



# Building on the Texas Digital Library

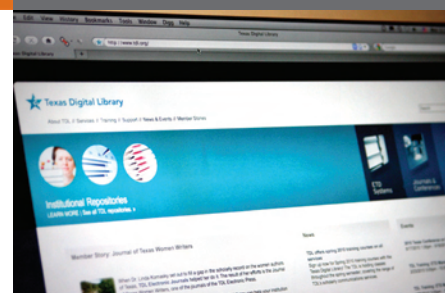
*“As the Texas Digital Library project has developed, the consortium has expanded on its original goals to forge collaborative relationships that will enhance an already rich vein of intellectual resources.”*

In 2005, the University of Texas Libraries entered a partnership with Texas A&M University to lead a multi-university consortium in the creation of a digital infrastructure that would support a fully online scholarly community for institutions of higher education in Texas.

The primary goal of the consortium, called the Texas Digital Library (TDL), was to create a repository that would make the enormous intellectual assets of Texas colleges and universities available around the world.

Throughout the period of a phased development of the infrastructure, the project has remained fairly inconspicuous, along the way incorporating additional partners and fostering individual and institutional utility of the space for an array of projects.

Now in its public development period, TDL has expanded on its original goals to forge collaborative relationships that will enhance an already rich vein of intellectual resources. TDL is able to provide a range of services to its member institutions, faculty at those institutions and the general public including digital repositories for institutional partners, electronic theses and dissertations submission and management, electronic journals, scholarly blog hosting, research wikis and much more.



## In this issue:

- C** Building on the Texas Digital Library
- 1** Welcome Back
- 2** Shepard Boosts Archive
- 3** Honor Roll 2008 – 2009
- 5** Human Rights Documentation
- 6** HRDI Gets a Home on the Web
- 7** Where Science Meets the Masses
- 8** Staff Highlighter
- 8** Fine Arts Recognizes World Aids Day
- 9** Jill Emery Recommends
- 10** Libraries on the Road
- B** Vice Provost's Thoughts



## Welcome Back

Libraries staff once again spent the first days of the fall semester taking it to the people by hosting welcome tables at -various locations around campus.

These sites across campus – where questions are answered, reference materials distributed and directions provided – have been gaining in popularity with each year as students become accustomed to relying on staff to help them navigate campus. The Libraries distributed over 8,000 bottles of ice-cold water, along with assistance and reassurance to students as they entered a new year – or new phase of life – at UT.



# Shepard Boosts Archive

This October, the Fine Arts Library (FAL) received a surprise visit from playwright, actor and author Sam Shepard.

The FAL acquired a portion of Shepard's archive in 2006 that features works from the most recent period of his life. With the initial transfer of materials occurring relatively recently, staff was understandably surprised to learn that Shepard was going to make a stop in Austin to add to the collection.

Included in the 2 boxes Shepard presented were various drafts of his forthcoming book, *Day Out of Days*; materials related

to his latest plays: *Ages of the Moon* (2009) and *Kicking a Dead Horse* (2007), which were premiered by the Abbey Theatre at the Peacock in Dublin; miscellaneous correspondence; and personal copies of books, including one of photographs and essays by his friend and ex-father-in-law, Johnny Dark.

The collection is being inventoried, housed, and described, and should be available through the Benson Latin American Collections' Rare Books and Manuscripts Reading Room in 2010.

## Digital : continued from cover

Additionally, new collaborations with faculty members and various university and statewide organizations are resulting in an amassing of important digital collections covering a broad swath of subject and research areas, and will serve as a foundation for future partnerships.

**Texas Water Digital Library:** Under the leadership of Dr. David Maidment of the Cockrell School of Engineering, UT Libraries is working in partnership with the Texas Digital Library to develop and host a statewide digital repository of water data. The Texas Water Digital Library will provide geospatial and historical insight into water resources in the state.

**Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO):** TARO is an existing online resource that collects and disseminates Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids across the state. These finding aids are descriptions of archival collections that help researchers determine the relevance of such collections to their work. UT Libraries, in partnership with the Texas Digital Library (TDL), is seeking grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Studies (IMLS) to update the TARO system.

The original TARO project team successfully created a federated statewide repository of finding aids using a common set of encoding guidelines based on the EAD standard. The IMLS grant will enable the organizations who currently participate in TARO to work with staff of the TDL to update the encoding guidelines and draft new metadata standards for rights management, preservation, encoding

of compound objects, and authority control.

**Latin American Electronic Data Archive (LAEDA):** Working with the Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC) and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, UT Libraries is collecting and preserving difficult-to-access government statistics coming out of Latin American countries through the Latin American Electronic Data Archive (LAEDA). The goal of LAEDA is to acquire and preserve datasets relevant to Latin American research and policy development and to make the data easily available online. These datasets will reside in the UT Digital Repository, with metadata record creation provided by LANIC and UT Libraries staff.

These most recent collaborations have expanded upon the original concept for TDL. As the site continues to develop and other individuals, groups and institutions become partners, the possibilities for utilization of the TDL's services will be enhanced to meet the ever-growing complexity of innovative new models.



# University of Texas Libraries Honor Roll

## *Contributions September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009*

Each gift to the University of Texas Libraries, regardless of size or amount, is valued. This year's Honor Roll contains the names of those alumni, friends, faculty, staff, corporations and foundations making gifts of \$100 or more during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. We are grateful to those who made gifts of \$1 – \$99. While not possible to list all of these donors, their contributions to support Libraries services and collections are greatly appreciated.

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*Photo courtesy Free Burma Rangers*

## Report on the University of Texas Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative's work with the Free Burma Rangers, July-August 2009

*Nicholas Rejack | Prepared with assistance from Christian Kelleher and T-Kay Sangwand*

In the summer of 2009 I traveled from Austin to the offices of the Free Burma Rangers (FBR), equipped with a video deck, two Apple MacBook Pro laptops and twelve 500-gigabyte hard drives. Over the following six weeks, I conducted real-time transfers from miniDV video cassettes to the laptops running Final Cut Pro. The footage I captured documents a wide range of activity – ranger training, including rappelling down steep river cliffs and shooting rifles, joyful children's programs with song and dance, surgery on landmine victims and the seriously ill, combat with the Burmese army, testimony from survivors, and scenes of jungle villagers in hiding.

Free Burma Rangers is a multiethnic, multilingual humanitarian group that provides relief to refugees and documents the human rights conditions in Burma. FBR trains rangers to enter ethnic regions, such as the Shan and Karen states, to aid their people with food, medical support, education, hope, love, and defense, if needed. Over 52 full-time relief teams, each consist-

ing of four to five men and women, operate in eight different ethnic states within Burma. The FBR office overflows with digital videotapes, CDs and hard drives filled with photos that are in dire need of organization and cataloging.

Out of FBR's massive collection that consists of over 900 hour long tapes, I collected video from 172 different tapes, which amounts to 2 terabytes or nearly one week of video. The video transfer process required constant monitoring for quality control as the videos are often shot in rough conditions by non-professional videographers.

Over the six week period, I had the opportunity to work with an excellent and devoted team who were often in and out of the offices either on training missions or going inside Burma. Members of the international press, such as the BBC, and freelance documentarians frequently visited the office, often requesting my assistance with technical questions. Members of



the international media expressed great interest in accessing FBR's collected material to inform the world of the humanitarian crisis in Burma.

After returning to Austin I have continued to work on this project as a Graduate Research Assistant with the University of Texas Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI). One of my current tasks includes cleaning up the raw footage to create archival quality video files through QuickTime. Translation, editing, metadata collection and cataloging remain, in addition to incorporating more of FBR's vast store of material.

