

TEX Libris

The Magazine of the
University of Texas Libraries

Fall 2019

 TEXAS Libraries

SEMESTER *ATA GLANCE*

SEPT.

04 **Digital Humanities Workshops
OCR for Non-Roman Texts**
Wednesday, September 4, 2019
1-2:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Data Lab

11 **Digital Humanities Workshop
Cleaning Structured Data**
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
1-2:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 3

13 **OER Community of Practice
Meet-Up**
Friday, September 13, 2019
9-11 a.m.,
Nettie Lee Benson Latin
American Collection,
SRH 1.115

13 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, September 13, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

18 **Digital Humanities Workshop
Cleaning Unstructured Data**
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
1-2:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 3

19 **Austin Today and Tomorrow:
Sinclair Black**
Thursday, September 19, 2019
5:30-6:30 p.m.,
MAI 212

20 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, September 20, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

25 **Digital Humanities Workshop**
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
1-2:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 3

25 **Film: "The Year My Parents
Went on Vacation"**
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
7-9 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1a

**26
28** **Digital Frontiers 2019
Conference**
September 26-28, 2019
All-day, multiple locations

27 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, September 27, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

OCT.

02 **Research Speed Dating**
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
5-6:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

04 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, October 4, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

08 **Lovelace Day Women in
STEM Edit-a-thon**
Tuesday, October 8, 2019
9-5 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 2

10 **Digital Humanities Project
Showcase**
Wednesday, October 10, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 3

11 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, October 11, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

18 **Data & Donuts**
Friday, October 18, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

18 **OER Community of
Practice Meet-Up**
Friday, October 18, 2019
9-11 a.m.,
Peter T. Flawn Academic
Center, 330

22 **Open Access Week Trivia**
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
2-4 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library lobby

**20
25** **45th International
Association of Marine
Science Librarians International
Conference (IAMSLIC)**
October 20-25, 2019
All day, Marine Science Library,
Port Aransas

26 **Family Weekend: Great Texas
Showcase**
Saturday, October 26, 2019
11-2 p.m., Gregory Gym Plaza

NOV.

02 **UT Civic Data Hackathon**
Saturday, November 2, 2019
9-5 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

07 **Digital Scholars in Practice:
Joan Neuberger**
Thursday, November 7, 2019
12-1:30 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1

07 **Creating and Sharing OER -
A How-To Guide**
Thursday, November 7, 2019
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 4

07 **The Fortunoff Archive for
Holocaust Testimonies at UT
Austin: An Introductory
Workshop by Director
Stephen Naron**
Thursday, November 7, 2019
12-2 p.m., Perry-Castañeda
Library, Learning Lab 3

13 **GIS Day Workshop:
Introduction to the
Texas GeoData Portal**
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
12-2 p.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 1 and Map Room

DEC.

06 **Holiday Reception,
Staff Arts & Craft**
Friday, December 6, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.,
Marine Science Library

06 **OER Community of Practice
Meet-Up**
Friday, December 6, 2019
9-11 a.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Learning Lab 4

10 **Donut Day in the Scholars
Commons**
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
9-11 a.m.,
Perry-Castañeda Library,
Graduate Landing Spot

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Spelunker's Delight

Friend of the Walter Library Bill Mixon recently donated his unique collection materials related to cave and karst research, literature and culture to the Walter Geology Library.

The Underlying Technology



Over the past year, as we've gathered information and feedback from the campus community regarding the future of the University of Texas Libraries in service of a task force convened by Provost Maurie McInnis, more than once we've encountered the comment, "I wasn't aware the Libraries did that."

Too often, the support that libraries provide to our users goes unnoticed. Much like electricity or running water, the services and resources that backstop the central work of research and learning at the university don't get much attention unless something prevents them from being available. Students routinely assume that the Libraries' website just leads them to other websites that have the articles they need. Researchers who access journals directly from web searches in their offices can't understand why going to those same links when they're off campus generates a page requesting payment for a resource. Users rarely conceive

how a book requested through interlibrary service can arrive in their hands from points across the globe in a few short days.

Libraries tend not to spend much time or energy on boasting. Mostly we're too busy bootstrapping the work we're expected to do. But we're also doing the unexpected, especially in areas of need associated with reliance on modern technology. So let's take a look at how the Libraries Information Technology (LIT) team spends their time when they're not keeping a website that serves 10 million people a year running or managing the hundreds of computers and providing support for the untold volume of hardware and software required by a top-tier academic library.

The Libraries has discernable connections to complementary organizations on campus like the Harry Ransom Center and the Briscoe Center for American History; the historical ties to these collections are long-standing, and

the Libraries is an ever-present supplementary resource for researchers at those campus gems. But our LIT team also provides the technical backend support for the HRC and Briscoe Center that allows them to focus efforts and resources on more essential work. We administer the Ransom Center's staff portal that provides support for the professionals that care for the center's world-class collections. And our team have helped to build and manage several sites that provide web access to the Briscoe Center's high profile collections, including the archives of journalist Dan Rather and former Texas Governor Bill Clements, as well as providing the digital versions of the center's Sanborn Fire Maps collection.

LIT also plays a central role in developing digital scholarship tools with researchers and faculty from across campus, but especially heavily in the area of digital humanities. For more than 10 years, the Libraries has worked

in the creation and management of Voces, a Latinx oral history site developed by Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez of the Moody School of Communications; Voces celebrated a relaunch of their enhanced website last year. The Libraries worked with Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature Geraldine Heng to build a web portal for the digital resources collected through the Global Middle Ages Project for collaboration among scholars to weave together independent work into a cohesive resource. LIT has also worked with Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services (LAITS) to support the digital efforts of the Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (AILLA), which will include resultant work from an National Endowment for the Humanities grant AILLA received last year.

Libraries technology expertise is also deployed in service of academic units around campus in support of learning and research on campus, by helping to provide access to departmental digital collections. Faculty in the College of Fine Arts (COFA) rely heavily upon the college's slide collections for teaching, and staff in the Fine Arts Library coordinate with LITS to make those resources available through the portal to COFA's Visual Resources Collection. Likewise, LIT has worked with staff in the School of Architecture (SOA) to make their digitized visual collections web accessible through SOA's Visual Resources Collection.

