

2019-2020

PROGRESS REPORT

PATH TO EXCELLENCE



The Whistler Family

A Native Connection to Campus Corner

Don Whistler, the creator and original host of the Indians for Indians radio show, grew up at the Sac and Fox Agency. His parents were Leo Whistler



Don Whistler as a young man

Arty Whistler Show Collection #213



Leo Whistler in Cadet Majors in 1922.
Leo Whistler was a younger brother of Don.
The Cadet Majors, 1922.

NATIVE VOICES OVER THE AIRWAVES: THE INDIANS FOR INDIANS RADIO SHOW

Read more about the exhibit and opening event on page 18.



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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

An OU student uses virtual reality at the Architecture Library. **P. 8**

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.

2019–2020 Progress Report

University of Oklahoma Libraries
Bizzell Memorial Library
401 W. Brooks St.
Norman, OK 73019-6030
(405) 325-2611
<http://libraries.ou.edu>

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Architecture Library
Fine Arts Library
Youngblood Energy (Geology) Library
Engineering Library (closed for renovation)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Boorstin Collection
Chinese Literature Translation Archive
Harry W. Bass Business History Collection
History of Science Collections
John and Mary Nichols Rare Books
University Archives
Western History Collections
William Bennett Bizzell Bible Collection

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Couch Tower 3D Printing Lab
Library Service Center
Price College Digital Library

For hours and location details:
<https://libraries.ou.edu/locations>

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ON THE COVER

An OU student in the Learning Lab.

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

As I write this, our country is erupting in chaos. We're dealing with a pandemic, societal divides being fueled by police killings of black men and women and massive discrepancies in the areas of health care, economics and race. We're all uncertain how to cope and I'm feeling as dismayed as many of you. Frankly, that feeling overwhelms the message I want to convey because there are no satisfactory or comforting words to describe this moment in time. Still, every day is an opportunity for progress. In that spirit, we are publishing this Progress Report to share what OU Libraries accomplished in this past year.

"Before" and "After" are likely the easiest frame for this past academic year. While much was accomplished in both, the two semesters were so radically different, it is very difficult to compare them. The fall semester emphasized the Libraries as a gathering place, places where people and ideas converge to generate discovery and innovation. The spring semester brought us face-to-face with COVID-19 and the realization that the Libraries, like the university itself, would need to quickly convert to become a purely virtual operation, without sacrificing our essential role as the intellectual crossroads of the university.

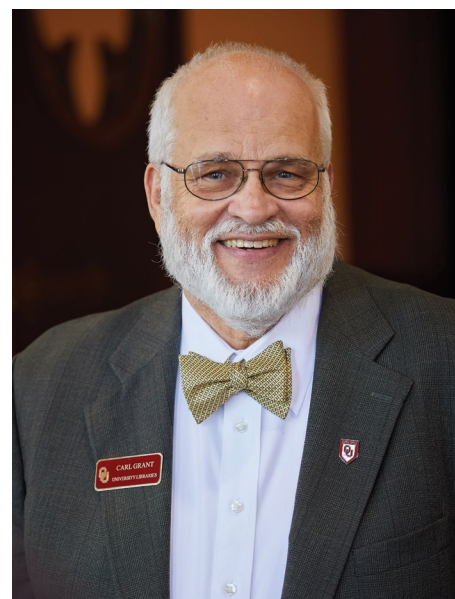
The past seven years of creating excellence in the virtual experience mean that the Libraries were uniquely positioned to make the transition to online support in less than one week and to be cited by many for the depth and breadth of the content and services we were able to make quickly available to our community. I'm immensely proud of the OU Libraries team who responded magnificently in the face of very stressful conditions.

One of our organizational values is agility. That value

has been fully embraced over the past few years, and the team has once again risen to the challenge to pivot operations while maintaining excellence. In case the team thought change would slow anytime soon, I have been recruited to join another organization in the field of automotive history, which for those of you who know me well, will know is one of my passions. Of course, the search to fill the permanent dean role is already well underway. In the meantime, I'm very pleased to tell you that the Provost's Office has named a new Interim Dean, Darin Fox, who was the Associate Dean of the College of Law Library. He is well qualified and well prepared to step in and keep the OU Libraries moving forward.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to lead OU Libraries for the past two years and to work with our donors, faculty, staff and students within the Libraries and from across the campus. It was a remarkable experience to have led this team and is something I shall never forget.

Boomer!
Carl Grant



LEFT OU Libraries personnel during the 2019 UL Day

CREATING EXCELLENCE IN THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Providing exceptional library experiences in-person and online

We have what you need

OU LIBRARIES connect students, faculty and staff with the materials that advance their research and scholarship. Those materials include lending services at the Bizzell Memorial Library and branch libraries for items as wide-ranging as laptops, cameras, telescopes, microscopes and 3D printed bones. Among the most recent additions is a [podcasting kit](#) that includes everything needed to record audio.

A [podcasting studio](#) on the main floor of Bizzell provides a quiet recording space, and an iMac preloaded with Audacity and GarageBand to edit and upload content. For those not sure how to start, among a diverse range of [introductory workshops](#) hosted through Innovation @ the Edge, Podcasting 101 is a one-hour tutorial on the basics of how to record, edit and publish a podcast.

OU student Jonathan (Jack) Franklin has checked out microphones and the podcasting kit for more than three months. What started as a hobby has turned into a paying job.

"I want to thank you... (for) providing this fantastic opportunity to me... There is a good chance that, had it not been for this college and the library's stocking a selection of microphones, that I would never have been able to pick up this hobby (not to mention making money from it)."

— JONATHAN FRANKLIN

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Oklahoma campus closed March 16, 2020.

To ensure students had access to the equipment they need to be successful during the transition to virtual learning, OU Libraries personnel prepared nearly 100 laptops and other technology for long-term loans.

LENDING IN 2019

13,037

Textbook Checkouts



10,497

Laptops



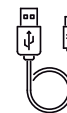
5,849

Laptop Chargers



16,906

Phone Chargers



4,883

Headphones



2,278

Calculators

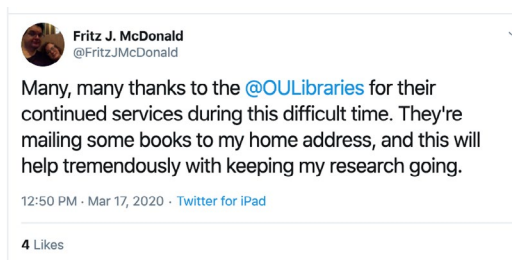


896

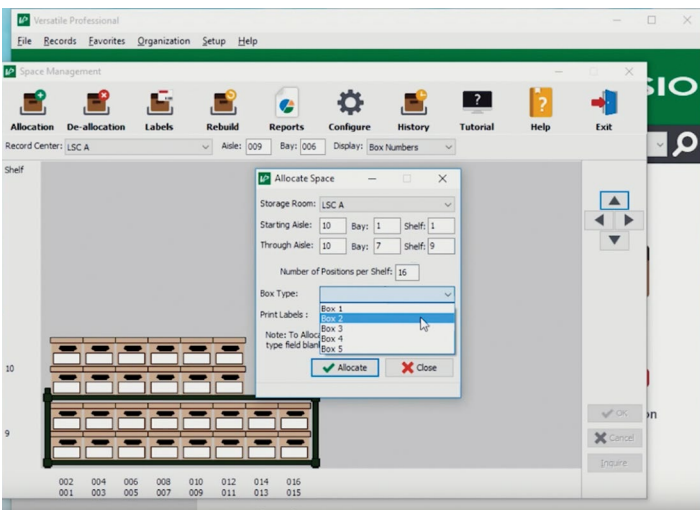
Camcorders/
Cameras



OU Students using the podcasting studio.