Using the information found in FBR field reports, I will apply descriptive metadata to the videos and create interactive maps for access through the Glifos software. The material will be available online initially for FBR use, but eventually for public access. By partnering with FBR to preserve and provide access to their files, the UT Libraries will be able to aid in FBR's programming and operations as well as serve as a resource for future human rights research. The files preserved at UT could potentially serve as evidence in prosecution of human rights violators.

A repressive military regime in Burma ensures that the outside world does not hear much news from this nation. In 2009, however, Burma was in the news with increasing frequency, as the democracy advocate Aung Sang Suu Kyi, confined to house arrest for 14 of the past 20 years, was sentenced to another 18 months in August by the military government. Only two years after a widespread democracy protest, largely led by thousands of Buddhist monks, and one year after Cyclone Nargis devastated the region, leaving tens of thousands dead, the people of this ethnically diverse nation await 2010 elections, the first in nearly 20 years. Far from the capital of Rangoon, ethnic groups such as the Karen and Shan suffer as internally displaced persons (or IDPs in human rights terminology) in their own country as they flee from attacks by the Burmese army.

An FBR report from September 18, 2009 quoted the words of recently deceased Karen ranger, Di Gay Htoo, "...when you tell the story of my people, please do not just talk about all the bad things that happen to us and our suffering by the Burma Army." Through UT and FBR's archival partnership, with the support of the Bridgeway Foundation, the courage, strength, and struggles of the people of Burma will also be known.

## HRDI gets a home on the web

In 2008, the University of Texas Libraries began an experiment that represented a novel approach to how a traditional institution can adapt to the proliferation of new technologies and exponential growth in the availability of information.

At the time, the Libraries had received a grant from the Bridgeway Foundation to assist in the preservation of materials related to the Rwandan genocide. Dr. Fred Heath consulted with librarians and technologies staff to realize a program that would allow the Libraries to serve as a repository for survivor testimonies and use improved technology infrastructure to create a vehicle for crawling the Internet for relevant information sources. The project moved forward with great success, and generated increased interest in expanding upon the original idea.

Since the inception of what has become known as the Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI), the team has surfaced collaborations with other organizations. Currently, staff is working with the Free Burma Rangers to preserve records of human rights violations by the Burma/Myanmar junta, the Texas After Violence Project which collects testimonies on the impact of the death penalty in Texas and is currently considering other projects in Latin America.

The increase in HRDI's scope necessitated the creation of a website for the purpose of acquiring and disseminating information related to individual projects and the initiative as a whole.

"The HRDI website not only serves as an access portal for the unique human rights documentation preserved by the HRDI but also showcases the diversity of human rights related resources, research and advocacy originating from UT's libraries, academic programs, research centers and student groups," says project archivist T-Kay Sangwand.

"We hope it can serve as a starting place for new partnerships and be a valuable tool for both academics and activists at UT and beyond."

The website provides archived web resources for distance research, highlights human rights related archival materials at UT, informs the public on HRDI's current documentation partnerships and promotes human rights events and research occurring at The University of Texas at Austin. The site also features a blog to document participant perspectives, project trips, and experiences regarding the work being done to advance the project.

HRDI has concurrently launched a Twitter feed (@UT\_HRDI) to provide real-time project updates, event reminders and human rights related news.



Photo courtesy Stacy Ogilvie

## Where Science Meets the Masses

*What draws people to shows like “Numb3rs,” “Bones” or “House”?*

*What aspect of blockbuster movies makes them a success?*

A good storyline, good acting and a good script are obviously primary requirements for winning at the box office or moving up in the Nielsen's, but there is something about a human desire to know why things are the way they are that piques the interest of those flocking to the local Cineplex or scheduling their lives around a night of primetime TV.

In 2006, Science Instruction Librarian Roxanne Bogucka tapped into this yearning with the first installment of the Life Science Library's regular Science Study Break – a talk and Q&A about the uber-popular CBS crime drama “CSI” with Dr. David Hillis of the School of Integrative Biology. The show regularly features storylines “ripped from the headlines,” and Hillis was particular suited to reflect on how the science of building a case is represented in the show: he had been an expert witness in an actual case from which the show had “borrowed” one of its episode storylines.

