

# IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*



**Friends and Colleagues,**

The books are closed on the 2022–2023 academic year, but we could not be happier to see the continued recovery after COVID in academic libraries.

Here at University of Oklahoma Libraries, we were thrilled to see gate counts on the first day of the fall 2023 semester edge even closer to pre-pandemic numbers. Indeed, walk through Bizzell Memorial Library and you will see full study tables and collaborative spaces, lines out the door at the Bookmark for a cup of coffee, and the faint hum of studious conversations in every corner of our beautiful building.

For our Impact Report, we showcase the ways in which University Libraries continue to serve as an academic and research center on campus. Organized by division, this report is but a snapshot of our information professionals' sustained activity and innovation and I am proud to share it with you.

Onward!

Denise Stephens  
Peggy V. Helmerich Dean of University Libraries

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# USER SERVICES

Reconfigured in 2021, Bizzell User Services Team (BUST) tirelessly sets the pace for UL's customer service and campus outreach activities.

Summer 2023 also saw a complete renovation of the circulation desk and offices, a key hub for the unit. BUST pivoted flawlessly to ensure no disruption of services.

## 2022-2023 Student Research Award Winners



### Carson Poupore

Senior, Economics, Political Science, and Business Management  
 "The Substantial Restraint Doctrine: A New Judiciary Standard of Analysis for Campaign Finance Disclosure"  
**\$1,500 winner**



### Shayla Witover

Junior, Art History and Information Sciences  
 "Science in Italian Renaissance Art"  
**\$1,000 winner**



### Lane McCoy

Senior, Microbiology and Biology  
 "Elucidating the Mechanisms of Antibiotic Tolerance During CoInfection of Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus agalactiae in Chronic Wounds"  
**\$750 winner**

## New Student Artwork for 2022-2023

UL acquired four new pieces of student work as part of the Libraries' permanent collections, placed in the main Bizzell stairwell.



### Metamorphosis

Linoleum Relief Print, 2021  
 Mia Vinson

This work is a self-portrait representing fragments of the artist's life and experiences. As people, we are constantly growing and evolving, molded by the experiences we have.



### Familiar Decisions

Acrylic on Canvas  
 Ariana Alarcon

This is a painting that depicts the action of time. The artist's attention is always drawn to the movement of time when it comes to the mundane parts of life, as sometimes they mark the passage of time better than hours and days and seconds.



### Fritz Fits the Demo & the Model Sits Politely: A Blindfolded Lesson On Looking

Acrylic on Canvas  
 Cody Wilson

In this piece, Fritz Scholder performs a painting demo for the students of the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain in 2001. It was the first time I witnessed magic.



### Blueberry Breakfast

Acrylic on birch panel  
 Hannah Harper

Harper's work is informed by a combination of field study and storytelling with childlike wonder. The artist uses a color palette inspired by places visited, along with descriptive titles to encourage a narrative.

## User Services Exemplifies Teamwork Excellence



Members of the Bizzell User Services Team (BUST) received the Collaborative Spirit Award in spring 2023 for working together "to create a product or result that was strengthened by the effort of the team" to further the mission of University Libraries.

"Since BUST was formed in October 2021, Amanda Palmer, Ashley Smith, Jen Elsner, Kelly Thompson, and Patrick Wright have pulled together to ensure that all service point locations, services and events were fully covered," said Magen Bednar, head of BUST.

Team members manage student workers and UL personnel at the circulation, information, and reference desks, as well as the outreach workers who set up and break down the myriad events that take place in Bizzell.

"And really, they're also just a joy to work with," Bednar said.

**From left:** Dean Denise Stephens, User Services members Jen Elsner, Amanda Palmer, Kelly Thompson and Patrick Wright.

**Photo:** Becky Holladay



# NEW RESOURCES

## New Databases

Alternative Press Index  
C19 formerly  
Digital National Security Archive  
Education Full Text  
Environmental Science and  
History Digital Archive  
Frontier Life  
Global Plants  
Making of Modern Law: Trials 1600–1920  
MasterFILE Complete (upgrade)  
Mintel's Global New Products Database  
Neues Deutschland  
Nineteenth Century British Pamphlets  
Post-Perestroika Newspapers  
Preqin  
Shakespeare's Words  
Struggles for Freedom: Southern Africa  
Woman's Magazine Collection  
World Heritage Sites: Africa