BLENDING VIRTUAL AND REALITY



TOP LEFT OU Libraries student employee shelving materials. **LEFT** Computer interface for inventory processing. **BOTTOM** OU Libraries student employee processing materials. **TOP RIGHT** OU Libraries student employee measuring a book in order to shelve by size. **BOTTOM RIGHT** OU Libraries student employee pulling materials.



MORE THAN 10,000 international maps and more than 100,000 reels of microfilm are located at the Library Service Center. Using an inventory control system, OU Libraries is expanding access to these collections. The system allows the LSC team to recreate the physical aisles of microfilm and map cabinets into a virtual representation. Once the virtual space has been created, it is configured to duplicate the bays and drawers of each cabinet. Each individual map or reel of microfilm are loaded into the inventory control system and then are assigned individually to the drawer they are located in. This allows Library Service Center employees to know the exact location of each item and to be able to retrieve all items quickly and with precision.

MODELING 3D SCANNING FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

FROM CUBICLES TO AFTER HOURS in the Edge, emerging technologies librarian, Kristi Wyatt, will meet with a faculty member or researcher and set up shop wherever possible in order to create a 3D model. These projects range from scanning rooms for the College of Architecture, to scanning artifacts prior to destructive analysis for the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and many more.

Council on Library and Information Resources Fellow with OU Libraries, Dr. Zenobie Garrett, is looking into ways of archiving the 3D data and working with Kristi to better understand the photogrammetric process and all of the data entailed.

During the summer of 2019, as both skill and demand increased, the 3D Scanning Lab was born. Containing a camera, lighting equipment and a computer built for processing

“The 3D Scanning Lab goes beyond the library’s traditional role of providing support, and instead includes the library as an active partner in research production. We never know who will come knocking next, but that’s part of the excitement.”

– KRISTI WYATT

TOP RIGHT 3D model in Agisoft software.

BOTTOM RIGHT OU student, Ian Miller, using 3D Scanning Lab to produce the 3D model of the Iron Age crucible above.

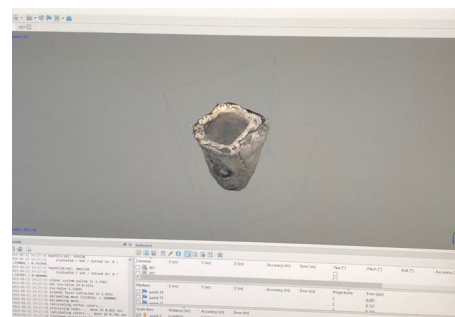


photogrammetric 3D models, this room has captured a fake crime scene, a motorcycle engine, ancient horse teeth, and astrolabes. All of this work led the team to build a comprehensive in-house workflow for the entire process – 3D scanning of the objects through model integration into course websites and virtual environments.

The 3D Scanning Lab has three primary goals:

- Provide researchers within the university greater access to the methods and equipment while easing the mental and temporal load new technology acquisition demands.
- Play a centralizing role in the documentation of this technology.
- Provide the chance for developing comprehensive cross-disciplinary collection, metadata, and storage standards.

From August through December 2019, the 3D Scanning Lab was booked for 55 photogrammetry sessions, and an additional 27 sessions from January



through mid-March 2020 prior to the campus closure.

A few projects that we have worked on in the lab include items from the OU Libraries History of Science Collections, a potentiometer, Cuneiform brick, Beringer sundial, and currently in the works, an astrolabe and quadrant.

One noteworthy campus collaboration includes that of anthropology professor, Dr. Thomas Fen and undergraduate student, Ian Miller, who are working with [OU Libraries to document and create models of ancient crucibles](#). They are also recipients of the recent Digital Scholarship Fellowship program, which will help in the continuation of this research involving 3D models and data comparison.

DEVELOPING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

“The biggest ‘Wows’ our team receives usually involve library-housed knowledge that has been packaged into an easy-to-use experience. This is no small feat. Even small app development can easily run into five figures. John’s skills have set OU Libraries apart from peer institutions by showing off what can be created through curation. In the lean times we have experienced in the last two years together, this skillset can’t be overvalued. Thanks to the hard work of John, we have positioned ourselves to be capable of delivering high quality digital outputs.”

– BOBBY REED

JOHN GRIME, emerging technologies developer, is the secret weapon to allow OU Libraries to create in-house custom software, including virtual reality, artificial reality, mobile apps, touchscreen exhibits and more.

The team emphasizes accessibility of emerging technologies by working closely with Darcy Maelzer, OU’s accessibility compliance analyst, to ensure software meets the needs of the widest possible user base.

Many of the team’s developments are also made openly available whenever possible so others, particularly other educational institutions, can benefit and

have to pay to adapt our technologies for their own uses.

One example of this is the Oklahoma Virtual Academic Laboratory (OVAL).

Faculty members and researchers from departments including geosciences, archaeology, the humanities, law and medicine have used OVAL to generate VR data presentations. Additionally, a recently published peer-reviewed scholarly manuscript studied the effects of using VR to provide users with more visual information than is possible using natural vision, “[Motivations, design, and preliminary testing for a 360° vision simulator](#)”; Grime, J.; Cook, M.; Virtual Reality (2020).



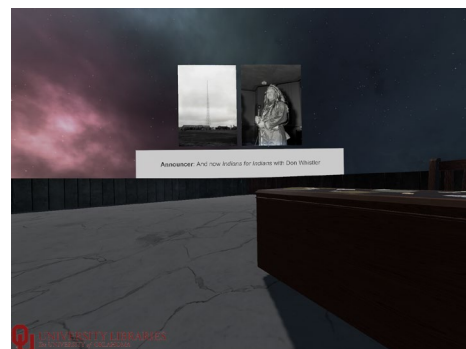
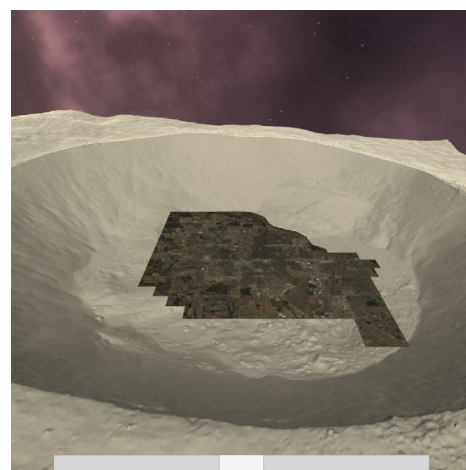
ABOVE Image from the “Indians for Indians Hour” recording studio model.

build from our work. Similarly, we minimize our use of commercial licenses, so other people don’t

“We try to generalize our software designs where possible; this lets us quickly adapt past projects to current and future initiatives, and make the most efficient use of our time. We also try to repurpose things like existing hardware to keep costs down.”

– JOHN GRIME

DEVELOPING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



“The original OVAL was a great initiative, and we had the opportunity to take a step back and consider how to build on that for future use. With previous experiences in mind, we redesigned and rebuilt OVAL from the ground up to make it easier to rapidly adapt to new collaborations. In short, we wanted to make OVAL more of a platform for projects rather than an end unto itself; we wanted a software framework to enable whatever we may want to do in VR and AR in the future.” – **JOHN GRIME**

Other collaborations include the libraries’ annual participation in ArtEdge, a program with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and a rotating campus department which brings Norman Public Schools 7th and 8th graders to campus to participate in meaningful discussions about the context and relationship between art and technology.

