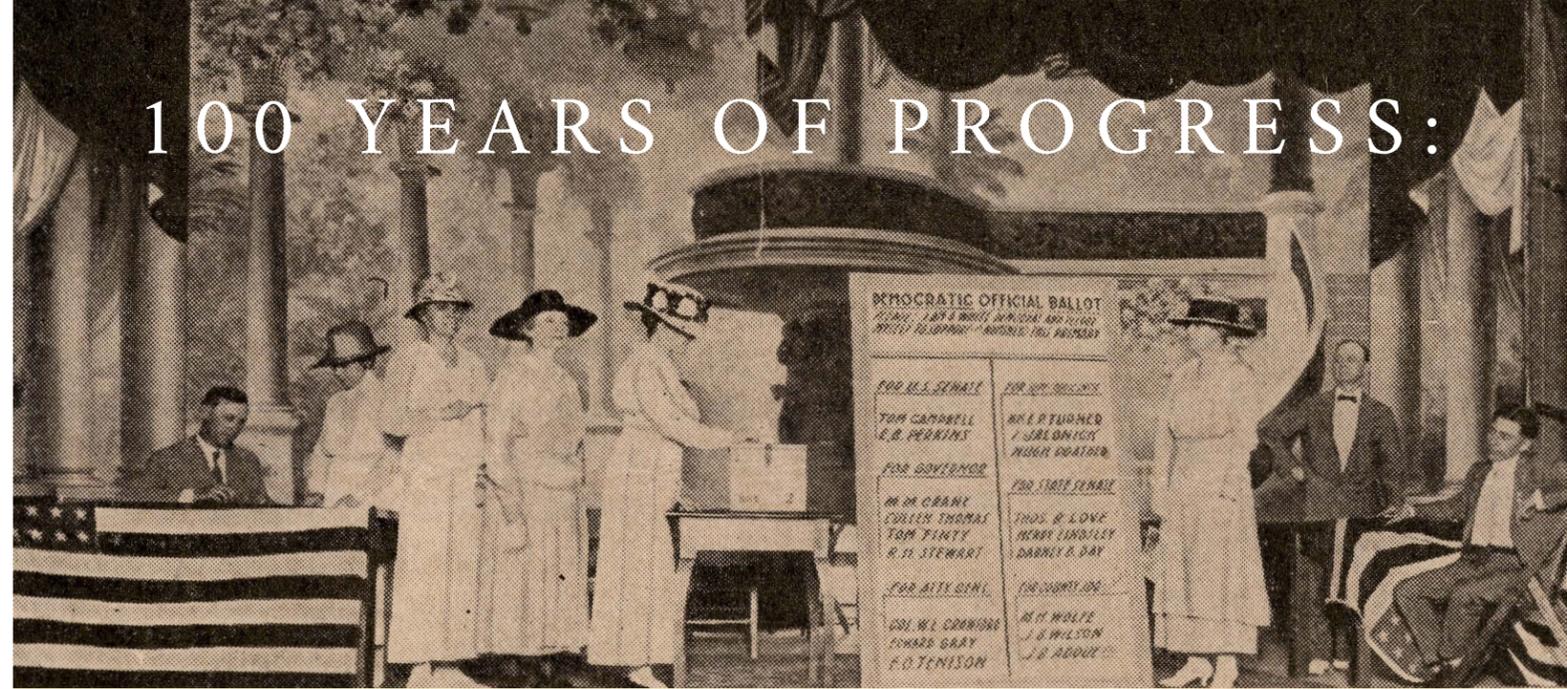
"Jay Hollyfield deeply loved Houston and our LGBT community and history,"

said Elizabeth McLane, Hollyfield Foundation board president. "The Hollyfield Foundation

Board of Directors is thrilled that his name will now be linked perpetually to one of the nation's most extensive and exceptional LGBT history collections."