## Journals

Nature Energy  
Nature Microbiology  
Nature Machine Intelligence  
Nature Metabolism  
Nature Cancer  
Nature Food  
Nature Aging  
Nature Computational Science  
Nature Cardiovascular Research  
Nature Synthesis  
Nature Mental Health  
Nature Water  
Nature Reviews Materials  
Nature Reviews Physics  
Nature Reviews Earth & Environmental  
Nature Reviews Methods Primers  
Nature Reviews Psychology  
Nature Reviews Bioengineering  
International Journal of Music – IJM  
Journal of Environmental Studies and  
Sciences  
Race and Social Problems  
School Mental Health  
Advanced Optical Materials  
Advanced Functional Materials  
Feminist Media Studies  
Medical Image Analysis

## New Acquisitions in Special Research Collections

### History of Science Collections

- 150 new titles donated by scholar James R. Fleming about the history of meteorology focusing on global climate change and women in science
- Rare editions of Darwin's *Origin of Species* translated into Chinese, Hebrew, Armenian, and Turkish

### American School of Architecture

- A major addition of archival architectural drawings from OU alumnus and prominent San Francisco architect Donald MacDonald. The collection includes drawings and plans for prominent nationwide civic projects with an emphasis on bridge designs.

### Western History Collections

- The papers of Jace Weaver, noted scholar of Native American studies, that includes drafts of manuscripts documenting of Weaver's scholarship.
- A large addition to the papers of the late anthropologist John H. Moore (1939–2016), former OU Department of Anthropology chair, including maps and other research materials.
- The papers of Choctaw/Chickasaw author and poet Phillip Carroll Morgan.

Opposite page: UL Exhibits Coordinator Dr. James Burnes collaborated with the OU School of Drama to showcase costumes designed by OU students and faculty. This costume is from a production of "The Three Musketeers."



# SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

With new Associate Dean for Special Research Collections Michael Szajewski arriving at the University of Oklahoma, UL continues to build on its special research collections strengths while preparing to take them to new heights.

## Mellon Fellowships Bring Global Scholars to OU



Mellon Foundation Fellow José María Moreno Madrid traveled to the Norman campus in the spring of 2023 from Portugal to examine the vast holdings in the History of Science special research collection on Early Modern Science in OU Libraries.

A Ph.D. candidate at the University of Lisbon, his Mellon project, "Why did Longitude Become Important, Really? On the Origins of One of the Great Scientific Problems of the Modern Age," will contribute to a book-length examination of the origins of "the longitude problem" with Professor Henrique Leitão (University of Lisbon).

It is rare to find so many rare books that advance his research subject in one place, he said.

"I was able to consult dozens of books (thanks to the exceptional work of the professionals working at the Collections), and I have taken very useful information and ideas from almost every single one of them. With this regard, I would like to emphasize how convenient it is the possibility to consult books from the Early Modern period as well as more recent literature simultaneously, in the same workspace."

Opposite page: Items from the Mary Anning exhibit on display on the main floor of Bizzell Memorial Library. Upper left: Mellon fellow Madrid works in the History of Science reading room during his time at OU.

## Romanoff Collection Opened to the Public in January 2023



An invitation to the 2004 Russian Summer Ball in London, part of the items in the Romanoff Collection.

The Romanoff Collection at University Libraries opened to public research in January 2023, after a generous \$2 million gift to the University of Oklahoma in late summer 2022.

The collection is part of a gift by Princess Janet Romanoff to the university that also established the Romanoff Center for Russian Studies on the OU Norman campus, creating the only academic entity named after the Russian royal family in the United States.

The collection contains over 50 cubic feet of archives that include letters, photographs and mementos primarily documenting the lives of Prince "Nikita" Nikitich Romanoff, the great nephew of Nicholas II, the last Tsar of Russia, his wife, Princess Janet, and their son, Prince Theodore in New York City during the 1970s–2000s, and their travels around the globe.

The papers also contain academic works and research by the Romanoffs on Russian history and literature, and a bound copy of Grand Duchess Xenia's diaries from the Russian revolutionary period. An assortment of Russian postage stamps and original letters by Nikita's parents, Prince Nikita Alexandrovich, and Countess Maria Vorontsova-Dashkova, complete the collection.

University Libraries is working to catalog the Romanoff family library of over 900 volumes.

The Romanoff Collection is available for research by appointment at Bizzell Memorial Library's 5th Floor Special Research Collections.



## OU Researchers Win Prestigious NEH Grant

The project leadership on an NEH grant to develop an Indigenous Media Portal includes Associate Curator of the Western History Collections Lina Ortega

Researchers working with the University of Oklahoma Libraries and the Native Nations Center won a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop an Indigenous Media Portal at OU.

The current project leadership is composed of Amanda Minks, associate professor in the Honors College and affiliate faculty, Native American Studies; Amanda Cobb-Greetham, professor of Native American Studies in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and citizen of the Chickasaw Nation; Joshua Nelson, associate professor of English, affiliate faculty in Native American Studies in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, and citizen of the Cherokee Nation; and Lina Ortega, associate curator of the Western History Collections, Native American Studies Librarian for OU Libraries and citizen of the Sac and Fox Nation.