Another collaboration with the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History resulted in a 3D program for people to view the football stadium and a map of Norman inside a huge crater on the moon, using a model from NASA.

Future plans focus on maintaining and enhancing existing collaborations with faculty and researchers, as well as enhanced integration with library exhibits, expanding partnerships with other local museums and grant-funded collaborations with other institutions related to 3D printing, photogrammetry, and VR/AR.

ABOVE LEFT, TOP RIGHT Image from a moon crater display at the Sam Noble Museum. We created a 3D program for people to view the football stadium and a map of Norman inside a huge crater on the moon using a model from NASA. **MIDDLE AND BOTTOM RIGHT** Images from the “Indians for Indians Hour” recording studio model.

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND PRACTICES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not your average poster sessions

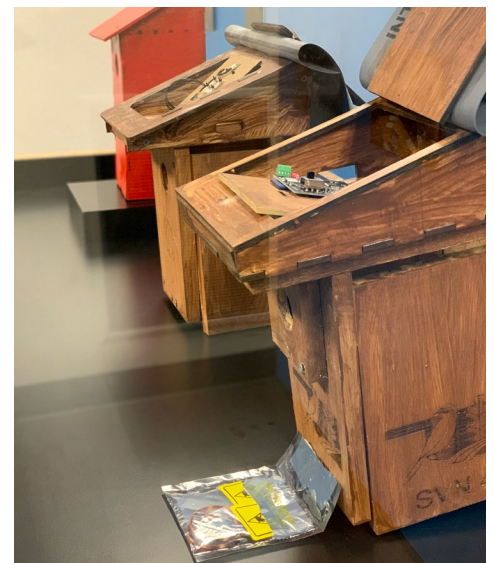
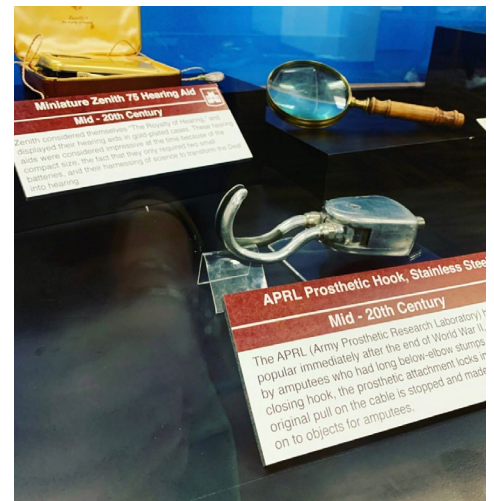
DISPLAYS BEGAN popping up around the Bizzell Memorial Library in July 2019. These small pop-up exhibits are typically only displayed for one month and link library holdings or resources to pop-culture. From the Sooner connections to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, MAD Magazine, and Scooby-

Doo, these mini exhibits shine light on little-known holdings and reframe visitors experiences and expectations of their library experience. They also engage the OU community in new ways, both as visitors and as collaborators.

Collaborative pop-up exhibits have showcased campus research on the history of disability, aeroecology at OU in conjunction with the special collections

exhibition on the 5th floor of Bizzell, and microbiology research on fuel tanks in military vehicles, to name a few.

With the Libraries closed, preparations are now underway for displays to highlight the OU community's response to the pandemic, including the Libraries own efforts in a campus COVID-19 Task Force.



CLOCKWISE Various pop-up exhibits featuring Scooby-Doo, disabilities, recipes, and more.

FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC WITH 3D PRINTING



3D Printed Swabs

- The State of Oklahoma needs up to 3,000 swabs per day to adequately test and screen the State's citizens.
- Bobby Reed, OU Libraries, designed a novel medically appropriate 3D printed swab to obtain nasopharyngeal mucus samples with superior performance and manufacturability to competitive approaches.
- Filed provisional patent and working on FDA approval for manufacturing.
- Partnering with SteriPure Health to produce and deliver swabs for Oklahoma.
- Ramping up production for clinical validation of swabs pending FDA authorization.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS

COVID-19 Essential Equipment Task Force

MORE THAN 40 individuals from across the University of Oklahoma's three campuses have combined their expertise to develop, prototype, validate and offer recommended essential equipment designs, available at ou.edu/foroklahoma.

Bobby Reed, head of emerging technologies, represents OU Libraries for this Task Force.

Fighting the pandemic with SwaB

During the height of the pandemic, up to 3,000 swabs were needed per day in the state of Oklahoma to adequately test and screen for the Sars-cov-2 virus.

Using his expertise in 3D printing, Bobby helped design a novel, medically appropriate, 3D printed swab to obtain

nasopharyngeal mucus samples with superior performance and manufacturability to competitive approaches.

In an effort to reduce the time and cost of production when compared to other 3D printed approaches to nasal swabs, the OU swab (SwaB) has been developed with two manufacturing methods in mind.

The design of the swab and the manufacturing process to produce the swab, capitalizes on the unique advantages of DLP printing while addressing needs and suggestions of healthcare workers.

OU partnered with SteriPure Health

to produce and deliver the swabs to medical centers in Oklahoma and is ramping up production for clinical validation of swabs pending FDA authorization.



Association of Research Libraries
@ARLnews

University of Oklahoma Technology Librarian, His Team Use 3D Printers to Create Masks to Send to Medical Centers

@OU_Libraries #ARLCOVID19



OU technology librarian, his team use 3D printers to create masks to send to med... Bobby Reed, a technology librarian at the University of Oklahoma, has a specialty in three-dimensional printing, a talent he's using to make masks to help during th... koco.com

SUPPORTING CAMPUS RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Digital Scholarship Fellows

A NEW DIGITAL scholarship fellowship program for OU students and faculty offers financial stipends and support for subject experts to provide fellows a deeper understanding of digital scholarship research methods.

Through the generous support of donor funding, five OU faculty and five undergraduate students received digital scholarship fellowships. The fellowship terms will begin in fall 2020 through the end of spring 2021.



“Digital scholarship extends traditional research methods to incorporate emerging technologies to advance scholarship. These fellowships aim to support collaboration across disciplines, build a community around the practice of digital scholarship, and to prepare students to become innovative researchers.”

– TARA CARLISLE
head of digital scholarship

PROJECT

BEYOND INVISIBILITY: BUILDING AN ONLINE COLLECTION OF BLACK PLAINS LITERATURE

FACULTY FELLOW: Kalenda Eaton, African American Literary and Cultural Studies

STUDENT FELLOW: Sally Johnson, English

PROJECT

3D DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF ANCIENT TRANS-SAHARAN TRADE

FACULTY FELLOW: Thomas Fenn, Anthropology

STUDENT FELLOW: Ian Miller, Anthropology

PROJECT

DIGITAL MAPPING WYMAN’S FLORIDA TRAVELS

FACULTY FELLOW: Asa Randall, Anthropology

STUDENT FELLOW: Laura Pott, Anthropology

PROJECT

USING THE MUKURTU PLATFORM TO SHARE OKLAHOMA INDIGENOUS IDENTITIES AND CULTURE

FACULTY FELLOW: Amanda Minks, Honors College

STUDENT FELLOW: Kamryn Yanchick, Native American Studies

PROJECT

DIGITAL HUMANITIES, POPULAR GEOPOLITICS AND THE SUBREDDIT R/POLANDBALL

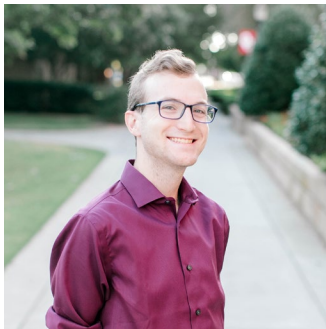
FACULTY FELLOW: Darren Purcell, Geography

STUDENT FELLOW: Carson Schlittler, Economics

CELEBRATING STUDENT RESEARCH: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS



THE OU LIBRARIES' Undergraduate Research Award recognizes students who have demonstrated creative use of Libraries resources and collections in exemplary research or innovative scholarship. Undergraduates in any discipline may submit their scholarship through OU's Centralized Academic Scholarship Hub (CASH). Winning submissions can be viewed in the [SHAREOK open access repository](#).