The support our LIT staff provides extends far afield of campus, too. Significant global partnerships — especially those connected to efforts at the Benson Latin American Collections — have been reliant on core contributions from the Libraries. Initial work developing a landing site (Kigali

Memorial Centre) for the Kigali Genocide Memorial, where digital records of the survivor testimonies reside, were handled by Libraries' IT staff in coordination with Benson archivists and KMC staff. The Libraries' also provided the resources for the construction of Primeros Libros, an international effort by collecting institutions to digitize the first books published in the Americas. One of the most notable and controversial projects endeavored by the Libraries was to help facilitate the digital preservation of the Guatemalan Police Archive (AHPN), a cache of over 10 million documents that provides evidence of human rights violations in the Central American country between 1960-1996. LIT has helped to build, maintain and enhance the web resources of this project since its inception, ensuring that this important record won't be lost to sociopolitical transitions in the region. More recently, staff from LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections and the LIT team have been building upon a project — initially funded from a 2014 Mellon grant award — that takes a more comprehensive approach to preserving the culture and history of Latin America. The

Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI) repository represents multiple collections shared through the practice of post-custodial archiving to catalog digital resources provided by our southern neighbors.

Beyond their hands-on expertise, our staff technology professionals have accepted roles on various committees across campus to help guide university policies in technology and digitization, currently holding seats on the Central IT Executive Commission and Identity & Access Management Committee.

The stereotype still prevails at times, but it's worth reinforcing: the library is not simply a book storehouse. It is an active participant in the digital environment, and essential — though much of the time, behind the curtain — to the successful work of others.

Though the lights will on occasion go off, and the water may cease to flow, our committed experts doing their best to make sure that on normal days, things are working better than they should and library users are none the wiser.



Graduates Honor with Senior Gift



Recent UT graduates showed some real class.

The 2019 graduating seniors earmarked their senior class gift for the Fred and Jean Heath Libraries Tomorrow Fund, which provides additional monies for the University of Texas Libraries.

Students were encouraged by their peer leaders at the Texas Student Foundation to donate a gift in the amount of \$20.19 for the class gift through the university's crowdfunding platform, Hornraiser. To date, the gift has raised over \$34,000 from more than 850 students and library supporters.

The senior class gift effort was renewed by the University Development Office in 2018 to encourage a culture of philanthropy among the student population on campus. The concept of a student gift first emerged in 1924 when the graduating class organized to raise \$100,000 for the construction of a football stadium. This year's campaign was managed with the newly-formed Texas Student Foundation, composed of class leaders, who spent the fall surveying students to see where they thought the class gift should be donated.

Statewide Archives Resource Gets Upgrade Grant



This spring, the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) consortium and the University of Texas Libraries received a grant of \$348,359 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to enhance their efforts to provide researchers worldwide with access to collection descriptions of archival primary sources in libraries, archives and museums across Texas.

The grant builds on a 2015 NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant which enabled planning in key areas including shared best practices, training documentation and outreach to current and potential members and users. Grant activities will include a redesign of the TARO web platform to improve functionality and appearance, a review of Encoded Archival Description (EAD3) encoding standards, work towards standardizing existing control access terms (geographic names and subject headings) and training to support participation for TARO members.

TARO was first supported by a research grant from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Board of the State of Texas in

1999. The University of Texas Libraries (UT Libraries) served as the requesting institution, with project partners including the Texas Digital Library Alliance, Rice University, Texas A&M University, Texas State Library and Archives, Texas Tech University, University of Houston and the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. With these grant funds, UT Libraries established the TARO website, outsourced encoding of several hundred finding aids and provided training to member repositories. Repositories began contributing their own hand-coded finding aids in 2002. UT Libraries continued to support TARO after that initial grant. In June 2018 TARO formalized its institutional home as a program of the UT Libraries and a permanent memorandum of understanding was signed.

“Having the State Archives’ finding aids available online in TARO, a consortial environment, where there are many shared and related topics among the materials held by member repositories, provides untold opportunities for discovery of our unique resources,” said Jelain Chubb, state archivist and director of the Archives and Information Services Division at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The grant will fund work through April 2022 and will be administered through the University of Texas Libraries. Libraries Director of Digital Strategies Aaron Choate will serve as the grant’s principal investigator. Members of the TARO Steering Committee and its subcommittees will carry out work as outlined in the grant. The TARO steering committee and subcommittees, representing a broad array of state-wide institutions, will carry out the work of the grant with support from two positions hosted by the Libraries’ Discovery and Access and Library Information Technology departments.

“As a founding partner in TARO, the UT Libraries has been proud to support the project over the years and we are excited to have the opportunity to work with the team to enhance the future of this vital collective project,” said Aaron Choate, Director of Digital Strategies at the Libraries.



Meuse-Argonne Offensive map showing daily position.

Trench Maps

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The notoriety of the online Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection has afforded us many amazing gifts, and two recent donations are particularly notable.

The family of UT alumni Roy J. Beery graciously gifted us with the maps he used when he served in the World War II Invasion of Normandy, and the Army Heritage Center gifted maps and other materials that Colonel Roland T. Fenton, who served in machine gun battalions in World War I and World War II, used during his service. The fact that these maps survived the treacheries of war is amazing. We are lucky to be able to preserve and share them with generations to come.

Generally the Libraries seek maps in pristine condition, but in the case of these materials, the wear and writing are an important part of the story. The donations include maps used by U.S. Navy, Lieutenant Commander Roy Beery while on sea duty in the Atlantic amphibious force during the assault on the Coast of Normandy, France. And as part of the 103rd Machine Gun Battalion, Lt. Fenton was on the front lines of WWI; materials that belonged to him consist of items he used including trench maps, front line maps, and even a long distance firing range calculator for a Hotchkiss machine gun.



GIS and Geospatial Data Coordinator Michael Shensky.

All Over The Map

In the same way that the internet and digitization have created new ways to make books more discoverable and facilitated new ways of exploring text, so too, have they opened avenues for a greater exploration of maps and their underlying data.

The UT Libraries has deliberately practiced later adoption of new currents in libraries and librarianship in order to take advantage of the trial and error stage that so often is part of embracing untested technologies and frameworks. Geographic information systems (GIS) technology has been evolving for several years now as a burgeoning area of expertise in libraries, and with the expansive cartographic resources we have at UT and the evolution in the growth of local datasets, it was time for the Libraries to embrace GIS as part of its overall strategic expertise.

Geospatial data identifies data that has a geographic component to it – any data that includes locational information (such as coordinates, addresses, cities, zip codes, etc.), and can be applied to some position on the Earth. We rely on geospatial data to track weather, find the best route to a destination, manage air traffic, make decisions about where to invest in infrastructure projects and how best to deploy marketing resources. And all of these data forms can be mapped. GIS helps to organize and visualize that data in ways that make it eminently more useful.

The Libraries finally entered the landscape of GIS last year with the hiring of Geospatial Data Coordinator Michael Shensky, and a major undertaking in his short tenure has been to spearhead the development of an interface that will facilitate discovery of the





cartographic resources and geospatial datasets in our collections by researchers, faculty and other university constituents.

