The Southeastern Librarian

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SELA News & News from the States

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SELA Annual Conference & Call for Proposals

SELA’s annual conference will take place July 14-16 on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. This year’s theme is “Recharge in Rocket City.” For more information about registration and travel, visit the conference website.

Those interested in presenting should fill out the Call for Proposals form.
Auburn Investigates Open Access Publishing Models

Auburn University Libraries’ Patricia Hartman and Ali Krzton collaborated with biologist Dr. Laurie Stevison on a research project for Stevison’s computational biology course. Their collaboration resulted in the publication of “Does it pay to pay? A comparison of the benefits of open-access publishing across various subfields in biology” in the journal PeerJ. This quantitative study found that while “gold” open access biology articles (authors pay charges for open access) enjoy more citations than subscription-based articles do, “green” open access articles (authors deposit their work in a public repository) also garner more citations than those behind a paywall without incurring publishing costs for the author.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

USF Libraries to House Archive of Elie Wiesel

The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity has named the University of South Florida and the Florida Holocaust Museum as the permanent homes of the papers and artifacts of the late Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor, esteemed humanitarian, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Wiesel’s physical and digitized papers, including correspondence with world leaders, unfinished manuscripts, photographs, and video and audio recordings will be housed and cataloged at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library’s Special Collections Department on the USF St. Petersburg campus.

With this trove of historical documents and research materials, USF plans to create the Elie Wiesel Center for Humanitarian Ethics. The new center will feature an historical archive and searchable database, allowing researchers and educators to delve deeper into the Holocaust and apply Wiesel’s teachings to contemporary genocides, crimes against humanity, and assaults on human rights.
UGA Offers Free Home Movie Digitization

The University of Georgia Libraries’ Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Archives sponsored a free digitization service event for the public. Anyone with old tapes of home videos, ranging in formats ranging from Super 8 to Betamax, was encouraged to drop off up to five movies at the local public library or UGA Special Collections Libraries in late March. The tapes and digitized files will be delivered during an event on April 20th. During the “Free the Tapes: Home Movie Edition” celebration, the community will have the opportunity to learn about and engage with various audiovisual formats and equipment with this exhibit.

UK Digitizes Rare French Revolution Publications

The University of Kentucky Libraries’ French Revolution Publications Collection, which consists of approximately 5,000 political bulletins printed from the beginning of the French Revolution through the ascendancy of Napoleon Bonaparte, were recently digitized and made available to researchers everywhere. This multivolume bound set represents all sides of the conflict and is the only known surviving copy in the world.

LSU’s Jen Cramer Receives Community Engagement Award

LSU Libraries’ Jen Cramer is one of 10 recipients of this year’s Happy Awards. The awards are bestowed annually by the LSU Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership to faculty, staff, students, and community partners who represent the highest ideals of reciprocal service-learning partnerships.

Cramer is the director of LSU Libraries’ T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, the largest and most comprehensive oral history repository in the state of Louisiana, and one of the largest in the South. She was nominated for this award by Jennifer J. Baumgartner, an associate professor in the School of Education and a 2023 Happy Award winner, for her work on Baumgartner’s service-learning courses and other courses on campus.

2024 Ezra Jack Keats Award Winner Announced

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi’s de Grummond Children’s Collection, has announced the 2024 Ezra Jack Keats Award. The EJK Award celebrates exceptional early career authors and illustrators for portraying the world’s multicultural nature in the spirit of Ezra Jack Keats. The award ceremony will be held on Thurs-
day, April 11, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. eastern time during the Fay B. Kaigler Children’s Book Festival on USM’s Hattiesburg campus.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

UNC Chapel Hill Develops All-Digital Watergate Exhibit

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries’ new digital-only exhibit, “A Southern View of Watergate: Tar Heels’ Impact on a Nationwide Scandal,” preserves and shares papers donated by three alums who played significant roles during the investigation. Among other things, this exhibit spotlights key documents now housed in the Wilson Library: two Nixon subpoenas, Nixon’s written refusal to comply, and a copy of the president’s infamous “enemies list.” The digital-only exhibition brings together for the first time these rare items that have been digitized for preservation.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

USC Data Visualization Awards

Three University of South Carolina Ph.D. candidates won the University Libraries’ inaugural Graduate Student Data Visualization Awards. The awards reflect the growing importance of data visualization and celebrate excellence in research by graduate students across the university. The Data Visualization Awards invite students to submit work they’ve completed for classroom assignments or ongoing research projects.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Edible Books Festival Returns to Vanderbilt

For the first time since 2019, Vanderbilt University’s Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries hosted the Edible Books Festival. Campus community members were invited to create their interpretations of a favorite literary work in edible form. More than a dozen entries were made from edible materials, including cake, cookies, pie, crackers, gelatin, fruit, vegetables, and candy. Following a public viewing of the entries, a panel of judges determined who would take home the top prizes. Kayce Gill, health sciences collections librarian, won Judges’ Choice and People’s Choice for her Ghostbusters II-inspired entry “Slimer’s Lunch.” Heard Libraries joins other libraries around the globe in celebrating Edible Book Day with events held on or around April 1.

VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Teach Data Expert Named Maintainer Community Lead for the Carpentries

Virginia Tech’s Professor Erin Hopkins has published Sustainable Property Management, the first open textbook focused specifically on property management and green buildings. Released through the Open Education Initiative
and Virginia Tech Publishing, housed in University Libraries, this pioneering work fills major gaps that existed in sustainability resources for undergraduate and graduate college property management programs. Hopkins’ collaboration with University Libraries highlights the essential support libraries provide in bringing scholarly works to fruition.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA

WVU’s Health Sciences Library Hosting Art Therapy Exhibit

The University of West Virginia’s Health Sciences Library is hosting an exhibit titled “The Art of an Art Therapist” through August. Art therapists often use their own art-making practice to combat burnout and remain creatively engaged outside of their work. In this exhibit, Dr. Annie McFarland, assistant professor of Art Therapy shares personal artwork consisting of a variety of media including collage, drawing, painting, and sketchbook work.