# SMU Libraries

# Start *here.*
# Go *anywhere.*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Time Flies at SMU Libraries!

**As we reflect on the past year, it's incredible how quickly time has passed. At SMU Libraries, we've been bustling with activity, and so have the students we serve.** Our students dedicated a remarkable 69,127 hours in our study rooms alone this year. Our doors were open to over 1,000,000 visitors, whether they came for workshops, exhibits or simply to explore our collections. We're thrilled to continue welcoming you to the Libraries, now and in the years to come.

Among the year's highlights, we're especially excited about the upcoming Rees-Jones Library of the American West, made possible by the generous donation from Jan and Trevor D. Rees-Jones '78. Bridwell Library had the honor of hosting over 4,000 visitors at Codex Fest to view the oldest, most complete Hebrew Bible in the world. Our librarians have been instrumental in fostering a supportive environment, delving into topics like artificial intelligence and critical reading, all aimed at helping Mustangs thrive in and out of the classroom.

It's shaping up to be an extraordinary era at SMU Libraries, and we look forward to what's ahead!

## SMU Libraries by the Numbers

**69,127** study room hours booked

**$3.2M** saving SMU students in booking fees for similar hourly bookings off-campus

**4.5M** items in the physical collections

**1.07M** estimated visitor count to all SMU Libraries buildings

**3.2M** items in the digital collections

**630,186** search sessions in the Library Search tool

**613** workshops & events

# Activate cultural heritage

**We embrace inventive strategies to align, integrate and activate use of our distinctive cultural heritage collections in pursuit of the University's research, teaching and leadership missions.**

**Transformational gift:** A major gift from Jan and Trevor D. Rees-Jones '78 will strengthen the University's reputation as a vital place for education and research related to the American West. At the center of the couple's gift is a significant portion of the expansive Rees-Jones Collection consisting of thousands of items – including rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs and ephemera. The donors have also committed $25 million to establish and build the Rees-Jones Library of the American West and a $5 million endowment to support the library and its collections.

**Curating exhibits:** SMU Libraries curated and hosted 10 exhibits including Codex Fest, a three-day celebration featuring the world's oldest, most complete Hebrew Bible on its way to Sotheby's auction in NYC. The special exhibition attracted over 4,000 visitors from Texas and surrounding states.
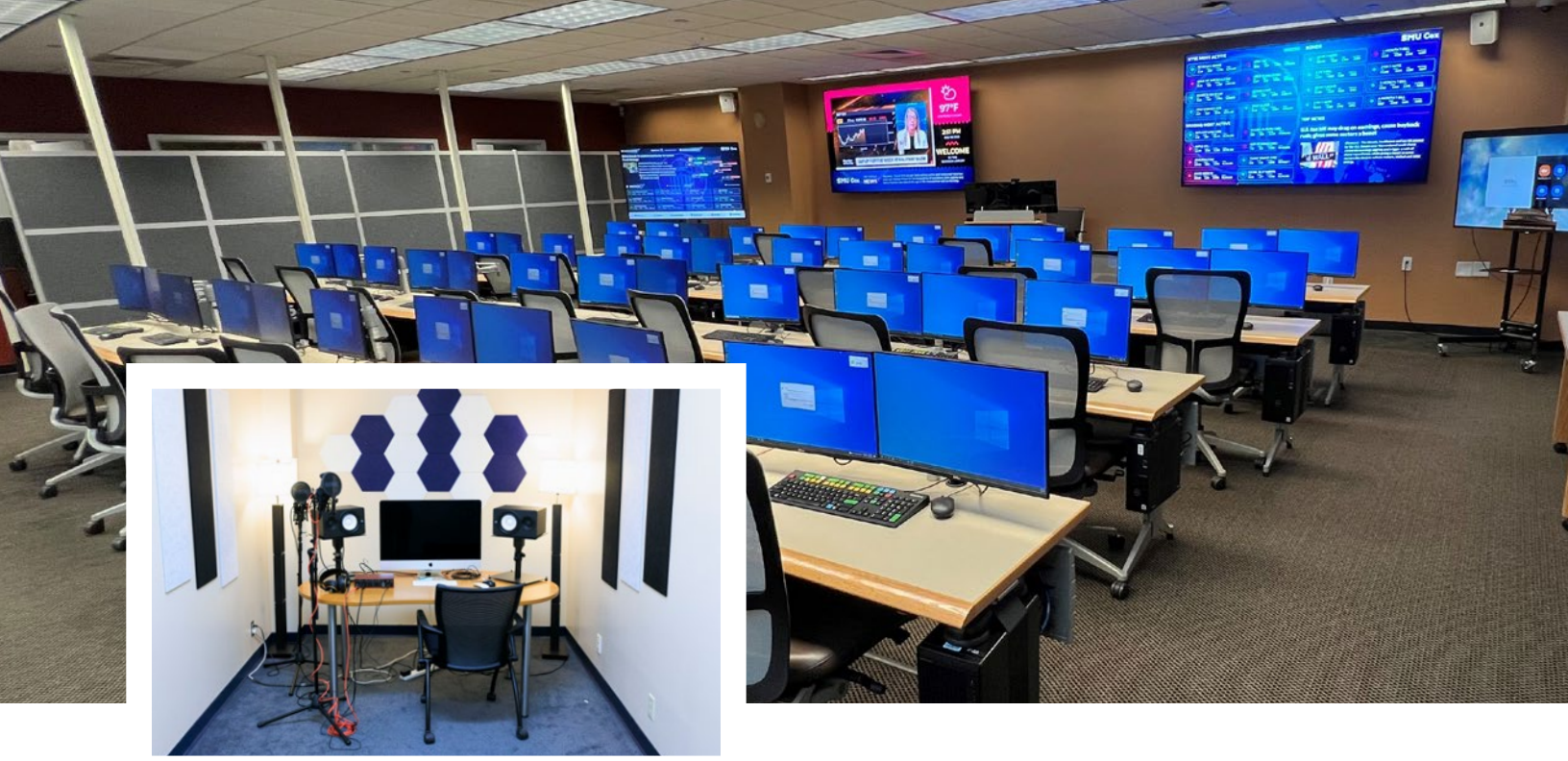
**Noteworthy new collections:** Cataloging and processing are complete for the Bill Jordan collection, which consists of 14,000 volumes covering Spanish and European art history. Staff at SMU Libraries worked diligently over three years to integrate the collection into Hamon Arts Library.

