Welcome back!
April Aultman Becker, Dean of Library and Research Technologies

We've hit the ground running with another new semester, but we still want to celebrate some of the work we did in 2019. In October, we kicked off a new workshop series for faculty, covering topics such as Microsoft Outlook, Open Educational Resources (OERs), and faculty publication management. If you missed those workshops, we'd be happy to meet with you to discuss the topics more, and keep a look out for more offerings this year. In November, I visited the Del Rio, Uvalde, and Eagle Pass Southwest Texas Junior College libraries to meet with faculty and staff at each of those locations. Again, if you missed that, I'm always happy to talk with faculty and staff about library services and how we can help you in your classes and research.

As January comes to a close, we wish Director of Technical Services Lori Schreiber well in her retirement. But the show must go on, so this month we have welcomed Sul Ross alumnus Al Gomez to round out the Digitization and Metadata Team and former Judd Foundation Archives Intern Mike Fernandez as our new Systems and Discovery Services Librarian. Familiarize yourself with all library staff on our website.
Finally, Faculty Assembly's Library and Research Technologies Council met this past fall under an updated charge voted upon by the assembly. Chair Avram Dumitrescu reports that the Council will move forward in collaboration on library initiatives this year, including the development of a Library Research Award and the consideration of library statements for faculty use in syllabi.

It is our goal to be a strategic institutional asset in the creative exploration, intellectual growth, and scholarly pursuits of the students, faculty, and staff at Sul Ross State University. We are waiting to help. Ask us anything!

**Spotlight On: Choice Reviews Online**

Collection Development is going digital to give faculty more (and greener) access to book reviews that will help grow our library with dynamic, current, and relevant offerings. We’ll share more information for how best to use [Choice Reviews Online](https://example.com) throughout the semester.

For now, check it out on [Databases A-Z](https://example.com) and continue to email Collection Development and Serials Librarian Elizabeth Davis your recommendations for the Library collection. Simply copy and paste information into an email and send to Elizabeth.

From the Alpine campus, create your own account (or ask a librarian to help you!). With an account you can customize searches and share with colleagues.

**Now Open! Digitization Lab to Increase Archives' Online Offerings**

The Library and Archives of the Big Bend are increasing their collaboration efforts by introducing the Digitization Lab, now on the second floor of the Sul Ross Library adjacent to the computer lab. The closed lab, headed by Metadata and Digital Services Librarian Emily Huang, will act as the hub of digitization for the Archives of the Big Bend moving forward. Digital Imaging Specialist Michael Howard, who has been digitizing Archives documents and photographs for well over fifteen years, will join the lab, as well as part-time technician Al Gomez.

Many of the Archives' precious offerings have already been digitized and are available online, but this new lab and workflow provide the opportunity to make digitized material more accessible to the Sul Ross Community and beyond through Archives Digital Collections, launching later this year.
Library Instruction Program Updates
During the Fall 2019 semester, Education and Outreach Librarian Betsy Evans, with help from Systems and Discovery Services Librarian Suyu Dong, developed and implemented an active learning Library Escape Room Game to introduce SRSU Library Learning Outcomes to First Year Experience students.

There is still work to be done in providing a solid foundation of library learning to new freshmen at Sul Ross. Out of the five faculty who responded to the survey assessing the new method, three remain undecided that, following this visit to the library, students showed an increase in their understanding of the fundamentals of information literacy and library research. Comments (see right) from faculty indicate that more time is needed inside the library.

New and updated offerings on the web:
- Updated information about the Library Instruction Program
- A Virtual Tour of the Wildenthal Library in Alpine that provides information about library spaces and services relevant to all members of the Sul Ross Community
- New and updated Library Guides including:
  - Guide to OERs
  - updated Citation and Plagiarism guide
- More questions answered on the Library FAQ & Self-Help portal. Make the portal part of your library routine!
Textbook Collection, Course Reserves, and OERs
All faculty are encouraged to make their course readings freely available to students by recommending course textbooks to the Textbook Collection or by providing personal copies as part of the Course Reserves system.

Faculty can also consider incorporating Open Educational Resources (OERs) into their coursework with open access textbooks and lesson plans; Creative Commons-licensed resources, and resources from the public domain. Librarians can help!

Spring 2020 Events and Holiday Closures
*We have more up our sleeves for the Spring. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to keep up to date!*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 14, Fri</td>
<td>3:30 PM - Love Your Library party, first floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28, Fri</td>
<td>10 AM - McNair Scholars Program presents STEM Friday, first floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7-8, Sat-Sun</td>
<td>Library CLOSED for Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-15, Wed-Sun</td>
<td>Library CLOSED for Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27, Fri</td>
<td>10 AM - McNair Scholars Program presents STEM Friday, first floor</td>
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<td>April 10-12, Fri-Sun</td>
<td>Library CLOSED for Good Friday and Easter Holidays</td>
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<td>April 17-20, Fri-Mon</td>
<td>4th Annual Earth Day Clothing Swap, Library Classroom, WML 201,</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27-30, Mon-Thur</td>
<td>DeStress Fest, all library</td>
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Library Education Pilots funded by Innovation Grants
Thanks to Innovation Grant funding from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in 2019, two new library instruction programs pilots are underway. Professor Stuart Standly has been testing the efficacy of a set of Information Literacy modules into his Communications courses. The open access modules are adapted from the University of Toledo Library and continue to be perfected and customized for the Sul Ross audience by librarians.

This spring, Professor Thea Glenn and Dr. Oguzhan Basibuyuk will introduce their Homeland Security and Criminal Justice students to Indiana University-Bloomington’s open access course, *How to Recognize Plagiarism*. Also this spring, and also funded by an Office of Institutional Effectiveness Innovation Grant, Dr. Laura Payne and Dr. Sally Roche of the Languages and Literature Department will bring students from all Sul Ross campuses together at the library for a Research Summit. 🦁