

TEX Libris

The Magazine of the
University of Texas Libraries

Fall 2017

PCL Turns 40 p. 3

The Case for
Open Textbooks p. 5

Recovering
from Harvey p. 17



The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

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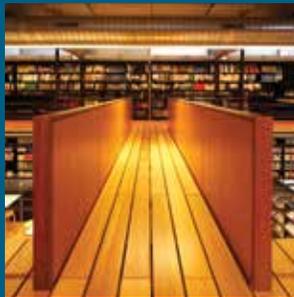
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LIBRARIES FOR A NEW AGE
JANUARY 8-10, 2018



Re-think it: Libraries for a New Age is a national conference that brings together academic, public and K-12 librarians, administrators, technologists, architects, designers, furniture manufacturers, and educators. Together, we will collectively re-think the increasingly important role libraries play in the communities they serve.

The conference will be at The University of Texas at Austin and other locations in Austin and Central Texas from January 8-10. In its second edition, Re-think it 2018 is co-hosted by the Libraries, the Austin Public Library, the Austin Community College Library Services, and six additional local library partners.

More information at: <http://conferences.lib.utexas.edu/rethinkit2018/>

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Architectural rendering of the Perry-Castañeda Library, circa 1974.

The Perry-Castañeda Library Celebrates a Birthday

Since the birth of The University of Texas at Austin in 1883, the history of the Libraries has consisted, in large part, of the construction and habitation of a series of buildings designed to support a constantly expanding collection of resources for an ever-growing community of people. When the original library in Old Main quickly outgrew the meager space there, it was moved twice before finding a dedicated home in Battle Hall in 1911. Just a couple of decades later, the 27-story Tower was constructed with the express purpose of becoming the “permanent” home of the university’s library collections. But, if history has taught us anything,

it’s that you can never have enough resources to satisfy the intellectual curiosity of this campus.

Kicking off the fall semester, the Libraries marked the milestone 40th anniversary of the last independently constructed library on the Forty Acres — the Perry-Castañeda Library — with a series of events for the campus community and visiting members of the Perry and Castañeda families celebrating the building’s storied history, and giving a special nod to the trailblazing lives of its namesakes, Ervin S. Perry and Carlos Castañeda.

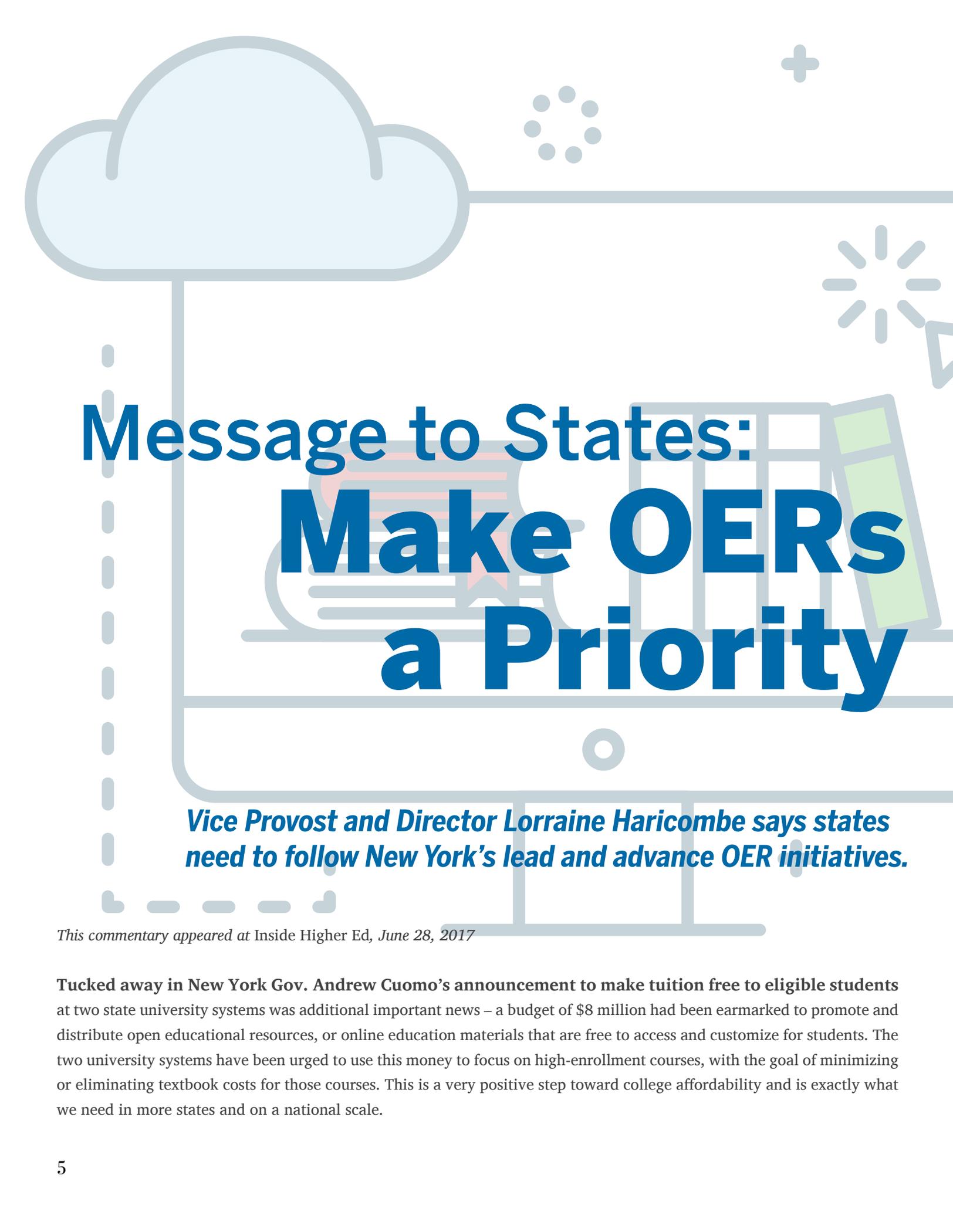
PCL Turns 40

Festivities began on August 30, with a birthday celebration at the PCL with Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe distributing cake and well-wishes for the new semester to arriving students. The following day, members of the Perry and Castañeda families were received at private breakfast gatherings with Libraries administrators and guests, and later that evening, the Libraries hosted the invitation-only sixth annual Distinguished Leader Dinner with Dr. George C. Wright, previous UT History professor and former president at Ervin Perry's alma mater Prairie View A&M University. The commemoration weekend culminated on Saturday with a giant tailgate party at PCL before the Longhorns' impressive win over San Jose State University, with more than 300 fans and supporters in attendance for food and drink, games and entertainment by the University of Texas Mariachi Band and the Longhorn Singers.