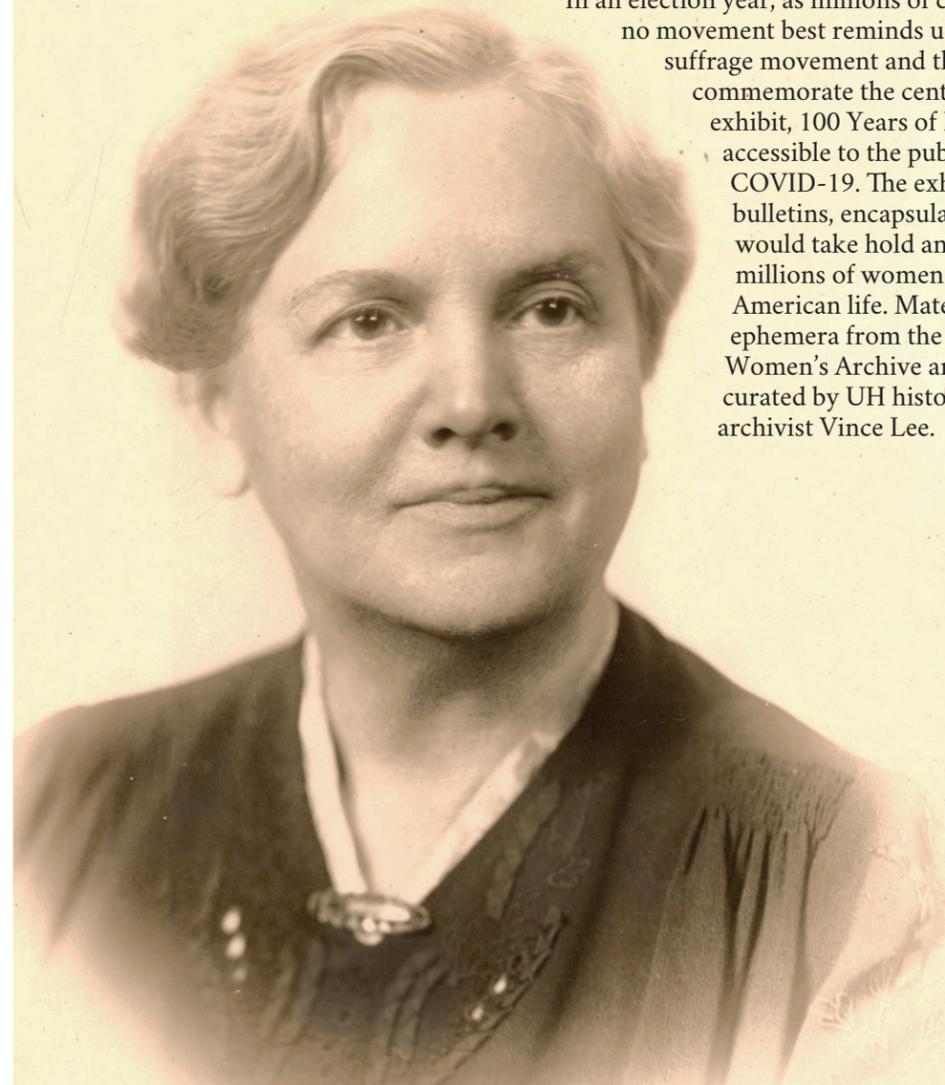
In recognition of this grant, UH Libraries will establish an annual exhibition of materials from the LGBT History Research Collection, to be held at MD Anderson Library during June each year as part of Pride Month.

Marilyn Myers, interim dean of UH Libraries, said the endowment supports the Libraries' mission to preserve and provide access to unique primary sources for teaching, learning, research, and scholarship. "This endowment will allow UH Libraries to expand the LGBT History Research Collection and increase engagement with students and scholars," Myers said. "With this gift, we'll be able to make accessible a rich collection of primary source materials to those seeking an understanding of the history and legacy of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities."



THE FIGHT MARCHES ON

In an election year, as millions of citizens exercise their right to vote, no movement best reminds us of this right than the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment. To commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, the digital exhibit, 100 Years of Progress, was created to be virtually accessible to the public despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. The exhibit, through its graphical art, maps, and bulletins, encapsulates how the idea of women's suffrage would take hold and transform into reality, mobilizing millions of women to strive for equality in all aspects of American life. Materials on display comprise documents and ephemera from the suffrage collections in the Carey Shuart Women's Archive and Research Collection. The exhibit was curated by UH history student Jennifer Southerland and archivist Vince Lee.



Women Voters ATTENTION

When, Where and How to Register.