**Enhance digital collections presence and accessibility:** The addition of the SMU Digital Collections to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) extends its reach and offers researchers wider access to the unique materials. The move to DPLA is part of an ongoing commitment to ensure all patrons, including researchers, can access library resources.

**Increase access and exposure to SMU's unique collections:** There was an increase of 8% in SMU Libraries Digital Collections page views, as over 711,000 pages were viewed by users across the globe.

**Increase the number of primary resources digitized:** The SMU Libraries Norwick Center for Digital Solutions continued to digitize and make primary resources accessible to the global community of researchers. As a result, the SMU Digital Collections grew 6% from FY22 to FY23, with 87,536 items added.

# Champion research innovation

**SMU Libraries organizes and facilitates a seamless, interdisciplinary and university-wide collaborative network to support the scholarly and creative research lifecycle and accelerate student and faculty success.**

**Announcing the Scholarship and Research Studio:** The Scholarship & Research Studio will be a dynamic crossroads for research on SMU's campus. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate students will find the expertise, training, institutional knowledge and computational tools to launch complex research and creative inquiries from concept to realization in this collaborative, technologically advanced, welcoming location.

**Podcasting Studio:** The SMU Libraries and Office of Engaged Learning opened a podcasting studio at Fondren Library. The collaboration supports modern, multimedia approaches to research and scholarly communication.

**Law workshops with impact:** Cassie Walker, Underwood's Assistant Director for Scholarly Initiatives, hosted workshops for law faculty on increasing scholarly impact. She trained 132 new student editors for the law school's student-edited journals.

**Expanded research network:** SMU Libraries has enhanced its commitment to facilitating robust data sharing and storage by becoming a member of the Texas Data Repository. This step significantly amplifies the visibility and accessibility of research data generated at SMU. It also ensures data preservation and fosters collaboration and data reusability, enhancing the overall quality and impact of research.