The Texas GeoData Portal uses an open source geospatial discovery application – GeoBlacklight – to power a web portal that gives users the ability to search, browse, preview, and download geospatial datasets. Visitors to the website will be able to search through a variety of geospatial datasets, including georeferenced scanned map images from the Perry-Castañeda Library Maps Collection and vector datasets developed from items in other special collections like the Benson Latin American Collection and Alexander Architectural Archives.

The portal will allow users to download data in several different standard geospatial formats so that they can easily be loaded into GIS software for advanced visualization and analysis.

Coordinated use of GeoBlacklight software and collaboration through the OpenGeoMetadata project has created a community among partner institutions for the sharing and standardization of data and metadata, expanding opportunities for discovery and creating a robust search functionality among a large corpus of resources. Users can filter search results based on various dataset characteristics including geographic extent, subject matter, institution, data type, and format.

“I’m really excited to be a part of this project because I know this portal has the potential to benefit everyone in the campus community regardless of their role and area of specialization,” says Shensky. “Faculty can use the portal to find data for developing instructional materials, students can find data to use in research projects, and visitors will have access to a variety of unique maps and datasets that they can explore.”

The Texas GeoData Portal is in the closing stages of development with a full launch expected later in the fall, and users can access the new resource through the Libraries’ website. Discussions are underway regarding future functionality, which could include UT single sign on authentication for viewing license-restricted data, integration with the unified search on the Libraries’ website and integration with the Texas Data Repository and the Collections portal.

Working From Page to Webpage

At a time when students would rather do their research in the relative comfort of their pajamas, it's encouraging to know that our faculty are still teaching the value of getting your hands dirty.

Working with the Libraries' Head of Information Literacy Services Elise Nacca, Dr. Elon Lang led students in his course "Treasure Hunt in Campus Archives: Giving Voice to Hidden Histories," through

introductions to special collections across campus – including the Benson Latin American Collection, the Harry Ransom Center and the Briscoe Center for American History – and shared the basics of exploring primary source materials.

Nacca and Lang developed the course to take students through meaningful hands-on activities with under-researched, under-recognized, and sometimes

Dr. Elon Lang (far right) and his "Treasure Hunt in Campus Archives" students. Photo by Anne Braseby.



obscure archives that allow them to engage in a dialogue about significant issues of social justice.

Lang was one of eleven recipients of a Faculty Innovation Grant provided by the university's Faculty Innovation Center that encourage faculty to explore ways to enhance learning within their courses through the use of instructional technology and learning tools to tackle teaching or learning challenges. A component of Lang's course was for students to work with a digital platform – in this case Omeka – to increase digital literacy skills.

"I hope that students learn about how to engage in ethical collecting and research practices while also learning how to turn scholarly archival research into public history," says Lang. "Students may begin the semester without even knowing the difference between an archive and a library, but by the end of the semester they are able to apply ethical research and collection practices to a group-created digitization project—essentially doing the work of digital archiving and curating an online exhibit themselves."

The outcome of the course was an online digital archive — "Highlighting Inequity and Identity in History," (givingvoicetohiddenhistories.omeka.net) — that consists of interrelated Omeka exhibits which are part of the students' collaborative capstone projects; the 2019 course project included revamping and building upon the work of the previous year's class. The site aims to showcase some of the university's lesser-known archival holdings and to contextualize the archival material with research the students conducted at the Libraries.

This isn't Lang's first foray into teaching with primary resources. He has offered students a chance to explore the ethics and ideals of leaders portrayed in literature about monarchs from King Arthur to Queen Elizabeth I, to study "strong women" in classic Western dramas from Aeschylus to Shakespeare to Ibsen, and to learn to do original research on rare books and performing arts collections at the Harry Ransom Center. He has also taught a summer UTEACH workshop for local high school English teachers called "Teaching from the Archives" utilizing resources at the Ransom Center.

Nacca helped to plan the engagements, and brought in experts from the Libraries to provide insights on organizing principles for archives and the implications of copyright and fair use in the utilization of original materials as resources. She recognizes the important contributions of Theresa Polk at the Benson, Margaret Schlankey at the Briscoe and Andi Gustavson at the



Lang with students at the Harry Ransom Center. Photo by Anne Braseby.

Ransom Center, as well as the Libraries' Head of Access Services Melanie Cofield.

"My pedagogical approach to courses like these is to make sure that the undergraduates understand the responsibilities they have to the communities they are representing and can identify moments when archives and human rights or activism intersect," says Nacca.

"The students who participate are really enthusiastic and engaged. They are exposed to these new concepts and develop a new appreciation for collecting practices and the experts who work in collections. It's a unique course and an intense engagement for me."

-Elise Nacca

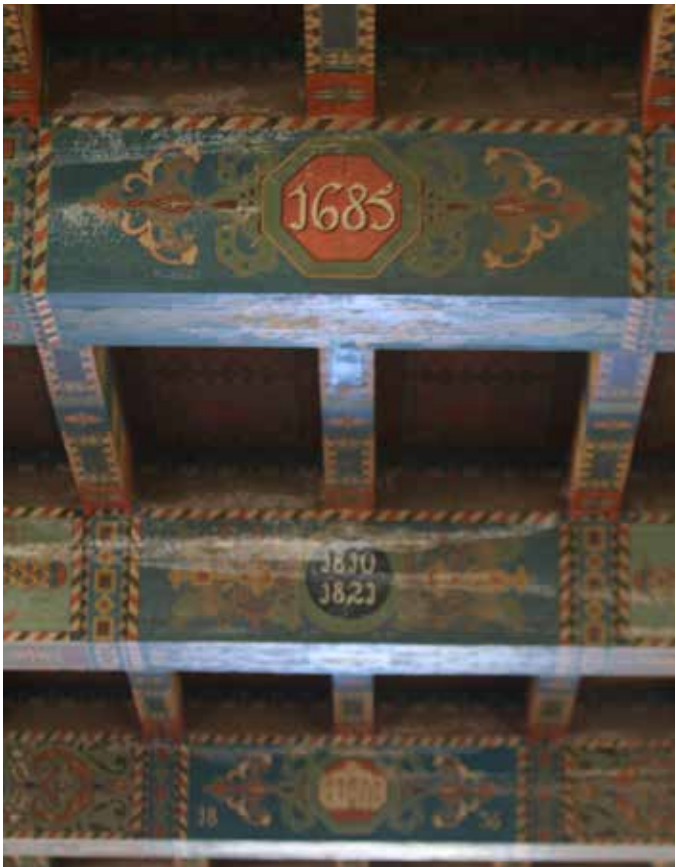
"I'm quite pleased with what my students are able to produce in a semester working with the archival and library resources on campus," assesses Dr. Lang. "Working with library resources and staff shows my students various ways to professionalize the skills they acquire during their humanities education. I think it is important to show students that libraries and archives are comprised not just of buildings or websites that try to fulfill their research needs as easily as possible, but rather that they are made up of



Reopening the Hall of Texas

Eighty-five years after its original opening, the Hall of Texas in the historic Main Building at The University of Texas at Austin has been returned to its essential purpose as a contemplative space for visitors to the library at the heart of the Forty Acres. Thanks to funding from Provost Maurie McInnis, the classic space in the Life Science Library was restored to a grandeur concurrent with its sister space on the east side of the library, the Hall of Noble Words. The renovated study space – formally named the Richard T. and Jan J. Roberts Reading Room in recognition of Jan Roberts’ extensive support of the Libraries – is now available for use by students, scholars and visitors who wish to immerse in a classical library experience.