What was proposed to be a home suited to sustain collections growth for a relatively short 15-year timespan, has outlived those projections long enough to see the birth of the internet and the shift toward digital resources. Meanwhile, the PCL has become a much-beloved community center on campus that has evolved with the growth in productivity technology to become much more than a destination for information resources. The space is now home to multimedia computer and data visualization labs, the University Writing Center, STEM tutorial spaces and enough power outlets to support the army of devices needed by modern library users. With the support of donors and recognition of administrators, ongoing transformations will address the needs of users for generations to come. †



Clockwise from upper left: Members of the Castañeda family view items from the Carlos Castañeda Collection at the Benson; Jean Perry, Rosemary Folks and Gene Locke at a reception for the families; The University of Texas Mariachis perform at the Libraries' tailgate celebration; Former Libraries directors Fred Heath and Harold Billings with current Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe.



Message to States: **Make OERs a Priority**

Vice Provost and Director Lorraine Haricombe says states need to follow New York's lead and advance OER initiatives.

This commentary appeared at Inside Higher Ed, June 28, 2017

Tucked away in New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's announcement to make tuition free to eligible students at two state university systems was additional important news – a budget of \$8 million had been earmarked to promote and distribute open educational resources, or online education materials that are free to access and customize for students. The two university systems have been urged to use this money to focus on high-enrollment courses, with the goal of minimizing or eliminating textbook costs for those courses. This is a very positive step toward college affordability and is exactly what we need in more states and on a national scale.

OERs

It's no secret that the high cost of textbooks places an enormous burden on students. Textbook costs increased by an astonishing 82 percent from 2002 to 2012, a pace that is triple the rate of inflation. Open educational resources are a promising way to address issues related to both costs and education.



Vice Provost Lorraine Haricombe.

Advancing the use of open educational resources means upending a decades-old system, and it has the potential for pushback from institutions, bookstores, publishers and even faculty members, as there isn't much of an incentive to transition to open educational resources versus traditional textbooks.

But it's worth it because it is a viable solution to increasing student success. And it starts with open textbooks, which are a collection of open educational resources aggregated in a manner that resembles a traditional textbook.

As a longtime advocate of "open access," I know that open textbooks are not the only solution to the higher education affordability problem. However, they can save students significant money not only individually, but collectively in high-enrollment classes where the combined savings are potentially large. Take, for example, OpenStax at Rice University, which offers free peer-reviewed open textbooks. It has saved students \$155 million since 2012 by offering textbooks for the highest-enrollment college courses across the country. Simply stated, the advantages of using open educational resources offer students greater potential for broader access to information and education in New York, Texas or any state in between.

Open materials can also empower faculty members to change the way they teach and give them the academic freedom to tailor their course content to their students' needs. What that exactly means for student learning and the motivations that encourage faculty to use open educational resources in their work as researchers and instructors offers an important opportunity to positively impact higher education as a whole.

Luckily some states are getting the message. In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott recently signed Senate Bill 810 into law supporting the adoption of open educational resources similar to the Affordable Learning Georgia program out of the University System of Georgia, which has saved students more than \$16 million through expanding the use of free and open course materials. Other states such as Florida, California, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon and Washington have enacted legislation that has expanded or stabilized open educational resources.

The momentum is also gaining traction in non-legislative initiatives. Seven of Rhode Island's state colleges started using open-license textbooks this year in hopes of saving students at least \$5 million in the next five years. And open educational resources libraries have been created at the system and/or institutional levels in Arizona, Minnesota, New York and Virginia without legislation. Some publishers are even trying to get into the mix.

But we need more. Moving forward, we need to convince more lawmakers in more states – and ultimately taxpayers – of the savings accrued to students and improved academic success rates for students using open educational resources versus traditional textbooks. And we need recurring appropriations to provide sustainable support for promoting and growing open educational resources in teaching and learning. With New York and several large university systems and legislative initiatives setting the example, it's up to the rest of us to catch up and build on it. †



Documenting the **PRAGUE SPRING**

A collaboration between the University of Texas Libraries, the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREEES), and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library resulted in the launch of a website dealing with Soviet interference in foreign affairs.

The Prague Spring Archive project makes documents related to the period in Czechoslovakian history of the late 1960s openly accessible, connecting The University of Texas at Austin with an international community of scholars and researchers.

The project began in 2014, when CREEES Director and Slavic Department Chair Dr. Mary Neuburger met with Assistant Director of Research and South Asian Studies Liaison Librarian Mary Rader to discuss an effort to broaden opportunities to access historical primary resources located

in the LBJ Presidential Library's archives.