# Impact student success

**SMU Libraries strengthens student academic success through strategic partnerships, impactful services and promotion of information and data literacy fluency in teaching, learning, research and creative pursuits.**

**Integration of AI technology:** SMU Libraries studied the potential use of ChatGPT, an AI chatbot, in student work, to investigate leveraging technology to enhance research and scholarly work. Additionally, SMU librarians partnered with an SMU Master of Science Data Science capstone team to evaluate resources using machine learning.

**Continued Business Library services:** The Business Library reopened on June 20th at its temporary location, the ground level of Hamon Arts Library. The temporary move provides accessibility and resources for business students and faculty during renovations of the Cox School of Business complex.

**Streamlining access to course materials:** SMU Libraries launched Leganto, integrating Canvas and the library catalog, to simplify collaboration on course reading lists.

**Honoring information best practices in business:** The Business Library honored the newly selected 2022 Super Teacher Advocating Research (STAR) Award winner, Hilary McIlvain, Adjunct Professor, at the Edwin L. Cox BBA Business Leadership Institute.

**Critical reading skills and student success:** SMU teaching librarians researched how critical reading skills impact student success in classrooms, focusing on intersections with information literacy and the librarian's role in teaching research skills. The results of the study led to the creation of new workshops for undergraduate and graduate students on reading scholarly works.

# Connect our communities

**SMU Libraries cultivates inclusive, equitable, and accessible spaces, services, programs and resources so that our libraries support the SMU welcoming community.**

**Diversity Officer appointment:** Monique Christian-Long assumed the campus Diversity Officer (DO) liaison role, aligning her role with her existing responsibilities as Assistant Director for Administrative Services.

**EDIA progress:** The Accessibility Taskforce conducted audits, made recommendations, and facilitated library staff training to distribute responsibilities and ensure a user-friendly and accessible library environment for all patrons. Additionally, the Critical Cataloging Taskforce evaluated the catalog and recommended changes to subject headings.

**Engaging our communities through events:** Friends of SMU Libraries board members welcomed over 200 visitors to the Laura Bush Promenade for Family Weekend during the Friends, Families and First Years event.

**Inclusive teaching practices:** Librarians participated in an online course focused on equity-centered instruction. This educational initiative aimed to bolster librarians' capabilities, benefitting students and faculty who rely on their expertise for instructional support.

# Ignite discovery

**We provide an intuitive virtual library experience that empowers all users to easily discover library expertise, services, and collection resources.**

**Evaluating and implementing LibConnect:** The SMU Libraries implemented LibConnect, a customer relations management software. The system is part of a larger effort to improve customer relationship management and streamline library services, making research easier for students and faculty.

**Going live with SMU Libraries online exhibits:** The SMU Libraries Online Exhibits page, featuring links to digital exhibits across all libraries, is now live. The page allows users to access our special collections in a curated context.

**Assessing the user experience for website success:** A 60% decrease in Ask Us chat transactions from August 2021 to August 2022 indicates that our redesigned website is proving more helpful to users. The SMU Libraries Web Team conducted website testing with students to ensure the best possible experience in accessing the wealth of resources SMU Libraries offers online.

**Enhanced website visual environment:** The Website Redesign Team enlisted the services of an SMU Design & Innovation faculty member and UX/UI designer to redesign the SMU Libraries' website to provide a modern aesthetic and mobile-friendly experience.

THE LIBRARY IS THE HEART OF A UNIVERSITY

# Cultivate organizational excellence

**We are transforming our organization to align with and support the research, creative, and impactful aspirations of our SMU community, Dallas, and curious minds worldwide.**

**Enhanced hiring and onboarding:** SMU Libraries revised and standardized the search committee and hiring process. Over the past year, 13 searches were conducted, resulting in 12 new hires within strategic roles.

**Elevating expectations:** The SMU Libraries promotion task force is actively revising SMU Libraries' promotion system, aiming to standardize the process across libraries and enhance staff growth, development, and recognition within our committed team.

**Implementing new branding:** The SMU general brand guidelines were updated across campus.

In response, the SMU Libraries Marketing Team updated the Libraries' branding, conforming to the SMU brand and developing a suite of resources for SMU Libraries staff to use.

**Staying competitive in compensation:** In response to a campus-wide staff compensation study, SMU Libraries updated job descriptions to match current duties and future strategic responsibilities.

