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News from the States

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NEWS FROM THE STATES



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

UAB Celebrates New Gallery Space

On September 20th, UAB Libraries held a grand opening ceremony for the Dennis G. Pappas Historical Collections Gallery. The gallery is named for Dennis G. Pappas Sr., MD, and Dennis G. Pappas Jr., MD, both of whom specialize in otolaryngology and are longtime supporters of UAB Libraries' historical collections.

The Pappas Gallery is a 3,000 square foot space on the second floor of the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences and the exhibition home to the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences, Reynolds-Finley Historical Library, and UAB Archives. Visitors can tour the gallery's inaugural exhibit, "Navigating Communication: Breaking Invisible Barriers," which explores vision and hearing loss and treatments and offers deeper understanding of the lived experiences of the deaf, blind, and deafblind communities. It will be on display through August 2025.



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

UA Libraries Facilitates ORCID ID Campaign

The University of Arkansas is embarking on a campaign to attain full participation in ORCID by faculty, research staff, and graduate students. ORCID is a free, unique, persistent identifier for individuals to use as they engage in research, scholarship, and innovation activities. It is the most universal ID when compared with other unique author ID systems and has been integrated with many major publishers.

The first phase of this rollout involves the faculty. University Libraries is emailing each faculty member with a unique link for establishing their IDs. This project is sponsored by University Libraries, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, the Office of Graduate Student Support, and Research and Academic Technologies.



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF Opens New Production Studio

The University of Central Florida Libraries is excited to announce the roll out of a new Production Studio at the John C. Hitt Library. This innovative space provides users with the tools necessary to create professional-quality videos and images. With three versatile areas for capturing content, the studio is designed to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff across a wide range of creative projects. The Conversation Stage is tailor-made for interviews and podcast-style recordings. From capturing photography to shooting dynamic videos, the Presentation Stage is fully equipped with a variety of backdrops and mirrorless cameras. The Headshot Stage offers a photo-booth-style setup for capturing high-resolution images.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA Establishes New Research Department

As new regulations and best practices with research data evolve in academia, a new department in the University of Georgia Libraries is poised to help researchers navigate the changing technology and policy landscape at every stage of their project, from data management planning to analysis to publishing. The Department of Research and Computational Data Management (RCDM) offers resources and support to faculty and student researchers whether they are experienced or just starting out. The five-person team, led by Dr. Beth Woods, offers seminars, workshops and one-on-one consultations with research data management planning; data discovery, access, and collection; data storage, analysis, and visualization; and publishing, copyright, and digital preservation.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

UK's New Digital Scholarship Center

The University of Kentucky Libraries is thrilled to announce the opening of a brand new space for all students, faculty, staff, and researchers. Named to honor King Library's historical purpose of housing analog collections, with a nod to contemporary digital infrastructure, The Stacks: Digital Scholarship Center is a unique space with specialized equipment, resources, and events dedicated to digital and data-intensive scholarship.

With expertise that spans all areas of digital and data-intensive scholarship, The Stacks team offers guidance with data applications and visualizations, digital and open access publishing, digital project management & sustainability, digital scholarship methods & tools, GIS & digital mapping, research data management, and digital humanities.



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

LSU Launches OER Advancement Fellowship

This year, Louisiana State University Libraries established a new initiative designed to increase the awareness and usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) across LSU's campus. The OER Advancement Fellowship awards stipends to faculty members who are committed to reviewing or incorporating OER materials into their curricula, thereby reducing reliance on costly commercial textbooks.

During the 18-month project period, the fellows will participate in a series of workshops and consultations that will equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully implement OER in their courses. By embracing these resources, the fellows will play a crucial role in advancing educational equity at LSU, ensuring that students have greater access to free, high-quality learning materials. Eleven members of faculty across various schools and colleges were accepted as inaugural fellowship participants.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

New Appointments at UM

The University of Mississippi Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sian Lee as Assistant Professor of Scholar Support and Data Services, effective August 26th. Dr. Lee is the latest member of the recently established Scholar Support and Data Services (SSDS) department at UML. Dr. Lee received his Ph.D. in Informatics from Penn State.