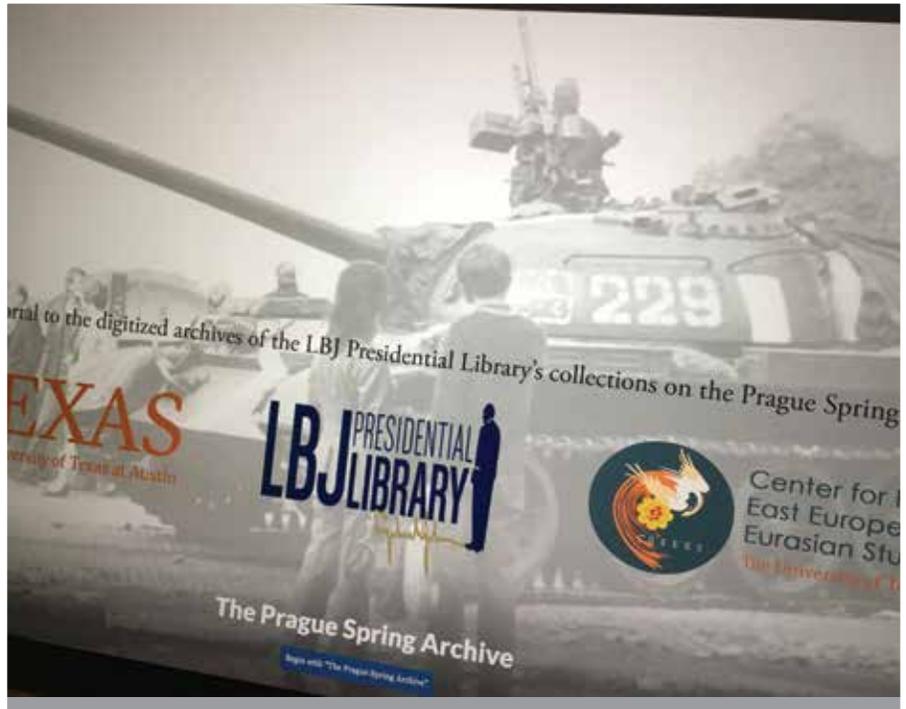
In 2015, with funding from a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Centers grant and the Texas Chair in Czech Studies, digitization work on an initial selection of archival boxes was completed by undergraduate and graduate students from CREEES and the UT Libraries. Digitization work is ongoing, with new materials being photographed, processed, and added to Texas ScholarWorks by graduate student Nicole Marino and Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies and Digital Scholarship Librarian Ian Goodale.

The Prague Spring was one of the key events in both the Cold War and 20th Century Czech history. The LBJ's collections chronicle the United States' perspective of events leading up to, during, and following the USSR's invasion of

Prague Spring

Czechoslovakia in August 1968, including declassified cables, intelligence reports, letters, and memoranda exchanged by ambassadors, diplomats, intelligence officers, and politicians. Eight archival boxes are currently available digitally through Texas ScholarWorks, with more being worked on and prepared for addition to the repository. Many additional materials that have not yet been digitized are available to researchers in the reading room of the LBJ Presidential Library, as well.

The Prague Spring Archive portal — which provides a contextual structure with access to the digitized materials — has been designed to replicate the original archival structure of the physical materials in the LBJ Library within a digital framework, allowing the user to “read” and explore the archive on their computer. The portal was designed to appeal to both academic researchers and to patrons conducting personal or non-academic research, with additional features planned that will extend the breadth of the site’s audience. A primer on the Prague Spring in the form of an interactive timeline is one of the site’s features aimed at users not already thoroughly familiar with the events surrounding the incident. A module that will include materials aimed at high school teachers and students, including sample lesson plans and educational activities, will also be added in the future. For researchers who would like



to explore what is available in the physical collections of the LBJ, the finding aid for the entire archival collection is also available on the site.

To help maintain the archival integrity of the materials in their digitized format, extensive metadata was created to accompany the materials within the Texas ScholarWorks repository. The metadata allows the materials to be easily searched by researchers working with the materials within ScholarWorks, and can be downloaded by anyone through the repository. Full-text of the documents will soon be added in XML format to accompany the archival PDFs, increasing searchability and providing an additional resource for working with the documents—making digital humanities practices such as text mining or sentiment analysis easier to accomplish, for example.

The Prague Spring site has been an important aspect of embedded librarianship at the UT Libraries. Ian Goodale worked with graduate students in Mary Neuburger’s graduate seminar, REE 301: Introduction to Russian and East European Civilizations, to have the students

“Prague,” continued on p. 22



Ian Goodale scanning documents.



Anthony Alofsin, FAIA.

This spring the Alexander Architectural Archives and Architecture & Planning Library boosted supporting resources for the study of Frank Lloyd Wright and obtained significant original research in modern architecture with the acquisition of the archive and personal library of award-winning author, architect and educator Dr. Anthony Alofsin, FAIA.

The Anthony Alofsin Archive — a donation by Alofsin to the University of Texas Libraries — reflects an accomplished life and career through his vast work and collections. Alofsin has written or edited 12 books and more than 80 articles, essays and reviews over his 30-year career. The collection includes documents such as research notes, manuscripts, course work, photographic materials, architectural drawings, interviews, research papers, books, journals and historical materials.

“Anthony Alofsin is an exceptional architecture educator and an internationally recognized scholar,” said UT Austin President Gregory L. Fenves. “In sharing the corpus of his professional work with the Alexander Archive, Professor

Building Archives

Alofsin donates papers to Architecture Library

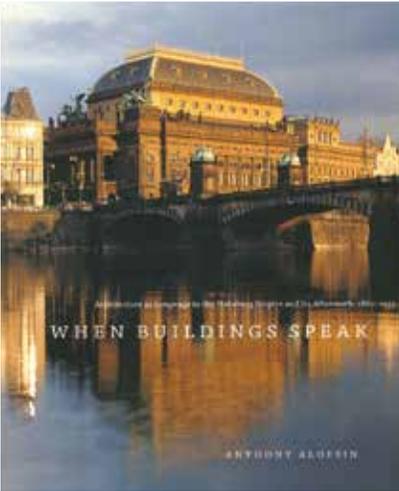
Alofsin adds to UT’s extraordinary special collections, enhancing our research and aiding in the recruitment of outstanding students, faculty and scholars.”

The strength of the archive is reflected in prominent collections of materials that highlight Alofsin’s areas of inquiry throughout his career.

Alofsin, the Roland Roessner Centennial Professor of Architecture, is regarded as one of the world’s leading authorities on the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and his extensive research and publications on the architect form an important compilation within the archive. He was recognized with the Wright Spirit Award (professional category) by the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in 2006 for his five-volume reference work, “Frank Lloyd Wright: An Index to the Taliesin Correspondence,” considered an invaluable reference tool for Wright scholars and researchers around the world.