“OU is an important hub for Indigenous media as well as Indigenous archival collections,” the project’s leadership said. “The proposal developed over the past four years through close dialogue among people working in these areas to try to bridge the gap between OU collections and Tribal heritage communities. We are humbled and excited to

have an opportunity to work with Tribal partners to select items for the digital platform and to foster cultural reconnection through new media production.”

The Indigenous Media Portal will incorporate historical photographs, radio and other audio media, starting with the OU Western History Collections, which contain invaluable oral histories, traditional singing and photographs from nearly 40 Tribes across the state. The portal will also include new videos that contextualize the archival collections through the voices of Indigenous knowledge holders.

The project is a partnership between OU Libraries and the Native Nations Center, in collaboration with a Tribal Advisory Committee and a University Advisory Committee. In this stage of development, representatives from nine Tribal Nations, eight OU departments and several areas of OU Libraries will bring a wealth of expertise and novel perspectives to the project.

The team plans to launch a pilot website by the end of 2024.



Opposite page: Miss Indian America Contest, 1955. Walter Stanley Campbell Collection #1782.

Top left: Oscar Makes Cry and Zoie Makes Cry, Poncas. Floyd Primeaux Collection #3

Top right: Guy Quetone (Kiowa) as a young man. As an elder, Mr. Quetone participated in more than 20 interviews between 1967 and 1971 for the Doris Duke Collection of Native American Oral Histories. Division of manuscripts Southwest Oklahoma Collection #137.

Bottom left: Osage cowboy in fancy duds. Division of manuscripts photograph collection #162.

Bottom right: Junior class, 1898. Cherokee Female Seminary. Anne Ross Piburn Collection #4.

# OPEN INITIATIVES

The University of Oklahoma passed an open access policy in 2023, invigorating UL's Open Initiatives unit and easing access and affordability for OU authors and students

## OU Joins HELIOS

Membership in national initiative marks major commitment by the university to advance open access scholarship on campus

### WHAT IS "OPEN SCHOLARSHIP"?

*Open scholarship (sometimes called "open science" or "open research") is an expansive term that encompasses a range of practices intended to increase the openness of knowledge creation and dissemination across disciplines.*

*These practices include open access publishing, open licensing, open data, open educational resources and more.*

*Open scholarship promotes inclusivity, transparent and trustworthy research, innovation, and collaboration.*

The University of Oklahoma joined the **Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS)** fall 2022, becoming one of over 80 top-tier research universities and colleges across the United States to advance open scholarship via collective action.

"Membership in HELIOS is important because it brings together the primary research ecosystem actors to advance open scholarship," said Karen Rupp-Serrano, University Libraries associate dean for scholarly communication and collection management. "Talking only to department chairs, or university administrators, or funders, is not sufficient. Representatives of all the key stakeholders are needed at the table to align values, practices and incentives."

Seeking to advance open practices that make research available to the public in all disciplines to speed innovation, HELIOS emerged from the work of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Science that began in 2019.

The NASEM roundtable findings showed widespread support for open research practices, but current reward structures, such as tenure and promotion, do not incentivize it.

HELIOS members will engage key stakeholders to modernize research practices, values and incentive structures so that openly available research receives commensurate recognition as other forms.

"Participation in HELIOS will enable OU to develop and advance open incentives and practices consistent with our institutional values and disciplinary norms," Senior Vice President and Provost André-Denis Wright said.

Dean Denise Stephens will serve as OU's representative to HELIOS and interact with research university, scholarly society, and philanthropic cohort members, reporting key findings back to the university.

"Joining HELIOS marks an important step at the University of Oklahoma towards fostering a culture of open scholarship," said Stephens. "I am looking forward to meeting with peers from other institutions, such as the universities of Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina and others to promote collaboration and to advance open incentives and practices."

### About HELIOS

The Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS) is a cohort of colleges and universities, funders and scholarly societies committed to collective action to advance open scholarship across the research ecosystem. Leaders from U.S. colleges and universities have joined this community of practice, working together to promote a more transparent, inclusive and trustworthy research ecosystem.

### OPEN Initiatives at OU

University Libraries supports a range of Open @ OU services, including the SHAREOK institutional repository, open educational resources initiatives, and open access journal hosting. University Libraries also supports OU faculty and students through publication subvention funding, open access publishing discounts and an Alternative Textbook Grant.



## OU Launches New Open Access Publication Support Fund

A new Open Access Book Subvention fund announced in spring 2023 will help support faculty author publications at OU.