1ST PLACE, \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

KEVIN ROBB is a math and engineering physics undergraduate student hailing from Aledo, Texas. His primary academic interest is robotics, and working towards this goal at OU, he has become vice president of Sooner Competitive Robotics as well a researcher in Dr. Hougen's Robotics, Evolution, Adaptation, and Learning Laboratory (REAL Lab). Kevin also co-captains the competitive programming team in the computer science department and is a campus tour guide. He plans to attend graduate school for robotics and autonomous systems after his time at OU.



2ND PLACE, \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

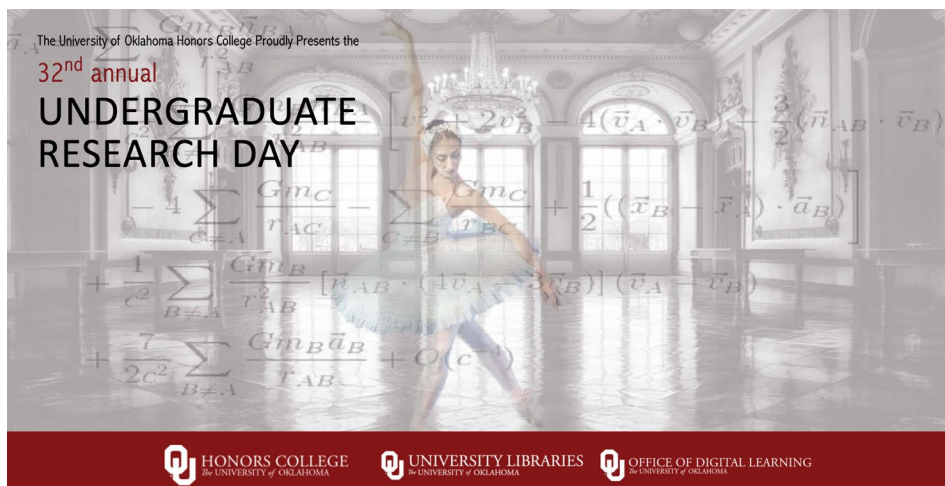
CONNOR HOPPER is a student in the Accelerated Master of Architecture program and has attended OU since 2016 when he graduated high school in Blanchard, Oklahoma. While he spent many years cheering on the university as a member of the Pride of Oklahoma, his true passion lies in architecture. His research explores the history behind architecture on OU's Norman campus in the early-to-mid-twentieth century.



3RD PLACE, \$750 SCHOLARSHIP

ANANYA BHAKTARAM is a junior at OU pursuing a dual-degree in Public Health and Letters-Constitutional studies with a minor in GIS. She is interested in researching health inequities that arise due to social determinants of health, focusing on negative health outcomes for urban, minority youth. She intends to apply to graduate school following the completion of her undergraduate education and would like to pursue a career in health policy.

COLLABORATING TO SAVE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DAY



THE ANNUAL Honors College Undergraduate Research Day showcases undergraduate research across campus. After this year's event had to initially be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic closure, Doug Gaffin, Interim Dean of the Honors College, knew the loss of this event would be felt broadly.

Interim Dean Gaffin made the decision to move the event online after consulting with colleagues around campus. He said, "My biggest challenge

was that I had no idea what I was doing and what I was getting myself into. I vastly underestimated the amount of time it would take to get all the pieces together, deal with unforeseen consequences, and literally cut, paste and reformat 142 abstracts. I overcame my initial ignorance by seeking out ideas from trusted experts across campus."

OU Libraries digital scholarship specialist, Tara Carlisle, and science librarian, Claire Curry, along with experts around campus including John Stewart at the Office of Digital Learning, came up with ideas to take Undergraduate Research Day online.

Thirty days between beginning discussion and launching the website on April 28, OU Libraries facilitated the design and the virtual experience for this online Undergraduate Research Day. Their goal was to provide as much access as possible while remaining attuned to faculty concerns about the more permanent nature of a web repository.

View the [Undergraduate Research Day award recipients](#). All student presentations are available via [OU Create](#).

"The transition would not have been possible without the tremendous help and expertise of many people. It took incredible coordination, and I am so thankful that we have such talented, selfless people on campus"

- DOUG GAFFIN

"Although much different than presenting live in front of people like last year, URD this year was still a great opportunity. I imagine the scientific community will be moving toward doing more online conferences in the future, so this provided a great opportunity to get experience in creating a video presentation and consuming others' work. After putting all the work into my project and abstract/application for URD, I was excited that I would still be able to present my work. I think this format even made watching other people's presentations more accessible, since during the actual event, we would often be presenting simultaneously. I am very proud of how my presentation turned out and am glad that I and others can access it at any time in the future."

- MICHAELA MURPHY, JUNIOR IN
MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



THESES AND DISSERTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

OU LIBRARIES partnered with the Graduate College to make theses and dissertations widely available online through SHAREOK, OU's institutional repository. Graduate students now deposit their theses and dissertations electronically to SHAREOK, making them available to a worldwide audience. As a result of this partnership, nearly 10,000 theses and dissertations are now available in [SHAREOK](#).

OU Libraries play a vital role by keeping the SHAREOK platform accessible and operational and by responding to questions from, sometimes nervous, students submitting their culminating work for a doctoral or master's degree.

SHAREOK
advancing Oklahoma scholarship, research and institutional memory

SHAREOK Home / The University of Oklahoma

Search

This Community
 Search SHAREOK

BROWSE

This Community

By Issue Date

Authors

Titles

Subjects

By Series

All of SHAREOK

Communities & Collections

By Issue Date

Authors

Titles

Subjects

By Series

The University of Oklahoma

Sub-communities within this community

- OU - Open Educational Resources (OER) [105]
- OU - Academic Colleges, Departments, and Programs [29]
- OU - Administration, Administrative Offices [0]
- OU - Health Sciences Center [0]
- OU - Institutes, Centers, Commissions, Labs, and Offices [123]
- OU - OU Press [1]
- OU - Research Data [22078]
- OU - Tulsa Schusterman Center [23]
- OU - University Libraries [36]

Collections in this community

- OU - Dissertations [8562]
- OU - Faculty and Staff Publications [1190]
- OU - Graduate Student Publications [25]
- OU - Library Special Collections [4]
- OU - Purchased eResources [4]
- OU - Theses [1211]
- OU - Web Archives [1]