As a noted expert on modern architecture, Alofsin’s expertise

“His contributions to the field have established Alofsin as one of the premier architectural historians of his generation.”



L-R: “*When Buildings Speak: Architecture as Language in the Habsburg Empire and its Aftermath, 1867-1933*” (2006); “*Frank Lloyd Wright: An Index to the Taliesin Correspondence*,” ed. Alofsin (1988); Apartment remodel, Austin, Texas.

and activities are represented through specific holdings in central European architecture including fieldwork and writing from the late 1980s when he organized an international consortium of architects and scholars from Central Europe to conduct original research on the varieties of modern styles of architecture that evolved in the late Habsburg period. Of special value is Alofsin’s research documenting the history of the Harvard Graduate School of Design for his book “*The Struggle for Modernism: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and City Planning at Harvard*,” which covered the history of the program from its beginnings through the 1960s.

“Dr. Alofsin conducts, for architecture, the kind of meticulous research and documentation that is absolutely essential for the credibility and advancement of any field,” said Larry Speck, professor and former dean of the School of Architecture at UT Austin. “His expertise is based on deep primary investigation, extraordinary analysis and rich, nuanced insight. His contributions to the field have established Alofsin as one of the premier architectural

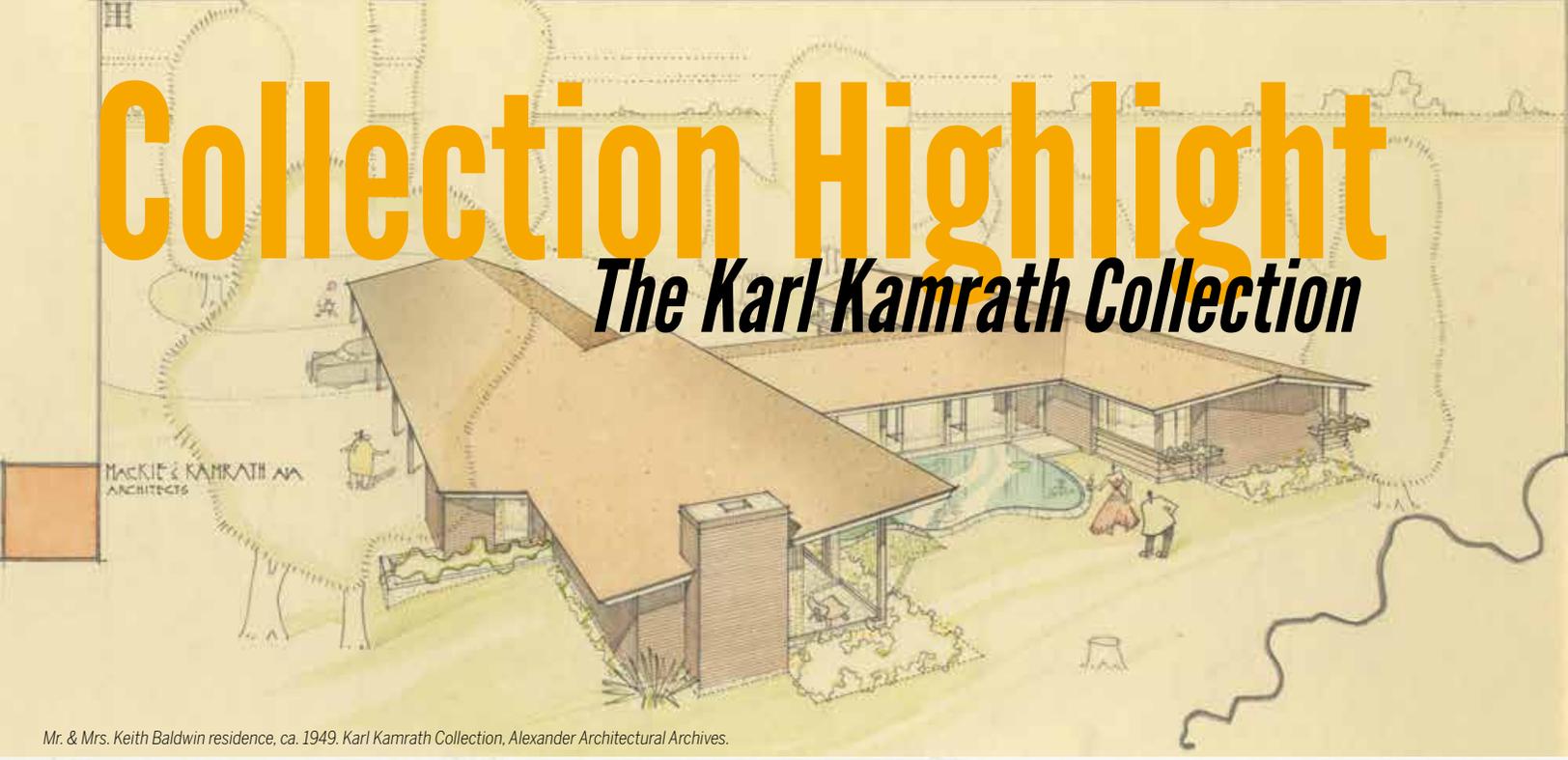
historians of his generation.”

Alofsin has also made contributions to architectural education as a faculty member of the School of Architecture and through his own professional design projects. Since 1987, he has taught across the curriculum of the School of Architecture, and he led in the founding of the school’s Ph.D. His archives include full documentation of courses he developed including history, theory and studios and his activities as director of the university’s Center for American Architecture and Design. In his professional practice he has designed private homes for clients including his own residences in Austin, Texas. Recently, Alofsin was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, one of the highest awards given by the profession.

In additional support of the archive, Alofsin made a generous contribution to provide for the retention of a temporary archivist for the processing of the collection, which will result in expedited access to materials, expected early in 2018. †

Collection Highlight

The Karl Kamrath Collection



Mr. & Mrs. Keith Baldwin residence, ca. 1949. Karl Kamrath Collection, Alexander Architectural Archives.