Dean of University Libraries Denise Stephens, Dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences and David L. Boren Professor and Merrick Chair of Western American History David Wrobel, and Vice President for Research and Partnerships Tomás Díaz de la Rubia announced the new fund supported equally by their respective units to encourage open access monographs by OU authors.

"The Open Access Publication Support Fund is a reflection of the ongoing and evolving work we do in academic research libraries in partnership with academic research programs to advance the accessibility to the outcomes of research and creative works," said Dean Stephens.

"The Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences is deeply committed to this important initiative that introduces new readers across the globe to the outstanding research and creative activity of our faculty," said Dean Wrobel. "We are committed to ensuring that the publication experience for our faculty is as smooth as possible and to assisting them in disseminating their research without barriers."

"We are proud to support this initiative and reduce barriers for faculty while simultaneously increasing the accessibility of faculty research," said Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Partnerships Carol Silva.

Research on open access monographs has indicated the cost of production varies, from as low as \$5,000 to \$15,000 or higher.

However, open access publishing requires authors cover more of the costs of publication, and inadequate funding deters book authors from considering this model for their work.

Because scholars in book fields have fewer options available to them to increase the potential impact of their research, the new fund will address this need and support OU's Lead On strategic plan to position the university as a top-tier research institution by increasing the research's worldwide visibility and impact. Open access research, or "open scholarship," promotes inclusivity, transparent and trustworthy research, innovation, and collaboration. Open access authors retain the copyright to their work.

Dependent upon costs, the Open Access Book Subvention fund will support the publication of two or more open access books each fiscal year. Proposals utilizing a university press are especially encouraged, and faculty must use publishers that are members of OASPA or adhere to its Code of Conduct.

A minimum of one award each year will be to a faculty member from the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences.

## Ten OU Instructors Awarded OER Grants

In the ninth year of the Alternative Textbook Grant program, 10 instructors from across OU received support to use Open Educational Resources in place of costly traditional print textbooks, lowering financial burdens and increasing affordability for students.

Ten University of Oklahoma instructors have been awarded grants through University Libraries, with some matching funds from university colleges and departments, to replace costly textbooks with freely available alternatives, potentially saving their students hundreds of dollars.

Now in its ninth year, the Alternative Textbook Grant (ATG) is an OU Libraries initiative that incentivizes instructors to adopt, modify or create Open Educational Resources (OER), which are any type of educational materials in the public domain or openly licensed.

"It is 1,000% easier to just grab something that already exists and is fine and is working and have the students sort of take on that cost, but it makes me a little bit uncomfortable to ask the students to take on that cost, especially as our world keeps changing in a way that makes everything more expensive," says Casey Haskins, a 2022 ATG recipient and instructor in OU's Math Department in the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences.

"I just want to remove stress that comes from outside, like their finances, in order for them to really concentrate on what matters in the class, which is the content."

"We have been pleased to see the increased awareness from both faculty and students regarding the cost of textbooks this academic year," says Open Educational Resources Librarian Morgan Briles. "Applications for this year's grant spanned six different colleges and will have a significant impact on students. Based on projected enrollment information, we're estimating nearly \$70,000 of cost savings for students for the first semester these alternative textbooks are implemented."

Since 2014, the ATG has saved OU students millions of dollars in course material costs. OU Libraries awards up to \$2,500 for successful applications, and some colleges award discretionary funds to supplement the total award amount.

This year's grants range from \$750 to \$2,500 in funding from OU Libraries; the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, Gallogly College of Engineering, and Schusterman Library at OU-Tulsa contributed additional funding.

### Alternative Textbook Grant Winners 2022-2023

**Dr. Melinda Chen**, assistant professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Paulo Moreira**, associate professor of Portuguese, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Ying Wang**, the Anadarko Petroleum Corporation Presidential Professor in Mathematics, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. J. David Baldwin**, associate professor and director of the Dynamic Structures Sensings and Controls Center, the Gallogly College of Engineering

**Dr. Jude Okolie**, assistant professor of engineering pathways, Gallogly College of Engineering

**Dr. Katerina Tsetsura**, Gaylord Family Professor of Public Relations and Strategic Communications, Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication

**Dr. Amber Beisly**, assistant professor of Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education

**Dr. Ekaterini Akarepi**, lecturer, College of Fine Arts

**Dr. Lucia Colombari**, assistant professor of art history and arts management, College of Fine Arts

**Dr. C. Aujean Lee**, assistant professor of regional and city planning, Gibbs College of Architecture





# DIGITAL STRATEGIES & INNOVATION

New Associate Dean for Digital Strategies and Innovation Jessica Davila streamlined the division's organization, maximizing outputs and refining DSI's user experiences to meet the Libraries' community needs and the university's expanding presence regionally and nationally.