The inaugural installment was a success, drawing 60 people, and Bogucka quickly realized that she'd hit upon something that could become a mainstay of the Library's outreach efforts.

“I'd figured maybe a few folks would show up on a Wednesday night,” says Bogucka, “but we had an standing-room-only program and I was delighted to see that other folks watch these shows and think, ‘Hey, wait a second... could that really happen?’”

She had found a way to marry the academic resource of University of Texas faculty with the appeal of relevant, modern pop culture iconography, and all the while she was making the Life Science Library a destination for a growing segment of the University population.

As the program enters its fourth year, a retrospective look at the topics reveals the breadth of interests that Science

Study Break can explore. Bioterrorism and its treatment in the Fox thriller “24” were given a review by Dr. Brent Iverson of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department. Dr. Jay Banner of the Environmental Sciences Institute surveyed climate change in *The Day After Tomorrow*. Dr. Ruth Buskirk of Biological Sciences examined the comic representation of arachnids in her talk about Spider-Man. Nature and the genome collided with technology in Dr. Stuart Reichler's discourse on the dystopian *GATTACA*. And the wave of zombie fever had its day in a recent discussion of undead flicks by Biology Graduate student Sam Scarpino, whose work on epidemiological models could serve as a roadmap for coping with a zombie apocalypse.

Bogucka thinks the program will continue to improve, though it's hard to imagine anyone being unimpressed by the results so far. What began with a respectable crowd has grown into a regular calendar item for many, and the rise in popularity has precipitated a move from the Break's original locus in the Herbarium Library at LSL to larger spaces – first to the Academic Room across from the Library in the Tower Building, and since to spaces in Robert Lee Moore Hall and the Jackson Geological Sciences Building. It's not uncommon for an installment of the program to garner attendance of 100 or more.

Bogucka sees almost unlimited possibilities going forward. “When you look at what's popular now—shows like ‘Dollhouse,’ ‘FlashForward,’ ‘Big Bang Theory’ or movies like *WALL-E*, *District 9* or *2012*—clearly there's ongoing interest in science-related entertainment, and plenty of material for future Science Study Breaks.”





## Fine Arts Recognizes World Aids Day

The Fine Arts Library hosted a slate of artists for an event recognizing World Aids Day 2009.

UT Art History professor Moyo Okediji organized the event – entitled “Alafia” – featuring a presentation on diasporic arts in Africa by Art Education graduate student Sheena Scharff,

a body painting performance by Cameroonian artist Issa Nyaphaga and a spoken word performance by Texas State Theatre professor Nadine Mozon.

“Alafia” – which means “health” in Yoruba – meant to raise awareness of health matters, especially the scourge of epidemic and pandemic ailments such as AIDS, swine flu, tuberculosis, Ebola and other devastating medical conditions. Art and healing go hand-in-hand in African and African diasporic arts.

Annually, December 1 is recognized as World AIDS Day, AIDS being an epidemic disease that has devastated Africa more than any other continent.

Statistics for AIDS show that 33.2 million people are living with HIV, including 2.5 million children. Roughly half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. Around 95% of people with HIV and AIDS live in Africa, South America and Asia.

## Staff Highlighter: P.G. Moreno

### Position:

American Studies, Social Work, Economics and Government Librarian.

### Age:

42

**Hometown:** Born in Stockholm Sweden, grew up in Houston.

**Years of service:** 18

### Job Description:

Reference librarian, bibliographer, coordinator for services for users with disabilities.

### Something you never expected:

To be so well versed in children’s television programs.

### Favorite book(s):

Some recent faves...*Down in Houston: Bayou City Blues*, Steve Lacy: *Conversations*, and Robert Frank’s *The Americans*

### Music? Someone said you like it:

I love all kinds of music, from the sacred to the profane, the



apollonian and the dionysian, high-brow and low-brow. But I have a special fondness for free jazz and improvised music.