Karl Kamrath.

Houston architect Karl Kamrath had an opportunity to meet Frank Lloyd Wright when he visited Taliesin in June of 1946. The encounter had a profound effect on Kamrath's architectural designs as he began creating Organic architecture, integrating human habitation with the natural environment.

library that shed further light on his influences.

Karl Kamrath grew up in Austin and earned his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas. In 1934, he moved to Chicago, where he worked for the architectural firm Pereira and Pereira, the Interior Studios of Marshall Field and Co. and the Architectural Decorating Company.

In 1937, he and another former graduate of the university, Frederick James MacKie Jr. opened their own architectural firm, MacKie and Kamrath in Houston, Texas. MacKie and Kamrath were among the first Houston architects to follow a modernist approach to design for which they received national recognition.

Kamrath left the firm from 1942 to 1945 to serve as a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. Shortly after his return in 1946, Kamrath met Wright and immediately became an advocate of Wright's Usonian architecture style.

Kamrath became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1939 and was elected to fellowship in the institute in 1955, and at various times served in an adjunct capacity at the University of Oklahoma, The University of Texas, Texas A&M University and the University of Oregon. He was also a founder and served on the board of the Contemporary Arts Museum from 1948 to 1952.

Kamrath's collection — which resides in the Alexander Architectural Archives — consists of visual documentation representing the design of architectural projects, including presentation drawings and finished project photographs, and also includes personal and professional papers including office records.

The archive provides insight into the prolific Texan's work, much of whose modernist design aesthetic paid homage to Wright, and includes some of Kamrath's award-winning projects such as the Kamrath residence of 1939, Temple Emanu-El in Houston, the Houston Fire Alarm Building, M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, and the Contemporary Arts Association in Houston. The archive also includes a number of volumes from Kamrath's personal

Website LAUNCH

In November, the Libraries launched a new website, capping an aggressive 8-month refresh project that marks the first significant upgrade of the web portal in well over a decade.

The project represents a first attempt to comprehensively evaluate the site's historical content, some of which is residual from early adoption of the internet by the General Libraries in the mid-late 1990s.

The website refresh was launched in parallel to the legacy website through the fall semester to help users adapt to changes in site structure. In January, the new site will full replace the legacy site, and will continue to see the addition of expanded features — including “unified search” — throughout the spring semester.

What's new and improved:

Responsive design – the new site adjusts to the screen size of the user's device.

Efficient browsing and search – clearer language for navigation, and a house-cleaning that cuts down on the bloat of a 6,000+ page site will make use of the site more efficient.

Homepage refresh – aligns with campus-wide standards to create consistency of user experience across the university web platform.

Updated location pages – consistency across the dedicated pages for branch locations will increase the ease of use while also allowing for customization of services and resources.

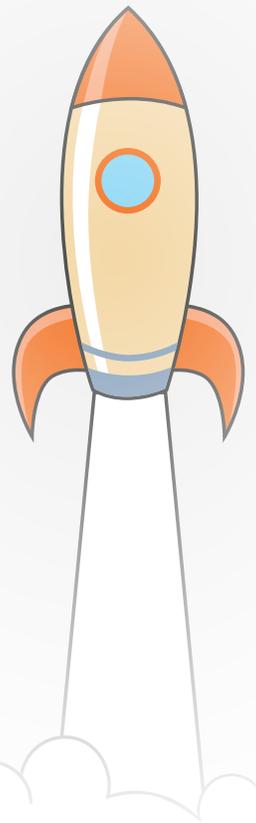
Expanded equipment pages – more information about creativity and productivity tools on hand for checkout or use onsite, with specs, access and availability information.

New “space” pages – specialized study, creativity and productivity spaces throughout the Libraries are now discoverable and browseable with information on capacity and availability.

Improved “Hours” interface – up-to-date information on location and service hours available in multiple locations to make planning a visit easier.

Sustainability – streamlined production process will result in constant improvements to the website based on user behavior and feedback.

Task-orientation – the new architecture focuses on helping users get work done more efficiently by increasing the integration of services, resources, spaces and expertise.



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TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas Libraries

FIND, BORROW, REQUEST

RESEARCH HELP & SUPPORT

STUDY SPACES & TECHNOLOGY

ABOUT THE LIBRARIES

Welcome to the beta version of the new library website. For more information, see our [updates page](#). You may also visit our [legacy site](#).





Post-custodial Archivist Theresa Polk and Digital Processing Archivist David Bliss.

Preserving LATIN AMERICA

LLILAS Benson leadership in the field of post-custodial archiving earns award from the Mellon Foundation.

In April, LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections received a grant of \$700,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund a project titled “Cultivating a Latin American Post-Custodial Archival Praxis.”

The project, which focuses on building local capacity in Latin America to preserve vulnerable human rights documentation and making the resulting documents digitally accessible, builds on a previous Mellon Foundation project through which LLILAS Benson and the University of Texas Libraries collaborated with three archives in Central America. These partnerships led to the creation of Latin American Digital Initiatives (LADI), a digital repository that hosts unique archival collections, with an emphasis on human rights

and cultural agency in the region. LADI archives include historical newspapers from Bluefields, Nicaragua; solidarity and propaganda materials documenting the Salvadoran civil war; and news clippings documenting political violence in Guatemala during the armed internal conflict.

The grant supports similar post-custodial initiatives with partners in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, with an emphasis on documenting underrepresented communities. As practiced by the Benson Latin American Collection and the Libraries, post-custodial archiving enables the preservation of vulnerable archives in the places they are created, while facilitating global online access to the collections. Land and cultural rights of indigenous and Afrodescendant

Mellon Grant

communities are among the themes that will be addressed by the new project.

Professor Virginia Garrard, director of LLILAS Benson, serves as the project director and post-custodial archivist Theresa Polk serves as co-director.