## UL Creates Digital Scholarship and Data Services Unit

The University Libraries Digital Strategies and Innovation division reorganized specific service areas this summer into one combined streamlined unit, now named Digital Scholarship and Data Services (DSDS).

Combined in the new unit are formerly distinct areas: Emerging Technologies services; Data Analytics, Visualization, and Informatics Syndicate (DAVIS); Digital Scholarship; and Informatics services.

These changes will enhance user experience, but its services and specialties remain

the same, combining expertise to support researcher and scholarly endeavors in the digital realm through consultations, partnerships and workshops.

UL's information professionals in DSDS can provide assistance with data creation, data management, data manipulation, 3D services, informatics and visualization.

Over time, the unit aims to further enhance service offerings in emerging technologies and other relevant areas of expertise.

## Virtual Reality, 3D Printing in OU Courses Increases



University Libraries's expertise in virtual reality, 3D printing and 3D photography led to a number of innovative collaborations with OU researchers and instructors, opening the world to OU students through the use of cutting-edge technologies.

The "Bones on Loan" program remains popular for science classes, giving students access to touch and feel 3D-printed bones to enhance their learning experiences.

Emerging Technologies personnel also worked with OU researchers to bring ancient artifacts to researchers globally through innovative uses in 3D photography.

**Left:** Center for Faculty Excellence's Kathy Volz participated in the Emerging Technology Librarians' demonstration of their virtual reality project, viewing the 3D images librarian Kristi Wyatt took with OU faculty member Bill Enders at the Lichfield Cathedral in the United Kingdom.

# UL Collaboration Brings Ancient Manuscript to Virtual Reality

Emerging Technology librarians partnered with OU faculty to use 3D technology to capture a 1,000 year-old manuscript in England.

By Kyle Parker Johnson

An illuminated manuscript of the St. Chad Gospels created over 1,000 years ago in England survived Viking theft, the pillaging of the jewels on its cover and trading in Wales.

Now, a collaboration between University Libraries Emerging Technology librarian Kristi Wyatt and OU English faculty member Dr. Bill Endres uses 3D technology to preserve the ancient gospels, and bring it to researchers and viewers around the world.

In fall 2022, Wyatt and Endres spent a week in Lichfield, England, to take photographs, digitize, and transfer the images into virtual reality (VR) experience.

"Stopping time is impossible," said Endres. "Cultural heritage is always aging and deteriorating." The work completed in the collaboration between Wyatt and Endres will preserve the manuscript in perpetuity. The project sits at the crossroads of emerging technologies and historical preservation, democratizing and enriching access to manuscripts.

But even viewing the manuscript in person won't reveal the detail of the document like the 3D system the pair used on the project. In 2010, Dr. Endres took initial photos of the manuscript using a 3D system, but since then more has been revealed in the etching of the ink. Endres had been working for a decade on the preservation and digitization of the St. Chad Gospels when he arrived at OU in 2015. His collaboration with the University Libraries helped and improved his work in this area.

"This work would have been impossible without OU Libraries," said Endres. The work with the UL's Emerging Technology unit uncovered dry-point writing showing the names and evidence of a freed slave, opening

knowledge paths for other researchers who can build upon the information found within the St. Chad Gospels.

The preservation of the manuscripts, as they deteriorate with time, involved taking detailed images that can produce mesh files showing the minute geography of the pages. To accomplish this, Wyatt brought along a new Artec Eva 3D scanner and a camera provided by Dr. Endres. Together, they captured complex, detailed images of different views of each page.

Getting to the point of photography was not simple, though. Dr. Endres and Wyatt developed a rail system on two tripods that would maintain distance from the pages and move securely over the fragile pages. They experimented with the photography settings and were able to capture the most detailed images of the gospels to date.

Once done photographing and mapping the manuscripts, 360-degree images of the cathedral were captured, including the old Chapterhouse that held meetings in the cathedral and now holds the St. Chad Gospels.

These images provided improved world building for the virtual reality experience. After the image capture in the U.K, Head of Emerging Technologies Librarian Bobby Reed worked in the U.S. to use his expertise in software and app development to create eloping a virtual reality (VR) experience that would put the user in Lichfield with the ability to touch and manipulate the manuscripts of the St. Chad Gospels.

The opportunity to develop a virtual reality simulation to showcase the work done in Lichfield furthers the goal of making these

manuscripts accessible to researchers and the public.

"This revolutionary access is only possible through emerging technologies and, in this case, virtual reality," Reed said.