Recent Submissions

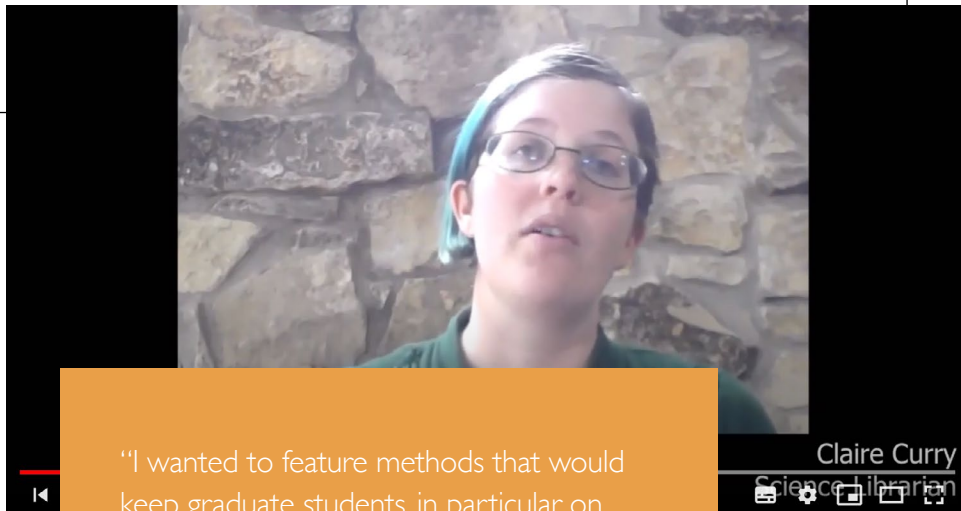


STEM SUPPORT FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE

What's next: meta-analysis



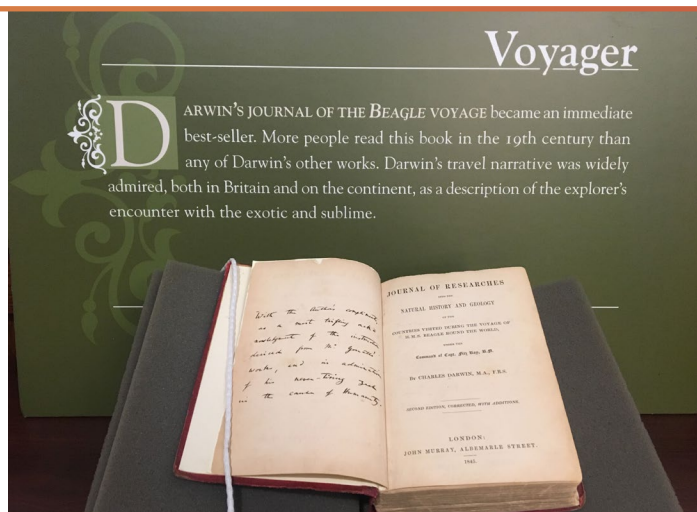
CLAIRE CURRY, science librarian, got the idea to feature remote “work-from-home” ways to do research after talking to friends who were worried about the potential cancellation of their field seasons. The video series is available on [Youtube](#) and cover topics including meta-analysis, a way to statistically extract trends from multiple published studies, as well as accessing existing datasets, and literature synthesis – all three topics leverage the Libraries’ strengths in literature searching and data management to summarize resources and options available to STEM researchers.



“I wanted to feature methods that would keep graduate students, in particular, on track since missing a whole field or lab season is very stressful and can change their ability to graduate on time. As I thought about it more, I realized it might be helpful for time-limited postdocs and undergraduates writing up research as well.”

– CLAIRE CURRY

INTEGRATING OU LIBRARIES IN COURSEWORK



THIS SPRING, Brent Tweedy taught a Biology Senior Capstone course with an emphasis on History of Science. The primary focus of the course was independent research projects conducted

“Students made use of the History of Science Collections, both to work directly with primary sources, as well as to access the perspectives of historians on their topics. They also received invaluable help from Dr. JoAnn Palmeri, the Collections’ Librarian and Research Coordinator; Collections’ graduate assistant Dr. Carolyn Scarce, and History of Science faculty, Dr. Piers Hale, to help them think of issues from a history perspective.”

– BRENT TWEEDY

by groups of students looking at scientific issues through a historical lens.

Students chose topics including the history of evolution in American classrooms, comparisons between the 1918 Spanish Flu and COVID-19, factors affecting public trust in science, and a historical perspective on CRISPR technology and its potential uses.

Although the original plan was for the students to design and build pop-up exhibits with the help of OU Libraries exhibits manager, James Burnes, to display

in the Bizzell Memorial Library, the campus was closed due to the pandemic one week before they were to turn in their exhibit materials for production.

However, the students converted their plans for physical exhibits to [digital exhibits](#). They also presented their work in a public symposia that was conducted virtually via Zoom. The students made extensive use of [Presentation Consultations](#) to help tailor their presentations to an online environment.

STUDENT REACTIONS

“This course was really enjoyable and I learned a lot about research and presenting. I loved doing my capstone for history of science!”

“I think structuring the class around the individual presentations (vignettes) and final presentation (symposia) was a great way to structure this project-focused course.”

“I really liked the exhibit idea. I wish that it came to fruition, but I am happy we at least got to create them virtually.”

BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Classes in the Collections

DURING CLASS VISITS throughout this last academic year, hundreds of OU students enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about rare books and other original materials held in the 5th floor special collections. During these visits, curators engaged students with hands-on viewing of unique objects from the Bizzell Bible, Bass Business, History of Science and Nichols Literature Collections.

While most faculty members bring their classes for a general introduction to rare books and archival materials. This year, the curators experimented with a new approach to instruction - a workshop format which included multiple class visits. Students in two undergraduate classes, Brent Tweedy's Biology Capstone and Jennifer Davis' Atlantic Revolutions course, visited the collections multiple times during the semester, working on individual projects and in groups. These ongoing visits facilitated students' in-depth exploration of topics and engagement with collection materials.

Jennifer Davis wanted students in her Atlantic Revolutions course to have an opportunity to immerse themselves with a particular primary source over the course of the semester. The plan developed in collaboration with the curator, JoAnn Palmeri, was to have the class visit the collections four times during fall 2019; initially, for an orientation visit with viewing of representative materials, and subsequently, for three visits in which they worked on selecting and studying an original resource. During these visits students worked individually but also

benefited from a workshop format, which encouraged conversations and interactions with each other as well as the professor and curator. Notably, students from this class presented their research at the 2020 Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference on campus in February.

OU senior Katie Sahlstrom said her time visiting the special collections helped her narrow her area of research and hone her investigative skills by learning how to ask certain questions of sources. Katie also received a digital scholarship internship with OU Libraries to create an online



exhibit for her project, [1908 Merry Widow Hats](#). She said her research benefited from her internship with the digital scholarship team because it helped her see how digital scholarship tools and resources, like online exhibits, apply to current scholarship and connect to a larger community.

