SELA News & News from the States

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Attention New Librarians: Call for Papers for New Voices 2024
Sponsored by the University and College Library Section of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) and EBSCO

The winner will be awarded $200 and invited to present their paper as a poster session at the 2024 SELA conference, scheduled for July 15-16, 2024, on the campus of The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

**Submissions must be:**
1. Written by a new professional librarian with no more than five years of experience
2. Address an idea or perspective on a current library issue
   - As the work will be published in *The Southeastern Librarian (SELn)*, see the complete guidelines at https://www.selaonline.org/storage/assets/southeasternlibrarian/gfas.pdf

The monetary award for New Voices is sponsored by EBSCO.

**Important Date:** For your paper to be considered, submissions will be accepted starting May 23rd, with a deadline of noon May 31st, to Neil Foulger, email: nfoulger@alasu.edu.
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

University of Alabama’s Business Library Receives National Recognition

The Angelo Bruno Business Library was featured in the 2023 American Libraries Library Design Showcase issue. This annual showcase features new and renovated libraries that meet patron needs in exciting and effective ways. In 2022, Bruno completed major renovations, updating all facets of the facility with new fixtures, carpet, and décor, and created 20 new team workrooms with modular furniture, white boards from floor to ceiling, and large monitors for collaborative research. The new Thomas Jefferson Jones III business analytics information commons includes a mother’s nursing room and a large stock exchange ticker, replicating what students would see on Wall Street.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF Librarian Selected for 2024 Digital POWRR Peer Assessment Program

Lee Dotson, the University of Central Florida’s Digital Initiatives Librarian and institutional digital repository manager, was accepted into the prestigious Digital POWRR Peer Assessment Program for 2024. POWRR stands for “Preserving (digital) Objects with Restricted Resources.” This program is an exclusive initiative designed to empower individuals to address the challenges of preserving digital assets, especially when faced with limited resources. Lee will engage with a cohort in a year-long comprehensive assessment process, collaborating to evaluate and improve digital preservation strategies and practices. Participants will work closely with peers and mentors, conduct an institutional case study, generate a longer peer assessment report, present findings through a final project showcase, and write a white paper that will be published.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

University of Arkansas Provides Guidance on Using Artificial Intelligence

The University Libraries, in coordination with the office of Academic Initiatives and Integri

dy, have created a research guide titled “AI and Academic Integrity” that is free and open to the campus community and beyond online. As the use of AI becomes increasingly common, this guide serves to provide definitions, ethical considerations, instructions for citing AI sources and precautions that should be taken when using AI in an academic setting.
**Robust Programming at Augusta University**

2023 was a busy year for the Reese and the Robert B. Greenblatt, MD Libraries. In the spring a ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the completed renovation of the Greenblatt Library. Garnett Johnson, Mayor of Augusta, and Sonny Perdue, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, were a few of the local and state dignitaries in attendance.

Other events throughout the year included: Free Comic Book Day, The Segregated Doctoring History Lecture by Dr. Leslie Pollard, A Constitution Read-In, and The annual AU Authors Reception celebrating student, staff, and faculty authors.

The year ended with Reese Library hosting “Life and Limb: The Toll of the American Civil War.” This National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit examines the experiences of disabled veterans and their role as symbols of a fractured nation. A book discussion on *Paying with Their Bodies: American War and the Problem of the Disabled Veteran* by John M. Kinder was held in coordination with this exhibit.

The AU Libraries are busy planning various exciting and educational programs for 2024. Presently, the Greenblatt Library is hosting the National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit “Care and Custody: Past Responses to Mental Health.”

**Western Kentucky Special Collections Relocation**

The Western Kentucky University Special Collections Library relocated to the second floor of Raymond Cravens Library during the summer of 2023. Personnel are ready to welcome back visitors to enjoy its collections for research, teaching, family history, and more.

The Special Collections Library is open Monday-Thursday from 10 AM-4PM central time. While walk-in visits are permitted, confirmed appointments are preferred for viewing materials.

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE**

**UL Lafayette Earns National Award for Access and Diversity Efforts**

The Edith Garland Dupré Library is among 56 academic libraries to earn the inaugural Library Excellence in Access and Diversity (LEAD) Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. The LEAD Award honors academic library programs and initiatives that encourage and support diversity, equity, and inclusion in a range of areas. Those areas include content, programs, research, technology, accessibility, exhibitions, and community outreach.

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI**

**New Hires at the University of Mississippi**

On October 30, 2023, The University of Mississippi Libraries hired two new librarians. Ally Watkins has joined UM Libraries as a Research & Instruction Librarian and Assistant Professor. Ally will be the library liaison for the School of Education. She graduated from the University of Mississippi with a B.A. in English and received her M.L.I.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi. Jeannie Speck-Thompson
has joined UM Libraries as the University Archivist and Assistant Professor. Jeannie received her M.L.I.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi and her B.A. in English from the University of Mississippi. In addition, Jeannie is working toward her doctorate in history from the University of Mississippi.

Southern Miss Hosts New Exhibit

The University of Southern Mississippi’s Special Collections has a new exhibit: “Gene Taylor: South Mississippi’s Choice for U.S. Congress, 1989–2011.” Drawn extensively from Gene Taylor’s papers, the exhibit highlights major themes of his tenure. A listening center and research table are installed in the gallery to allow visitors to spend more time learning about his perspectives on the Iraq War and Hurricane Katrina. The exhibit is on display in McCain Library and Archives through March 22nd by appointment.

UNC Chapel Hill Vaping Settlement Depository Partnership

A partnership between the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s University Libraries and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) will create an online searchable public depository of roughly 4 million internal documents from the state of North Carolina’s $47.8 million settlement with electronic cigarette maker Juul Labs. As part of the settlement, Juul Labs is required to make these records public. These documents will explain how Juul Labs marketed its products and will help make sure that other companies cannot use the same playbook. UNC-Chapel Hill was selected to oversee the $1 million project. The Libraries in turn partnered with the UCSF Industry Documents Library, which has extensive experience managing the volume of records involved in the Truth Tobacco Industry Documents and other collections. The Juul Labs documents will be cross-searchable with more than 18 million other documents in the Industry Document Library’s tobacco, opioid, chemical, drug, food, and fossil fuel industry archives, which have supported over 1,100 publications and had a significant impact on tobacco control and other public health policies in the U.S. and around the world.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson History Museum Receives First Major Gift

Mary Blakely “Blake” Hendricks Burnside has given $25,000 to the development of a Clemson history museum and interpretive center. Burnside, whose family has a 100-year history with the institution, also plans to include the museum in her estate, so that more money will go to support the project in the future. This donation marks the first significant gift towards this initiative.
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Vanderbilt’s Science and Engineering Library’s Improved Main Floor

Vanderbilt University’s Sarah Shannon Stevenson Science and Engineering Library has reconfigured its physical space to be more conducive for students to gather. All books were relocated from its main floor to the Reading Room, freeing up more than 3,400 square feet of space for studying and collaboration.

VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Teach Data Expert Named Maintainer Community Lead for the Carpentries

Nathaniel Porter, University Libraries’ social science data consultant and data education coordinator, is taking on a new role as the maintainer lead for The Carpentries, an international community of data and computing educators. The maintainer community lead’s primary role is to recruit, connect, and coordinate The Carpentries’ lesson maintainers from all over the world. This includes hosting monthly meetings, recruiting and onboarding new maintainers, coordinating with curriculum leads, and encouraging and equipping non-maintainers to contribute effectively.