Incoming ARL President Lorraine Haricombe attending a preconference in Rome before the IFLA World Library & Information Congress in Athens.

Haricombe Assumes ARL Presidency

The Association of Research Libraries Board of Directors ratified the election of Vice Provost and University of Texas Libraries Director Lorraine J. Haricombe as president-elect of ARL at the organization's fall 2018 meeting.

Haricombe commenced her one-year term as president as of September 2019.

The board is the governing body of the ARL and represents the interests of 125 member libraries in directing the business of the Association, including establishing operating policies, budgets and fiscal control; modifying the ARL mission and objectives; and representing the Association to the community.

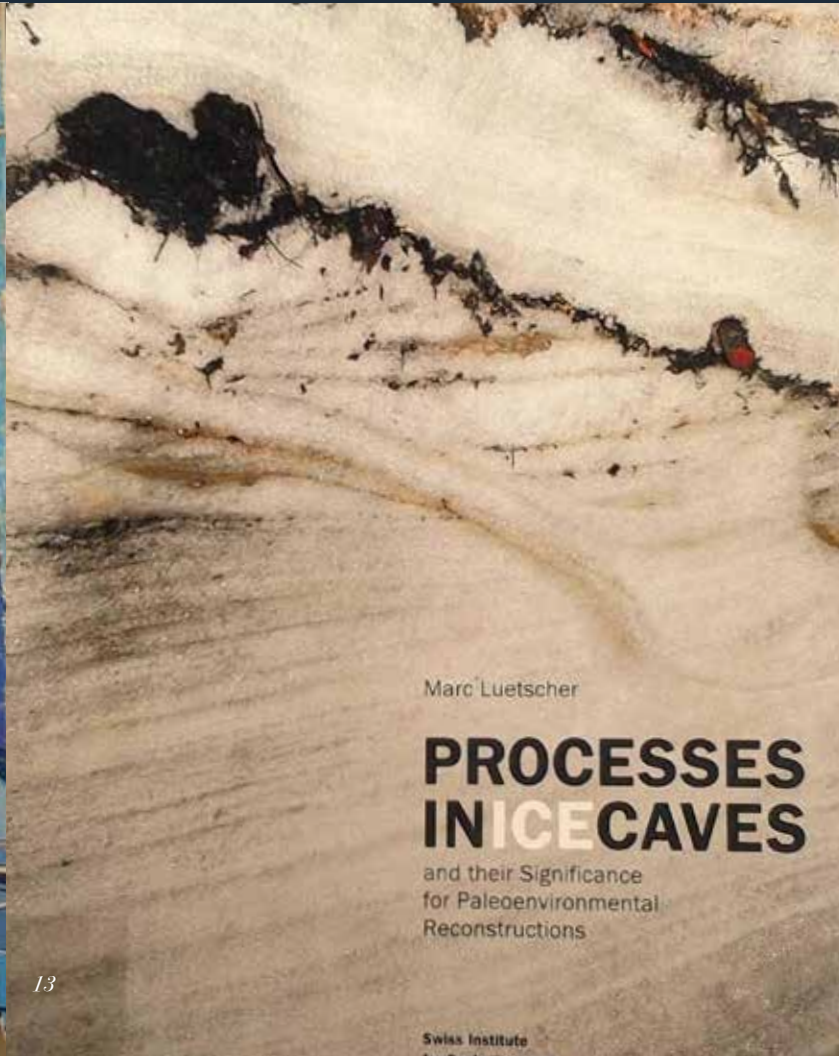
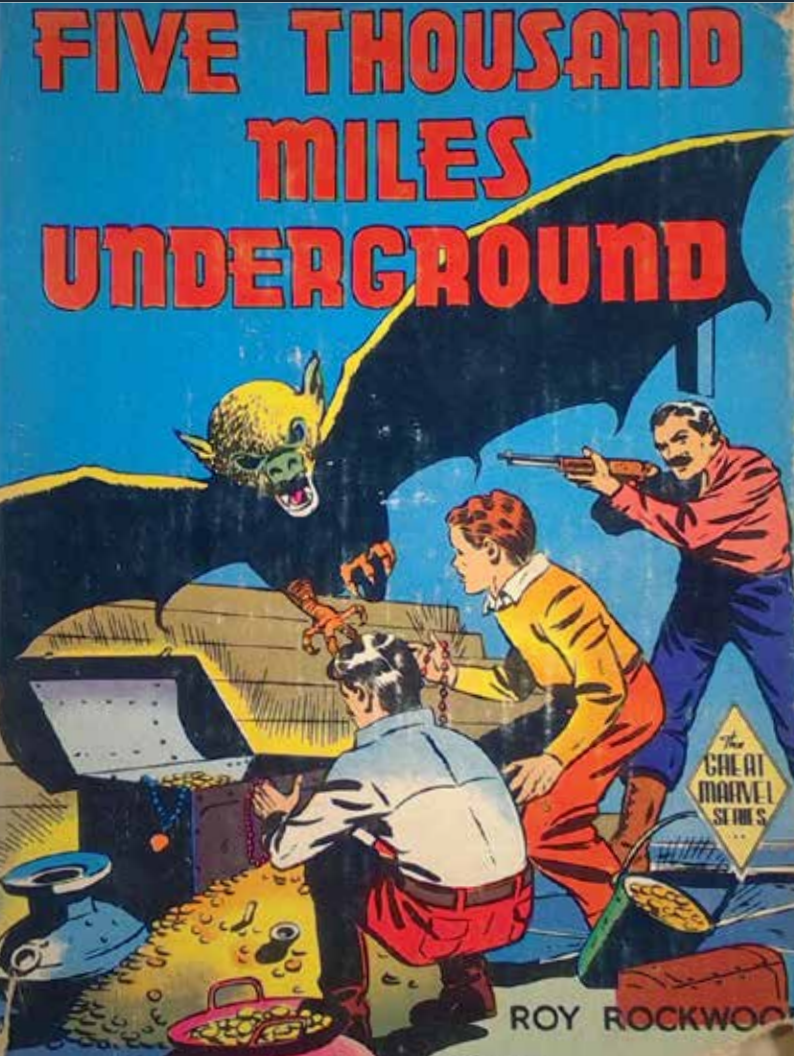
ARL is a nonprofit membership organization of 125 research libraries in Canada and the US representing universities, public libraries and special libraries convened to address issues of concern to the library, research, higher education and scholarly communities.