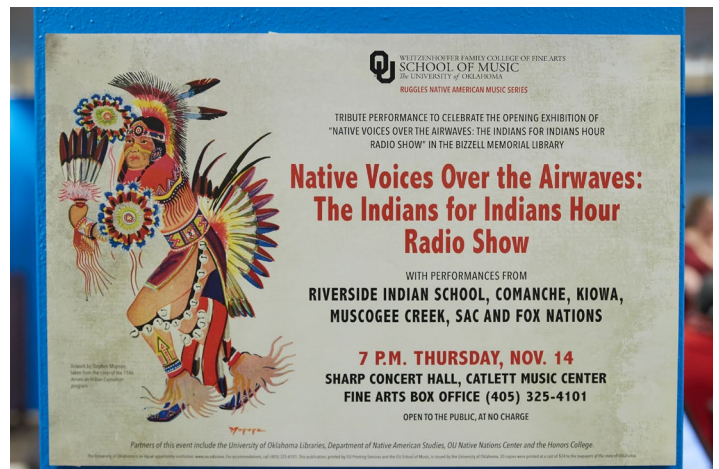
"It was really amazing to actually touch, smell, and see works from the eighteenth-century which related to our course study...One of the sources, written from a British perspective, laid out the events of the American Revolution and included sketches of figures such as Benjamin Franklin and King George III. I was struck by how each figure was portrayed through their clothing and wondered why some looked more 'rag-tag' while others looked very 'put-together.' This inspired me to look into the ideas clothing can help portray to certain people and the importance of this portrayal during the American Revolution. I was able to go back through some of the sources on my own time, in particular, one that showed amazing pictures of the French Revolution. Through this experience, I was able to see ways that French and American fashions may have conversed with one another throughout this particular time period and specifically in regards to the American Revolution...Part of what makes researching so much fun is enjoying the sources that you have to work with and I definitely enjoyed working with the primary sources I had for my topic."

– KATIE SAHLSTROM

NATIVE VOICES OVER THE AIRWAVES: THE INDIANS FOR INDIANS RADIO SHOW



CLOCKWISE Photos from the opening reception of *Native Voices*.



NEARLY 90 PEOPLE attended the opening reception of *Native Voices*, an exhibition drawn from the Western History Collections. At the opening, Principal Chief of the Sac and Fox tribe Justin F. Wood and Donna Williams, the granddaughter of Chief Whistler, the founder of the radio show, spoke to attendees about the shows significance

and the value of this resource becoming digitally preserved and accessible. The celebration continued that evening with a tribute performance in Catlett Music Center, where eight tribal and school groups demonstrated the diversity of cultures represented in the Indians for Indians radio show.

To accompany the physical exhibition, the University Libraries presented a dynamic virtual reality experience that placed participants into a VR model of the original recording studio, where the participants could listen to original recordings of the radio broadcast accompanied by relevant archive photographs.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER



CLOCKWISE Photos from the *Wild Little Honker* and other birds from the special collections exhibition.



Wild Little Honker and other birds from the special collections exhibition featured works from the Lois Lenski Collection of Children's Literature, the Jackson Rinn Pope III History of Ornithology Collection, and the History of Science Collections. The books included guides for bird identification, bird stories for children, ways of describing bird song with words and notation, and information about bird watching.

To accompany the exhibit, OU Libraries created an iPad "scavenger hunt" app. Visitors to the exhibit were encouraged to find specific birds in the pages of the displayed books by taking pictures of them with the iPad's camera; the app then used image recognition to verify the photos. The app also provided audio examples of each bird's song. If a visitor found all of the specified birds, the

visitor would receive a prize, a little 3D printed bird to keep as a souvenir!

As with all our emerging technologies projects, the team aimed to ensure the technologies we developed would serve as a platform for future work, at OU and elsewhere. The app design was based on open source software, or software we created ourselves, so we could release the software platform to the wider community with few if any restrictions on use.

In conjunction with the birds exhibit, OU Libraries also hosted series of small, rotating exhibits on current bird research occurring at OU on the main floor of the library. These pop-up exhibits rotated on a monthly basis and covered avian-related research including: aeroecology, birds and bird-watching.



RENEGADES



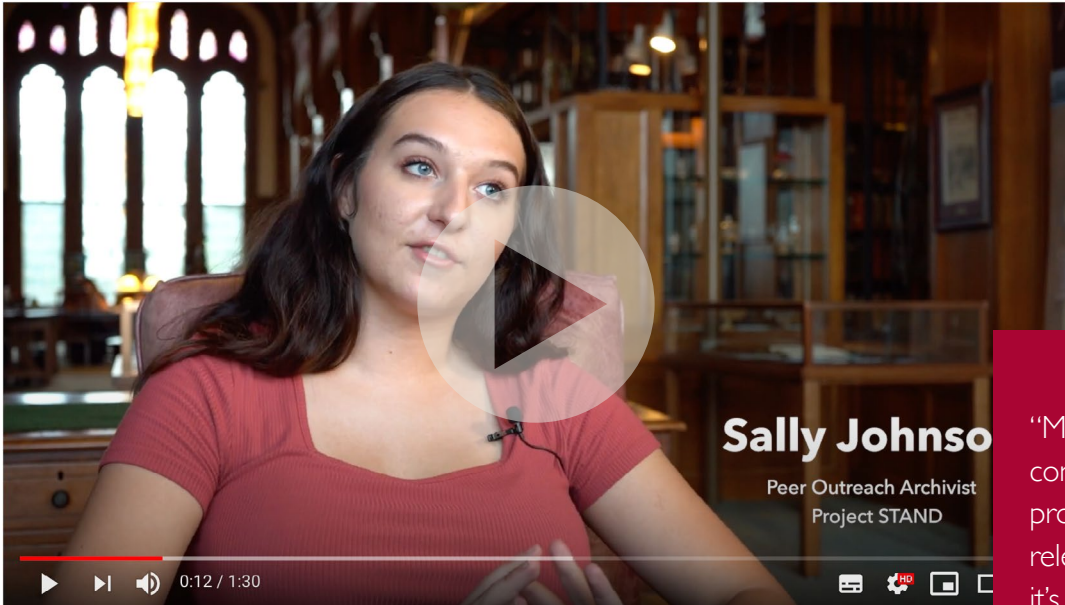
THE BIZZELL Memorial Library staged an exhibition of work related to the American School Archive in 2018-2019, drawing on material already held in the College of Architecture and in the Western History Collections' University Archives. A new exhibition, *Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture*, recently closed at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. However, the archival work is ongoing for the ever-growing American School Archive.

This spring, OU Libraries announced the availability of nine recently donated collections to the American School Archive held within the Western History

Collections. The collections which are now available include correspondence between Goff and a client, Celestine Barby, drawings by architects Robert Ingulli, Ernest Burden, Donald Olsen, William Murphy and Melvin Shivvers, that were made while they were students in the OU architecture program, research files about Goff gathered by the architect Donald MacDonald, and material related to Mendel Glickman about his work with Goff and Frank Lloyd Wright. Collections are described in the Libraries' catalog, and in finding aids available online.



DOCUMENTING STUDENT ACTIVISM



IN SPRING 2019, Sally Johnson became OU Libraries first peer archivist in support of the Libraries' membership in Project STAND (Student Activism Now Documented), a national consortium of more than 40 colleges and universities that are creating an [online hub](#) to heighten access to digital and analog archival and historical collections documenting student activism.

By collecting materials from student organizations, both current and historical, Sally worked with OU Libraries special collections team to help create a central archive of student activism within the University Archives in the Western History Collections to contribute to the national project.

Two collections from the University Archives that are now findable via the [Project STAND site](#) include: a selection of papers from the papers of OU president George Lynn Cross that reveal the university's reaction to the OU chapter of

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the early 1960s, as well as a collection of "underground" student newspapers published on campus that explore gay rights, student reactions to the war in Vietnam, and the counterculture during that decade.

Due to her efforts, Sally was selected as a speaker at the final [Project STAND forum](#) in February 2020 at Arizona State University. She presented as part of a panel on "Representation and Overcoming Silences in University Archives."

The archives added to the Project STAND website have been featured as examples to other institutions involved in the project and were included among the American Library Association's 2020 ["the Value of Libraries in Promoting Social Justice" gallery](#) highlighting efforts by public and academic libraries from across the nation working to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice.