The University of Mississippi Libraries is also pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Carelse as Research and Instruction Librarian and Assistant Professor, effective September 30th. Mr. Carelse received his MLIS from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Blues Archive at UM Commemorates Milestone

The Blues Archive at the University of Mississippi celebrated its 40th anniversary on September 13th with live music performances from Libby Rae Watson and Afrissippi. Established in 1984, the Blues Archive acquires and preserves blues and blues-related materials in a variety of formats for scholars of the blues, African American studies, and southern culture. With thousands of sound recordings, photographs, videos, books, periodicals, newsletters, research collections, memorabilia, and more the Blues Archive houses one of the largest blues collections in the world.

UM Librarians Receive Award

Abbie Norris-Davidson and Adam Clemons won the Fortier Prize for Emerging Scholars at the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations at George Mason University in Washington, D. C. for their presentation on the "Dear Mr. Meredith" project. As the Digital Initiatives Librarian, Norris-Davidson implements and manages digital projects for the Libraries. Clemons is an Assistant Professor of Scholar Support and Data Services.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

New Appointments at UNC Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Luke Barron as a Clinical Librarian for the Health Sciences Library, effective July 29th. They were previously a graduate assistant at the Health Sciences Library. Barron holds an M.S. in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's . degree in business administration from Baylor University

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Joel Collier as a Clinical Librarian for the Health Sciences Library, effective August 5th. He brings experience from time at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Research Triangle Park Library and at Poudre River Public Libraries in Fort Collins, Colorado. Collier holds an M.S. in information sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.A. in history from Colorado State University.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Katherine Howell as Health Sciences Librarian for the Health Sciences Library, effective August 26th. Howell was most recently an assistant professor and librarian at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's Bluford Library. She previously worked as an assistant professor and librarian at Western Kentucky University. Howell holds an M.S. in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and bachelor's degrees in economics and classics from Davidson College.

New Appointment at UNC Chapel Hill’s University Libraries

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Collin Drummond as Open Knowledge and Research Impact Librarian, effective September 23rd. In this two-year position reporting to the Library’s scholarly communications officer, Drummond will advance programs and activities to make scholarship more affordable, sustainable, transparent and open. His focus will be on collecting, analyzing and interpreting bibliometric and other data to guide decision-making. Drummond earned both an M.S. in library science and a B.A. in linguistics and history from UNC-Chapel Hill.

New Appointment at UNC Chapel Hill’s NCHDC

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Ashlie Brewer as digital projects coordinator for the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (NCHDC), effective September 30. The NCDHC partners with cultural heritage organizations statewide to digitize historical materials and publish them online. In this role, Brewer will support the handling and digitization of a wide variety of special collections materials. She will also develop workflows, ensure the quality of finished files and supervise the Center’s digitization staff and student assistants. Brewer has published and presented about community collaboration, digitization of local history and increasing access to historical materials. Brewer holds a B.A. in anthropology and music, with a minor in Chinese from UNC-Greensboro. She recently earned an M.A. in public history at North Carolina State University.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

USC Appoints University Historian

The University of South Carolina’s University Libraries is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Evan Faulkenbury as its University Librarian, effective August 16th. Dr. Faulkenbury was most recently an associate professor of history at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Cortland. In addition to being a scholar of civil rights, African American history, public history, and historical methods, he is a practicing public historian who has engaged fellow historians, students, and the public through partnerships with local history organizations, by conducting oral histories, leading book clubs in public libraries, writing monthly history columns in newspapers, and working with the National Council on Public History (NCPH) as a lead editor for *History@Work*.

Housed in University Libraries, the University Historian serves as the principal resource on matters of historic interpretation, representation, and commemoration of the University of South Carolina for the university community and beyond. Dr. Faulkenbury will engage with the community to tell the University of South Carolina’s story fully, with historical accuracy, through a variety of forums and media, and will advise university leadership on matters surrounding building names, historical markers and monuments, and public art. Dr. Faulkenbury will also research, create, and disseminate original scholarship on the USC’s past in collaboration with appropriate campus partners and other relevant university, local, regional, and state entities.