Spelunker's Delight

Caves and karst (eroded limestone terrains) are tied to the whole of human history — as shelter, as sources of water, as places of mystery and worship and as research topics in geology, biology, hydrology and engineering.

The Walter Geology Library as a respected research library in earth sciences, has a strong collection in caves and karst research, particularly since Central Texas limestones have many caves and karst features, and have long hosted an avid caving community.

One member of that local caving community, Bill Mixon — a former book review editor for the National Speleological Society and friend of the Walter Library — recently donated his unique collection of more than 2000 books and periodical issues related to cave and karst research, literature and culture to the library.



Marc Luetscher

PROCESSES IN ICE CAVES

and their Significance for Paleoenvironmental Reconstructions

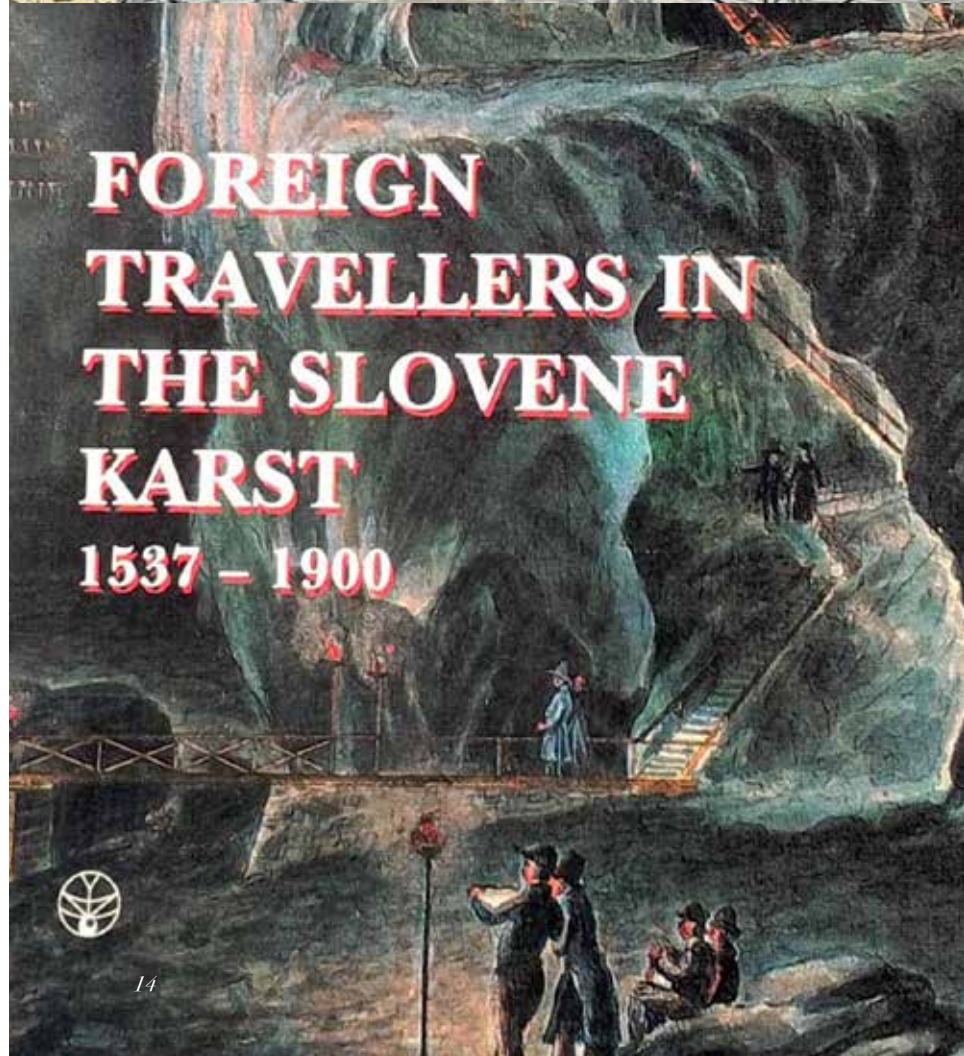
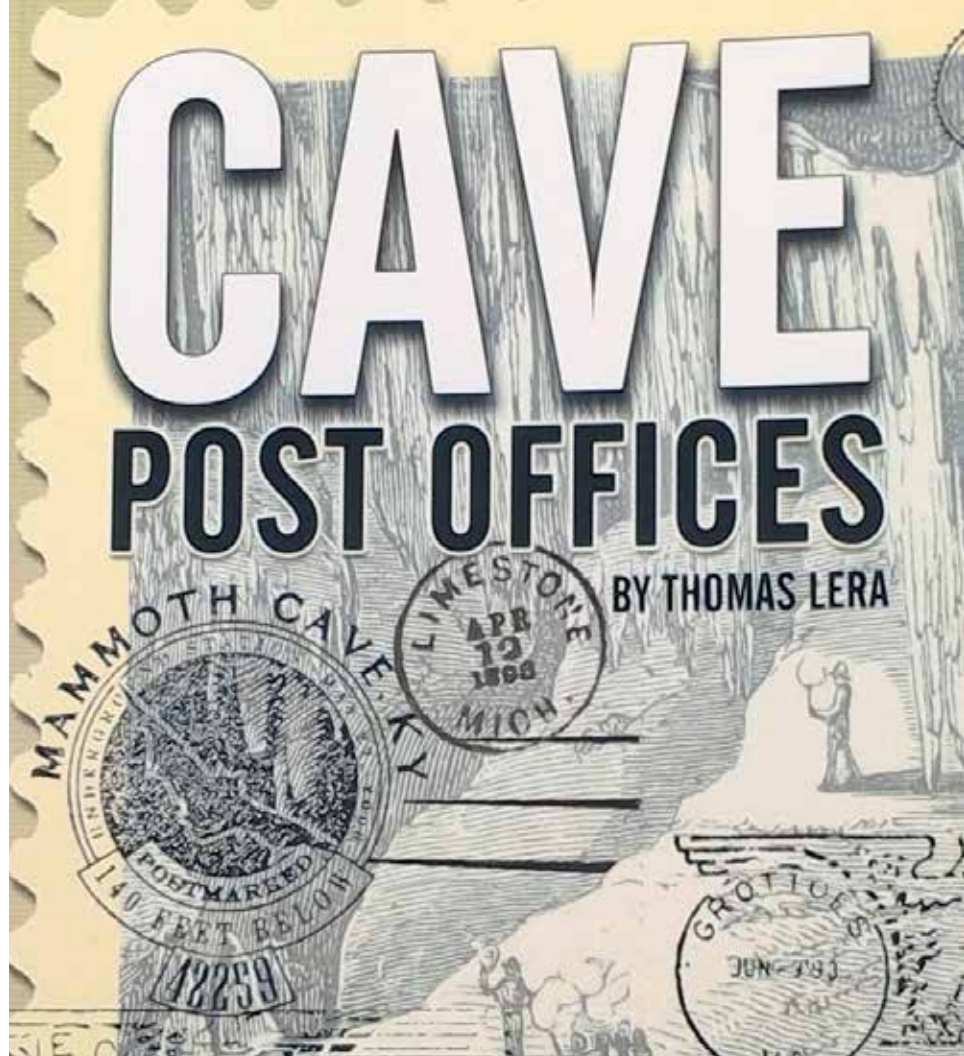
Swiss Institute