TIME: June 26 to July 11, 1918.
PLACE: County Court House, 20th and Ave. H, at the office of the State and County Tax Collector, first floor.

Don't fail to register and do your duty as American citizens.

You cannot vote unless you register.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Sara Nafaryeh
Mathematics – Option in Mathematical Finance
Minor: Economics

In her role in Special Collections, Nafaryeh files documentation of artifact collection data, trains other student workers, pulls and reshelves archival material and books within closed stacks, and takes care of front desk duties.

"This is my first job as a student worker and I couldn't ask for a better one. I've gained self-confidence, people skills, and leadership abilities."

Krista Renée Pape, soprano
Master of Music, Vocal Performance and Pedagogy

Some of Pape's duties at the Music Library include recovering old books through reconstruction, repair, and sewing, maintaining study and work spaces, and creating fun and interactive displays that help patrons learn and get to know library collections.

"I've worked for the library for two years. My favorite part of the job is sewing new scores before placing them on the shelves for the patrons to peruse. It's a sneak peek at new product, while also holding the power to the literal binding and spine of the book. It's like doing book surgery!"



Ivan Lopez
Psychology

As a Learning Commons studio technician, Lopez records, mixes, and masters songs, produces instrumentals, and creates arrangements. Lopez serves as president of the new and upcoming music organization on campus, Astro Music Foundation.

"The creation and development of Astro Music Foundation is currently one of my biggest projects. After working with various artists and expanding my network since I first started my journey in the music industry, I brought my entire network together to create AMF and from that I plan on creating one of the greatest record labels the city of Houston has ever seen. Some of my biggest career goals for 2020 include getting a gold or platinum plaque and working in the music business full time."

Naomi Palomares
Psychology
Minor: Quantitative Social Sciences

Palomares works in Special Collections with archivist Julie Grob, assisting with projects related to the DJ Screw Hip Hop collection, cleaning vinyl records, or boxing rare and special books that are in delicate conditions.

"Working with Julie and the rare materials at Special Collections has shown me how lucky we are as UH students to have such materials available to us. I've learned to take advantage of all the resources that are available to me. As for career goals, I wish to continue with my education in graduate school, either focusing on clinical psychology or cognitive neuroscience. My ultimate career goal would be to work at a research center or hospital, to continue the advancement of our understanding of the human brain."



ALUMNI spotlight

Before Edith Villasenor became the circulation services manager in the Architecture, Design, and Art Library, she was a Libraries student worker. Discover a variety of ways for UH alumni to stay connected to UH Libraries at houstonalumni.com.

What was your field of study as a UH student, and when did you graduate?

I studied Art History with a minor in Studio Arts and graduated in December 2016 with high honors.

What were your duties as a student worker?

As a student worker my responsibilities were shelving books, organize the collection, shelf-read, stock supplies, clean & dust, check out books, process returns, paging, and ILL requests.

What are your current duties in the Architecture, Design, and Art Library?

My current duties now are hiring, training, supervising, scheduling, inventory, circulation reference and research assistance, planning, organizing, developing art programs, and student outreach.

What do you enjoy most about working at UH Libraries?

I've learned that connecting is rewarding. Whether it's by connecting someone to the library or a new resource, it's always very rewarding to see them use that knowledge.



PROFESSIONAL AND SCHOLARLY SPOTLIGHT

Reid Boehm and **Taylor Davis-Van Atta** presented “R is for raising awareness: Strategizing mindful changes using popular tools” at Librarians Building Momentum for Research Reproducibility, a virtual conference.

Boehm, as chair of the website committee for Research Data Access and Preservation (RDAP) Association, facilitated a website migration to a new website and membership platform.

Boehm and **Wenli Gao** presented “Dynamic duo! Functional specialists partnering with liaisons for research data services” at Southeast Data Librarian Symposium, New Orleans, LA.

Taylor Davis-Van Atta was an invited speaker to Writers for Migrant Justice by Houston Writers Coalition and hosted by the Holocaust Museum Houston; and is part of the Program Planning Committee for the 2020 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries (TCDL).