**Organizing strategic governance:** Three cross-functional SMU Libraries Steering Committees have been formed, including the Academic Initiatives Steering Committee, the Collections Steering Committee, and the Special Collections Steering Committee.

**Getting help from our Friends:** The Friends of SMU Libraries awarded $40,000 in grants and scholarships to the SMU Libraries for FY23. This includes two $1,000 scholarships for the Student Employee Excellence Award.

# Publications

### Rahni Kennedy

- Doan, J. M. & Kennedy. R. B. (2023). Diversity fatigue: Acknowledging and moving beyond repetitious emotional labor. In A. Brisssett & D. Moronta (Eds.), *Practicing Social Justice in Libraries.* Routedge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003167174-12

### Melissa Johnson

- Johnson, M. (2022, July/August). Dictation.io [Tech Bits]. College & Research Libraries News, 83(7), 295. https://doi.org/10.5860/crln.83.7.292

### Tom Kimbrough

- Kimbrough, T. (2022, June). Law Firm Dynamics: Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game. *SMU Law Review Forum,* 75 SMU L. Rev. F. 241. https://doi.org/10.25172/slrf.75.1.8

### Samantha Dodd

- "Send Me a Postcard! Summer Road Travel Inspires Exhibition," Southwestern Archivist, Volume 45, Issue 3, August 2022

### Rafia Mirza

- Keralis, S. D. C., Mirza, R., & Seale, M. (2023). Illegible Labor: Toward a Documentary Practice of Digital Scholarship. In Klein, L.F., & Gold, M.K. (eds.), *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2023* (pp. 305–323). University of Minnesota Press.

### Christina Jensen

- Jensen, C. (2023). The Joy of Cooking: Two Centuries of Cookbooks at DeGolyer. *Southwestern Archivists,* 46(1), 32-33.

# Staff presentations

### Jolene de Verges

- "Special Collections, Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Managing a Moving Image Archive," Art Libraries Society of North America Annual conference, Mexico City (April 19, 2023)

### Samantha Dodd

- "Eggnog and Yule Logs: the Joy of Cooking for the Holidays," Southern Methodist University Libraries Executive Board, December 2022

- Joint EAS Section and TS-EAS annual meeting, August 2022

- "Talk TARO 2 Me," Society of American Archivists Research Forum, August 2022

### Rebecca Graff

- Behavior Guidelines Draft 2 with Kate Cordes, Rebecca Crawford, Melissa Del Castillo, & Liz Kocevar-Weidinger, Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Town Hall, July 2022

- Behavioral Guidelines Discussion Invited presentation with the Towson University Library Reference and Instruction Department, October 2022

- Behavioral Guidelines for Reference Interactions

- Invited presentation for the Croatian Library Association, November 2022

### Sarah Jenkins

- Graff, R., Horton, J., Jenkins, S., Johnson, M. & McMichael, J. Model Reference Behavior. (2023, March). Online presentation for the Association of College & Research Libraries University Libraries Section Professional Development Committee.

### Melissa Johnson

- Johnson, M., Rinehart, T., Freeman-Staggs, G. & Harrison, J. (2023, May). Zombifying Instruction: Engaging Students with Game-Based Learning. Online presentation at the Teaching, Learning, & Technology Conference 2023.

- Johnson, M. & Rinehart, T. (2023, April). Library Games: Using Kahoot! To Transform Library Instruction. Online presentation for Lifelong Information Literacy's Show & Tell series. https://lili.libguides.com/showandtell/kahoot

- Graff, R., Horton, J., Jenkins, S., Johnson, M. & McMichael, J. Model Reference Behavior. (2023, March). Online presentation for the Association of College & Research Libraries University Libraries Section Professional Development Committee.

- Johnson, M. & Kirsch, B. (2022, November). Instructional Technologies and Accessibility. Co-Moderator of a Core e-Forum. https://www.ala.org/core/continuing-education/e-forums/instructional-technologies

- Johnson, M. (2022, July). Zoomin' in to Instruction. Online presentation at the Cross Timbers Library Collaborative Conference. https://twu-ir.tdl.org/handle/11274/13968

### Jalesia Horton

- Horton. J. (2021, August). Resource Sharing: What Will We Keep from the Pandemic, Panel presenter at Ex Libris, A ProQuest Company and Library Journal Webcasts, Virtual.