Remarkably, the entire collection is all material new to the Libraries, significantly broadening and enhancing existing collections. The collection is largely international in scope, and among the items included, almost one third of the books are not only new to the university, nor held in any other U.S. libraries. More than 20 percent of the materials are held in fewer than five North American collections.

The literature of caving is largely produced by specialists for specialists, and much of it is only shared among informal networks, or only available locally or regionally — not the kind of stuff one can buy on Amazon. For this reason, this gift of personally curated material from around the world is a tremendous asset, representing years of effort on the part of the donor to amass such a significant cross section of the world's cave publications.

There's great value in studying caves as time machines to earlier eras and as home to unique ecosystems, helping to guide research on climatology, anthropology, hydrology, paleontology and more, so the addition of such a collection significantly enhances the resources available to university researchers and students.

Liaison Librarian for Geosciences Dennis Trombatore is enthusiastic about the receipt of the materials. "We are grateful for the gift, as it adds significantly to our existing strengths, and will give future researchers the benefit of having guides, exploration reports, and research on most of the world's major cave and karst systems all in one place," said Trombatore.



Alexander Archive Acquires Historic Preservation Collection

The Alexander Architectural Archives recently acquired the archive of Volz & Associates, Inc., a collection containing material spanning over 40 years of architecture, interior design and consultation work focusing primarily on preserving and restoring historic buildings and interiors, with an emphasis on notable buildings in Texas.

Included among the resources are materials related to preservation and renovation projects at the Texas Governor's Mansion, the Alamo and the Texas State Capitol, as well as examples of campus architecture including the Littlefield Building and Battle Hall, the home to the Alexander

Architectural Archives.

The collection represents the Alexander Archive's first venture into processing a large hybrid archive of analog and digital files. This is a fairly new but increasingly common practice in archives.

Volz also donated unique artifacts obtained from historic Texas properties and material samples used in restoration work to the Architecture & Planning Library. The archive and the artifacts reveal rich, contextual information about historic buildings, materials, and conditions, as well as historic preservation practices from the 1970s onward.

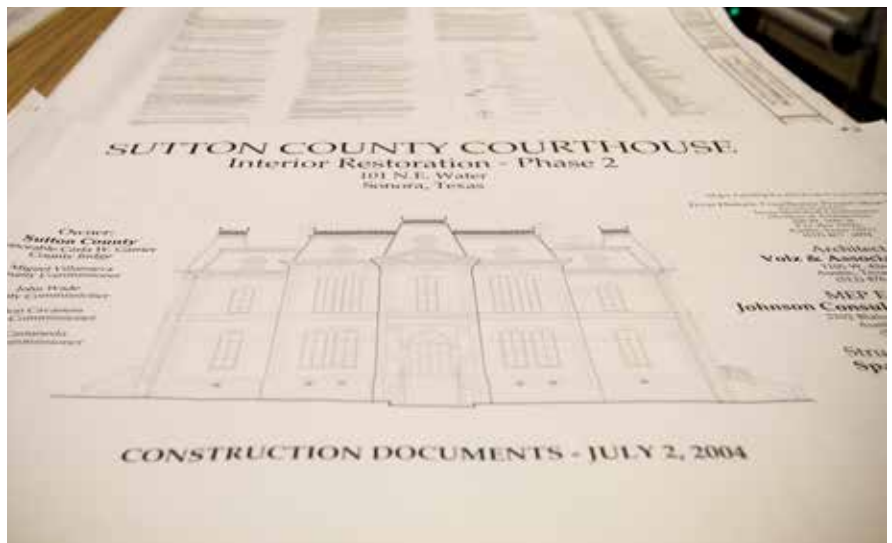




Architecture student Anthony Vannette and Archivist Stephanie Tiedeken process drawings.



Graduate Research Assistant Abbie Norris processing born-digital materials.



Drawings from a historic preservation project at the Sutton County Courthouse.

You Can Go Home

Despite his spare frame and quiet demeanor, Greg Lipscomb isn't a wallflower, especially regarding his thoughts on the subject of libraries.

"The library is just in my veins," he says. "I cannot imagine living in a society or a culture that doesn't have a library."

Lipscomb is the incoming chair of the UT Libraries' Advisory Council and has just committed to a large planned gift for the Libraries, so I'm sitting with him to find out why.

He begins by recounting the period during his study at UT in the early 1960s when a confluence of history and wanderlust compelled him in a direction that would ultimately lead him on a fifty-year journey away from Austin, on an odyssey of professional work and travel that would brush against events of notable historical significance.

"It was at the end of 1961 – the end of my sophomore year – I was over in one of the massive reading rooms in the Tower with the beams above and the wide tables and so forth, and at the end of finals, I stood up and I went out and took on the world as best I could see it in my own interpretation," says Lipscomb, "and I was gone from that sort of setting for 50 years."

Lipscomb expresses that he wasn't walking away from his college career or academic endeavor forever – he went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from UT – but the draw of civic responsibility was too compelling to ignore. This was the time of John Kennedy's clarion

call to public service, and the cacophony of protest was growing audibly across the campus.

"You have to realize that in the 60s, you could literally be in class – many times we had the windows open because there wasn't air conditioning – and you could hear civil rights demonstrations out on Guadalupe," he says. "And there was this pull. John Kennedy was in office and he was making politics elegant again for the first time since Roosevelt. And the notion of public service was big."

The urge to be part of something larger than himself became too strong to dodge, and led him down a five-decade path which presented the opportunities that ultimately formed him as a person.