### Other Hobbies:

I organize international jazz and adventurous music concerts in town under the organizational name Epistrophy Arts and with my wife, I volunteer with French Bulldog rescue.

### Your path leads where?

I am not sure. I will be happy as long as I continue to meet interesting and creative people like I do here in the UT Libraries.



## Jill Emery Recommends

*Jill is Head of Acquisitions for the University of Texas Libraries and Past President of the North American Serials Interest Group.*

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### **Hummingbird's Daughter: a novel (2005)**

*By Luis Alberto Urrea*

The Hummingbird's Daughter provides a fictional recounting of the Mexican border historic period from the mid-1800's to early 1900's through the life of one woman from an illegitimate birth to mid-age. This book blends that special world of magical realism superbly along with a spellbinding bildungsroman of the main character, Teresita. You are immediately drawn into this richly characterized and majestically woven story that intertwines folk belief with Catholicism in a fairy tale quality that engages you from start to finish. This is truly one of those epic type novels that becomes difficult to put down the further you read. The descriptions of places and plots are cinematic and richly intricate and your sense of the spaces inhabited by the characters becomes almost visceral. This novel is highly recommended to anyone who likes to lose an afternoon engrossed by fictional history.

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### **The Hunger: a story of food, desire, and ambition (2009)**

*By John DeLucie*

John DeLucie is the executive chef at The Waverly Inn in New York City. It is one of the most popular restaurants in the city despite having an unlisted phone number. DeLucie came to the culinary world later in life, he was thirty years old when he decided to ditch his job as an executive recruiter and become a chef. This book outlines his decision to change careers and his unique wandering path through the culinary world that started with a New School Master Chef Class and ended up with his becoming the executive chef at one of the most raved about NYC restaurants of all time. Along with his meandering career, his personal life also took many twists and turns. These vignettes are inter-spliced with stories from each place he worked in the culinary industry along with a third story line that leads to the creation of The Waverly Inn. All in all, DeLucie's life makes for an interesting read and shows that the American dream is alive and well but there are casualties along the way for anyone committing themselves to following their dreams and becoming a success.



**The Chicago Way (2007)***By Michael Harvey*

This is the first crime novel in a series that features P.I. Michael Kelly. With present day parlance and circumstances, the graphic murder mystery is slowly unwound with a permeating ambience that calls to mind classic authors such as James Ellroy, Iceberg Slim, and Raymond Chandler. The main character is not above reproach and has a well developed sense of self that is revealed in fits and starts to the reader. This is obviously a Chicago well traveled by the author. The descriptions of the various neighborhoods and places mentioned can be readily imagined if you know Chicago and if you do not, the depiction offers a true-to-life snapshot. The plot is laid out extremely well and you are quickly drawn into the puzzle and the ending retains a surprise delivery. Any fan of crime fiction would find this novel an enjoyable read.

**Free: The Future of a Radical Price (2009)***By Chris Anderson*

The second non-fiction work by Wired Magazine editor, Chris Anderson, *Free* describes how giving things away at no cost through the Internet can turn a profit and drive businesses in the 21st Century. This book itself is offered free of charge as a Kindle book reader download. Mr. Anderson does a good job of interweaving historic economic and business models that help to sustain his principal point that profit can be made from giving things away. There have been some criticisms that some of his examples are stretched a bit thin. Overall though, this is a thought-provoking book that shows that business models based on making some goods and services freely available can be successful in the 21st century.

**Kafka on the Shore (2006)***By: Haruki Murakami*

Murakami weaves adult fairy tales that are full of terse and rich descriptions that fill up all your senses and leave you yearning for more. Any one of his translated novels from *A Wild Sheep Chase* to this last long novel are recommended. However there is something extra ethereal about this novel. In this tale, a young boy runs away from home and discovers a little known private library that becomes his way into self realization as well as self-education. The boy's story is cleverly interwoven with that of an elderly man who is also coming into a sense of self and self-purpose despite an inability to speak to anyone other than cats. The two stories are juxtaposed and intertwined but not all comes to full resolution by the end of the novel. Both stories compel the reader forward with specific detailed imagery one minute and actions of plot that are very subtle and refined. Like a long drawn out epicurean meal, *Kafka on the Shore* provides you with nuance and surprises and leaves you lingering at the table long after the repast is complete. It is a full feast for the mind.