Collapsing space and time in projects like this excites other researchers. Reed said the UL has been approached to do similar types of projects with other departments at the university to preserve other types of history and art.

The digitization of the St. Chad Gospels is part of a larger effort to preserve cultural heritage artifacts and then open access of these projects to make knowledge and research free or low cost to the public.

"As librarians, expanding access to information is one of our primary concerns," said Reed.

The Lichfield Cathedral also shares that sentiment and wants the gospels to be accessible to the masses who appreciate the historical and artistic value of these manuscripts.

Dr. Endres, Wyatt and Reed will continue this project to make it as accessible to the public as possible. This will include digital measuring tools and accessibility improvements. They have been working on 3D printing the etching of the ink on the gospels.

Dr. Endres noted the importance of this work for future research.

"If we can do it for manuscripts, we can do it with other cultural heritage items. Suddenly, people will be able to have the experience of touching fragile and treasured cultural artifacts, such as running a finger of the layered pigments of a decorated initial in the St. Chad Gospels."



Dr. Bill Endres watches the computer screen to adjust the equipment during the specialized scanning of the ancient manuscript. Photo: Kristi Wyatt

# PERSONNEL UPDATES

## 2022-2023 NEW HIRES



**Riley Butler**  
*Interlibrary Loan  
Borrowing & Lending  
Assistant*  
  
Scholarly Communication  
& Collection Management



**Jilliene Kirkpatrick**  
*Operations and Stacks  
Manager, Research  
Commons Supervisor*  
  
Special Research  
Collections



**Brianna Narr**  
*Research & Analytics  
Coordinator*  
  
Dean's Office



**Stephanie Gallo**  
*Library Publishing  
Developer*  
  
Digital Strategies &  
Innovation



**Jordan McClain**  
*Library Service Center  
Manager*  
  
Scholarly Communication  
& Collection Management



**Toni Pace**  
*Director of Finance &  
Human Resources*  
  
Finance & Operations



**Mary Stoll**  
*Institutional Repository  
Librarian*  
  
Scholarly Communication  
& Collection Management



**Becky Holladay**  
*Content Strategist*  
  
Marketing &  
Communications



**Britni McGuire**  
*Senior Administrative  
Support Specialist*  
  
Special Research  
Collections



**Amanda Palmer**  
*Bizzell User Services  
Student Supervisor*  
  
Research & Learning  
Services



**Michael Szajewski**  
*Associate Dean for  
Special Research Collections*  
  
Special Research  
Collections



**Emil Winter**  
*Project Archivist*  
  
Special Research  
Collections



**Morgan Kegin**  
*Senior Administrative  
Support Specialist*  
  
Research & Learning  
Services



**Kendall Morgan**  
*STEM Instruction  
Librarian*  
  
Research & Learning  
Services



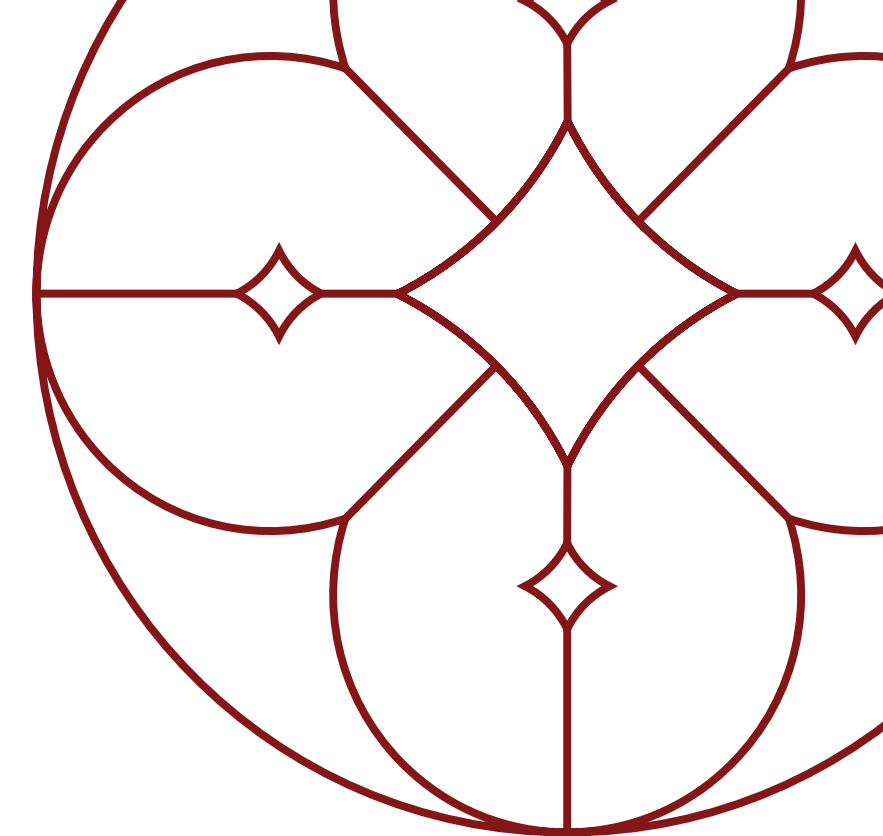
**Emma Sparks**  
*Stacks Manager*  
  
Scholarly Communication  
& Collection Management



**Brittany Treaster**  
*Senior Administrative  
Support Specialist*  
  
Research & Learning  
Services



**John Witkowski**  
*Library Web Developer*  
  
Digital Strategies &  
Innovation



# UL Staff Day 2023

For UL Staff Day 2023, First Americans Museum Director of Curatorial Affairs Dr. Heather Ahtone gave a keynote presentation at Sam Noble Museum to University Libraries personnel on FAM's curatorial philosophies



# University Libraries Staff Awards

University Libraries' staff excellence was rewarded in May 2023 in the backdrop of the beautiful Great Reading Room. The event honored personnel commitment to customer service, Libraries' mission, innovation, and collaboration.

Top left: Awards set out for the event

Top right: Dr. David McLeod accepts his Library Partner award from UL Dean Denise Stephens

Bottom: Tom and Cathy Luccock attend UL Staff Awards every year to hand deliver their namesake awards to student workers and full-time personnel



### Bridge Builder Award

The Bridge Builder Award recognizes an individual that builds partnerships to engage others in library initiatives, advancing the Libraries' mission, strategic initiatives and/or organizational values through their engagement with others in the library and our OU and professional community.