“LLILAS Benson’s post-custodial work is rooted in fostering strong, horizontal, mutually beneficial relationships between archivists, community partners and scholars,” said Garrard. “We are committed to sharing the theory and methods developed through this project with partners and peer institutions in the archival field throughout the United States, Latin America and globally. We are confident that this comprehensive approach will place The University of Texas at Austin at the forefront of post-custodial praxis.”

Grant activities will be broadly collaborative, engaging scholars and librarians alongside community partners to work collectively, with a focus on respecting community insights and being responsive to the cultural and political sensitivities within the materials. Expanded digital scholarship initiatives will encourage scholars to interact with the collections to generate new insights in Latin American studies and integration of digital resources into classroom teaching.

The grant is funding work from July 2017 through December 2019 and is being administered through the University of Texas Libraries. Libraries staff are providing



David Bliss working with materials at the parish archive of San Andrés Cholula, Puebla, Mexico.

technical expertise and support for the project, including development and management of the digital repository system, guidance on descriptive practices and consultation on digital preservation plans.

“The Mellon Foundation has again stepped forward to support innovation in libraries and archives with this generous award, recognizing the global impact of pioneering archival practices being developed by LLILAS Benson in tandem with international partners and researchers,” said Lorraine Haricombe, vice provost and director of the Libraries. “We are grateful for the Foundation’s continued promotion of work by dedicated experts tackling new frontiers at the University of Texas Libraries.” †



Parish archive of San Andrés Cholula, Puebla, Mexico.

Design Thinking



Classroom for the School of Design and Creative Technologies space at the Fine Arts Library.

Fine Arts renovation brings the classroom to the library

This fall, representatives of the Libraries joined College of Fine Arts Dean Doug Dempster and Provost Maurie McInnis to fête the opening of space on the fourth floor of the Fine Arts Library redeveloped to serve as a home for the newly announced School of Design and Creative Technologies (SDCT).

The renovation project, which took place over the summer, resulted in the creation of state-of-the-art classrooms with adaptable technologies, a high-tech teaching lab, dedicated design studios, an audio studio, seminar rooms and faculty offices to serve a program geared



to preparing students for careers in professions that require working knowledge of design technologies.

The new school will be led by design industry thought leader Doreen Lorenzo, who is the founding and current director of the Center for Integrated Design, and will focus on educating students for creative professions in heavy demand across a wide range of industries. Students will study designing for health, designing for artificial intelligence, creative technologies in theater and music, entrepreneurial ventures and cross-disciplinary design thinking methodologies.

The space is complementary to The Foundry — the maker space launched on the entry level of the library in 2016 — creating a new opportunity for libraries to serve as a multipurpose platform for the interaction of information resources, classroom learning and creative realization.

"Design," continued on p. 20

Banking on

DATA

Libraries launch a new data repository to support campus research.

In order to provide an additional resource for vast amounts of data being created by campus faculty and researchers, the Libraries recently launched the Texas Data Repository (TDR), a new option for publishing and archiving datasets and other digital data products developed or used in support of research activities at The University of Texas at Austin.

TDR was developed with the help of the Texas Digital Library and complements Texas ScholarWorks, a digital repository that was established by the Libraries to provide open, online access to the products of the university's research and scholarship and to preserve those works for future generations.

Through the two services, university researchers, faculty, staff and students can provide reliable online access to locally-produced scholarly work and research, as well as the data that underlies it. In combination, the services provide a means for the research community to comply with funder mandates for data sharing and archiving, and to facilitate sharing within research groups, data versioning and long-term preservation.

Jessica Trelogan, Libraries Data Management Coordinator, has high hopes that this new service service will enhance the research opportunities on the Forty Acres and beyond.

"Thanks to the highly flexible Dataverse platform on which TDR is built, a local institution that takes advantage of the service gets to decide how much control to give users," says Trelogan. "We've decided to give our users full control, meaning anyone from the UT Austin community can log in, deposit data, and decide how much, with whom, and when to share it."

"The UT Libraries is committed to building the scholarly communications infrastructure needed to support access and innovation at UT," says Vice Provost and Libraries Director Lorraine Haricombe. "Through its complementary relationship with Texas ScholarWorks, the launch of the Texas Data Repository represents a giant step toward sharing the latest discoveries at the university with a worldwide audience of scientists and researchers for further exploration." †

The Library of the Future Starts with

INFRASTRUCTURE

Amber Welch argues for more meaningful investment in libraries.

This commentary appeared in the Houston Chronicle, August 26, 2017.

Ask what the campus library does and many will say, “It provides access to books.” Looking toward the future, if libraries are to succeed, they will need to increase investment in services that extend beyond such user assumptions. Libraries should invest in virtual spaces that complement existing technology, unique collections, and content expertise, and library space as a concept will need to be redefined to accommodate work in new arenas.

In a 2015 AACU survey employers reported that they believe only 27 percent of recent graduates are proficient at written communication and even fewer are “innovative/creative”. When thinking about this in concert with student impressions of campus technology in a 2016 ECAR study, the library must contribute to both creative and deepened use of technology in the classroom. Leading students into virtual environments to create research products, utilizing classrooms designed with multiple screens for active small group work, and helping students manage work with the use of project management tools all present opportunities for rich collaborative teaching partnerships between librarians and faculty.

It’s also important for libraries to invest in infrastructure to support web publishing platforms, virtual reality, makerspaces, and large visualization walls that complement existing university resources. Integrating these technologies into the classroom experience will challenge us all to think in new ways about where and how learning occurs. Libraries can provide support to students and teachers as they engage with, critically examine, and build community in and around these spaces. But in order for this to occur, a shift in the way people conceptualize library spaces and services has to occur. By working in new environments, libraries can help students improve communication and develop critical thinking and digital literacy skills that will serve them in all areas of their lives.

In order for us to be successful, campus level administrators have to provide a seat at the executive table for library leadership. Increasing the visibility of challenges being faced by libraries sheds light on the complexity of our current operating environments. Sharing information about the value of library services, and about staffing and IT infrastructure needs, provides an opportunity for those that are invested in the library to ask questions about future directions and provide input on anticipated needs.