**Naked Lunch (1959)***By: William S. Burroughs*

Due to the fiftieth anniversary of its publication, I decided to re-read this one. Burroughs has such a wonderful droll narrative voice in this novel that it like getting swept up in a river of honey and you get carried away with it before you realize you're in way too deep. The subject matter at times is very graphic, the language is both brutal and frank, and the chapters are very honest in the reporting of drug use intermixed with the dream-like states these addictions lead to. Each chapter is its own story and a reader can jump around the book from one story to the other without losing the narrative voice or even overall flow of the greater work. The descriptive nature of the novel is both assaulting and fascinating in turns and the reader is constantly at odds with the narrator. Overall, this is a book of terror and like your favorite horror movie, you stay with it to its conclusion in part because you just cannot tear yourself away.

*Photo courtesy Gregory Perrin*

## Libraries on the Road

The University of Texas Libraries hosted a dinner in McAllen, TX for advisory council members, alumni and friends.

The dinner featured Adán Benavidez, assistant to the head librarian for research programs at the Benson Latin American Collection. In the photo (L to R) are UT Libraries Advisory Council members, Dr. Andres Tijerina and Dr. Cayetano Barrera with UT President, Bill Powers at the Capital Campaign Launch reception in McAllen, TX.



## From the Vice Provost

Much has been made in this space about transformation in this and other libraries. Steeped in traditional notions, we in the Libraries must find our way in a world where the analog exists in tandem with the digital. We hypothesize, experiment and adapt along the way, each step bringing greater comfort with the process, each

success providing assurance that we are on the correct path.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see positive outcomes and further developments of some of these projects. These are specific cases in which digital initiatives – those investments in technological environments that hew close to our mission goals of collecting, preserving and providing access – are in nascent stages or have improved upon former iterations in a notable way.

The Texas Digital Library (TDL) has moved beyond the process of building itself a house and is now taking on the life of a communal project. The addition of local and regional content groups across a breadth of subject areas is a step equal parts parallel to and elevating of the consortium’s development of its primary mission as digital repository for the state’s intellectual capital.

The Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI) continues to grow as it takes on more partnerships with organizations that seek to preserve the history of human rights violations in the hope of preventing future incidents. As the project grows, its purpose has become self-evident and its architects have created a website to centralize

information about HRDI’s progress. The project is becoming a destination for legions of people interested in all manner of human rights resources. The existence of an easily accessible electronic “home” for HRDI should raise its profile as a resource for potential partners.

Behind the curtain, we are working to ensure that our public presence on the Web keeps up with current trends in social networking and participatory media. Given the somewhat organic proliferation of social media applications throughout the University, we’re currently working to codify our strategy going forward. The Libraries were among the earliest adopters of social media thanks to the prescience of staff, and that puts us in the enviable position of having learned and developed best practices ahead of the curve. Development will soon be launching expanded options for web philanthropy in the form of a “Wish List” of specific items needed by individual libraries for which interested donors can earmark monies. And we’ll be launching a blog – “Tex-Libris” – from my office early in 2010 that will provide insight into our views on movements in libraries and technology, and create a dialogue in the interest of expanding and enhancing our relationship with you and other interested members of our community.

Given the challenging fiscal realities facing research universities and their constituents today, it is incumbent upon us to utilize our skills and resources with maximum efficiency. As our daily activities increasingly straddle the worlds of the material and technological, we feel confident that our efforts to date and going forward have placed us in good stead to handle whatever the future sends our way.

*Opportunity*