**Lina Ortega**  
Associate Curator of Western History Collections

*"For the last two years, Professor Ortega has completed or continues to work on several major digitization projects that have: created new research opportunities, connected OU/University Libraries/Western History Collections to Native nations in dynamic and heretofore unprecedented ways, and fostered relationship-building with historically exploited groups in a respectful manner. Her work with the Doris Duke and School of the Air projects exemplifies Professor Ortega's excellence."*

### Customer Commitment Award

The Customer Commitment Award recognizes exemplary commitment to serving customers, either internally to University Libraries or externally to the broader OU community. Recipients of this award advance University Libraries' mission, strategic initiatives and/or organizational values through their service to customers.

**Eric Zemke**  
Library Technology Platforms, Administrative Manager

*"Since joining the OU Libraries team in 2013, Eric Zemke has embodied our organizational values to set a standard for excellence in the performance of his work. He has a consistent record of going beyond requirements in his work to set and implement key parts of our technology strategy and make sure that our staff has the best tools available to support our mission...Without Eric's tireless work behind the scenes, OU Libraries would not have weathered the storms of the last several years nearly so well."*

### Extra Mile Award

The Extra Mile Award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond in the performance of their job responsibilities.

**Sonya Bowen**  
HR & Payroll Coordinator

*"An employee had several things go wrong with their hire that needed resolutions from multiple campus departments. With everything that came up, Sonya was always quick to help and provide answers...there were quite a few new challenges with this one, and Sonya helped the GA feel like everything would be fine."*

*"...she went above and beyond to make sure two new employees were included on the payroll, even when we didn't think it would be possible to get them processed in time."*



### Hidden Hero Award

The Hidden Heroes Award recognizes an individual that works behind the scenes to improve library operations. These employees' efforts may not always be visible, but they are the ones who keep the organization running smoothly.

**Mallory Hogan**  
Senior Administrative Support Specialist

*Mallory "ensures that University Libraries receives the supplies it needs to operate...we appreciate her efforts handling delayed and lost orders as well as handling incomplete and inaccurate orders we have received."*

### Innovation Award

The Innovation Award recognizes innovative ideas that result in improved service to our customers, enhanced efficiency of operations or a cost savings to the library. These ideas may be of benefit internally to the library or externally to our community.

**Tyler Pearson**  
Head of Digital Scholarship and Data Services  
**Mark Laufersweiler**  
Data Scientist

*"...Their work has reduced barriers for students to get access to computing resources such as computational tools for accessing, analyzing and plotting data. Additionally, the UL Nautilus portal has reduced the time required to get learners set up with the required software needed for carpentry workshops. As of December 2022, UL's Nautilus portal had been used to access computing and digital research tools by over 200 individuals. Tyler's and Mark's work epitomizes innovation in an academic library. Their willingness to try new approaches and experiment with new ideas and tools has improved UL's existing digital research services and has directly impacted researching, teaching and learning."*

### Library Partner Award

The Library Partner Award recognizes a person, business or institution not employed by University Libraries that has demonstrated outstanding support and encouragement for University Libraries. Recipients of this award advance University Libraries' mission, strategic initiatives and/or organizational values through their service or support.