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Vanderbilt’s Sesquicentennial Time Capsule Project

Last spring, Vanderbilt University’s Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries began collecting

and curating materials—both physical and digital—to provide insight into campus life and the university’s values and priorities during its 150th year. In addition to considering the items placed in the recently opened 1874 time capsule, the Libraries polled the Vanderbilt community for suggests of items to include. More than 50 university schools, departments, campus organizations, and individuals responded with recommendations that included drone video footage of campus; Campus Dining recipes and menus; a WRVU-curated playlist; materials from the K.C. Potter Center for LGBTQI Life; a composite photograph of Greek Life officers; statements from the University Staff Advisory Council, faculty and various student leaders on their vision for the future of Vanderbilt; and Chancellor Daniel Diermeier’s 2024 Founders Walk address, in which he highlighted the time capsule. Over 150 items were included.

When Vanderbilt leaders opened the 1874 time capsule in February 2023, they discovered that water and mold had caused significant damage to the contents. As a result, the Libraries’ staff stepped up preservation efforts for the new one. It is a steel box with approximately the same dimensions in inches as the original copper one—11 by 11 by 10. One way it differs is the addition of a nozzle used to remove oxygen, which causes paper to deteriorate. The nozzle also pumps in nitrogen, an inert gas that reduces oxidation. In addition, the staff sought acid-free paper for any typed or printed documents going in the capsule. The time capsule will be opened in 2174.



THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

William & Mary Publishes its Second OA Publication

College of William & Mary Libraries has published its second open access publication, which explores the meanings of life and death in the Greek play, *Alcestis*. The book, *Euripides’ Al-*

cestis: Introduction, Translation, Notes, and Essay, was authored by former W&M provost and classical studies professor Dr. Michael R. Halleran. Halleran was working on a modern translation and analysis of *Alcestis* that could be useful to anyone from scholars to students to someone that knew nothing about Greek literature. He believed that his project would also be well-suited as an open educational resource (OER).

Rosie Liljenquist, W&M Publishing and Open Access Librarian, oversaw Dr. Halleran’s publication from start to finish. Halleran has published several works, but this is his first open access project. Working with W&M Libraries helped him discover the opportunities that digital publishing provides including accessibility, the ability to add on in the future, and allowing for more creative and productive uses of space that hardcopy cannot permit. Liljenquist is excited about the opportunities to collaborate with more faculty on open access publications and hopes to expand the collection of open access works that W&M Libraries publishes to cover a variety of topics.



WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

WVU’s Stewart Plein Honored with Emerita Status

Stewart Plein, Curator of Rare Books and Printed Resources at the West Virginia & Regional History Center (WVRHC), retired August 30th after 13 years of service with emerita status. Plein began her passionate work with books and printed materials in the local books trade in 1995. In 2004, she joined WVU Libraries as a volunteer in the Rare Book Room. This experience changed her life’s direction, inspiring her to earn her MLIS. She began her professional career as a special collections librarian in 2011 at the WVU Law Library and has been a member of the faculty at the WVRHC since 2014.

Plein greatly advanced the stewardship and development of the West Virginia Books and Serials Collection, the Appalachian Collection and the Rare Book Collection at the WVRHC. She ensured those collections grew reflecting current scholarship and creative writing from the region. Plein taught hundreds of rare book, Appalachian studies, and primary source instruction sessions for WVU courses. Furthermore, she served as principal investigator and managing director for five West Virginia National Digital Newspaper Project grants.

Plein's scholarship includes articles, book chapters, blog posts, essays, and annual updates to *West Virginia History's* West Virginia History Bibliography. In addition, Plein's scholarship included the research and production of multiple exhibitions that highlighted items from the collections, featured stories about the Rare Book Collection, and appeared in the Libraries' Ex Libris as well as in WVU Magazine.