"My favorite thing that I've come to realize about this project is that I'm doing real, relevant archival work and it's making a difference in my community which has been such a rewarding experience. It's been really beautiful to see the way that the historical side of activism on our campus... interacts with the current activism that is happening on our campus... For me personally, this experience has been a very defining moment of my college career because it has helped me recognize that this is what I want to be doing for the rest of my life. This has been such a dream to work on. The people have been incredible. I've learned so much about archival work, ethical archival work, but also about myself."

– SALLY JOHNSON

THIS SPRING, metadata and collections management archivist, Bailey Hoffner, completed a 9-month plan for implementing ArchivesSpace, a broadly supported, open-source application for managing archival information.

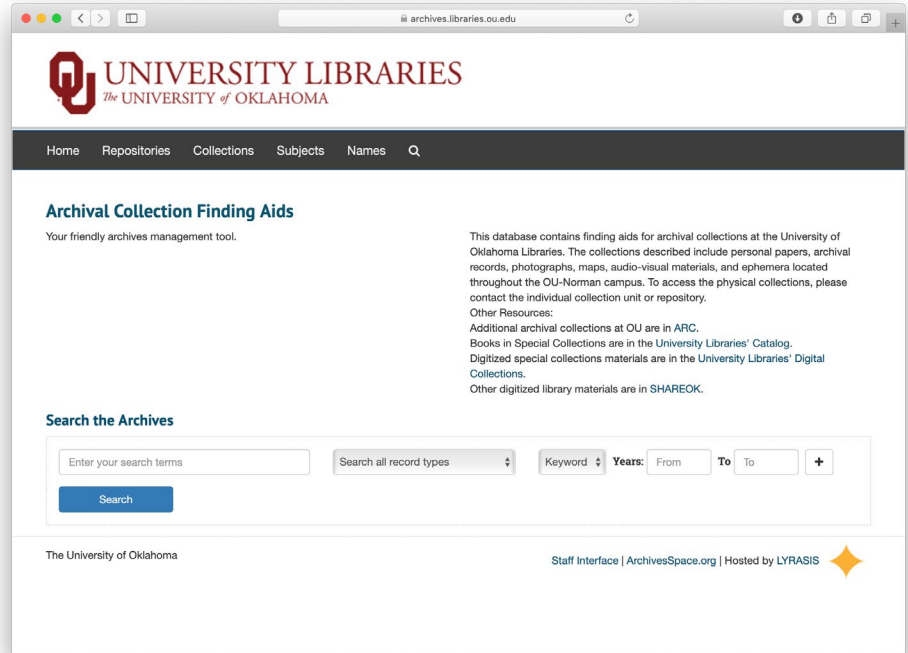
The bulk of that work transformed more than 3,500 Western History Collections finding aids, which are specialized inventories of archival materials, into Encoded Archival Description files. Among many benefits, this change allows archivists to create information once while making it available to researchers in a variety of formats.

In response to the need for goal-oriented telecommute work, team members from across OU Libraries came together to form a working group. Nearly 20 employees and graduate assistants contributed to the project from home.

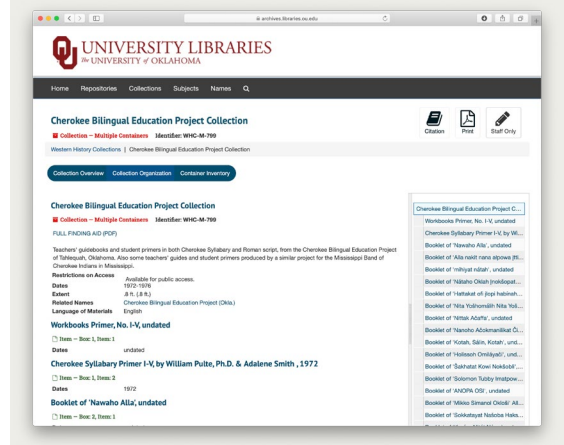
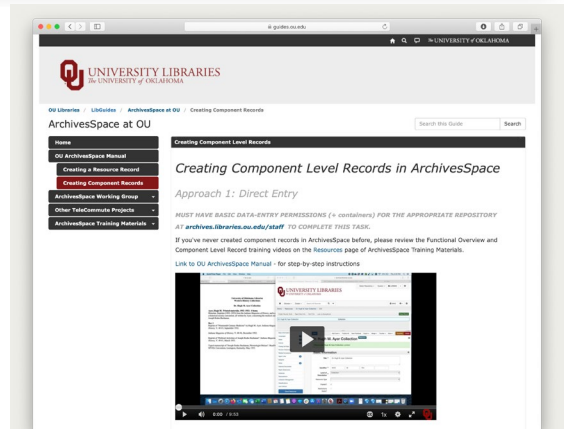
After just nine weeks, the working group launched a beta version of the new website – a goal which initially would not have otherwise been met until at least July – instantly providing better access to information about special collections at OU.

Moving forward, the group will continue to add more in-depth descriptive information to ArchivesSpace as well as work with an intern from the School of Library and Information Studies program to identify improvements to the user experience. The full launch of the site is planned for July 17, 2020.

Bailey presented on the project at the ArchiveSpace Online Forum in May 2020.



ABOVE AND RIGHT Screenshot of a fully searchable, standardized finding aid in ArchivesSpace, an example of the on-demand trainings developed for telecommute work, and the homepage for OU's instance of ArchivesSpace. **BELOW** Bailey Hoffner presenting on the ArchivesSpace project.



STRENGTHENING SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION

Supporting a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion

FINE ARTS LIBRARIAN, Matt Stock, coordinated the panel discussion *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: User Perspectives* for the Mountain Plains Music Library Association's annual meeting. Moderated by OU's Tribal Liaison Officer Warren Queton, the discussion touched on a wide range of issues including the unique needs of hearing impaired users, the underrepresentation of women and people of color in the traditional

undergraduate music curriculum, the cultural differences between a historically black college and larger state universities, and the limited number of role models in performance and higher education for people of color. Joey Albin, educational and social sciences librarian, also addressed some of the ways disabled students, and specifically those with hearing disabilities, experience the library and higher education, and how that fits into overall diversity and inclusion practices.

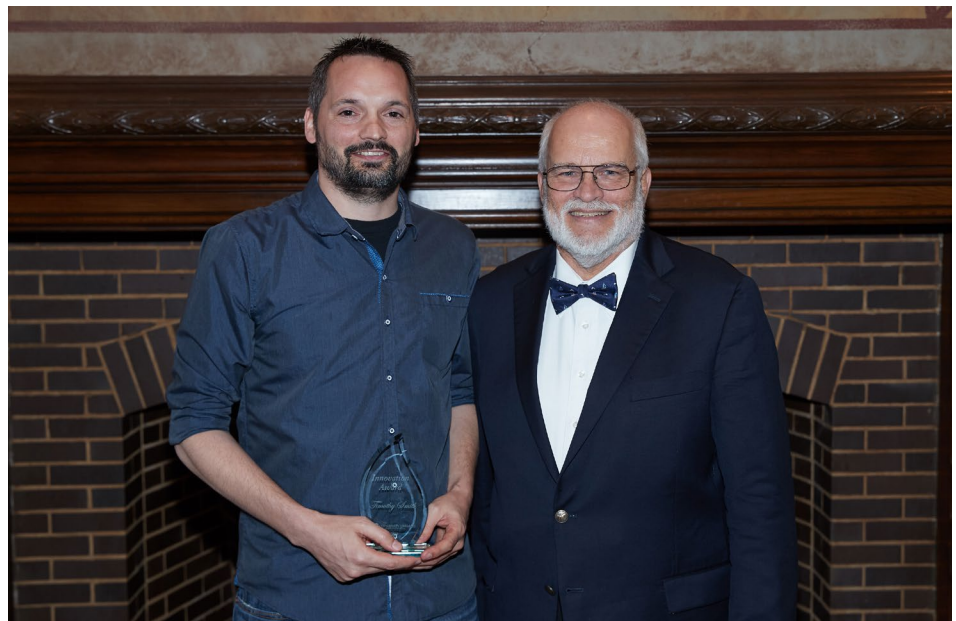


The virtual panel was attended by over fifty music librarians from across the country and has sparked an important discussion of how libraries can better meet the needs of all our users.