**Dr. David McLeod**  
Associate Director, Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work

*"...Open Initiatives personnel sometimes refer to Dr. McLeod as our "open initiatives poster boy." That remark is honestly made with the utmost respect and admiration for what he has done and is doing "in the open." He has performed an open initiatives hat trick, scoring in all the major areas we support and spreading the word about our programs and services to his colleagues. We are thrilled to count him among our colleagues and to nominate him for this award."*

### Luccock Outstanding Student Employee Award

The University Libraries' Outstanding Library Student Employee Award recognizes the outstanding performance and contributions to the services and programs of the University of Oklahoma Libraries by student employees. This award is sponsored through the generous support of the Luccocks, long-standing members of the Bizzell Library Society board of trustees. Up to three awards are given annually to undergraduate student employees, and one award to a graduate student employee, at a reception to be held in the spring. The recipients will receive a cash award and a certificate of recognition.

**Alline Ibraimo**  
**Brittany Treaster**  
**Emily Wolf**  
**Maria Kissner (Graduate Assistant)**



### Luccock Award of Excellence

The Thomas & Catherine Luccock Library Award of Excellence is the highest honor awarded by the University of Oklahoma Libraries. This award is sponsored through the generous support of the Luccocks, long-standing members of the Bizzell Library Society board of trustees. This prestigious award are presented annually to recognize and commend an individual for superior performance and contributions to the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

**Jenny Watson**  
Head of Storage & Delivery

*"I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that the Libraries is a different place thanks to Jenny being a member of our team. As her supervisor, I know I can count on Jenny to proactively deal with critical issues and details, gather and analyze data effectively, and provide alternative solutions to challenges we encounter while seeking to provide exemplary service."*

### Dean's Special Recognition Award

Dean Stephens is awarding the Dean's Special Recognition Award to three of our partners from across the university to demonstrate our appreciation for their extraordinary assistance to University Libraries. Hollye Hunt, Courtney Floyd and Courtni Covington were each influential in the Libraries' navigating our compliance with 70 O.S.511-202 (Formerly Oklahoma HB 3702). They were highly instrumental in providing support and guidance in a uniquely challenging situation. University Libraries are indebted to these outstanding professionals and thankful for their efforts on our behalf.

**Hollye Hunt**  
OU Vice President of Government Affairs  
**Courtney Floyd**  
OU Legal Counsel  
**Courtnei Covington**  
OU Purchasing

Opposite page, bottom left: Dean Stephens hands the Bridge Builder award to Lina Ortega. Opposite page, upper right: The reception spread. This page, left side: Brittany Treaster receives her Luccock award. Treaster now works at the UL full time. Upper right: Tyler Pearson and Mark Laufersweiler receive the Innovation award from Dean Stephens. Bottom right: Emily Wolfe receives the Luccock Award from Dean Stephens.

# BY THE NUMBERS

## 2022-2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Gate Counts</b>	1,115,183	289,062	875,203	1,004,622
<b>Website Usage</b>				
Page views	1,911,419	1,476,105	1,485,546	1,375,702
Users	235,025	231,632	274,896	225,345
New Users	221,597	220,885	259,134	217,653
Sessions	846,938	710,065	727,491	637,177
Sessions per User	3.60	3.07	2.65	2.83

### Items Checked Out

<b>Regular Loans</b>	32,998	<b>Reserve Loans</b>	20,894
<b>Technology Lending</b>	7,234	<b>Storage Loans</b>	816

### Search

Database Searches	20,894
Catalog Searches	20,894
Advanced vs. Basic Catalog Searches	67%/33%

### Special Research Collections

Reader Registration Forms Unique Visitors	308
Total Research Visits	616
Consultations	128
LibAnswers Tickets	587

### Instruction and Research Workshops

Total Sessions - Course Integrated Instruction	276
Total Attendance - Course Integrated Instruction	7,185
Research Consultations	1,349
Total Research Workshops	58
Total Research Workshop Attendance	343

### ShareOK Repository

	Total	OU
Downloads	2,408,750	827,722
Item views	1,696,131	716,521
New Items	1,970	699

Below: On parade. Cheyenne-Arapaho Fair, Watonga, Oklahoma, Sept. 12-14, 1911. This is an item included in the Indigenous Media Portal.



Below: University Libraries staff gathered for UL Day at Sam Noble Museum, May 2023