Investing for the Future

Choates establish a fund for technology



Libraries are increasingly becoming key testing grounds for innovative classes and research projects that take advantage of emerging technologies. Administration can demonstrate support for these innovative faculty-library collaborations by providing financial, administrative, and moral support for departments that are attempting to reinvigorate the curriculum. Libraries are not operating in the same way that they were five years ago, and it is imperative that administrators see and fully understand the ways in which our services are evolving, and the ways in which our services provide pathways for new ways of teaching and learning.

Library leaders, similarly, need to fully understand the challenges faced by library staff as they revise organizational and operational models to accommodate new working environments. By providing services in hybrid environments, libraries are demonstrating their capacity to play a key partner role in the teaching and learning process in higher education. This role can advance the critical inquiry and discourse skills of our students, and can contribute to student success post-graduation.

So much of what we think about when we think about our students after graduation is focused on success in the workplace, but at a higher level, many in academic communities are concerned with the development and evolution of civil society. As we expand library services more and more into virtual spaces, we will increasingly ask our communities to redefine their understanding and expectations of our role in developing capacity to engage in dialogue. By investing in the changing landscape of libraries, we are also inviting them to adapt to the ever-evolving landscape of communication and civic engagement. †

Amber Welch is the head of technology enhanced learning for the University of Texas Libraries.

The Libraries boasts an impressive staff contribution rate, which indicates a high level of confidence in and loyalty to the institution and its mission. Even approaching that number from other constituencies would put the Libraries in a position to focus less on fundraising, and more on serving the needs of our global community.

Still, it's more of a rarity when an active staff member provides a leadership gift, so when Director of Digital Strategies Aaron Choate and his wife Cara Feally Choate established an endowment to address an ongoing strategic need in the Libraries for adopting new technologies, it was at once gratifying and humbling to know that the gift originated from within the organization.

The Aaron and Cara Choate Technology Innovation Fund is built on the establishing gift from the couple of \$25,000 and will be a permanent endowment used to ensure that innovation and creative technology solutions are made possible at the University of Texas Libraries for generations to come.

The gift recognizes that the current pace of change in higher education — and especially in libraries — is accelerated and that new tools for productivity and creativity will need constant attention and adaptation.

“I have had the privilege to spend my career here in the UT Libraries, constantly working to integrate new technologies into what we do,” explains Aaron Choate. “Libraries have a tradition of adapting to meet the needs of an ever changing academic and societal environment. As we turn more heavily to technology as a society, so must Libraries.”

The Choates want to support student fellowships to grow the profession of librarianship in the area of technology, as well as in support of transforming the spaces that librarians and researchers use to do their work in new ways.

“Cara and I would like for this endowment to serve as an investment toward the future of the Library,” says Aaron, “that it will grow to support funding for our staff to learn new things, to purchase the tools they need to understand how new technologies can be applied to the challenges we face. We hope that it will provide a source of funds that will allow the UT Libraries to take those risks we know must be taken to truly understand how technology may impact what we do.” †

After the Storm

Intrepid staff travel to the storm-ravaged coast on a rescue mission.

The recent succession of weather events provided a rather inauspicious beginning to the new semester, though the main campus and our local branches have been spared all but an abundance of rain. Our family and friends along the coast, however, weren't so lucky.

For those who attempt to recall the list of branch locations overseen by the University of Texas Libraries, it's not uncommon to overlook the one library that doesn't reside in Austin, but rather on a usually pastoral stretch of sand a few blocks from the Gulf of Mexico. The Marine Science Library serves the faculty and researchers at UT's



Marine Science Institute (MSI) in Port Aransas, which is just across the bay from Rockport, Texas — a city that was the focal point for much of the news coverage surrounding the arrival of Hurricane Harvey on Friday, August 25. Port Aransas actually took a direct hit from Harvey — though it received less coverage at the time — and suffered catastrophic damage which was also visited upon the MSI, including the building where the library is located.

As a matter of course, the Libraries have a Collections Emergency Team composed of relevant administrators, dedicated facility staffers and outstanding preservation experts, who jump to action in the event of a threat to the resources or infrastructure



Hurricane Harvey

of the libraries. With any storm of Harvey's magnitude and destructive impact, staff are paying close attention and preparing for potential issues, but in the case of this hurricane and the position of its landfall, most proactive considerations gave way to planning how to react to whatever damage would inevitably be wrought upon the library and its collections.

Immediately in the wake of the storm, the island and the surrounding areas lost power and, subsequently, most communications were sporadic at best. It wasn't until Sunday that the Libraries became aware of the extent of damage to MSI, but without specific information about the library, so staff began to prepare for the worst possibilities. Liz DeHart, the Libraries' liaison at MSL, was contending with the personal effects of Harvey and unable to get to the library, and administrators at MSL were prioritizing assessment of the impact on research assets and infrastructure at the campus, which had suffered severe damage. Representatives from the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) in Austin became the conduits for information about the situation on the ground, and eventually an initial assessment was returned suggesting that the damage to the library was minimal, with wet floors, but dry books — almost miraculous, since the same building that contained the library had extensive roof damage, flooding and blown out windows. But there was also no air conditioning or power, and as one might imagine,



L-R: Geoff Bahre, Joey Marez and Bill Gannon.

paper doesn't fare well in the balmy coastal climate of late summer. As much as the team wanted to rush to the coast on a rescue mission, widespread destruction, impassable roads and a moratorium on travel to the island by non-residents made that seem like an impossibility.

By Wednesday, August 30 — the first full day of the fall semester — staff had worked with CNS to obtain permission for a response team to travel to Port Aransas to assess damage and hopefully recover the most valuable of the close to \$9,000,000 worth of collections. There was, however, a caveat: they had only one day to do it.

A team of Geoff Bahre (facilities manager), Matt McGuire and Bill Gannon from the Facilities & AV unit along with Joey Marez from the Preservation unit, immediately began preparations for all contingencies that could be imagined on a first trip into a storm disaster zone: food, water, tools and equipment, as well as supplies for any mechanical trouble. And gas.