Davis-Van Atta presented “Customized CV service workflows for DSpace repositories” at the North American DSpace User Group Meeting, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Emily Deal, **Emma Fontenot**, and **Erica Lopez** were invited to submit an article to the *Journal of Library Administration*. The title is “Exploring the childcare-conundrum in academic librarianship.”

Veronica Arellano Douglas was selected as an Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Information Literacy Immersion Program facilitator; and was selected to participate in the 2020-2021 cohort of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership and Career Development Fellowship Program.

Douglas and J. Gadsby co-wrote “All carrots, no sticks: Relational practice and library instruction coordination” which was published in *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*.

Douglas presented a keynote, “Innovating against a brick wall: rebuilding the structures that shape our teaching,” at The Innovative Library Classroom conference, Williamsburg, VA.

Catherine Essinger wrote “Effective Strategies for Architectural Oral Histories” which appeared at *Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture News*.

Emma Fontenot was nominated to be on the standing committee for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institution (IFLA) Social Science Libraries Section.

Daniel Fuller was awarded a 2020 Support for Artists and Creative Individuals grant by Houston Arts Alliance which provides funds of up to \$15,000 for specific projects that stimulate the creation and presentation of new works of art or for completing work already in progress throughout the City of Houston.

Wenli Gao was appointed to the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) 2022 Steering Committee; and is a member of the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee.

Gao, R. Boehm, J. Xiao and **J. Wu** published “Past investigations fueling future innovations: An analysis of the Institute of Museum and Library Services national leadership grants for libraries” in *Texas Library Journal Special Edition*.

Gao and **Andrea Malone** presented “Responding to a campus initiative: Developing research impact services at the University of Houston Libraries” at National Institute of Health (NIH) Library Bibliometrics and Research Assessment Symposium online.

Gao co-presented a poster, “Why CALA: Leverage benefits from your CALA membership,” at ALA virtual conference Chinese American Librarian Association (CALA) poster session.

Christina Gola and **Lisa Martin** co-wrote “Creating an Emotional Intelligence Community of Practice: A Case Study for Academic Libraries” which appeared in *Journal of Library Administration*.

Gola was a panelist of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Forum at Texas Library Association Annual Conference.

Gola was invited to serve on an ARL Code of Conduct Implementation Task Force.

Gola began her term as 2020-2021 president of TLA.

Julie Grob was an invited participant to Documenting History in Your Own Backyard II: A Symposium for the Advancement of Archiving & Preserving Hip-Hop Culture.

Melody Karle’s book, *Social Media Survival Guide: How to use the most popular platforms and protect your privacy*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Karle is a member of the TLA 2021 Conference Program Planning Committee.

Karle was nominated to be vice-chair/chair-elect of the ALA Library Research Round Table Steering Committee for a three-year term.

Vince Lee is chair of the Committee on Public Awareness of Society of American Archivists.

Lee wrote “Planned Parenthood of Houston and southeast Texas: Providing affordable care and education to the Houston community” which appeared in *Houston History*.

John Lehner’s book chapter, “Teamwork, emotional intelligence, and the skills organizations need now,” was published in *Critical Librarianship: Advances in Library Administration and Organization*.

Lehner serves on the ALA Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC); and as chair of the Forward Together Fiscal Analysis Working Group of ALA.

Lisa Martin was elected as member-at-large for ALA Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Business Reference in Academic Libraries Committee (BRASS).

Martin was appointed as member of ACRL division-level committee due to role as section membership chair 2020-2021.

Martin co-presented a webinar, “Make the Path by Walking: Creating or recreating your job” at Amigos Library Services Member Conference: “Next Steps: Create and Cultivate a Career That Matters” and a virtual panel, “Role

Initiative: Creating or recreating your job” for The Library Collective with J. Cirasella, H. Park, and M. Rood.

Martin published “The Global Reach of Reference” in *Envisioning the Future of Reference: Trends, Reflections, and Innovations*.

Marilyn Myers is a member of the ACRL New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee.

Myers is the 2020 president of the Association for Conflict Resolution Houston (ACRH) chapter.

Daniel Pshock was invited to be on the panel “Usability testing makes all the difference” at TLA Annual Conference.

Ariana Santiago and **L. Ray** published “Navigating support models for OER publishing: Case studies from the University of Houston and the University of Washington” in *Reference Services Review*.