"I felt the need to play a concrete role in the changes that were happening, so I got involved in student politics," he recounts. "I got involved in civil rights. I went off to the army because of Vietnam. I went around the world. I went to California and worked for Jerry Brown. Went to Washington and worked for the Democrats there. Went to Harvard for the Kennedy School,"

Lipscomb became an active leader in the student civil rights protests at UT, was elected student body president in 1964, and used his standing to make the final push to get the regents to integrate the dorms on campus. He and a carload of his journalism colleagues from *The Daily Texan* drove 800 miles to document the fateful march at Selma, Alabama. As a member

of ROTC, Lipscomb landed in an intelligence unit at the Pentagon during the war in Vietnam. After hitchhiking around the world with his wife, he worked at the San Francisco Chronicle, which propelled him into California politics, including a position in Governor Jerry Brown's administration. He later returned to D.C. as a speechwriter for the first African American chair of the Federal Communications Commission. Any pairing of these life events might be enough to mention; that they're woven into a single period of a single life is remarkable.

Amid his extended interlude in the Beltway at the FCC, Lipscomb began to seek distraction through some of the intellectual rigor that he left behind in college. He surveyed his environs and eventually wound up bumping around the library at George Washington University (GWU). After being given broad access to resources there, he felt an obligation to do what he could to return the favor, and approached the library's development office to make a donation. Library administrators thought that as someone with no significant ties to GWU, Lipscomb might provide a valuable perspective as chair of their advisory board. His acceptance of that role enjoined him to a cause in libraries.

"Several years later, I decided retirement was timely. I was burned out on Washington. It had changed in temperament."

The experience at GWU also elicited a change in him. Lipscomb

Again

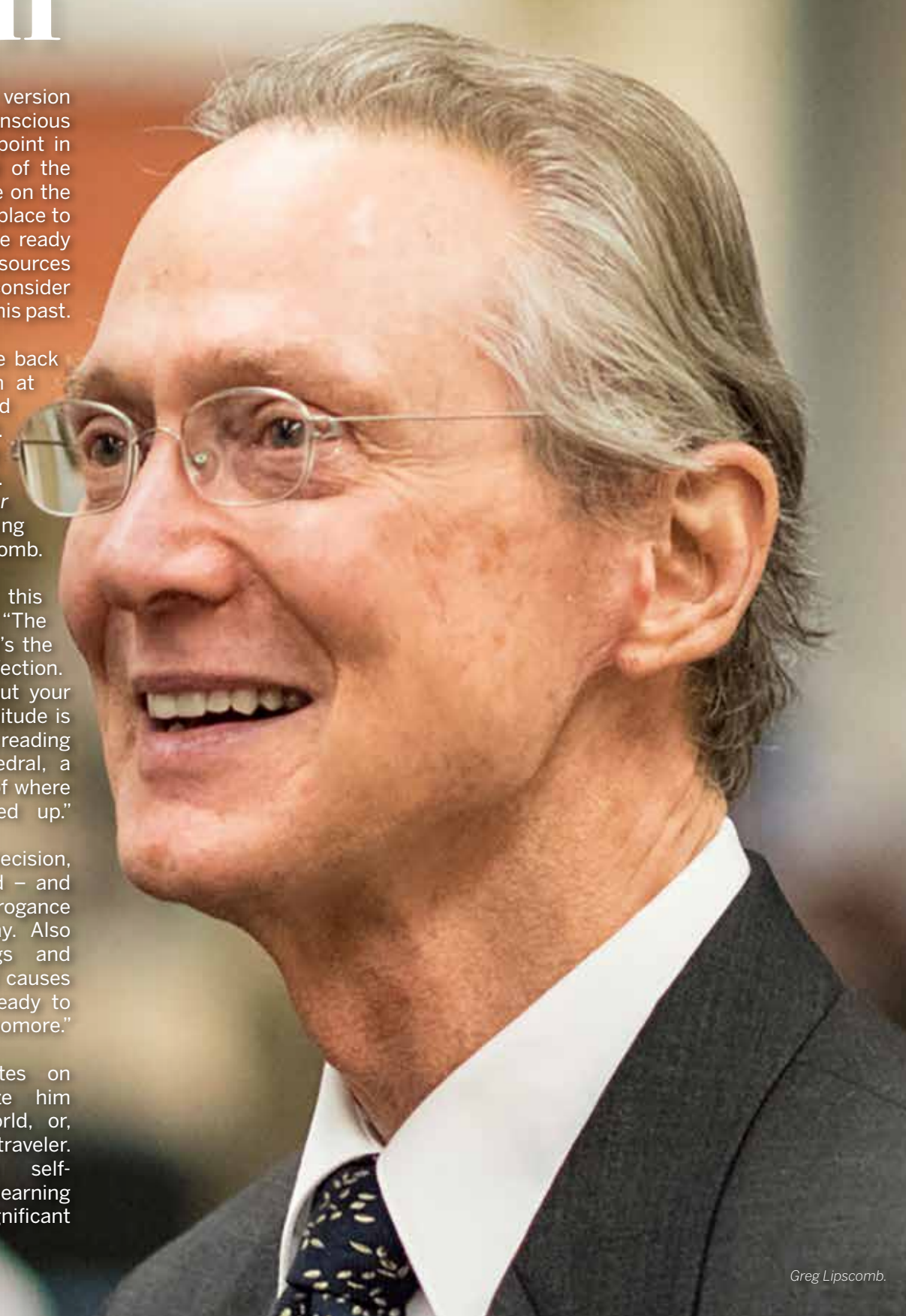
summoned the earlier version of himself, making a conscious attempt to return to the point in time when he walked out of the library back in 1961 to take on the world. He wanted to find a place to settle where he would have ready access to the knowledge resources of a library, and began to consider all the familiar places from his past.

“And then, in 2014, I came back to Austin and I sat down at the same place and picked right up where I left off. What I was reading, what I was writing,” he says. “It’s like T.S. Eliot’s *Four Quartets* – ‘in my beginning is my end,’” says Lipscomb.

Lipscomb personifies this internalized value as “The Eternal Sophomore.” “That’s the kind of mindset I say with affection. You’re on the precipice, but your mind is still fresh, your attitude is fresh. And I saw the library reading room as a sort of cathedral, a sacred space. That’s sort of where I came back and picked up.”

“Coming back was a huge decision, and I came back humbled – and a little appalled at my arrogance sometimes along the way. Also proud of certain things and people I worked with, and causes I worked on. But I was ready to keep learning as a sophomore.”

And some undergraduates on campus might recognize him as a fixture in their world, or, perhaps, as a fellow traveler. Lipscomb’s loyalty to self-improvement through learning means he spends a significant



chunk of his time on campus, much of it on the upper floors of the Perry-Castañeda Library.

