OU LIBRARIES
Faculty Newsletter

Students working in the Zarrow Family Faculty and Graduate Student Center on Bizzell LL2.

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News and Announcements

Western History Collections
Beginning in spring 2023, Western History Collections at University of Oklahoma Libraries plans to undergo widespread collection preservation measures that will render significant portions of the collections unavailable for a period of time. Before planning a visit to the Western History Collections to view materials, prospective

researchers should contact unit staff via email at WesternHistoryCollections@ou.edu or via phone at (405) 325-2904 to inquire about the availability of collections they may wish to consult. Unit staff are glad to digitize collection materials on behalf of researchers to the extent possible; however, please be advised that the scale and scope of some projects may render this unfeasible.

As a result of the unavailability of a significant portion of these collections, it will be necessary to cancel the upcoming cycle of research fellowships for the summer of 2023, including the Masterson, Haley, and Dale Society fellowships.

Thank you for your patience as we work to ensure the continued preservation of our invaluable collection resources. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Western History Collections via email at WesternHistoryCollections@ou.edu or via phone at (405) 325-2904.

Zotero Connector

Due to a bug in a recent release, the [Zotero Connector](#) is causing an increase in web traffic that is causing certain vendors to temporarily block access to their resources. Please make sure you are using the most recent release of the Zotero extension for your browser:

- Firefox update for Zotero Connector 5.0.104
- Version 5.0.104 for Chrome
- Version 5.0.105 for Edge

Alternative Textbook Grant Applications Open

The University Libraries [Alternative Textbook Grant](#) application runs **through March 6**. The grant program incentivizes instructors to adopt, modify, or create [open educational resources](#) (OER) instead of using costly course materials.

Since 2014, the Alternative Textbook Grant has given OU instructors the ability to use texts that meet their course learning goals and objectives rather than adjusting their learning goals/objectives to fit the limitations of a text. The grant has also saved OU students money in course materials costs. OU Libraries awards up to $2,500 for successful applications, and some colleges award discretionary funds to supplement the total award amount.

[Please contact Morgan Briles](#) if you have questions, want more information, or are ready to apply.

University Libraries & College of Architecture Receive Gift

A multimillion-dollar gift will be donated to OU Libraries and the College of Architecture in honor of an OU alumnus and architect. Bob Faust, who died in 2020, studied architecture at Tulane University and transferred to OU to learn under [Bruce Goff](#), a former OU architecture professor, according to an OU News press release. Faust's wife, Sherry, dedicated a gift to the university to support the [American](#)

School Archive, a collection committed to preserving essential materials related to that architectural movement, according to the release. Read more.

Artstor

Artstor's content and resources are moving to the JSTOR platform. Currently, 96% of Artstor's content is available on JSTOR. In the coming months, the remaining 4% will migrate and the Artstor website will be fully retired on August 1, 2024. The JSTOR platform will retain the same functionality as Artstor. A feature comparison and FAQ are available now to help with the migration.

China Academic Journals

Due to legal developments in China, some journals in the China Academic Journals database are temporarily unavailable. Content is being restored as the database vendor amends each publisher contract in accordance with new requirements regarding author permissions. To see the list of impacted journals, view the most recent title list. This process may vary depending on the publisher and the title list will be updated over time.

Information Sessions for Proposed Open Access Policy

A proposed institutional open access policy was introduced into the Faculty Senate on February 13. The Faculty Senate *ad hoc* Open Access Policy Committee and the Scholarly Communication Taskforce are holding informational meetings on the proposed policy throughout February and March. All meetings will be held via Zoom:

- February 21, 3 - 4 p.m.
  Humanities (Meeting ID: 992 1670 6594 | Passcode: 41972211)
- February 28, 3 - 4 p.m.
  STEM (Meeting ID: 992 1670 6594 | Passcode: 41972211)
- March 7, 3 - 4 p.m.
  Social Sciences (Meeting ID: 992 1670 6594 | Passcode: 41972211)
- March 9, 3 - 4 p.m.
  General (Meeting ID: 964 6155 4117 | Passcode: 54127166)

New Resources at the UL

The Romanoff Collection

The Romanoff Collection at the University Libraries opened to public research in January 2023, after a generous $2 million gift to the University of Oklahoma in late summer 2022.

The collection is part of a gift by Princess Janet Romanoff to the University that also established the Romanoff Center for Russian Studies on the OU-Norman campus, creating the only academic entity named after the Russian royal family in the United States. Read more.