J. Albuero, A.K. Bradshaw, L. Lillard, Santiago, B. Smith, and **J. Vinopal** published “Looking beyond libraries for inclusive recruitment and retention practices: Four successful approaches” in *Critical Librarianship (Advances in Library Administration and Organization)*.

Santiago presented a poster, “Developing OER publishing support: A case study,” at Library Publishing Forum online; and co-presented on a panel, “Community conversation: Open education in the time of COVID,” at Open Textbook Network Summit online.

Santiago was appointed to the SPARC Open Education Advisory Group for a three-year term and serves on the Open Texas Conference Planning Committee.

Santiago was selected for the 2020-21 UH Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy.

Santi Thompson co-presented “Digital Library Assessment: Celebrating five years of community-driven work” at the Digital Library Federation (DLF) Forum.

Thompson co-wrote a report, “A survey of the state of research data services in 35 U.S. academic libraries, or ‘Wow,

what a sweeping question,’” which appeared in *Research Ideas and Outcomes*.

Emily Vinson was elected co-chair of Association of Moving Image Archivists Regional Audio-Visual Archives Committee.

Vinson co-presented on a virtual panel, “Broadening Accessibility During COVID Telework,” at I/VAA/V: Informal Virtual Audio Visual Summit convened by the Library of Congress.

Vinson co-presented on a virtual panel, “Queer Archives,” at Goethe-Institut, Berlin/Houston.

Vinson presented “Transcription of Archival Audiovisual Content: A Study of Accuracy and Cost” at Association for Recorded Sound Collections Conference online; “Approaches to Processing Audiovisual Archives for Improved Access and Preservation Planning” at OCLC Research Library Partnership as a Works in Progress Webinar; and “Telling Your Family Story with Tropy: The Basics of a Photo Management Tool” at Houston Genealogical Forum.

Vinson presented “Accuracy and cost assessment for archival video transcription methods” at the Federation Internationale des Archives de Television / International Federation of Television Archives World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Vinson and **Bethany Scott** won a \$348,751 grant for “Gulf Coast LGBT Radio and Television Digitization and Access Project” from National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources program.

Mea Warren published “Advocating for yourself in the promotion process” in *Journal of Academic Librarianship*.

Warren was elected a Member-At-Large for the Executive Board of the University Libraries Section (ULS) of ACRL.

S. Carlson, C. Lampert, D. Melvin, and **Anne Washington** co-wrote *Linked Data for the Perplexed Librarian*, an Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) monograph published by ALA Editions.

Madelyn Washington was appointed to the Taskforce on Antiracism for the Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts, University of Houston; and is co-chair of the Moores School of Music ad-hoc Committee on Antiracism.

M. Washington was the keynote speaker at Texas Chapter of the Music Library Association and the Southwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society Joint Fall Meeting; the talk was titled “Amplifying Under-Represented Voices in Collections, Research and Curriculum.”

M. Washington was elected as vice-chair/chair-elect for the Texas Chapter of the Music Library Association.

Annie Wu, T. Davis-Van Atta, S. Thompson, Bethany Scott, A. Washington and **Xiping Liu** co-wrote “From meow to ROAR: Expanding open access repository services at the University of Houston Libraries” which appeared in *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*.

Wu, S. Thompson, A. Washington, Todd Crocken, Sean Watkins, Leroy Vallejo and **Andrew Weidner** presented “Bridge2Hyku: Building the bridge towards an open source digital solution” at Digital Library Federation (DLF) Forum.

Wu, S. Thompson, A. Washington, S. Watkins, A. Weidner, Dean Seeman, and Nicholas Woodward published “Bridge2Hyku: Meeting Practitioners’ Needs in Digital Collections Migration to Open Source Samvera Repository” in *Publications*.

Wu, S. Thompson, A. Washington, S. Watkins, B. Scott, and **L. Vallejo** will present “Launching An Integrated Open Digital Eco-system for Cultural Heritage Collections at UH Libraries” at the 15th International Open Repositories Conference online (accepted).

Wu, S. Thompson, A. Washington, and **S. Watkins** will present “Reflections and Strategies on Managing an IMLS Awarded Grant Project - Bridge2Hyku” at Texas Conference on Digital Libraries online (accepted).

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