“Within the closures of this building – if I had food and medicine – I could be here indefinitely,” he says. “Right now I spend about 20 hours a week – it’s a part-time job. I got up to that writing some personal stuff and just catching up on all the reading I never got to, the great reading.”

Lipscomb continued to feel a responsibility to the Libraries when he returned to Austin, wanting to carry through on the advocacy role he’d taken on at George Washington. He expressed interest to administrators at the UT Libraries, and was invited to join the council in 2014 where he has been a consistent participant not only at regular meetings, but as a vocal proponent and supporter both on campus and beyond.

Still, Lipscomb’s primary drive is in discovery and personal growth. That lengthy period of working on behalf of others has earned him the opportunity to focus on his interests, and he’s taking full advantage of it.

“The library to me is a great conversation,” he says. “I think of it in terms of books – but these books, they talk back and forth. And you can tell the mentor and the mentee – like in a translation of *The Iliad* or something – one passes on to the other. It’s the DNA of ideas. You can start out with just a germ of a phrase and watch it blossom into something right there.”

But even the bibliophile in Lipscomb recognizes the value of a diverse array of resources. He’s spoken extensively with library professionals about the transition to digital resources and the advantage it gives to preservation,

and he’s been in active attendance at all of the public discussions in the last year related to a task force on the future of UT Libraries, where the conversation about the value of books and the impact of technology has real currency.

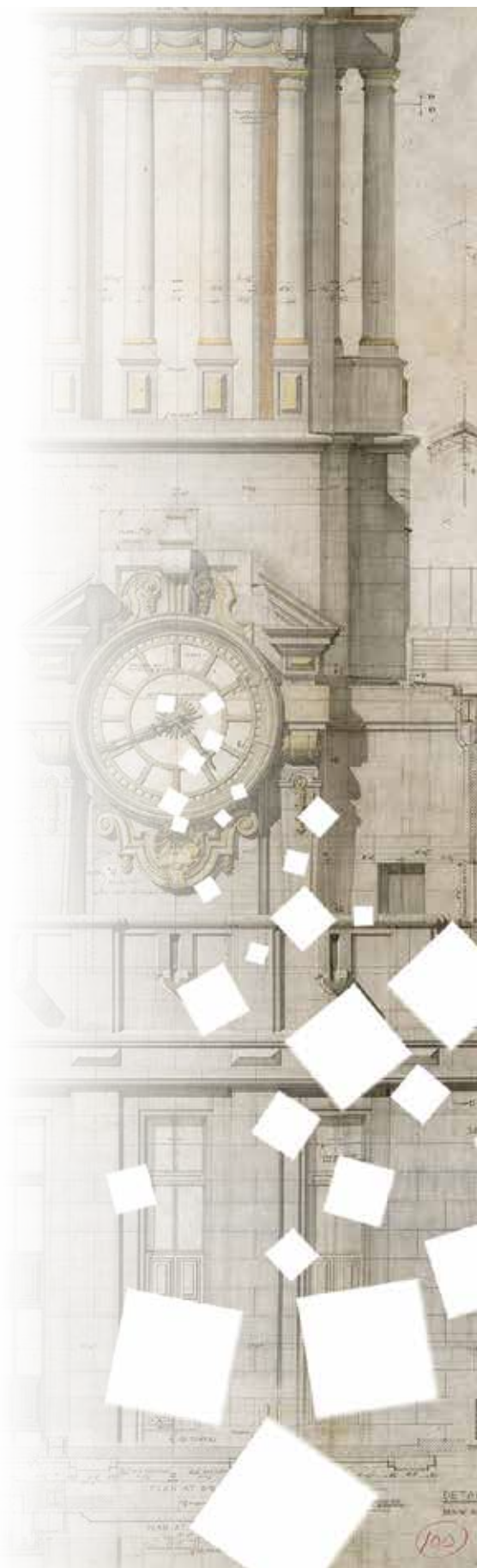
He especially appreciates the benefits that technology brings to research, particularly in making discovery significantly more efficient: “You can do it digitally. That’s a different training that I’m having to come up to, but I respect it. It’s easy to say, ‘Everybody’s just channel-surfing through nothing more than a paragraph or two.’ It’s a mile wide and an inch deep. But, also, you can search, you can go backwards and forwards. Software is beginning to mimic the brain, or learning as we know it.”

Whatever the challenges that have arisen since he was an undergraduate at UT, Lipscomb feels his experience all pointed him back to this place.

“I didn’t realize back in 1961 how much had been passed on to us in terms of the resources and the staff, the wonderful reading rooms – I didn’t realize until later,” says Lipscomb. “That’s when it occurred to me that I owed something.”

“The library function, role, the sanctuary, the passing on from one culture to another – it’s an optimistic enterprise,” he continues. “It says, ‘We have here your past, which is valuable, and you have to carry it forward.’ That’s what we do in the libraries. You owe current and future generations the gratitude that you received.”

“There is almost a Buddhist sense of circularity...returning to where you started. You come back and pay respects to the master that formed you. The mentor, the habits, the patterns, the depth of thinking.”



Building a DAMS

Staff who create and manage digital resources at the University of Texas Libraries will now be able to more effectively preserve and provide access to these collections thanks to the introduction of a new digital asset management system (DAMS). Digital files along with descriptive metadata are being added to the system, many of which will be made publicly accessible through a web portal.

Since 2016 — and in an effort to prioritize two of our most notable collections — staff at the Benson Latin American Collection and the Alexander Architectural Archive have been preparing digital collections for the new system. The collections contain a variety of digitized materials, including photographs, manuscripts, books, broadsides, architectural drawings and maps.

Beginning in 2019, project participants have been focused on developing a web-based discovery portal for searching and accessing available resources. This Collections portal will provide students, faculty, researchers, and the broader public convenient access to digital collections that have not been readily available in the past. In addition,

improved access to digitized materials supports UT Libraries' commitment to the preservation of their cultural heritage collections, as original materials will undergo significantly less handling stress and exposure to light. Ongoing work on the system will expand support for a consistent stream of new digital content over time.

Development of the DAMS and the Collections portal is a significant technical and collaborative accomplishment for the UT Libraries. Teams of librarians, archivists, and IT staff are working together to build out community-developed and time-tested open source solutions. These include Fedora Commons, Solr, Drupal, Blacklight, and the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF).

The creation of this new platform supporting preservation of and access to digital collections is just a starting point. Future phases of development will incorporate additional existing digital collections and expand features for users to discover and work with UT Libraries' rich digital content. Look for an announcement of the launch of the Collections portal later this fall.



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