- Horton. J. (2021, November). From Emergency to Essential: Going from a COVID-19 Service to a Permanent Service, Poster presented at Access Services Conference, Atlanta, GA

- Horton. J. (2022, September). ILL for the Inexperienced: What You Need to Know and Teach, Lightning Program at 21st Annual Northwest Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Conference (NWILL), Virtual.

- Horton. J. (2022, November). Access Services Orientation for the Inexperienced Employee, Access Services Conference, Atlanta, GA.

- Graff, R., Horton, J., Jenkins, J., Johnson, M., & McMichael, J. (2023, March 29). ACRL ULS Professional Development Committee: Model Reference Behavior. Panel presenter for an ACRL paid presentation, Virtual.

### Pamela Pagels

- Pamela Pagels, "How Does Your Garden Grow? An Update on Five Years Cultivating SMU Libraries Copyright Support" Texas Chapter of the Music Library Association (November, 5 2022)

### Cassie Walker

- Cassie Walker and Franklin Runge, "Onboarding Students to the Legal Research Classroom," American Association of Law Libraries (June 28, 2022)

- Planning Committee, "Teaching Law Tech Teachers" (One-Day Workshop), American Association of Law Libraries (July 16, 2022)

- Walker, C. (March 31, 2023) "The Research Observation Assignment," Southwestern Association of Law Libraries. Tucson, AZ.

### Hollie Gardner

- Gardner, H. & He, J. (June 2023) "AI in Design Education" workshop, Future of Design in Higher Education convening at Dartmouth University.

- Gardner, H. & Kennedy R. B. (2023, May 16-18). Harmful language in the catalog: Where do we go from here? [Conference presentation]. Texas Conference on Digital Libraries. Austin, TX

### Sylvia Jones

- Jones, S., Been, J. & Carter, K. (May 2023) "Mapping GIS Across Texas Libraries", Poster session and presentation, Texas Conference on Digital Libraries, Austin, Texas

### Gayle Freeman-Staggs

- Freeman-Staggs, G., Harrison, J., Johnson, M. & Rinehart, T. (2023, May). Zombifying instruction: Engaging students with game-based learning. Online presentation Teaching, Learning and Technology Conference 2023.

### Sandy Miller

- Miller, S. (2023, May). "Engaging Outside the Library Walls – When Zombies Attack!", Academic Business Library Directors Conference convening at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois

### Rahni Kennedy

- Kennedy R. B. (2023, April). Critical Cataloging and Classification. [Invited presentation]. Wayne State University Library System, Detroit, MI.

- Gardner, H. & Kennedy R. B. (2023, May 16-18). Harmful language in the catalog: Where do we go from here? [Conference presentation]. Texas Conference on Digital Libraries, Austin, TX.

### Christina Jensen

- Jensen, C. (2022, December). The Joy of Cooking. [Invited presentation]. Friends of SMU Libraries Holiday Luncheon, Dallas, TX.

- Jensen, C. (2022, December). The Joy of Cooking. [Invited presentation]. Southern Methodist University Library Executive Board, Dallas, TX.

- Jensen, C. (2023, April). History's Cookbooks. [Online presentation]. History's Kitchens, UNT, Denton, TX.

### James Williamson

- Williamson, James (2023, March 1) Structural IEs and CSV [Online presentation]. Rosetta Working Group Open Discussion Series, Virtual.

- Williamson, James (2023, June) Structural IEs Update [Conference presentation]. 2023 Rosetta Working Group Annual Meeting, The Hague, Netherlands.

### Sarah Haight Sanabria

- Sanabria, S.H. (2023, May) "Building Campus Partnerships to Advance Open Access," Greater Western Library Alliance Joint Conference, 2023, Houston, Texas.

### Cindy Boeke

- Boeke, C. & Walker, R. (2023, September 22-24). Rare Book and Manuscript Digitization: A Look Behind the Scenes [Poster session]. DH+BH: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Digital Humanities and Book History. https://dcsco-op.org/past-events/dhbh/dhbh-posters/

- Boeke, C. (2023, May 16). Oral History Workflows: Refining Steps for Future Endeavors [Poster session]. Texas Conference on Digital Libraries 2023, Austin, Texas.