The window of opportunity was tight, so the team left Austin at 3:30 a.m. on Friday, September 1, agreeing to make sure they refilled fuel on the south side of San Antonio. They soon discovered that the rush on gas stations had already drained supplies when they stopped to refuel.



Roof of the building housing the Marine Science Library after Harvey.

Hurricane Harvey



Marine Science Institute Director Dr. Robert Dickey in the special collections room at MSI.

A fortunate encounter with a kind soul at a local pancake house directed the team to a station with adequate fuel supplies, and the team continued its journey to the coast.

Because the ferry wasn't yet operational, the team had to travel through Corpus Christi and up the length of Mustang Island to reach Port Aransas in the mid-morning hours of Friday.

Upon arrival, an initial assessment verified earlier information about the state of the library — some wet flooring, but the books were dry, and no apparent mold — and even some welcome evidence that local administrators at MSI had taken measures to mitigate environmental threats with the arrival of fans and dehumidifiers that were powered by portable generators.

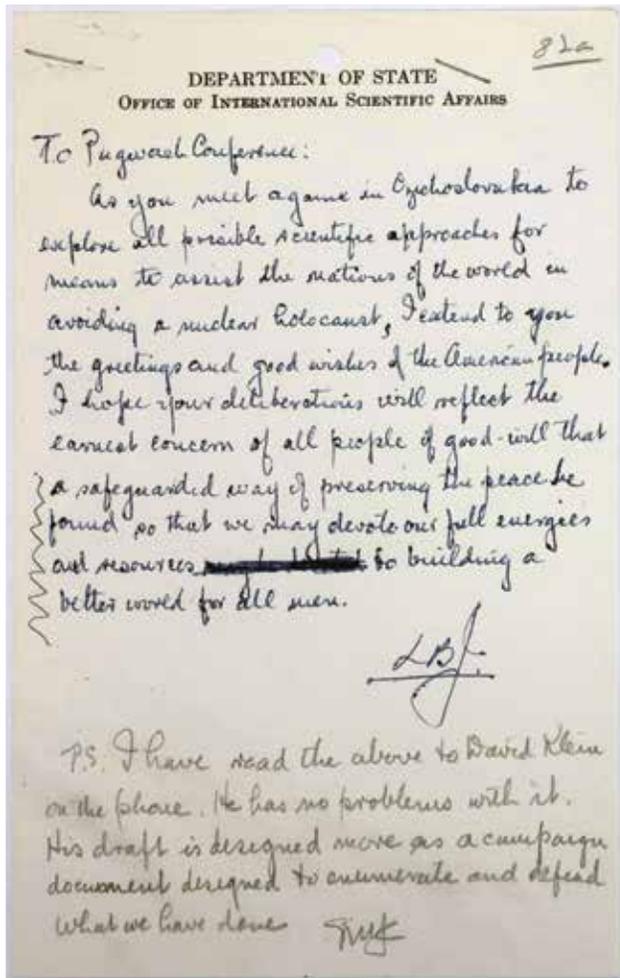
The environment in the library, nonetheless, wasn't at optimum stability, so the team began to identify items that they would return to Austin for temporary safekeeping and care. Thanks to earlier efforts to prepare salvage priorities, the team was charged with bringing back 900 special collection items, and despite limited vehicle space, was able to rescue additional theses, dissertations and maps.

By 8 p.m. that evening, the team had returned to Austin with the most valuable resources from the MSI in tow. The following week, MSI staffer Marg Larsen relocated to Austin temporarily due to the storm, and was available to assist in storing the rescued materials in the Collections Deposit Library.

There are currently no firm timelines for recovery and reopening of the Institute or the Library, but as with a Gulf hurricane or other natural and unnatural disasters, we will be prepared when the time comes.

It is easy to imagine that a library is a simple machine where books fall onto a shelf and then into hands before returning to the shelf again, uncomplicated by the affairs and events beyond its doors and walls. But out of sight and mind, there is an army of loyal people working to build, protect, rescue and share our body of collective knowledge, both in the face of an average day or during extraordinary times. †





Handwritten Note from President Johnson to Pugwash Conference.

"Prague," continued from p. 8

contribute text for incorporation into the online portal. The students also selected key documents from archival folders to be highlighted on the portal and provided input on the site's design and features throughout its development. Professors Mary Neuburger and Vlad Beronja contributed their input on design and content, helping to write descriptions of archival materials and select key documents to profile. The finished portal was then presented to the class for additional feedback, and more of their content will be added shortly.

The Prague Spring Archive portal is an attractive, easy-to-navigate resource that will continue to grow over time. New content and features, in development, will expand its scope and elevate its impact. Utilizing digital humanities tools and collaborative approaches to leveraging local expertise, the project creates context for important, unique primary source materials and shares them in an open access environment for use by local, national and international scholarly communities. †



Provost Maurie McInnis and Lorraine Haricombe.

"Design," continued from p. 13

Recent expansions of CoFA curricula into areas emphasizing innovation skills and design thinking are meant to better prepare students for a professional landscape that is ever-evolving in the face of technological development. But these programs have strained the college's existing facilities, and partnerships with the Libraries — like the new space and The Foundry — are helping to address the needs of current and future undergrads and graduates.

The 4th floor renovation included the creation of two large classrooms — one of which is equipped with active learning and creative technologies — a large seminar room, a medium seminar room that seats 12 and two small seminar rooms, as well as offices for the faculty of the SDCT.

Libraries staff moved more than 100,000 books, bound journals and scores to offsite storage facilities to accommodate the new construction, and moved the remaining 195,000 items to the stacks on the fifth floor of the building. Thanks to a robust delivery system developed over the last decade, the Libraries can provide campus access to any remote materials within 48-72 hours.

"Co-locating a vibrant teaching space in the library with the tools for creativity mere footsteps away collapses the distance between resources and classroom and provides the opportunity for the library to be an even more active partner in the learning ecosystem," says Vice Provost and Libraries Director Lorraine Haricombe. †

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