MOVING AND SHAKING

WHILE OKLAHOMA is used to some moving and shaking, this is becoming a regular occurrence. Library Journal has named Tim Smith, head of web services and artificial intelligence, a Mover and Shaker in the digital developer category. Tim is now OU Libraries' fourth team member to receive this recognition in seven years.

Using open source base code and 3D printing, Tim created a solution that measured much more than the number of visitors to library exhibits. Now, we can find out how long a visitor lingers at a specific portion of an exhibit and which displays are more engaging.



ABOVE Tim Smith with interim OU Libraries Dean Carl Grant

When OU installed Amazon smart speakers in about 600 dorm rooms, Tim led the creation of a library chatbot that

uses technology to answer basic library questions and search the catalog, the website and research guides.

IMPROVISING TO IMPROVE LIBRARY SERVICE



OU LIBRARIES is always looking for ways to improve its services.

Jay Edwards, circulation supervisor for the Fine Arts Library, can often be found leading improv workshops for OU Outreach, the Medieval Fair of Norman, and even to librarians. In fact, Jay has been performing and directing in improv theater for 20 years.

Training librarians and student employees on interacting with patrons can be a challenge. How do you replicate the immediacy and spontaneity of interacting with a patron? How do you train these skills in a low-anxiety classroom setting?

Jay worked with his colleagues at OU Libraries, Cassandra Darling, Courtney Oliphant and Patrick Wright, to answer those questions by integrating applied exercises derived from improv theater into student employee trainings at OU Libraries. These activities built on the

improv concept “Yes, And,” where each participant accepts information and builds positively upon it. Student employees practiced active listening, collaboration and other interpersonal skills with low-stress exercises in a safe and inclusive environment.

Jay also developed advanced workshops for librarians and library school students. These workshops explored librarianship through the lens of improv theater, both as a metaphor for adaptability and as a method to develop skills in reference, instruction and information literacy. Workshops were held in OU Norman, OU Tulsa, and the SW OKC public library, among others.

“Jay Edward’s ‘Improv in the Library Workshop’ was a revelation. The concept of bringing improvisation into the well-ordered and systematic practice of librarianship was totally new and surprising. Jay provides an opportunity to experiment outside of our librarianship mindset and let our imaginations travel freely along with our patrons to achieve a better understanding of their information needs. The trajectories of the interactions in the workshop were not your typical ‘reference interview’ and illustrated fresh and fun ways to help strengthen my library and information science students’ listening and problem solving skills. Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend!”

– **CECELIA BROWN**

Professor Emeritus of Library
and Information Studies

PERSONNEL AWARD RECIPIENTS



THE THOMAS & CATHERINE LUCCOCK LIBRARY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Thomas and Catherine Luccock Library Award of Excellence is the highest honor awarded by the University of Oklahoma Libraries. It recognizes and commends an individual for superior performance and contributions to the Library. This person demonstrates excellence in the performance of their job responsibilities and makes significant contributions to the strategic initiatives and priorities of the University Libraries.

Chelsea Julian,
Communications Specialist



THOMAS AND CATHERINE LUCCOCK OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Thomas and Catherine Luccock Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Excellence recognizes the outstanding performance and contributions to the services and programs at the Library by a graduate research assistant.

- Nick Cousino



MACKENZIE CARNEY



CESLIE LLOYD



PETER SANDELL

THE THOMAS AND CATHERINE LUCCOCK OUTSTANDING LIBRARY STUDENT EMPLOYEE AWARD

The Thomas and Catherine Luccock Outstanding Student Award for Excellence celebrates students who were outstanding in their performances and their contributions to the services and programs of the Library.

- Mackenzie Carney
- Ceslie Loyd
- Peter Sandell

AWARD WINNERS

EXTRA MILE AWARD
Jay Edwards

HIDDEN HERO AWARD
Cody Bennett and Jared Nixon

COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT AWARD: SERVICES TEAM

- Claire Curry
- Amanda Schilling
- Brent Tweedy
- James Bierman
- Mark Laufersweiler

BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD

Mark Laufersweiler

CUSTOMER COMMITMENT AWARD
William Wilson

INNOVATION AWARD
Sara Huber

BIZZELL LIBRARY SOCIETY

THE MEMBERS OF OUR Bizzell Library Society are essential partners in helping realize the vision of the OU Libraries as a leader in academic research libraries. As the intellectual crossroads of the university, we strive to empower and engage the creativity of our

faculty, staff, and students. Your support ensures that we continue on our path and is an investment in the future of our community. Thank you for your continued support.

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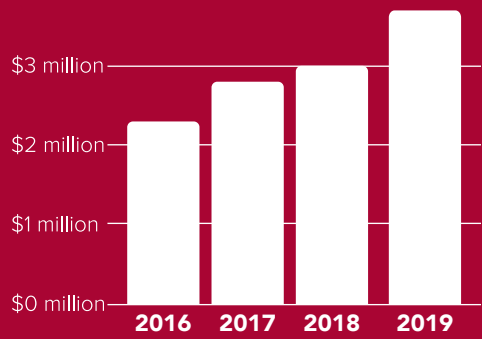


ABOVE Bizzell Library Society fall dinner, 2017.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS


1,456,028
 visitors to
 OU Libraries

\$3.8M
 in textbook
 savings for
 students



449,815
 online sessions

1.67M
 online sessions



3.7M
 pageviews

115,747
 items circulated

10,802
 textbooks loaned




47,516
 tech loaned




2,412
 instructional sessions,
 presentations,
 consultations




 Attendance
17,852

8,708
 questions
 answered


686,245
 ebooks* were
 accessed in 2019
 *and excerpted chapters

16,512
 items delivered
 through
 Sooner Xpress



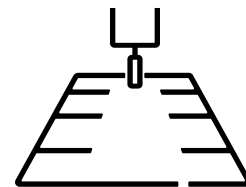
*The Politics of Adaptation:
 Media Convergence
 and Ideology*

ILL furthest
 distance traveled:
8,751 mi
 away from Norman.

*Australian National University
 in Canberra, Australia*



3D Printed
156
 kilograms and
64,753
 feet of filament –
 enough to cover Owen
 Field 1.44 times!



22,617
 items shared
 through ILL

"I'm so #thankful for @OU_Libraries #openaccess research fund. Since our research budget depends on the cash we find under the couch cushions, we may not have been able to publish!"

– **OU_BIOLOGGING**

"One of the best things that ever happened to my Indian Epics class was getting this Alternative Textbook Grant: the class is much improved . . . and the people at @OU_Libraries were so helpful every step of the way."

– **LAURA GIBBS**

"@OU_Libraries is among the nicest places I've ever done research at. And I've seen quite a few! Miss that place!"

– **DAVID SALOMONI**

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