ProQuest Databases

The Libraries' ProQuest databases provide a wide range of functionalities that assist scholars and instructors. Some you may not be aware of include:

- Supporting multiple citation styles, including APA, Chicago, MLA, and Turabian
- Setting preferences such as search interface language
- Setting publication and search alerts
- Information on using ProQuest in Canvas
- Using the My Research tool to save, manage, and organize content and materials you find and create in ProQuest databases

New Works in Public Domain

On January 1, 2023, copyrighted works from 1927 entered the US public domain. These works include Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse,* Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey,* Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, and more.

Profiles in Open

University Libraries regularly features OU scholars publishing open access.

Douglas D. Gaffin, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Biology
Department of Biology

Doug Gaffin is Professor Emeritus of Biology at OU. He has served as Dean of University College and Interim Dean of the Honors College. Dr. Gaffin studies scorpion sensory biology, with a focus on navigation. He is extremely proud of the many undergraduates who have worked in his research laboratory, over twenty of which became authors on published papers before they graduated from OU. Visit his website here.

Dr. Gaffin has received the David Ross Boyd Professorship, the Regents' Award for Superior Teaching, and the Outstanding Freshman Advocate Award from the National Center for the First-Year Experience. He loves volleyball, camping, playing the banjo, and hanging out with his wonderful wife Dr. Mariëlle Hoefnagels.

Dr. Gaffin is also a four-time recipient of OU's subvention funding to help support the open publication of his research, including his recent articles "Synaptic Interactions in Scorpion Peg Sensilla Appear to Maintain Chemosensory Neurons within Dynamic Firing Range" and "Evidence of Learning Walks Related to Scorpion Home Burrow Navigation."

[In Dr. Gaffin's profile,](#) he shares his thoughts on publishing "in the open," the resulting connections he's made with other scholars, and his findings from an informal impact metric analysis.

Research Libraries Updates

Each month, UL will provide the latest national and global news in academic research libraries and resources.

Nature Announces Rules for ChatGPT Use

Nature, along with all Springer Nature journals, has formulated two principles on using large language models (LLMs): first, that no LLM tool will be accepted as a credited author on a research paper, and second, that researchers using LLM tools should document this use in the methods or acknowledgements sections. [Read more.](#)

ProPublica Launches "The Repatriation Project"

America's institutions maintain control of the remains of hundreds of thousands of Native Americans as well as sacred items. A federal law, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, was meant to help return them, but decades after its 1990 passage, many tribes are still waiting. [Read more.](#)

White House OSTP Releases First-Ever Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity

Last month, the Biden-Harris Administration is [released](#)the first-ever *Federal Evidence Agenda on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Equity,* a roadmap that federal agencies will use to ensure they are collecting the data and evidence they need to improve the lives of LGBTQI+ Americans. [Read more.](#)

Exhibits at the University Libraries

Mother of Dragons: The Life and Discoveries of Mary Anning

Bizzell Main Floor, Through August 2023

In celebration of the University Libraries' new acquisitions of Hugh S. Torrens' collection in the History of Science Special Research Collections, we honor the impact of Mary Anning's fossil discoveries in Lyme Regis in the early 1800s on the history of geology in this exhibit.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

For a list of all upcoming UL events, visit [our events page](#).

File Storage and Collaboration with OSF
February 17, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bizzell LL123 & Online
Registration required. Join us for the final workshop of Love Data Week! This session will cover OSF, which helps you store, organize, document, and share your research projects, data, and files. OSF is useful to scholars from all disciplines and all levels: students, instructors, and PIs.

Visualizations in Python using Matplotlib Online
February 21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Online
Registration required. Matplotlib is the most widely used scientific plotting library in Python. This workshop will cover intermediate uses of matplotlib, including making different types of graphs, customizing graphs, and producing groups of graphs from raw data. *An existing knowledge of Python is required to participate in this course. We will not be teaching Python as a language.*

Alternative Textbook Grant Info Session
February 22, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Online
Registration required. Come with your questions and get answers about Open Textbooks, OU Libraries' Alternative Textbook Grant, and how you can embrace academic freedom while saving your students money.

Book Talk: *History, Disrupted*
March 9, 12 - 1 p.m., Online
Registration required. Join journalist Claire Woodcock and author Jason Steinhauer for a virtual discussion about how social media & the web have changed the past. Social media, Wikipedia, mobile networks, and the viral and visual nature of the Web have filled the public sphere with historical information and misinformation, changing what we know about our history. *History, Disrupted* is the first book to chronicle how and why it matters.

Incentivizing Open in Reappointment, Promotion, Tenure, and Hiring
March 22, 1 p.m., Online
Registration required. This session of the HELIOS Spotlight Series focuses on incentivizing open scholarship practices in hiring, reappointment, promotion, and tenure. This conversation will explore current gaps in explicit incentives and support structures for assessing the contributions of scholarship to the various dimensions of publicness.

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